



ŚRĪ VYĀSAPŪJĀ

**His Divine Grace A.C.
Bhaktivedanta Swami**

Founder Acarya of
The International Society
for Krishna Consciousness



Preface

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada has given the serious spiritual seekers the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of bhakti-yoga through his books and more so through his own example. As a token of our gratitude we have produced this Vyasa-puja to honour His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. While producing this book, a small group of vaishnavas have developed a better understanding of Srila Prabhupada and the boon he bestowed upon us. It is fitting to acknowledge these vaishnavas:

- Caitanya Dasa Lenasia
- Acarya Srinivas das Durban
- Bhaktin Revati Durban
- Bhaktin Jessica Leonard Lenasia

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In the service of our Srila Prabhupada

Sri-Govinda Dasa

Vyasa-puja book manager

Note on Style

This Vyasa-puja is an expression of gratitude to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. Offerings by vaishnavas were only type set for consistency. No effort was made to change the voice of the vaishnavas who wrote an offering to Srila Prabhupada. This means that we did not change language, UK/US English was accepted, grammar was not changed and different spelling were accepted.

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The Meaning of Sri Vyasa-puja

by Smita Krsna Dasa

There is a tendency in material society for many to proudly claim lineage to a particular race, bloodline, parentage, aristocracy, language, affluence, statesmanship, culture and class. Yet history demonstrates the futility of such temporal assertions – innumerable such lineages have faded, been diluted or have disappeared into oblivion with the passage of time; nor have these lineages produced such progeny that have ultimately benefited the world. However, there exists a transcendental aristocracy to which all the living entities belong – eternal, non-exclusive, and the birthright of every jiva. It simply waits to be claimed by that fortunate soul who begins to realize his real identity, who ceases his endless wanderings through the material world as a hapless vagrant and returns to the protective embrace of that all divine, eternal father, Sri Krsna, the source of our divine lineage.

The process is simple and sublime: “Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized souls can impart knowledge unto you because they have seen the truth.” (Bhagavad-gita As It Is. 4.34). The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krsna, imparted the truth at the beginning of creation, unto Brahma, who in turn imparted it to Narada, who instructed Sri Vyasadeva who then disseminated this knowledge in an ever cascading flow from gurus to disciples in the disciplic succession or sampradaya – *evam parampara-praptam imam rajarsayo vidu -*”This supreme science was thus received through the chain of disciplic succession” (Bg. 4.2).

Five thousand years ago, Srila Krsna-Dvaipayana Vyasadeva, the saktyavesa-avatara, the literary incarnation of Krsna, recorded and compiled all the transcendental knowledge. To assist the living entity who is otherwise only absorbed in the affairs of the material world, he divided the Vedas into four, elucidated them in the Puranas, and for those not astute enough he wrote the Mahabharata, the central chapter

of which is the Bhagavad-gita. He then summarized the Vedic literature into the Vedanta-sutra, and his natural commentary on this became the Srimad-bhagavatam. Therefore the proof of the genuine spiritual master is that only who descends in the disciplic succession from Srila Kṛṣṇa-Dvaipayana Vyāsadeva, can be considered a representative of him. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami himself explains this:

One who distributes knowledge exactly as God distributes it, who distributes the same knowledge imparted by God, is also perfect. A postman may deliver us a hundred dollars, but we do not consider that the postman is giving us a hundred dollars. The money is sent by a friend, and it is simply the postman's business to hand it over as it is, without taking anything or adding anything to it. His perfection is that he delivers the hundred dollars as it is sent by one's friend. That is his perfection. The postman may be imperfect in so many ways, but when he does his business perfectly, he is perfect. Similarly, Vyasa-puja means that we are receiving knowledge from Kṛṣṇa perfectly through the agency of the spiritual master. The spiritual master is the representative of Vyasa because he is delivering that same knowledge that is coming down by disciplic succession from Vyasa. (Back to Godhead Magazine, 1974, Sri Vyasa-puja address).

In the purport to Srimad Bhagavatam 8.24.48, Srila Prabhupada explains how one has access to the Supreme Lord through the disciplic succession:

Even though we may not have the fortune to contact the Supreme Lord personally, the Lord's representative is as good as the Lord Himself because such a representative does not say anything unless it is spoken by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu therefore gives a definition of guru. Yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa: [Cc. Madhya 7.128] the bona fide guru is he who advises his disciples exactly in accordance with the principles spoken by Kṛṣṇa. The bona fide guru is he who has accepted Kṛṣṇa as guru. This is the guru-paramparā system. The original guru is Vyāsadeva because he is the speaker of Bhagavad-gītā and Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, wherein everything spoken relates to Kṛṣṇa. Therefore guru-pūjā is known as Vyāsa-pūjā. In the

final analysis, the original guru is Kṛṣṇa, His disciple is Nārada, whose disciple is Vyāsa, and in this way we gradually come in touch with the guru-paramparā. One cannot become a guru if he does not know what the Personality of Godhead Kṛṣṇa or His incarnation wants. The mission of the guru is the mission of the Supreme Personality of Godhead: to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world.

The tendency of the errant soul in the material sphere is to reject spiritual guidance under the misconception of independence and the sentimentality of doing what feels good, a trending opinion of contemporary spiritual movements. Yet the necessity of a bona fide spiritual master is clearly declared in the Vedic scriptures. In the Science of Self Realization, Srila Prabhupada elucidates in the necessity and meaning of guru: tad-vijñānārtham sa gurum evābhigacchet samit-pāṇiḥ śrotriyam brahma-niṣṭham (MU 1.2.12) –

The Vedas enjoin us to seek out a guru; actually, they say to seek out the guru, not just a guru. The guru is one because he comes in disciplic succession. What Vyāsadeva and Kṛṣṇa taught five thousand years ago is also being taught now. There is no difference between the two instructions. Although hundreds and thousands of ācāryas have come and gone, the message is one. The real guru cannot be two, for the real guru does not speak differently from his predecessors. Some spiritual teachers say, "In my opinion you should do this," but this is not a guru. Such so-called gurus are simply rascals. The genuine guru has only one opinion, and that is the opinion expressed by Kṛṣṇa, Vyāsadeva, Nārada, Arjuna, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, and the Gosvāmīs. Five thousand years ago Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa spoke the Bhagavad-gītā, and Vyāsadeva recorded it. Śrīla Vyāsadeva did not say, "This is my opinion." Rather, he wrote, śrī-bhagavān uvāca, that is, "The Supreme Personality of Godhead says." Whatever Vyāsadeva wrote was originally spoken by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Śrīla Vyāsadeva did not give his own opinion. Consequently, Śrīla Vyāsadeva is a guru. He does not misinterpret the words of Kṛṣṇa, but transmits them exactly as they were spoken.

And therefore the message of the genuine spiritual master in the disciplic succession is the same as the Supreme Lord:

The guru may be this person or that, but the message is the same; therefore it is said that guru is one.

In the disciplic succession we simply find repetition of the same subject. In the Bhagavad-gītā (9.34) Śrī Kṛṣṇa says:

*man-manā bhava mad-bhakto
mad-yājī mām namaskuru
mām evaiśyasi yuktvaivam
ātmānam mat-parāyaṇaḥ*

“Engage your mind always in thinking of Me, become My devotee, offer obeisances, and worship Me. Being completely absorbed in Me, surely you will come to Me.” These very instructions were reiterated by all the ācāryas, such as Rāmānujācārya, Madhvācārya, and Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Sri Vyasa-puja means “the worship of Srila Vyasadeva”. It is the occasion on which the genuine representative of Srila Vyasadeva is honoured, an offering of sincere homage to the one authorized to speak from the seat (vyasasana) of Srila Vyasadev. In such a glorious commemoration, the entire disciplic succession is worshipped.

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada is one of those genuine representatives, coming in the long line of gurus, following his own spiritual master, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saravati Thakur. Although our disciplic chain, the Brahma Madhava Gaudiya Vaisnava sampradaya is embellished by illustrious devotees of the Lord, none have established the message of the Supreme Lord with such magnitude and fortitude as Srila Prabhupada. His entire life story demonstrates the fulfillment of a divine prophecy. The sheer accomplishments of a person who externally appeared as a 69 year old, traversing the globe 14 times, transforming wherever he set his feet into spiritual portals to Kṛṣṇa’s world, indicate the intimate spiritual identity of a personality personally carried aloft by Kṛṣṇa, and who is aligned a hundred percent to the intentionality of His

plan. Although Srila Prabhupada emerges as the powerful representative of Sri Vyasadev in every breath and every step, he remains humble, never acknowledging his own contribution and eminence. Conversely to his own humble declarations, evidence from his life points to his fortune to be in “contact” with Kṛṣṇa always. He is indeed more than just a link in the long disciplic lineage –he is the jagad guru, the guru of the universe in this age of Kali, exclusively chosen by the Supreme Lord Himself to spread the sublime process of chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare, the yuga dharma for the deliverance of the world. Srila Prabhupada occupies the unique position as the pre-eminent siksha guru and Founder Acarya of ISKCON for the next ten thousand years.

Although our disciplic succession is a divine tradition which evokes awe, a remarkable aspect is that it is a two way current. Just as the divine knowledge and devotion descends through the parampara, we can relay our gratitude through it also. Therefore on this special day we have greater access to Srila Prabhupada. We can request his blessings to develop our conviction and devotion to the fountainhead of the disciplic succession, Their Lordships, Sri Sri Radha Kṛṣṇa. We can seek his blessings to endeavor in all things favourable and reject all things unfavourable in our attempts at devotional service. We can pray to serve ISKCON according to his vision, serve the Vaisnavas, and become steady in our own sadhana. And we can honour him in all splendour, acknowledge the greatness of Srila Prabhupada through our homages, express our gratitude, and recommit ourselves to his service of spreading of his message and mission.

Founder Acarya of ISKCON His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada ki jai!

Your servant,

Smita Kṛṣṇa das

Bhakti Caitanya Swami

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you, the savior of the fallen.

Recently I had a fairly major health situation, during which I was very uncomfortable and in some difficulty. It gave me clear insights into the nature of my material body and my entanglement in this material world. The insights were clear, but not very nice. I have been caught up in this world for a long time, and I still have a long way to go to get out. I need your mercy. That is clearer than ever before.

What you offer us is a great step into another dimension. I have had so many experiences of that, and yesterday was another one. We had the first day of our four-day Ratha-yātrā festival in Durban, South Africa, and it was truly amazing. Among other things, it was an unseasonably cold day for Durban at that time of the year, around 10 or 12 degrees Celsius, but the thousands of devotees and members of the public who participated in the festival or witnessed it were transported into another world, a wonderful world of transcendental joy and inspiration. Even though I was practically freezing, sitting on Lord Balarāma's chariot at the head of the procession, still it was so heartwarming to see the happiness that was spilling out in all directions.

This is typical of the gifts you have given us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. What would my life have been yesterday if I had not received a drop of your mercy many years ago? Simply a development of the pain and discomfort I was feeling in the hospital a few weeks ago, as I struggled with my damaged body. But by your grace everything has changed so much, and even though yesterday was windy and cold, the feelings of transcendence overcame that, and everyone was in ecstasy, including many of the spectators.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you often expressed appreciation for the Ratha-yātrā festival. In 1972, at the Ratha-yātrā festival in London, you said:

Even if you do not understand the philosophy, even you do not read the books, simply if you take part in these three things—chanting, dancing, and taking part in eating the prasādam—your life will gradually progress in spiritual advancement of life. And if you continue this, then some day will come, even in this life it may come, that you will understand what is Kṛṣṇa. And as soon as you understand Kṛṣṇa, then after leaving this body you go back to home, back to Godhead, directly. This is stated in the Bhagavad-gītā. Those who have read Bhagavad-gītā— Lord Kṛṣṇa says,

*janma karma me divyaṁ yo jānāti tattvataḥ
tyaktvā dehaṁ punar janma naiti mām eti kaunteya*

Simply by understanding Kṛṣṇa—Kṛṣṇa's appearance, Kṛṣṇa's disappearance, Kṛṣṇa's activities . . . this Ratha-yātrā is one of the activities of Kṛṣṇa. Therefore to take part in the Ratha-yātrā festival means to associate with Kṛṣṇa directly. So in this way, if we associate with Kṛṣṇa's name, Kṛṣṇa's pastimes, Kṛṣṇa's qualities, Kṛṣṇa's form, then gradually we transcend this material existence.

As time goes on I continually become more amazed by you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. What you have given us defies material description. It is simply your mercy, descending from the transcendental platform to us here in this world. Please continue to give me this mercy. There is nothing else of value in my life.

Your humble servant,

Bhakti Caitanya Swami

Bhakti Chāru Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

On this most auspicious day marking your divine appearance, I beg you to kindly allow me to become a speck of dust at your lotus feet.

Although I am totally unqualified, this year your followers have assigned me the responsibility of providing leadership for your glorious movement in the role of GBC Chairman. I am overwhelmed with this important task, and out of sheer helplessness I feel the need to take shelter of your lotus feet and seek your blessings and guidance.

You taught us that to properly represent Kṛṣṇa we have to become pure. Only then will Kṛṣṇa’s mercy flow through us and enable us to accomplish anything on His behalf. In the course of time I have become aware that actual purity is synonymous with our surrender to you. Therefore, to properly represent Kṛṣṇa I have to first become your representative and try to execute your mission without any personal ambition or agenda.

As the perfect representative of your spiritual master, you showed us how to make the mission of the spiritual master one’s life and soul. From the day you met your Guru Mahārāja, you dedicated yourself completely to following his instructions and fulfilling his desires. You always carried him in your heart, and as a result you became the recipient of his mercy and helped fulfill Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s prediction that the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement would spread to every town and village.

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s prediction can never be in vain, and He sent you to fulfill it. You performed the greatest miracle by spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness throughout the world in just ten years’ time. But the ultimate goal has not yet been accomplished: the movement has spread worldwide, but it has not yet reached every town and village. You left the rest of the work to be carried on by your loyal followers, functioning as your representatives. You knew that it would take generations to achieve the ultimate fulfillment of Lord Caitanya’s prediction, and therefore you

made the most wonderful arrangement to continue your mission after your disappearance from this planet, through the institution of ISKCON.

This magnificent work of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness could have stopped after your disappearance, just as it did in many other spiritual organizations—even your spiritual master’s—after the disappearance of their charismatic founders. But your creation of ISKCON and your emphatic instruction to your followers to work collectively within its structure saved your movement from falling apart and assured its expansion throughout the world.

Your ISKCON is your greatest benediction and our only hope to save the planet from disaster. It will establish the golden age in the middle of this most degraded age of hypocrisy and quarrel, vanquishing the darkness of Kali-yuga with the brilliant light of your transcendental teachings. Dharma will be reinstated in its full glory, and humankind will achieve its ultimate perfection, reviving our loving relationship with the Supreme Personality of Godhead. And so we must realize that our only strength lies in our unity as an expression of our love for Your Divine Grace and of our determination to function within your Society.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us so that we can create this spirit of unity, forgetting our superficial differences and casting aside our petty personal ambitions. Let us commit ourselves cent percent to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s saṅkīrtana movement, recognizing the great need for it in the precarious condition of this world. Let us demonstrate real benevolence by offering the love of Śrī Kṛṣṇa to the world’s suffering multitude.

Please bless me so that I can become your genuine servant by becoming the servant of those who are serving you so sincerely.

Aspiring to remain forever at your lotus feet,

Bhakti Chāru Swami

Bhakti Narasimha Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

For success in one's spiritual search, one has to learn from a great spiritual teacher, or ācārya. One who is moving blindly through the valley of life, stumbling in darkness, needs the help of someone who has eyes. He needs a guru. To follow one who is enlightened is the only way out of the great muddle of material nature. Kṛṣṇa is invisible, but He become visible through the intelligence and spiritual perception of one who is in constant communion with Him, one like yourself.

There may be many teachers in one's life, but there is only one initiating guru. In the guru-disciple relationship, a divine law is fulfilled, as demonstrated in the life of Jesus when he acknowledged John the Baptist as his guru. He alone who is God-realized and who has been commanded by God to redeem souls is an ācārya. One cannot be an ācārya merely by thinking he is. Jesus showed that the true ācārya acts solely on God's behest when he said, "No one comes to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." He gave all credit to the power of God. Jesus reminded his disciples: "Whoever receives me isn't actually receiving me but rather Him who sent me." Similarly, those who received you received Lord Kṛṣṇa, the one who sent you.

Fighting for Lord Kṛṣṇa

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you fought for Lord Kṛṣṇa. Your ISKCON is meant to bring about a revolution in the impious life of a misdirected modern civilization.

Our fighting is against atheism. They say, "There is no God," "God is dead," "I am God," "You are God." We are fighting against these principles. So our fighting is very strong. Don't think that we are sitting idly. I have come here to fight with these atheists. We go everywhere. We

are fighting atheists all over the world. [Room Conversation, Indore, 13 December 1970]

Atheists may be very expert in mental speculation and may be so-called great philosophers, but they can be defeated by a Vaiṣṇava firmly situated in his conviction and God consciousness. Following in the footsteps of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, all the preachers engaged in the service of ISKCON should be very expert in putting forward strong arguments and defeating all types of atheists. [Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya 9.51, purport]

We have to fight; otherwise what is the meaning of preaching? If you think that everything will be accepted very easily, then what is the necessity of preaching? [Morning Walk, Los Angeles, 11 December 1973]

These rascals will not understand Kṛṣṇa. Just like the owl. The owl will never open his eyes to see that there is sunlight. You may say, "Mr. Owl, please open your eyes and see the sun."

But the owl will reply, "No, there is no sun. I don't see." This is the owl civilization.

So you have to fight with these owls. You must be very strong, especially the sannyāsīs. We have to fight with the owls. We have to open their eyes by force. This Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is a fight against all the owls. [Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam class, San Francisco, 19 July 1975]

Trying to follow in your footsteps, I am distributing books and doing many programs to help many souls find a place at your lotus feet. Please bless me so that I may serve your mission until my useless body breaks into pieces.

The servant of your servants,

Bhakti Narasimha Swami

Bhakti Vinoda Swami

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

At a time when technologists are busy infusing machines with human quirks through “deep learning” and robots are making your rotis in the role of your dear chef, and when scientists are trying to capture consciousness within the domain of scientific thought, your movement stands out as an unwavering voice against the depersonalization of the lovable human soul, inviting everyone to savor the sweet taste of personalism in Lord Caitanya’s prema-saṅkīrtana movement. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your teachings are personal to the core, and hard-core materialists smell that threat!

The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is rapidly growing everywhere due to its personal nature and its appeal to the deep-fried soul caught up in the whirlpool of modern-day materialism. Sometimes people say it’s not growing as rapidly as other spiritual organizations. Śrīla Prabhupāda, your organization is no cheap movement glowing like a meteorite and fading away. It’s here to stay, and it’s making permanent changes in human society. As you always said, it’s a movement that sells diamonds and not costume jewelry—a cultural movement for the respiritualization of human society. Any soul who contacts your ISKCON goes through a foundational and fundamental change from matter to spirit—a total 180 degree shift in consciousness. It is deep education, a real “deep learning” that others cannot know. This permanent change takes time and is irreversible.

ISKCON’S Faith Capital

While we have the best and loftiest of philosophies explaining life, God, and reality in the simple, crystal-clear words from of books, we have the challenge of maintaining the faith of your followers in the institution,

and especially the tender faith of those who are just stepping into it, impressed with the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement’s powerful impact!

Our real asset is not the properties, the reputation, the international following, or the ISKCON “brand” but the devotees’ delicate faith in Your Divine Grace, your books, your movement, and the genuine Vaiṣṇavas within the Society who have your teachings and your institution’s purpose at heart. The faith of the souls who have taken shelter of you must be preserved, nurtured, and grown to perfection, since it is our greatest wealth. This is our foremost mandate, a mandate we can fulfill only by employing the very delicate science of love, care, and sincere nurturing. Artificial lip service does not serve any purpose, as we have seen in the history of ISKCON.

Māyā is always trying to undermine this faith and create havoc in the minds of the upcoming aspirants or even the hard-core followers. Hence we need to constantly measure our “faith capital” to see our real progress and wealth as a movement. You nurtured this faith so expertly in your disciples through your personal līlā with them and personally embedded kṛṣṇa-prema in them with love, care, and your exemplary activities. Many a time, as we struggle to maintain this faith, we succumb to Maya’s ingenious tricks. In this dark Age of Kali, preserving ISKCON’s faith capital is often a great challenge for gurus, preachers, and your institutional leaders.

Yet despite all the struggles, despite all our frailties and foibles, it’s a sweet labor of love for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and that love is our greatest motivation.

On this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā I pray at your lotus feet that I will be vigilant against Māyā’s attempts to undermine my faith, that I will remain loyal to your teachings and free from all desire for self-aggrandizement.

ISKCON 50

As part of ISKCON 50, we began work on a large temple in Coimbatore, and the project has progressed with the support of an enthusiastic community of devotees.

A new gośālā with Kṛṣṇa’s darling cows is now offering milk, yogurt, and ghee to Their Lordships Jagannātha, Balarāma, and Subhadrā Devī.

In Erode and Ooty, we held Ratha-yātrās, to the amazement of huge gatherings of people, while active congregations have meetings and study your books in various venues.

On His tour of Bhārata-varṣa five thousand years ago, it is said that Lord Balarāma visited the precincts of what is now the famous Padmanabhaswamy temple in Trivandrum, Kerala. In February of this year, devotees at ISKCON Trivandrum threw open the doors of the first official ISKCON temple in Kerala, after inviting Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma to reside on the royal altar. The sweet countenances of the transcendental brothers stole the hearts of everyone! In the land of Lord Padmanābha, which was visited by Lord Caitanya and great devotees like the Ālvārs and other ācāryas of yore, the ISKCON devotees here have created a landmark after intense endeavor and overcoming varied challenges, with countless hours of preaching and book distribution—all to please you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Truly, these devotees deserve your merciful blessings, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

At the BBT in Kerala we are getting ready to release a special deluxe collectors’ edition of your Bhagavad-gītā in Malayalam to mark the fifty years of ISKCON. New titles and a special edition of your biography have also been released in commemoration of ISKCON 50.

As a chairman of the outreach committee of the GBC’s strategic planning effort, I had the opportunity in my travels around the world to see various types of preaching, much to my amazement! Devotees are challenged by a religiously apathetic populace and have devised ingenious means to attract the lost souls to pure devotional service. They have taxed their

brains, enriched by the intelligence supplied by studying your preaching līlās. The latest generation of “digital natives,” as they call themselves, embrace a vast array of opportunities for preaching the gospel of Lord Kṛṣṇa through the vibrant social media. There is, of course, a lot of indecision, debate, and even speculation on the course we should adopt in employing liberal preaching methods instead of the traditional ones. In other words, there is an ongoing debate between advocates of your “Do as I do” instruction and those of your “Do the needful” instruction. Mature and deep Kṛṣṇa consciousness is the prerequisite for getting inspired to take the necessary steps. At the outreach committee we determined that making people fortunate by giving them Kṛṣṇa consciousness is at the core of our preaching.

Succession and the Future

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, I just attended a grand celebration at Madurai, in South India, where we offered our respects to Śrī Rāmānujācārya, along with thousands of members of his Śrī Vaiṣṇava clan, on the occasion of the thousandth anniversary of Rāmānuja’s appearance. It was a historic event. A special magazine on Rāmānuja was released, and a public abhiṣeka of a mūrti of Rāmānuja was conducted, with pūjā done to your mūrti side by side. Thousands of ISKCON devotees joined the event, with several ISKCON sannyāsīs in attendance, led by Jayapatāka Swami, who graced the occasion and gave a talk on the Rāmānuja’s līlā and contributions. Almost all the Śrī Vaiṣṇavas addressed every respectable person with the words ādiyan rāmānuja dāsan, meaning “in your service as a servant of Rāmānuja.” This has been the practice since time immemorial.

At this celebration I couldn’t help wondering what the state of your movement would be when devotees celebrate your one thousandth appearance anniversary! You said this movement would last ten thousand years. At this point in time in your glorious movement, many stalwart devotees who have given their lives to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness are leaving their bodies, and there is concern about succession and the perpetuation of the saṅkīrtana movement. I know that by the force of

your desire and Lord Caitanya's, and on the foundation of the devotees' purity, this movement will continue far into the future, provided we have understood Your Divine Grace's position and your teachings in the right spirit.

We are but small particles in the sands of time who by your generous mercy alone have been able to play a small role in your movement. Let me always remain an eternal servant of the servant of the devotees of your pure followers and facilitate those impacted by your books and life, helping them enter onto the path of pure devotional service.

On this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I fall at your lotus feet again and again, and on behalf of all the devotees working with me, I beg for your special mercy so I can be your tiny instrument in spreading Lord Caitanya's mercy, and so I will always remain vigilant in following your instructions. Only in this way can I successfully push on the preaching projects you have so kindly brought into my ambit, however unqualified I may be.

A servant of your servants,

Bhakti Vinoda Swami

Candraśekhara Swami

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

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

Dealing with differences of opinion gracefully is and will more and more become a key issue in determining ISKCON's future. There will always be those who do not have a respectful way of communicating, but whether they will be in the majority or the minority is the real question. Whether we can sculpt a path that avoids the tendency of noxious reparation is the real question.

Śrīla Prabhupāda's books bring us a wealth of information about all subjects of activity in the world, and especially about how our activity in the world will make us and the world around us more aware of the foundation of all existence, Lord Kṛṣṇa. We hear that the philosophical principles called sat are eternal and can never be changed, because that is the Vedic definition of sat. Prabhupāda also called this category of items "absolute truth." Sat is true for all people, at all times, and in all places.

On the other hand we have relative truth, which is not necessarily māyā but those things that change. Change must also be directed toward the service of the Supreme, or else it will be identical to what is meant by the word māyā. Change we cannot stop, and in many cases we cannot even understand the full direction of the change, what to speak of fully directing the change toward a specific outcome. Rather, what is appropriate is to adapt to the change and, where possible, redirect it. Change occurs everywhere in the universe and at all times.

To keep doing things in exactly the same way when the environment has changed is to become outmoded, hackneyed, inappropriate, ineffective, stagnant, and predictably calcified. Śrīla Prabhupāda himself was an innovator and did not accept every Vedic tradition being demonstrated somewhere in India. We find that Lord Caitanya ignored some traditions,

certainly Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī ignored some traditions, and Prabhupada also ignored some traditions, because traditions are the outgrowth of sat but are not themselves sat.

Cultural traditions are inescapable facts of life; they are an important feature of relative truth, and every country in the world has them. They define the world around us and provide the furniture of social interaction. If we look around, we see that traditions are different in different places on the earth, and we see that they change over time. Sat, or absolute truth, is not the same as culture, but neither is it completely disconnected from culture. Culture is the raiment of philosophy.

It can also be seen that there is a degree of randomness to the ad hoc daily addition of daily occurrences into the library of culture. Proper cultural forms help us apply philosophy to social interaction. To many people, philosophy is invisible or impalpable, while culture is accessible to almost everyone. Tailoring culture to philosophy is a necessary activity. Culture shapes action and serves philosophy.

Over time, even with Vedic culture, accretions to the library of cultural forms appear. My observation is that these seem to come in at least four flavors. Some are beneficial and appropriate and deserve a place next to their venerable elders. Others are beneficial, but only in certain settings or locations. Others are neither here nor there but seem to make the chores of ritual a bit easier to enjoy, or they may add color and spice. And finally, some accretions are actually pernicious and become, if unchecked, the undoing of the very philosophy they profess to facilitate. These must be removed. Culture often shapes management policy. Both culture and management are about priorities, so some traditions and policies must sometimes give way to other, more important ones—sometimes temporarily, sometimes forever.

Every generation doing cultural modification must also examine those cultural forms that are not new but have been in use for some time by their predecessors. This bush of cultural hand-me-downs must be trimmed. It is being trimmed anyway, intentionally or unintentionally.

We know that sat cannot be changed, and we know that the relative truth must be adapted to time, place, and circumstance. The difficult part is knowing which is which. For that, we need to really scrutinize Śrīla Prabhupāda's books. There seems to be wide agreement on this, at least within the circle of senior devotees.

What has been written so far is an outline of a key project for the future, and it was spoken about this February at the SGGS in Mayapur. I mention all this because I pray that our founder-ācārya, Śrīla A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, will look down on us and bestow on us his mercy to make this project successful. Our future as an organization surely rests on the success of this project.

But I also pray for Śrīla Prabhupāda's mercy for the other half of this important picture. It is by Prabhupada's mercy that these discussions about relative truth will occur without floods of acrimony.

Unfortunately, in our mainstream world, people always discuss subjects of value, ethics, policy, and culture in tones of condescension, frivolity, name-calling, and crude language. Because these types of subjects are very important, everyone feels the need to have an opinion, and this draws throngs into the fray. We must understand that mirroring the outside world in this behavior is ruinous. But that does not go far enough. We must culture a tradition that minimizes this tendency and presents an alternative to it.

It will never be possible to adjust everyone to any cultural form or system of discussion, but if the core of ISKCON and its leadership can implement such a cultural form of respectful debate, then it will be possible to move into the future and have real dialogues about relevant adjustments to cultural details, as well as about management details in general.

Today I also pray that Śrīla Prabhupāda will look down and bless us to accomplish respectful debate.

I have written about these two points because I wish to invoke the blessings of our founder-ācārya, and I personally feel the weight of these

two evolutions in our growth as a movement. All glories to the Vaiṣṇava devotees of the Lord.

Your servant,

Candraśekhara Swami

305 Schermerhorn St.

Brooklyn NY 11217

USA

Girirāj Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble, prostrated obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, to your powerful love, mercy, and Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Last month your spiritual granddaughter Smriti “Baby” Warriar (now Śravaṇa Dāsī) lost her son in a tragic accident at the railroad. When I wrote to offer my condolences, I was wonderstruck by her reply:

Thank you for your kind blessings and prayers for our son Nrsimha Guru. Due to the mercy of Srila Prabhupada, we are all blessed with our journey in Krishna consciousness. In such a situation all we can see is Krishna’s hand and how He orchestrated the whole incident. Though it is the most horrific thing I have experienced, I am at peace, as I see the Lord in it.

Twenty-two years ago Srimati Radharani put two beautiful Vaisnavas in my lap, and now She has asked for one back. I can only be thankful for those twenty-two years with him. I am proud that he was strong on his devotional path. He had just finished his Disciples Course and gotten his recommendation letter and was daily chanting a chapter of the Bhagavad-gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam. The morning of the accident he had been chanting his japa, so by Srila Prabhupada’s grace he was in good consciousness. I am proud of all his accomplishments, and now that his karma here is over, he has progressed to serving Srila Prabhupada elsewhere.

I was touched and moved by her beautiful letter—by her Kṛṣṇa consciousness and her sublime realizations of your glorious, powerful mercy. Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 19.132) states, “When the personal associates of Śrī Caitanya Mahaprabhu would hear of the activities of Rūpa and Sanātana Gosvāmīs, they would say, ‘What is wonderful for a person who has been granted the Lord’s mercy?’” And that is how I feel

about her: What is beyond a person who has received so much mercy from you?

Smriti was born on December 28, 1965, and thus she experienced your personal presence from around the age of six to the age of twelve. What happened during those years? How did you enter so deeply into her heart that even now, forty years later, she is totally absorbed in you—in your love and mercy and Kṛṣṇa consciousness?

Smriti’s parents, Shankar and Jayalakshmi Warriar, were tenants on Hare Krishna Land. “I grew up on Hare Krishna Land,” she recalls. “I was there before Śrīla Prabhupāda and the devotees came. I was one of the fortunate ones who got a lot of mercy from Prabhupāda and the devotees, because my mother and father did a lot of service. For some time the devotees had only a hut to live in, or were living on the rooftops, and many came to our house for prasāda or for our fan. On school days they would come in and lie down and have the whole house to themselves. And when the devotees came when there was no school, it was like a big festival in our house.

“My mother was a good cook, and Prabhupāda would have her make South Indian dishes; he liked idlis, dosas, vadas, and sambar. So every morning I would get a message to take the prasāda over to him. And rascal as I am, I used to wait for something in return. I had given idlis, but I wanted a sweet back. And he would tease me. He would give me back idlis, and I would say, ‘No, I get lots of that at home; I want a sweet.’ So very early in life I started grabbing all the mercy I could. He would tease me and offer me a piece of idli or vada, and I would say, ‘No, I want the sweet on your plate,’ and wait there until he gave it to me. Still, he would pick up the idli and offer it to me with an amused look in his eye, like ‘Are you going to take it?’ But I was stubborn; I wanted that sweet, and that was it. Sometimes he would tease me to the extent that he would eat all his prasāda while I was still waiting for my sweet—I would wait twenty minutes or more and never leave without it—and begin to put the last sweet in his mouth, and only then would he would hand it to me and let me go. And he would laugh.

“Every evening my mother would make a garland for him for the lecture, and I used to feel embarrassed because the devotees would come with beautiful thick garlands. They would buy flowers and make these beautiful garlands, and I would offer him this thin little thing that my mom had made with fragrant champak or mogra flowers from the garden. But eventually I saw that Prabhupāda would take the big, heavy ones off and leave the thin ones on, and he’d smell them from time to time.

“There were times when his servants weren’t around and I would get to pick up his shoes and help him slip his feet into them.

“In the temporary temple, Prabhupāda would distribute prasāda after his lectures, but after he gave me some, I would remain standing there. He would say, ‘Go away,’ but I would still stand there with my hands out, wanting more. My dad would go for maṅgala-ārati and evening ārati and definitely for Prabhupāda’s evening lecture. I used to tag along, but only for the sweet. Sometimes I would have to sit through the whole program to get my sweet. But sometimes Prabhupāda would tell a devotee, ‘Give her the sweet so she can go home and play.’

“Mālatī Devī’s daughter Sarasvatī and I used to play all day, and we would give Prabhupāda a lot of trouble. Because Mālatī was cooking, she would basically dump Sarasvatī at our house and we were supposed to babysit her. But she and I would take off and do all kinds of nonsense and get into trouble. We used to play upstairs. Prabhupāda might have been resting, writing, or talking, but we were always up there doing something, and Prabhupāda never took offense. He would always say, ‘Come sit down.’ And Sarasvatī would sit on one side of his lap and I would sit on the other side.

“One time we were up in Prabhupāda’s quarters running around and playing tag or somehow just making a lot of noise. He called both of us and said, ‘Sit down.’ And he kind of hit us lightly on our heads, to chastise us a bit, and then he told us to go downstairs and stop disturbing him. Sarasvatī was much bolder than I was, because she was traveling with him, and she was allowed to get away with all kinds of things.

“Sometimes when I took his breakfast up to his room, there were no servants around—everybody would be gone. I would look at his plate, and he would give me my sweet. But I would linger, just in case something would be left over—maybe some more sweets—and so I would be there. Then if Prabhupāda called for his servants and no one came, he’d say, ‘Get me my shoes.’ So I would get the opportunity to help him with his shoes, and he would pat me with his cane. I was six or seven years old—a little rascal.

“Whenever Prabhupāda came in Bombay, his arrival at the airport was a most beautiful time. Well before his arrival, the devotees would go to the airport and have a fantastic kīrtana. It would be very loud and ecstatic, and we would be jumping and dancing, waiting for Prabhupāda to come. I was so small I couldn’t see Prabhupāda when he walked into the terminal. I only knew he was there because all the devotees went down on the floor to offer obeisances, and I went down too.

“One Diwali, Mother Kāntā was in the women’s ashram above our flat and we were outside setting off fireworks. It was around 9:00 pm, and I guess she wanted to take rest, but we weren’t finished playing. So she started throwing buckets of water down on us. My brothers and I marched up to Śrīla Prabhupāda’s room. Caitya-guru caught us and said, ‘You can’t go in there—he’s resting.’ We must have made a lot of noise, because Prabhupāda called, ‘Let them in.’ My brothers went in and pleaded that we wanted to do fireworks, but Prabhupāda said, ‘No, it’s too noisy.’ So my brothers gave up and walked out. But I, the youngest, stood there and said, ‘But it’s Diwali—we’ve got to break some firecrackers.’ Then Prabhupāda said, ‘All right, until 10:00—but after that, no more.’ So we got permission and broke firecrackers. The next day, Mother Kāntā came with a plate of mahā-prasāda and apologized for throwing water on us.

“Being so close to Śrīla Prabhupāda at Hare Krishna Land, we got to associate with him in a different light.

“Sometimes in the afternoon we children would go up to the terrace when Śrīla Prabhupāda was giving darśana and give him garlands we had made and perform for him, doing some devotional dance. Our parents would dress us up, and my mom would put together some dance for us to perform. It was like a festival, and we were all very excited, but we were anxious too, because we wanted to please Śrīla Prabhupāda.

“My father did a lot of service, and seeing him do all that also inspired me to be a devotee and take shelter of Prabhupāda’s lotus feet. In 1975, he passed away from cancer. Six months before, the doctor said that he didn’t have much time to live. So he gave up going to work. He said, ‘There’s no use working for another six months.’ He just stayed home and chanted. During the last four months of his life he chanted sixty-four rounds a day.

“He would wait every evening for Girirāj Prabhu to return from preaching. No matter how late it was, Girirāj never missed coming to see him. He would bring a garland from the Deities and a plate of mahā-prasāda (which the devotees must have kept for him, knowing he would be out late). Girirāj’s generosity and inspiration made Daddy chant more rounds, so he could tell Girirāj how many he had chanted that day, and when Girirāj expressed his pleasure, Daddy’s enthusiasm to chant more increased. In his last month he sometimes chanted eighty rounds or more.

“When he passed away, the devotees came and did kīrtana. I think it was all Prabhupāda’s mercy that my father took the essence of what Prabhupāda had come for, to take us back to Godhead. He took that essence and realized that material things were not worth living for, so he just gave up everything and changed.

“Before he got sick, Daddy was at the temple like clockwork. He used to go to maṅgala-ārati and guru-pūjā, and then he’d go to work. And he would go for the evening ārati too. First we had pictures on our altar, and then Navayogendra Prabhu gave us Chaturbhuj Kṛṣṇa. So we used to have āratīs, and every day the evening ārati was my job. I was the pūjārī at home. That was one thing Daddy had started at home, to have the

evening āraṭi. By six o'clock I had to be home and take a shower, and at seven I had to do the āraṭi.

“The night before my father passed away, he was really sick and had to go to the hospital. But he said, ‘No, until Baby finishes the āraṭi I’m not going.’ So I came and did the āraṭi, and he was breathing heavily; he was really sick. After the āraṭi, he left for the hospital, and the next morning, at ten o'clock, he passed away. That was the last time I saw my dad. After I did the āraṭi, he gave me a big hug, and then he went, and that was it. If it weren't for Prabhupāda, we wouldn't have been doing that āraṭi. He taught us everything we knew.

“After my father passed away, Śrīla Prabhupāda told my mother to surrender everything and join the temple, but she didn't do it. She said, ‘No, let my children decide what they want to do, what their careers will be, and if they grow up and carry on, then I'll come.’ But she never did.

“That year the devotees booked a whole train car to Vṛndāvana for the grand opening, and we were invited to come. The trip was wonderful, and when we got there Prabhupāda personally took my mom and our family around the whole temple, which was so beautiful. It was wonderful walking with him as he told us what was in there and what was going on. He was so merciful towards my mom and all of us; I can only be thankful for all the time and all the wonderful mercy he gave us. At that time I didn't know it was mercy—I was just having a good time—but now I can realize I must have done something in my past life to have been so close to Prabhupāda and to receive the nectar of his mercy.

“When I looked at Prabhupāda, I didn't see him as a guru or sannyāsī or swami. I didn't understand that aspect of Prabhupāda. All I knew was that he was very kind. I looked at him as a father, and so I wasn't afraid of him—I wasn't afraid to go ask him something or ask him to do something. Because I would take him his breakfast every morning, I'd see him every day. Sometimes he would take a stick and tap me on the head with it, blessing me. If I helped him with his shoes, he would pat me on the head or do something like that.

“He was always very kind, especially with the children, and he always had a smile, no matter whom he was talking to. If he'd see you coming, he would smile and acknowledge you. Although you were a child, you were also a person. He would see you as a person, even though you were tiny—not that you didn't exist. At the airport, everyone was there, but he would notice you. He might not say anything, but he would be with you. He would look at you and smile at you.

“When Prabhupāda came to Juhu, I would always spend time in his quarters. Sometimes he would tell me to go and get Tamāl, or he'd tell me, ‘Okay, go and do this,’ or ‘Go do that.’ So many times he made me run here and there to do things. I would hang out there, because when Prabhupāda came, that was the place to be, that's where all the action was. So I would always be there. Something or other was going on at all times. His cooks or other devotees would always be around. And all the devotees were also very kind and merciful. ‘Go do this for Prabhupāda,’ they would tell me. ‘Go to this place,’ ‘Go give this to Prabhupāda.’ A lady devotee would give me a rose to run up to him, so I would run up, and so I'd be there. And then the prasāda distribution would come. Prabhupāda would give out a big plate of prasāda. Often it was fruit. I would get in line to get my fruit. The devotees would let me be at the front of the line, but I'd go back and back and back.

“I never really got chastised or reprimanded for anything—Prabhupāda was always very kind to me. I think that's what helped me love him more and do more.

“When Prabhupāda was sick and came back to Bombay in 1977, the devotees would hardly let anyone into his quarters; he was really ill. But I was not used to that; I was used to walking in at any time. So, I came one evening, and they would not let me in. I had been bringing Prabhupāda his breakfast, and he had been there for many days, but I still hadn't been allowed in to see him. So I just stood there, crying. When Tamāl Kṛṣṇa came in and saw me, he understood the situation and said, ‘Okay, go ahead.’ He let me in and said, ‘Be very quiet; he's taking rest. Just go in and come out.’ So I went in, and Prabhupāda was sleeping, and I

stood there for a few moments. I was just standing there and looking at him. He was just lying there, and I didn't see him feeling the pain. He had been saying that he was very sick and his stomach hurt, but I didn't see that. I saw him very calm and peaceful. So, I grasped his feet and then ran. I don't know if I woke him up or not, but I just grasped his feet and ran out; I just grabbed the mercy. And that was the last time I saw Prabhupāda.”

* * *

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you entered a child's heart, took up residence there, and never left. Even today you sit there, causing her to think, feel, act, and speak in many wonderful ways.

“What is wonderful for a person who has been granted the Lord's mercy?” And what is beyond a person who has received so much mercy from you?

Your wonderstruck aspiring servant,

Girirāj Swami

Partha Sarathi Das Goswami

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you and your sincere followers.

Tomorrow is Gaura Purnima, the divine appearance day of the Kali-yuga avatar, Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

Throughout your mission this will be celebrated with great transcendental enthusiasm.

Your personal contribution to the Gaudiya Vaisnava community and your guru varga is the

establishment of a bona-fide sampradaya in the Western countries.

You write, “We now have a sampradaya, a party of Lord Caitanya in the Western countries...that is my success, that is my joy, that is my life. I have no value, insignificant, but somehow you have co-operated and now still co-operating as Lord Caitanya's sampradaya. Thank you very much”. (lecture San Fransico 2 April 1970)

Your personal preaching mission has all the potency to reclaim conditioned souls and prepare them for entering into the Lord's pastimes. When members of ISKCON leave their bodies we often remark that they have taken birth in the Lord's pastimes. But actually speaking, serving in this present Krishna consciousness movement means we are already in the Lord's pastimes.

You write, “This present Krishna consciousness movement is non-different from the pastimes performed by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu when He was personally present for the same principles are being followed and the same action performed without fail”. (Caitanya Caritamrta, Antya-lila Chapter 5 Text 88 purport)

There is a difference in that if we had taken birth five hundred years ago in Navadvipa or Jagannath Puri we could have had “saksad darshan” of

Caitanya Mahaprabhu and His nitty parikas. Instead, we have appeared, mostly outside India, some five centuries later. But if we associate with this Krishna consciousness movement we are still to be included in Caitanya Mahaprabhu's pastimes. And your disciples are blessed to have association of the nitty parikas of Lord Caitanya because of your presence.

It is my belief that your sincere followers in male and female forms are your eternal associates. Such exalted personalities will have the conviction and realisation that this present Krishna consciousness movement is non-different from the pastimes performed by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. And all of this is being made possible by his divine grace. Just as we have in this material world your personal preaching mission ISKCON so in the spiritual world, Goloka Vrndavana, there will be a personal yukta or group, that assist you in serving the divine couple.

Thank you for allowing me to participate in this later day pastime of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

Please always keep me under the shelter and guidance of your devoted followers.

With great humility and respect I bow down a million times to this mission and all of your disciples,

grand disciples, great grand disciples and sincere followers.

Your worthless insignificant fallen servant of a servant,

Partha Sarathi Das Goswami

Amrtavani devi dasi

Dear Srila Prabhupada

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

Once again I feel completely incapable of expressing or even truly appreciating all that you have done ..for me and for the world. You have rescued me in so many ways, coming in so many beautiful forms to attract my dull, stubborn personality to the Supreme Transcendence. And still I lack the depth to understand who you are and how you have transformed the world.

So I come before you yet again as a beggar...begging for deep insight, for purity in my service, for courage to take the leaps of faith required in Krsna Consciousness, for determination not to succumb to weakness of heart, and for enough love to make even one person (and myself) believe that Krsna truly is the well-wisher and real beloved of all. Most of all, I beg for a clear vision of what I can do for the movement according to your desire.

Dear Srila Prabhupada, you are the beloved father and grandfather of so many, who came to us so divinely empowered yet so human, showing true fortitude amidst struggle. You are so humble that although you started a spiritual revolution, opened colleges and restaurants, established farm communities and published transcendental books, you gave all credit to guru and Krsna. You moved about this stressful world with ease and fearlessness, always bold in your conviction. You are so dedicated to your spiritual master that you not only wholeheartedly followed his instruction, but extended it to what was more than humanly possible, only due to your desire. I am constantly amazed by how far and wide your mercy has penetrated, the great breath of your love extending even to remote villages and all kinds of people. I pray that I may imbibe a fraction of your qualities, by your mercy and grace.

In every way, I am only a seeker of your blessings, for I have no good qualities or strength on my own. But I have a desire to please you and

my gurumaharaja and Krsna. I know that you will only be truly happy when everyone everywhere is dancing and chanting the holy names of the Lord, so please empower us all to serve you in this way. Iskcon is your body, so please ask Krsna to help us expand the glories of this wonderful movement.

Thank you again and again for accepting me under the shelter of your lotus feet!

Your servant

Amrtavani devi dasi

Ananda Vrindavana dasi & Family

Hare Krsna my dearest Srila Prabhupada.

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of Your most merciful, precious lotus feet..

On this occasion of Your Vyasa puja, all I want to do is say THANK YOU.

-thank You Srila Prabhupada for coming into my life when I needed You the most.

-Thank You Srila Prabhupada for giving this worth less fool and family shelter in ISKCON..

-thank You for always being with me and giving me hope to persevere in my struggling moments.

-thank You for giving us Srila Gurudeva who is always our well wisher.

- thank You for giving us the most valuable asset: Lord's holy name.

-thank You for giving me the one thing I "always" desired: to see my mother advance in her KC..I always had a fear of losing my mother but

seeing her being KC, I do not fear as I know You are taking care of her and everything will be okay.

-thank You for allowing me a chance to go on Mondays to spend time with the senior citizens group and chant with them. Watching them chant, I think about how sometimes I take what we have for granted. Watching them allows me to review myself as they chant with so much love and appreciate what You have given us. One of the best days of my life was their visit to the temple where my heart lit with joy as I saw them chant and dance so happy and free...

-thank You Srila Prabhupada for Your precious books...I pray I can be Your servant and allow others a chance to receive Your mercy ..

-thank You for the kind hearts of Your precious vaisnavas...as we struggle along materially and spiritually, it is the mercy of Your vaisnavas that carry us through..

-thank You Srila Prabhupada for Sri Vrindavana dham Lords darshan and pastimes. My merciful Lords Sri Sri Radhe Syamasundara.

-thank You Srila Prabhupada for teaching us that every struggle is a blessing in disguise and a chance to surrender to Lord Hari who takes all our troubles away.

-thank You Srila Prabhupada for EVERYTHING..I could go on and on as Your causeless mercy is limitless but I am limited by wording..

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING SRILA PRABHUPADA...I have no right but I am a rascal and I humbly beg of You to hook me by Your cane and keep me at the mercy of Your lotus feet, please always let me hear You chant and see You smile and get lost in the peace of Your eyes.

HAPPY VYASAPUJA SRILA PRABHUPADA.

please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of Your merciful lotus feet..

Your foolish servant,

Ananda Vrindavana dasi and family .

Anesh, Shoba, Sushilla, Radhe and Subhadra Manichand

Dear Srila Prabhupada.

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your Lotus Feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious Vyasa puja.

We would like to thank you for giving us your books and the beautiful temples. You sacrificed so much to give us love of God. By your mercy we took to Krishna consciousness. We are now aspiring for initiation and that's all because of you Srila Prabhupada. May you make our nama hatta, Srila Prabhupada Prema Namahatta grow bigger and bigger. We pray that you bless us so we can continue to make new devotees and serve you in making your mission a success.

Your most fallen servants,

Anesh, Shoba, Sushilla, Radhe and Subhadra Manichand.

Anilan

nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine
namas te saraswate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvishesha-shunyavadi-pashchatya-desha-tarine

sri-krishna-chaitanya
prabhu-nityananda
sri-advaita gadadhara
srivasadi-gaura-bhakta-vrinda

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare

Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Oh dear Prabhupad! Please accept my humble obeisances _^_ I bow down before your lotus feet over and over again in a mood of humility.

Please forgive me for my foolish actions and misdeeds.

I thank you for bringing the Holy Name into my life, for educating me about Krishna and His pastimes and for allowing me the association of your disciples.

Although I may more than often be swayed by my senses and false ego, I want nothing more than to serve in your movement! To be in the association of your disciples! To chant the Holy Name that you have so mercifully brought into my life! I pray that you bless me with the with the ability to render devotional service to Sri-Sri RadhaKrishna.

Thank you Prabhupad _^_

Your humble servant,

Anilan

Aravinda Dalayataksha Das

My Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept by humble obeisance's all glories to You on this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa puja.

Words cannot justify the impact you made on the masses of this material world. Your ISKCON is spreading in all the major cities, towns and villages around the world. So many devotees are sincerely engaged in loving devotional service.

By Your special mercy the devotees of Tongaat have lovingly arranged a tent campaign programme in July 2017. The highlight of the programme was a grand chariot procession through the main street of Tongaat. The programme was well attended and we got extensive media coverage.

Due to the success of this programme we have decided to make this an annual event where lord Jagannath Baladev and Subdra will be taken on a grand chariot procession through the main street of Tongaat.

On this auspicious day of your vyasa puja I beg for your mercy and blessing so that we would be able to accomplish this great spiritual feast. The results of this endeavour is to present Krishna Consciousness as it is presented in your transcendental books and lectures.

Srila Prabhupada please allow me and my loved ones to remain eternally at Your lotus feet.

Your grand disciple

Aravinda Dalayataksha Das

Tongaat, South Africa

Atri Rishi Das

Dearest Shrila Prabhupada, Please accept my most humble obeisance's at the dust of your divine lotus feet, All Glories to your Divine Grace. I was born the year you incorporated ISKCON in New York -1966. I was 9 years old when you visited South Africa but it was not in my good fortune to meet you; however I came into contact with your glorious society and your amazing disciples a few years later because of their Nama Hatta preaching. My mother somehow learnt there was a religious service being held close to our home on a Sunday morning. So the following Sunday morning after getting ready, I along with my younger sister and brother walked to the venue with a bit of fear because we knew no one there. We enjoyed the singing. It felt that we were transported to another realm. I was amazed with the aarati ceremony with the blowing of the conch and the ringing of bells, but most of all I enjoyed the talk about Lord Krishna being the Supreme Personality of Godhead! I instinctively knew that this movement was where I belonged. As a very young child my maternal grandmother enthralled me with stories of Lord Krishna, how he dived into the Yamuna to recover the ball kicked into the river, how his friend were so much in anxiety over his safety and how they rejoiced when he emerged from the dark poisoned water dancing on the

hoods of Kaaliya. I could see the story unfold in eye of my mind with all the details. Lord Krishna was my hero and I wanted him as my friend also. I nurtured the hope that He was the all powerful Lord! Now, my paternal grandmother had a plethora of "God" pictures in her prayer room. Each one seemed to vie for supremacy. I however, feared going anywhere near that room. Pictures of Divinities with weapons, blood dripping from severed heads...was all too much for me...I raced past when the door was open. Attending the satsangh of another society didn't helpwe sang songs in praise of so many divinities and it was even more confusing as to who the Supreme was! In my young mind, I figured that if all of them had to fight, the last one standing had to be the most powerful! I wanted to know who that person was. So, Shrila Prabhupada, I could not contain my excitement to hear that my Hero was The Lord of Lords, The God of Gods and that my favorite mantra was actually the Maha Mantra...all according to the Authority of Bona Fide scriptures... and all foodstuffs we consume should be prasad and not just when a prayer was done...it was a lightbulb moment! Couldn't anyone tell me this before? I walked home elated, eagerly waiting for the next Sunday to arriveand still do! Thank you, Shrila Prabhupada.

Your aspiring servant,

Atri Rishi Das,

Durban.

Avinash Jaykaran

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obesiences all glories to you. All glories to the holy names

I would just like to take some time to convey my heartfelt gratitude for all the hard work you have done in bringing Krishna Consciousness to world.

I pray that I may always remain sheltered by the holy name and hope I may continue serving the holy names. And pray that with your mercy I may never forget Krishna and always remember him.

Thank you Srila Prabhupada.

Your aspiring servant,

Avinash Jaykaran

Bhakta Kishore & Syama Kanta dasi

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

All glories to your divine grace.

Happy Vyasa puja Srila Prabhupada. There are so many things to be grateful to you for, but a few of these are ...

Thank you for all the sacrifices you made in fulfilling your Guru's instruction because now everyone outside India are also aware of the knowledge given in our sastra. Thank you for tolerating so many inconveniences until the hearts of the sincere were transformed and they could assist you in sowing the seeds for future generations to benefit from.

Thank you for persisting determinedly so that temples and centers could be established around the world, communities of devotee's could form and sadhu sanga be readily available. Thank you warning us of the strength of the negative influences especially in this Age and also for thinking ahead to ensure that this preaching mission continues to grow by

asking us to show our love for you by cooperating with each other. All in all Srila Prabhupada, thank you for leading by your own example.

Your servant,

Bhakta Kishore and Syama Kanta dasi

Bhakta Rahul

Dear Srila Prabhupada. Hare krsna, all glories to your divine lotus feet, All Glories to Sriman Gaura Nitai.

I cannot display my gratitude to you even if I have wanted to, I just do not know how to thank your divine grace.

Thank you Srila Prabhupada a million times for doing what you have done for the entire world. What would our lives have been without you in this world?

To date, I cannot seem to realize how fortunate I am to be a part of your Glorious ISKCON and much glorified Sankirtana movement. Yet I'm unable to take advantage of this opportunity. Above all else there is some obstacles that trods the path of my spiritual journey. However if one just desires then Sri Guru and Gauranga shall make that path clear and steady. I wish for that desire and hope that I may take advantage of such instructions from your divine grace.

I pray that you may bless me to serve you and Sri Radha Govinda so I may emulate you as you are the Sidanta in such service. I pray that you may bless me to freely chant the Holy names of Sri Gauranga and Nityananda devoid of offences and contempt. I am a lowly rascal embedded in maya and sense gratification. What do I know about service, please bestow your divine glance upon me so I may Serve Sri Gauranga's mission properly and follow this path of ISKCON without doubt or deviation.

This trying to be servant begs His Divine Grace Srila AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada to bestow his glorious mercy upon me so I can serve Srila Prabhupada and Sri Radha Krsna to the best of my ability.

Dasa das anudasa

Bhakta Rahul*

Bhaktin Kashmir

nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine

namas te saraswate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvishesha-shunyavadi-pashchatya-desha-tarine

Dear Srila Prabhupada.

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of Your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura and all glories to You on this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa-puja.

Srila Prabhupada, all thanks to You and the higher understanding You have given us through your books (which i aspire to read more of), we are able to understand the higher purpose of our existence which is to transcend this material world.

Through Your ISKCON society so many of us have been saved from just roaming mindlessly in this material world. Through You and the bonafide representatives, empowered by You, there is hope that one day i can end my cycle of birth and death. I am eternally grateful for You and Your representatives that are beacons of light in this dark ocean of existence.

Should i take birth again please ensure that this foolish child of Yours continues to be a recipient of your great mercy and pull me towards Your Divine grace. Please save me by helping me remember the incomparable relationship i have with You and the Holy Name.

Begging at Your lotus feet

Your servant of Your servant

Bhaktin Kashmir

Bhaktin Preaska

My dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you!

By the compassion of the Vaisnavas I have had this opportunity to be under your ISKCON'S shelter, I don't know yet why I am here but what I do know is that there is no place I would rather be.

Srila Prabhupada, I am trying to understand your glories but I don't think I ever would because they are endless.

How I appreciate you the most is when I am out on books. To see the reactions of people who want to take your books makes me realise that you are no ordinary man and these are no ordinary books.

Srila Prabhupada, by your mercy you have allowed me to read these books and I pray I may take this activity very seriously. By reading and understanding these books, I hope that it sparks a natural instinct to share it with others and in that way serve you with all of my heart.

Thank you Srila Prabhupada for giving this fool a chance: a chance to be your servant; a chance to taste the nectar of Sri Vrindavana Dhama and a chance to one day reestablish my relationship with our Lord, the Supreme Personality of Godhead through chanting His Holy Name.

Thank you for dedicating all of your personal time to helping not only me but the world to escape this illusory visage we are covered with. I sometimes wonder what it would have been like to meet you but by your mercy you are with me everyday, in my heart and in your books.

I pray to always remain at the lotus feet of your servants' servants and that my actions may be pleasing to you.

Your most insignificant servant,

Bhaktin Preaska

Caranaravinda Das

My Dearest Srila Prabhupada.

Please accept my humble obeisance at the dust of Your lotus feet.

All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion of Your Vyasa Puja.

When I was young I was totally confused about religion and scriptures. After matric I came into contact with some Hare Krishna devotees by attending the tent campaign. Due to attending programmes and listening to lectures, I realized that ISKCON is a vibrant preaching movement.

You introduced Ratha Yatra festivals across the globes and that attracted many people to become devotees. I was ignorant of spiritual life until I associated with ISKCON devotees at these festivals and this is how I became attracted to spiritual life.

You have done what nobody else has done.

I am eternally indebted to You for giving me ISKCON. My spiritual progress is due to Your mercy. I pray that someday I can develop pure love for You and Krishna.

I promise to never leave ISKCON under any circumstances. Please forgive me for any offences that I may have caused. Please allow me to remain forever under the shelter of Your lotus feet.

Your eternal servant

Caranaravinda Das

New Jagannath Puri

Phoenix, Durban

Caranarenu Devi Dasi

My Dear Srila Prabhupada, please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of Your lotus feet.

All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion of Your Vyasa Puja.

Recently I had been involved in a motor vehicle accident. The external injuries were taken care of by strong medication but the mental trauma was not so easy to treat. My experience taught me that no medication or those closest to me could help in this regard.

But thanks to You, Srila Prabhupada, I found the best treatment. You are the best counsellor ever and You gave me the best medication- Krsna. Chanting when I went to bed and even in the middle of the night when I could not sleep, saved me from mental torture and from becoming trapped in a state of depression.

I always took being Krsna Conscious for granted and thought that being initiated in ISKCON was my greatest fortune, however after my experience I realized how fortunate I really am to have You in my life.

You went through so much difficulty to establish ISKCON so that all the fallen souls could benefit. Even after establishing ISKCON You did not rest. You circled the globe so many times ensuring that Your house had a firm foundation, and all Your children in the form of Your disciples were well grounded, so that future generations of Your grand disciples could benefit.

I am one of those fortunate ones who has benefitted immensely and I hope to keep my entire family always under Your protection and guidance. You have created this global family so that we are connected to You and each other wherever we go.

Thank You for allowing me the privilege of being a part of Your ISKCON.

Please bless and guide me so that I can steadily progress in my spiritual life.

I beg to remain eternally under the shelter of Your lotus feet.

Your grand daughter

Caranarenu Devi Dasi

New Jagannath Puri

Phoenix, Durban

Chitrlekha devi dasi

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te saraswate deve gaura-vani-pracarine

nirvishesha-shunyavadi-pashchatya-desha-tarine

Hare Krishna! Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Sri Sri Radha Radhanath, all glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, all glories to Giri Govardhana, all glories to Lord Jagannatha, Baladeva and Subhadra Maharani, all glories to Nitai Gaurasundara and all glories, all glories, all glories to You, our dearest most Srila Prabhupada!

In September 1973, Srila Prabhupada; you addressed the student body of Stockholm University where you delineated the eight primary features that, according to the teachings of the Vedas; a bona-fide spiritual master

is depicted and hence one is subsequently enabled to differentiate the saint from the charlatan. Of this, the following symptom which you so meaningfully defined; was personally particularly spiritually and holistically re-enforcing:

nikuñja-yūno rati-keli-siddhyai

yā yālibhir yuktir apekṣaṇīyā

tatrāti-dākṣyād ati-vallabhasya

vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam

The spiritual master's ultimate goal is that he wants to be transferred to the planet of Kṛṣṇa, where he can associate with the gopis to help them serve Kṛṣṇa. Some spiritual masters are thinking of becoming assistants to the gopis, some are thinking of becoming assistants to the cowherd boys, some are thinking of becoming assistants to Nanda and Mother Yasoda, and some are thinking of becoming God's servants. Some are thinking of becoming flower trees, fruit trees, calves, or cows in Vrndavana. There are five kinds of mellows: santa [veneration], dasya [servitorship], sakhya [friendship], vatsalya [parenthood], and madhurya [conjugal love]. Everything is there in the spiritual world. Cintamani-prakara-sadmasu. In the spiritual sky, even the land is spiritual. The trees are spiritual, the fruit is spiritual, the flowers are spiritual, the water is spiritual, the servants are spiritual, the friends are spiritual, the mothers are spiritual, the fathers are spiritual, the Lord is spiritual, and His associates are spiritual. It is all absolute, although there are varieties.

In the material world these spiritual varieties are merely reflected, just like trees on a riverbank. A tree is reflected in the water, but reflected how? Upside down. Similarly, this material world is a reflection of the spiritual world, but a perverted reflection. In the spiritual world there is love between Radha and Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa is always young -- nava-yauvana. And Radharani is always young, because She is Kṛṣṇa's pleasure potency. Sri-radhika-madhavayor aparā **. Jaya radha-madhava. We worship not Kṛṣṇa alone but Kṛṣṇa with His eternal consort, Srimati Radharani.

There is eternal love between Radharani and Krsna. Therefore the Vedanta-sutra says, janmady asya yatah: [Srimad Bhagavatam: 1:1:1] The Absolute Truth is that from which everything emanates. In this world we find love between mother and son, love between wife and husband, love between master and servant, between friend and friend, between the master and the dog or the cat or the cow. But these are only reflections of the spiritual world. Krsna is also the good lover of the animals, the calves and cows. Just as here we love dogs and cats; there Krsna loves cows and calves. You have seen this in pictures of Krsna. So the propensity to love even an animal is there in the spiritual world. Otherwise, how can it be reflected? This world is simply a reflection. If in the reality there is nothing like that, how can it be reflected here? So everything is there in the spiritual world. But to understand that original propensity to love, you have to practice Krsna consciousness.

Here in this world we are experiencing frustration. Here we love -- a man loves a woman, or a woman loves a man -- but there is frustration. After some time they are divorced, because their love is a perverted reflection. There is no real love in this world. It is simply lust. Real love is in the spiritual world, between Radha and Krsna. Real love is there between Krsna and the gopis. Real love is there in the friendship between Krsna and His cowherd boys. Real love is there between Krsna and the cows and calves. Real love is there between Krsna and the trees, flowers, and water. In the spiritual world, everything is love. But within this material world, we are satisfied merely by the reflection of the things in the spiritual world. So, now that we have this opportunity of human life, let us understand Krsna. That is Krsna consciousness -- let us understand Krsna. And as the Bhagavad Gita: 4:9 says, janma karma ca me divyam evam yo vetti tattvatah -- you should understand Krsna in truth, not superficially. Learn the science of Krsna. This is the instruction -- you should simply try to love Krsna. The process is that you worship the Deity, you take prasadam, you chant Krsna's holy names, and you follow the instruction of the spiritual master. In this way you'll learn how to understand Krsna, and then your life will be successful. This is our Krsna

consciousness movement. Thank you very much. I pray Srila Prabhupada to imbibe the lessons encapsulated in your salient words and comprehend the essence of this human birth and the ultimate goal of our return Back To Godead. Haribol!

Your eternal servant,
Chitrlekha devi dasi
Westville,
Durban
Kwa Zulu Natal
South Africa

Damodar das

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Sri Sri Gaura Nitai.
All glories to you Srila Prabhupada.

śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma, kevala-bhakati-sadma,

bando mui sāvadhāna mate

jāhāra prasāde bhāi, e bhava toriyā jāi,

kr̥ṣṇa-prāpti hoy jāhā ha'te

The lotus feet of our spiritual master are the only way by which we can attain pure devotional service. I bow down to his lotus feet with great awe and reverence. By his grace one can cross the ocean of material suffering and obtain the mercy of Krishna.

Srila Prabhupada by serving your lotus feet and the lotus feet of your sincere followers we can obtain the mercy of Krishna. You have given us so

many different opportunities through which we can serve your ISKCON mission. Among these opportunities is the distribution of your books.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu has instructed:

yare dekha tare kaha krishna upadesha, whomever you meet, tell them about Krishna.

Srila Prabhupada, I would like to thank you for such wonderful Krishna conscious literature in the form of books.

In the purport of Srimad-Bhagavatam 10.2.37, you have written as follows:

In our Krishna Consciousness movement all our activities are concentrated upon distributing Krishna literature. This is very important. One may approach any person and induce him to read Krishna literature so that in the future he may also become a devotee. Such activities are recommended in this verse.... Such activities will always remind the devotees of the Lord's lotus feet. By fully concentrating on distributing books for Krishna, one is fully absorbed in Krishna.

Thank you Srila Prabhupada for engaging us in this wonderful service of book distribution. Please give us your mercy so that we may distribute your books to as many people as possible. Please bestow your mercy upon the people who purchase your books so that they become inspired by reading your books and become encouraged to serve in your ISKCON. Please bestow your mercy upon me so that I am perform devotional service sincerely and seriously.

May your fame be spread all over the three worlds. Srila Prabhupada ki jaya!

Your grandson,

Damodar das (BCais)

Iskcon Midrand -Gauteng

South Africa

Damodar Prasad das

namo om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale

srimate bhaktivedanta swamin iti namine

namaste sarasvate deve gaura vani pracarine

nirvisesa sunyavadi pascattya desa tarine

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who is very dear to Lord Krishna, having taken shelter at His Lotus Feet.

Our respectful obeisances are unto You, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

I beg that You may accept my prostrated obeisances at Your Lotus Feet.

Upon completing a Namamrta course in Sri Dhama Mayapur with His Holiness Bhakti Brhad Bhagavat Maharaja (just witness Your great mercy Srila Prabhupada – that such things can happen at all, even to the undeserving), I wrote:

“You have shown us; it is only when we become unselfish, when we reach out to others, that we become fully the persons we were meant to be.”

You have shown us the way, Srila Prabhupada. We only have to follow. It begins with constantly reading Your books, because through the nectarine words emanating from Your Lotus lips, we can make sense of our suffering, and know how to hold fast onto the way which You have shown us, which is simple and direct, though our minds are wayward.

Our minds are wayward, Srila Prabhupada, and from You, I cannot conceal my duplicity, weakness, and hypocrisy. I have not yet begun devotional service, and I am afraid to begin, to give up my materially

concocted identity. But at least, let me read Your books. If I can only read Your books, and follow Your instructions, I know I shall be safe. But again, it is a choice that I alone must make. May I choose well. May I choose to remain under Your Lotus Feet, as

Your insignificant servant

Damodar Prasad das

Devaki Nandini Devi Dasi & family

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe

nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

Dearest Srila Prabhupada Please accept our most humble obeisances at your Divine Lotus Feet.

All glories to your Sankirtan Movement!

Your Divine Grace, You are our saviour from this miserable world of existence. Our lives would have been meaningless, factually distasteful and caught up in the dictates of the modes of material nature, especially those of passion and ignorance. Although we are not yet on the platform of pure goodness and pure devotional service to Sri Sri Radha and Kṛṣṇa, we have faith that Your ISKCON, which houses Your devotees, books, discourses, prasada and many other devotional aspects, will certainly transport our consciousness to that absolute realm. Srila Prabhupada, thank you for giving us the supreme direction in our lives and a true sense of purpose. We would have been totally lost had You not come to spread the Holy Names of Bhagavan, Sri Kṛṣṇa. You had undergone so much trouble just to save we fallen conditioned souls. We are indeed eternally indebted to You, Your Divine Grace.

We pray to always remain at Your Divine Lotus Feet and that we take full advantage of Your merciful benedictions.

Your aspiring servants,

Devaki Nandini Devi Dasi, Sudhir Nimai Das, Sarika Priya Devi Dasi,
Bhaktin Vrindavani Radhika

Dharmraj Das

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

How I wish I could have had your physical association. Sometimes, when I look at images and video of the 70's, I feel as if I was there with you on your morning walks. My association and initiation by H.H Krishna Das Swami has given me a glimpse into what it may have been like to associate with yourself personally. Although guru maharaj is no longer physically present, I clearly remember having Maharaj's association during dinner. Maharaj would be honouring Maha-prasada and I would read some verse from the Srimad Bhagavatham. I cannot describe the spiritual ecstasy one feels in that association. Dear Srila Prabhupada, it is only by your mercy and by the mercy of Sri Krishna that I have had the opportunity to take initiation from Srila Guru Maharaj. I hope that wherever you may be now, that Guru Maharaj is with you. One day, maybe, I could come there as well, to reside and serve you personally. I will not forget, however that in the mean time you are still present in your instructions.

Your Servant,

Dharmraj Das

Dinasarana Das and family

Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to your Divine Grace, the glorious spiritual master of the entire world!

Srila Prabhupada, we feel so fortunate to be present in your amazing, transcendental institution; ISKCON only 51 years after you started the movement. What causeless mercy we have received! By your inconceivable mercy we are unlimitedly blessed to receive the shelter of your special son, HH Bhakti Charu Swami. Your Divine Grace has quite clearly given us everything we need to achieve all success in our life and go back to Godhead. The problem is that we cannot see your greatness, just like when we are too close to a mountain we cannot see how big the mountain really is. Srila Prabhupada, you are not an ordinary mountain, you are like a mountain the size of a universe! We are unable to even comprehend your exalted greatness.

In the Caitanya Mangala (Sutra-khanda, song 12, texts 564-565) Lord Caitanya clearly mentions that he will send His leading preacher abroad:

ebe nama sankirtana tiksna khadaga laiya

antara asura jivera pheliba katiya

yadi papi chadi dharma dura dese yaya

mora senapati-bhakta yaibe tathaya

“Taking the sharp sword of the congregational chanting of the Hare Krsna mantra, (nama-sankirtana) I will root out & destroy the demoniac mentality in the hearts of all the conditioned souls.”

“If some sinful people escape and giving up religious principles go to far off countries, then my Senapati Bhakta will come at that time to give them Krsna consciousness. (senapati - a military field commander, bhakta

- a devotee. Lord Caitanya will empower His own devotee to spread Krsna Consciousness around the world.)”

Srila Prabhupada, your unique position as Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu’s direct representative is clearly outlined in the text above. Your Divine Grace is such a magnanimous personality that you have come here personally to deliver us, even though we don’t deserve it. I am most fallen and ignorant as I am still struggling to follow your instructions. Please help me Srila Prabhupada, I want to be a Prabhupada man, cent per cent fully committed and surrendered to your instructions. I sincerely pray for the spiritual strength to become an effective instrument in your hands to help push your ISKCON movement forward strongly.

All glories to Om Visnupada Paramahansa Parivrajakacarya Astotarrasata Sri Srimad His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada! Aspiring to be the servant of the servant of your servant,

Dinasarana Das and family

Gaura Lila Devi dasi

Dear Srila Prabhupada All Glories to your Divine Grace on this auspicious occasion of your Vyasa Puja.

I am ever so grateful to you for spreading this Krishna Consciousness internationally. Krishna Consciousness is the only means of survival of this there is no doubt. When I look around and see how people are helplessly and aimlessly going about living their lives I reflect I think how fortunate I am to be associated with ISKCON as now we have direction and purpose in life. I pray that by your mercy I always remain Krishna conscious and be always in the association of devotees.

Your most insignificant grand disciple,

Gaura Lila Devi dasi

Gokula Taruni devi dasi and Indrabhatta das

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Kindly accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

We often wonder at how truly amazing your achievements, Srila Prabhupada, have been, especially since they were squeezed into a dozen or so years and at such an advanced stage of your life. You have left the world a priceless inheritance which touch our very souls if only we allow it to do so. We are aware, however, that what we have gained did not come cheaply. Oh, no! Actually it was born of much blood, sweat and tears. The hardships seemed insurmountable but success is assured for those with unflinching determination.

We are also very fortunate to have such highly evolved souls in our midst. They are such shining examples of love, kindness and surrender, especially those who were touched by your association, Srila Prabhupada. They ooze pearls of wisdom. There are others who were not so fortunate as to have had you in their midst and yet have inspired so many aspiring devotees!

For all these mercies we shall forever be grateful to you Srila Prabhupada. However, we must admit that we have not as yet taken full advantage of the wealth of information you have left behind. Nor have we made the best use of the many opportunities at our disposal to hear the Spiritual Masters who visit our shores. We shall make amends in the future.

Your servants

Gokula Taruni devi dasi and Indrabhatta das

Durban, South Africa

Gopal Nandini devi dasi

Dear Srila Prabhupada, Please accept my humble obeisance. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

I am eternally indebted to your divine grace for all the eternal gifts you have bestowed upon me. By your mercy I have acquired a tiny spirit of service to the lordships which brings me immense peace and happiness. I pray that you eternally keep me as a servant at your lotus feet. Thank you for mercy and kindness.

Your servant,

Gopal Nandini devi dasi

Gopi priya DeviDasi.

My dear Srila prabhupad ,

Thank you for building this house in which the whole world can live in .Thank you for giving us Krishna consciousness. Thank you for saving us,we take shelter at yaw lotus feet.

Your daughter

Gopi priya DeviDasi.

Boxburg jhb

Govardhana Dasa

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious day of the anniversary of your appearance in this world.

How fortunate we are and indeed how fortunate the world is to have received a timeless wisdom, so carefully translated and presented by Your Divine Grace.

Your gift to the world is an extraordinary confluence of time and culture you brought to the forefront of human thought a timeless yet profound truth about the nature of this world, its purpose and our roles within it.

Historians outside the tradition you represented have written very little about you. The passing of time and faithfulness tend to muddy the memory and in a sense, a limited historical record will avoid a misrepresentation of your teachings to the future generations. You boldly declared that everything is on your books.

Srila Prabhupada, this is your unique ingenuity. You are destined to tower above the great thinkers of our time.

By Your causeless mercy, I remain involved in your BBT on both a global and local level. It's a service I cherish and it's a service I thank you for, from the core of my heart.

You have also allowed me to get hands on involved with your BTG magazine. Given the value of your words and teachings to all of human society – the sacred duty that comes with any connection to your books and to your Back to Godhead Magazine is daunting.

I am insignificant fool but I have full faith in you Srila Prabhupada – that when it matters the most – your spiritual gift will be the only currency I need to transact in to find my way of this material maze.

Thank you for ISKCON, your disciples, your teachings, your books, your devotees, your brand of intellectual debate and most of all your causeless mercy on me.

Please forgive me for any offences I have created and please keep me engaged alongside your stalwart devotees in your mission.

Your fallen grandson,

Govardhana Dasa - Johannesburg

Harichandan das and Anubhav dasi

Dear Srila Prabhupada

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

Today, unqualified as I am, with no purity, wisdom, I am attempting to offer a few words of praise.

Srila Prabhupada, in spite of many difficulties you experienced including three heart attacks you still continued to travel abroad to save so many fallen souls. You travelled widely, made so many sincere devotees, built many beautiful temples all over the world, taught us to worship deities, observe auspicious days, and celebrate festivals.

Thank you Srila Prabhupada, for giving us the opportunity to associate with some of your most exalted devotees, who are passing on to us the knowledge you delivered to them. Srila Prabhupada, we always think what would have been our position today, if it weren't for you.

You built a house in which the whole world can live peacefully, in the form of Iskcon. Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu distributed love of God in India only, but you more magnanimously spread Krsna consciousness all over the world.

Our prayer to you on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja to make us relentlessly dedicated to you and your mission, undeterred by any and all difficulties.

All glories to you, Srila Prabhupada the saviour of this Material world. Please place us at the dust of your lotus feet.

All glories to your divine appearance,

Your most unworthy servants

Harichandan das and Anubhav dasi

Isipingo, Durban

Haripriya devi dasi

My Dearest Srila Prabhupada

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

Today on the worldwide celebration of Mother's Day, we bid farewell to one of your most loyal and dedicated grand-daughters, Her Grace Gopi Bhava dasi. It was an appropriate parting because she joined your movement in her youth and spent the past forty years mothering every person who came into her life. She cooked, fed and just served with great neglect to her personal health. Even though she spent the last few years battling with a debilitating illness, she never gave up on you and you rewarded her with the most amazing passing away at the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha Radhanath. Thank you Mother Gopi Bhava for being an exemplary disciple and grand-disciple and for touching all our lives.

Once again Srila Prabhupada you showed us and proved to everyone that just by following you and serving your ISKCON, we will definitely be re-united with you. The peacefulness of devotees who leave whilst hearing and chanting, holds testament of them passing the ultimate test and being reunited with Their Lordships.

With all these proven and visibly obvious experiences, yet we still doubt you and the unfailing process you've recommended for us. This is possibly due to lack of faith, laziness and attachment to Maya. How do we overcome this lethargy? Please help us Srila Prabhupada, help us to steady our faith, help us to be loyal and dedicated in our service to you and to your ISKCON. We all desire to someday meet you face to face so that we can thank you for changing our lives and for bringing an end to this miserable existence in this miserable material world.

“One need only chant the Hare Krishna mahamantra. Everyone engaged in the practice of chanting the Hare Krishna mahamantra will be completely cleansed, from the core of his heart, and be saved from the cycle of birth and death. Srimad Bhagavatam 7.6.1, Srila Prabhupada.”

His Holiness Bhakti Charu Swami says, “A devotee knows that even at his death Krishna will protect him. The real test of our devotion will be at that time.

Humbly begging to remain the servant of your servant.

Haripriya devi dasi

(South Africa)

Hemangi devi dasi

Dearest Srila Prabhupada

nama om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale

srimate bhaktivedanta swami iti namine

namaste sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine

nirvesa sunnyavadi pascatya desa tarine

It is my greatest fortune to be allowed the shelter of your lotus feet. I cannot imagine my life without your ISKCON, your books, devotees, your temples, kirtan, prasadam, association, and the spirit of dedication that surrounds me in your sincere followers.

I have had the greatest mercy in being allowed to serve many of your wonderful disciples. Each one of them radiate such great devotion and enthusiasm to spread your mission that I can well imagine what the magnitude of your personality and love for Krsna must be like.

I often think of what it must have been to serve you personally, and by getting a chance to serve your disciples I come to learn more about you. Your disciples always speak about your greatness, how your presence was magnetic, and how just by being in your association they were motivated to move mountains in service to you and your mission. Many of your disciples are writing about their spiritual journeys nowadays, and how their

paths led to you. I am swept up in their personal accounts of you, and the historical and geographical contexts fade away as I feel more and more as part of that experience.

I can feel how much they love you. Their constant dedication to spreading what you taught is a deep sign of their love. They refer to you with great pride. They claim they would not be of any significance without you. By their association, I have come to know more about you, and I also feel proud to have you as my spiritual grandfather. I wish to say in all humility, that through their descriptions of you I also feel my love growing more and more for you.

I know that I am unqualified to serve you, but you are so kind, that by allowing me to render service to your disciples, the devotees and your ISKCON, I also have been given a chance to come closer to you and to love you. When I hear about your struggles to save us, a softness of my heart overtakes me and gratitude overwhelms me

I pray deeply that my love for you can grow more and more, that one day I will also have your personal darshan.

Please always allow me to serve the devotees, and remain always in your ISKCON.

Your servant,

Hemangi devi dasi

Hemant Bhaga

In Your Gartitude

Men of Honour, Men of glory
Men who need no introduction,
Offer their obeisance's onto You,
Their success an offering to Lord Sir Krishan and Your Divine Grace.

Fifty One years on and the report looks good,
Temples; restaurants; institutes of spiritual learning
and farming communities continue to flourish,
As the Holy Name continues it tour through every town and village.

The Moon rises in glorification of Your beloved Sri Pancha-Tattva,
Marking ISKCON's global headquarters,
By the efforts of every devotee.

BBT beats on,
Fulfilling the mission,
With translations in 90 languages and sales over a billion copies.

Thank you for engaging me in the service of Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari
Forever in Your gratitude.

Hemant Bhaga
Johannesburg
South Africa

Hridayananda dasa

Dearest Srila Prabhupada

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

And although it is stated that the Srimad Bhagavatam is meant to bring about a spiritual revolution in the impious lives of a misdirected society, it was due to you only that we received this priceless invaluable gift

Without you it would not have been possible to receive the treasure house of the most precious gift

Hope and pray that you will always keep me under the shade of your divine lotus feet

Your vey unworthy servant

Hridayananda dasa

ISKCON BOTSWANA

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāñī-pracāriṇe

nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept our most humble obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your vyasa puja.

Prabhupada you left the simple comforts of Sri Sri Radha Damodara temple, your home, in 1965 to travel to a foreign country, on the orders of your spiritual master. However, you brought with you the one of the highest mood of the Vraja Gopis.

In this material world when someone has something extremely valuable, he keeps it to himself, or only shares with the very near and dear.

In Vraja however, Radharani's mood is not to have Krishna for her own self, but to bring all her sakhis and everyone else closer to her beloved Krishna. The Gopis in turn always want to engage in bringing Srimati Radharani and Sri Shyamsundar together and serving Them.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your purpose of travel to foreign land, and then all over the world is to bring everyone close to Sri Krishna. This is identical with Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī's eagerness to bring the conditioned souls closer to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Your preaching is for this purpose.

Your temples are for this purpose.

Your festivals are for this purpose.

Your books are for this purpose.

Your Krishna prasadam is for this purpose.

Your traveling was for this purpose.

Your loving you disciples was for this purpose.

Your chastisement was for this purpose.

Your compassion was for this purpose.

Your purports are for this purpose.

Your humor was this purpose.

Your gravity was for this purpose.

Prabhupada, your life is for this purpose.

We pray that our insignificant effort would serve this mood of yours, to bring children, youth, parents, friend, strangers all closer to Sri Krishna. So that we can collectively engage our senses to serve our beloved Lordships Sri Sri Krishna Balaram. We pray that in our closeness with our Lordships we hear, see, smell, taste, touch the sweetness of the Shyamasundar and Śveta sundar. And that we can bring Krishna in center of our lives.

We pray that this beautiful Temple that your Beloved Lordships, its festivals, its prasadam, its philosophy, its facilities only serve this mood of yours. This way we can please Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the Gopis, Srimati Radharani and the beautiful blackship-blue boy of Vraja.

Please engage all of us in this service, life after life.

Always praying of your causeless mercy.

Your insignificant children from the Botswana Yatra

ISKCON DURBAN (CHATSWORTH)

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe

nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your Divine Grace.

Srila Prabhupada, you travelled to the western world to preach the message of Sri Krishna Caitanya Mahaprabhu - to liberate the fallen souls from material existence by teaching them the science of Bhakti Yoga. You freely delivered this message of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu in the most palatable form to everyone you came in contact with. In a period of twelve years, you circled the globe fourteen times, opened 108 temples, and duly initiated thousands of devotees connecting them to the Bramha Madhva Gaudiya Sampradaya. From your countless contributions to this world, the production of pure devotees is the most important. Westerners who were engrossed in sinful activity, embraced the practices of Krishna Consciousness with open arms. Leaving behind their old habits and designations, they dedicated themselves completely to you. Becoming your loyal servants, and only desiring to please you they in turn increased the preaching activity in ISKCON resulting in even more devotees joining this illustrious society.

’sādhu-saṅga’, ‘sādhu-saṅga’—sarva-śāstre kaya

lava-mātra sādhu-saṅge sarva-siddhi haya

(CC Madhya 22.54)

The verdict of all revealed scriptures is that even by a moment’s association with a pure devotee, one can attain all success

Our temple, is regularly graced with the presence of such pure devotees. For the first time ever in 2016, we received the greatest boon of hosting His Grace Vaisesika Prabhu at our temple. His Grace Vaisesika Prabhu is your stalwart disciple and expert example for all devotees to emulate. He has perfected many areas of devotional service, especially distributing your books, encouraging other devotees to distribute books, as well as relishing every word in your books. He presented seminars on book distribution in a deep devotional mood. All the devotees that were present, were instantly motivated and uplifted. The difficult task of distributing books suddenly became so simple and relishable. His Grace Vaisesika Prabhu introduced the monthly sankirtan festival which was then implemented and spearheaded by our temple president, His Grace Vibhu Caitanya Prabhu. Thousands of your books have been distributed all over the greater Durban area during these monthly sankirtan festivals. All devotees that partake blissfully return to the temple, share their realisations and honour a first class prasadam feast. The sankirtan festival had a knock on effect all the way to the December book Marathon, resulting in a drastic increase in the number of partaking devotees. The Sri Sri Radha Radhanath temple distributed 53,565 books during the marathon, all for your pleasure.

His Grace Vaisesika Prabhu also introduced the “CHAD” (Chapter a day) programme and the “Be a Sage Page by Page” programme. Srila Prabhupada, you emphasised that your books are not only meant for distributing but are also meant for us to read and understand. Hundreds of devotees are now receiving and reading a chapter of your Bhagavad Gita every single day. The temple management at the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath temple has also implemented a monthly “Be a Sage” programme, where devotees gather to read and discuss your books.

We are ever indebted to you Srila Prabhupada, for creating so many pure devotees around the world, who guide and drive us in Krishna Consciousness. Please bless us to always strive to increase the quality and quantity of our devotional service to you.

Your servants at the ISKCON Sri Sri Radha Radhanath temple in Durban, South Africa

(written by Akrura das)

ISKCON EAST LONDON

Om anjnana-timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya

caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah

Nama om visnu padaya krishna-presthaya bhu-tale, srimate bhaktive-danta svaminn iti namine

Namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine

nirvisesa sunyavadi-pascatya-desa-tarine

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept our humble obeisances to Your lotus feet. All glories to Your Loving Divine Grace.

You have given us the top most method to go back to Godhead by practically spreading the Maha Mantra all over the world Yourself.

Therefore the prediction of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu has become a reality. That is the Holy Name will be spread in every town and village.

Our Yatra in East London, Eastern Cape, South Africa has benefited from this spreading of Harinama. We are very fallen, conditioned souls, who have been given the opportunity to serve in Iskcon East London,

You have given us 3 programs to ensure success:

Book distribution

Prasadam distribution

Harinaam Sankirtan

We thank You Srila Prabhupada for building a house that we can all live in and are sincerely endeavouring to please your Lotus feet

We beg you to shower your mercy on us and allow us to serve you better.

Your aspiring servants

Iskcon East London

ISKCON LENASIA

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept our most humble obeisance's,

All Glories to you, All glories to you Srila Prabhupada.

Prabhupada, you have steered this ship of material life towards calmer seas.

Even though we may encounter storms and rough waters, we now know the end goal is pure beauty, pure bliss.

Thanks you Srila Prabhupada, for giving us ISKCON, our great leaders and bringing sincere devotees together.

Thank you for boarding the Jaladutta to spread Krishna Consciousness and for giving us the Maha mantra.

We now have hope to reignite our love for Krishna through our ongoing service to you.

We hope to always remain true to your mission and to steer all our efforts towards fulfilling your sincere wishes.

We are forever indebted to you, our great leader, our Guru, our ever well-wisher and our saviour

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare

Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare

Your eternal servants,

ISKCON Lenasia ILOC Team

ISKCON ZAMBIA

nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe

nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

Hare Krishna!

Please accept our most humble and prostrated obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet on the auspicious occasion of your 121 Vyas Pooja Celebration. All glories to you dear Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Srila Guru Maharaj.

With the mercy of Guru and Gauranga, our center is now two years old. In contrast to a humble beginning, the center is becoming busier as Sri Kṛṣṇa is attracting unlimited souls and bringing them together to deepen their loving exchanges and their faith in Guru and Krishna.

The congregation is participating more enthusiastically. With your mercy, here are some of the activities and developments in Zambia:

1. The 2nd Rath Yatra festival, which was also held in honor of ISKCON 50 celebrations, was an amazing success attracting numerous people to get blessings from The Lordships.

2. Pad Yatra in the southern province ensured the distribution of the holy name in many towns.

3. Book distribution is regularly performed by young children with enthusiasm. We have prime locations established in three towns in Zambia and every effort is made to increase book distribution.

4. The Food for Life program is a regular feature wherein we are feeding Kṛṣṇa prasadam to many needy and orphaned children. In these places the glories of the holy name are sung on a regular basis.

5. Bhakti Vrksa started 18 months ago and greatly assists our outreach efforts by introducing new people to Kṛṣṇa Consciousness as well as sustain the spiritual life of current members.

6. We conducted a Japa workshop by inviting senior devotees and as a result many have started chanted sixteen rounds and following the regulative principles.

7. Regular visits by many pure devotees including sannaysis are nourishing the Kṛṣṇa Consciousness of serious members in the congregation.

8. We have recently started Children and Youth program of weekly congregating every Friday performing kirtan, recitation of BG verses, developing Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Srila Prabhupada, we are lost in this material world and the only hope is your continuous mercy so that we remain engaged in your service and as a surrendered souls join you in the spiritual world for serving you and Kṛṣṇa.

Your humble and insignificant servants in Zambia.

Jagadananda Pandit dasa

Hare Kṛṣṇa dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace.
“param vijayate sri kṛṣṇa sankirtanam”

One late evening in early October 1975 as usual my father came home after work. This time he was excitedly holding an Indian newspaper called “The Leader” and was animatedly expressing the contents of what had his attention. He announced that a very prominent guru from India was coming to the Durban City Hall on the 7th of October and he wanted to attend.

There was nothing unusual about that, as our family was accustomed to visiting and hosting sadhus. However what was especially striking was that this guru had several white followers. This was simply incredulous and just had to be seen to be believed!

To understand the shocked disbelief of my family and the Indian community at large one needs to reference the relevant history of that era. South Africa was in the grip of apartheid with racist white domination and supremacy pervasive in every facet of daily life. Non whites were forced to live in strictly demarcated areas with rudimentary public utility services necessitating travelling at great cost and time to get to and from work.

We were disenfranchised and could only access third class buses, trains and schools. Post Offices and all government/municipal buildings all had separate entrances coupled with dingy, dirty, decrepit structures with poor service and long queues. Park benches, toilets, hotels, bathing beaches etc were labelled for “whites only”. Indians and Africans were conditioned to bowing down before the whites.

So when dad read the line on page 3 of the newspaper article revealing that you had white disciples who knelt before you in supplication, it aroused our curiosity even though i was just a teenager and the interest of the entire Indian community in particular. Africans were seen everywhere as meek, uneducated, poverty stricken and humble. Indians made an outward show of being submissive as that was the only way to gain the favour of the white masters who had control over everything. And whites were never seen to bow down to anyone!

Without even meeting you Srila Prabhupada, you became our hero. The champion of the downtrodden. Our voice. Our knight in shining armour. Not only were many of your followers white but they were American as well. In the 70's America was considered to be the most advanced of all nations. It was the cherished goal of many Indians (especially the more affluent ones) to one day visit the USA to experience the most prosperous land on the planet. Now, noting that many of your disciples were American became an even bigger conversation point within the Indian community. Americans were hero worshiped even by other whites. Your stature and prestige was already unsurpassed. No “Indian” had ever done anything like this before.

Naturally the Indians were impressed and proud. These views reverberated like wildfire through the community. Even without having heard a word from you, people everywhere were reveling with glee and wonder. What an impressive entrance onto the South African stage.

Although tens of thousands heard directly from your lotus mouth, most of us have still not taken seriously to the process of Krishna consciousness. Alas, how unfortunate must we be. When bhagavan Sri Krsna was on the planet many failed to recognise Him. So unfortunate.

Similarly most of us fail to recognise Your Divine Grace as a dearest empowered nitya siddha associate of the Queen of Vrindavan sent to this mortal realm on Her bidding to help us back home. Just as the devotees are broadcasting the glories of Sri Krsna, your ardent followers are reminding us of your pre-eminent position as the siksha guru of ISKCON for all of time and as the most prolific preacher of the sankirtan mission of Lord Caitanya of all time. We depend so much on those who are attached to your divine lotus feet.

Please bless us all to assist you in your mission to please your spiritual master. It pains me to see so many previously committed followers become inactive or become enamoured by the material energy. Sometimes we hurt other devotees in the guise of service. Please, please

bless us all and forgive our indiscretions. To say that many of us are really neophyte devotees would be a huge compliment.

Just as you were my hero even before meeting Your Divine Grace in 1975, when we in South Africa were grappling with the white oppressors, you are my hero today whilst I struggle within the stringent knots of Maya. I know first hand, the material world is a dangerous place. On the most auspicious occasion of your Sri Vyasapuja when it is said that you are even more amenable may I seek the benediction to chant the Holy Names like you. The holy name is the beginning, the middle and the end. The strongest current of mercy of the Holy name flows from the lotus mouth of Mahaprabhu through Your Divine Grace.

kirtaniyah sada harih

begging to remain eternally yours,

Jagadananda Pandit dasa

Jagannath Charan Das & Devahuti Devi Dasi

Dearest Srilla Prabhupada

Please accept our humble obedience's at your divine lotus feet.

On this most glories day of your Vyasa Puja we would like to show our gratitude , but all the words in the whole world cannot describe our gratefulness. Nevertheless we will try :

Thank you Srila Prabhupada foe Building a house in which the whole world can live in.

Thank you for translating day and night so many volumes of books.

Thank you for introducing the Ratha Yatra Festival to the world.

Thank you for giving us all our Spiritual Masters.

Thank you for building so many centres all around the world.

Thank you for the Sunday Love Feast programme.

Thank you for showing us the Holly Dhams

Thank you for introducing us to deity worship.

Please shower us with blessing so that we may always be ever grateful and faithful to your mission.

Your insignificant servants:

Jagannath Charan Das & Devahuti Devi Dasi

Jarikhanda sevaki dasi

Please accept my deepest respects and love to your divine lotus feet dear Srila Prabhupada.

To my dear most great Grandpa and spiritual general.

Caught in an abyss nescience.

Puppets to the modes of material nature,
the soul journeys from life to life

A deep sense of emptiness engulfs the being,

The soul tries hard to fill the void

Feeding hungry desire in the pursuit of happiness.

The spark sways here and there deselect, disdained, depressed!

Caught in an abyss of nescience,

All the spark sees is unending pain.

Hapiness may come knocking by but in a flicker it dissipates!

Like that of the welcoming and parting of the winter and summer seasons.

Caught in an abyss of nescience,

Seeing this condition of hopelessness,

The divine was perturbed,

He then called upon a special soul.....
His very own beloved Senapati Vaisnava

Caught in an abyss of nescience,
Born in the state of Bengal,
A spiritual warrior appeared you dear Srila Prabhupada,
gracing this planet with transcendence.
Lost hope was resurrected....
“Every town and village”-
This was your mission statement oh general.

Caught in an abyss of nescience, Layers of darkness removed by you dear great grandpa “He opens my darkened eyes and fills my heart with transcendental knowledge.” How gentle a soul to cut the roughness of this existential experience. To you dear saint, I owe my life.

William Shakespeare once exclaimed, “All the world’s a stage and all the men and women merely players”. This quotation very nicely looks to the reality that everything is predestined and we are merely players to a greater master- God. You Srila Prabhupada are Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhus own general who came as a grand ambassador of this Sankirtan movement.

It is often said that you dear great grandpa has built a home in which the whole world can live in. As I grew up, I saw this extraordinary statement come to life before my eyes. Living in South Africa which is a country of a melting pot of cultures and diversity- your Iskcon dear general broke barriers of race, sex, financial status, educational backing etc. Leaving the most beautiful essential connection that of the soul to soul.

The past 3 years have been a very interesting journey for me. Leaving the familiarity of home, I began studying abroad in the Land of the great red dragons- China. I felt alienated in an unknown culture and people. Lost I began to lament. However hope was in the horizon, I was connected to your local temple in China. I felt like I was welcomed home. It then became clear to me within my heart that this is all due to your magnanimity and kindness Srila Prabhupada.

I pray that I may one day become a worthy soldier in your army. My debt to you is one that is insurmountable but bit by bit I hope to repay it. I love you most dearly

Your great grand daughter and eternal servant.

Jarikhanda sevaki dasi

Jayasri Devi Dasi

Dearest Srila Prabhupada

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

All glories to your Divine Grace.

It is a pleasure to write a vyasa puja offering to your Divine Grace.

Little did I realise the great impact that you would make on my life, after seeing you for the first time at the Lutchmee Narayan Temple Hall in Mobeni Heights.

Having taken initiation from Your Son , His Holiness Bhakti Charu Swami, has further impacted on what a Great Society I have embraced.

My life is full of gratitude for all that you have given my family and I. Though I am a struggling devotee, I find it so hard to fathom , the huge amount of mercy that has been given, to people in every continent of the world.

Your Divine Grace has made me realise that ISKCON is truly a great society. It has given us the ability to confidently shift our materialistic life . Iskcon has made us break out of our shell and step into the beautiful world of good fortune, which the Maha Mantra so gloriously offers to us. By living a Krishna conscious life, you have taught us how to love , honour and value ourselves. The mercy of Lord Jagannatha at our Ratha

Yatra festival further enhances the abundance ,that the Lord of the universe has in store for us.

By living the extraordinary principles, such as the 4 regulative principles, eating persadam, doing sadhana, dancing and singing for the Lordships, you have made it possible for all to try to return back home.

Srila Prabhupada, I humbly beg for your compassion upon my family and I, so that we can move forward in our spiritual journey back home.

Your Servant

Jayasri Devi Dasi

Kaishori Devi Dasi

Hare Krishna Dearest Srila Prabhupada. Please accept my most humble obeisances in the dust of your Divine Lotus Feet. All glories to You, Srila Prabhupada, the founder Acarya of ISKCON.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done for us. This movement of yours is the saving grace of so many of us. I shudder to think what my life would have been like if it wasn't for your ISKCON. I am very grateful for Your Mercy. Due to your Mercy I have a family who are all devotees. Thank you for my Guru Maharaja and his kind association. Thank you for your temples. Thank you for your disciples and devotees. Their association is very valuable. I have been reading Srila Prabhupada Lilamrta again this year. In there, your sacrifices in so many ways are so clear. I am very sorry for what you went through for us fallen conditioned souls. I am very thankful for the results, Srila Prabhupada. In many of the pages, sheer miracles are revealed. The manner in which you handle things and established and grew this movement in such a short space of time is amazing. Also how Krishna sent the perfect devotees to serve you is wonderful. You slept so little and worked so hard. You trained everyone so patiently and preached and wrote so much. You travelled under all sorts of conditions and difficulties. We are

the fortunate benefactors of Your books and all your efforts. I beg on this day of Your Vyasa Puja for Your Blessings and for Your Mercy. I want to do my service nicely and please my spiritual master. I need Your blessings to go back to Godhead at the end of this lifetime.

Your most insignificant granddaughter,

Kaishori Devi Dasi, disciple of Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami

Lenasia, Gauteng, South Africa

Kesari raj / anjana priya

Nama om Visnu-padaya Krsna –presthaya bhu-tale

Srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine

Namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine

Nirviesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-des-tarine

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept our respectful obeisances.

All glories to your divine Grace on this most auspicious day of your vyasa puja

There are no words to describe our love for you Dear Srila Prabhupada. You are an example of kindness, compassion and integrity. We would like to thank you so very much, for so many things you have done for us. Such as sitting up late at nights translating books, traveling the world preaching the name of Krsna, building so many temples throughout the world and you have have attracted so many race groups in becoming Krsna Consciousness, Srila Prabhupada your worship every single day, your melodious voice, your discourses have taught us how to love Krishna.

Thank you Srila Prabhupada for your great endeavour on your path. You are turly amazing.

Your eternally indedted servant of servant.

Kesari raj / anjana priya

Kesi Ghata dasa, Syama Rati Devi Dasi & Raghunatha

All glories to Sri SriRadhaRadhanatha, SrimanMahaprabhu and Sri Giriraj

Dearest SrilaPrabhupada

Please accept our heartfelt obeisances on this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja

Thank You SrilaPrabhupada for providing us with this glorious temple - It is not only a landmark in South Africa, but a significant landmark in our lives.

Your temples and disciples are our only refuge in this deteriorating Kaliyuga.

New anxieties evolve daily - Aggravated by society, with dangers at every step – corrupt leaders bereft of any Dharmic standards.

People seek assistance from astrologers but Your Divine Grace has given us all the logic and facts in your books.

We are so grateful for the selfless sacrifices You have made for so many souls to be reunited with the Supreme Lord, in order to get some peace and maintain sobriety.

Please continue to keep us all under Your ISKCON and engage us in assisting Your disciples in Your mission.

Your loving grand disciples,

Kesi Ghata dasa, Syama Rati Devi Dasi and Raghunatha

Kevashinee

Here comes the Sun

My Dear Srila Prabhupada

I offer my humble obeisance's to Your lotus feet. I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to you for bringing to the world an age old science, to uplift humanity. Moreover, I am deeply thankful to be afforded the opportunity of having the benefit and privilege to chant the holy name: Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare. In these ever changing turbulent times, it is the only sanctuary for peace. You lit up the world with Your Divine Light, touched the lives of many, and provided a home for the entire world to flourish. Thank you Srila Prabhupda. I pray that I remain sheltered under Your lotus feet, and also be able to make a small contribution to the service of humanity.

Your humble servant,

Kevashinee

Kirtana-rasa dasa

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances. All Glories to your lotus feet

In 1992 i read “ Prabhupada: He Built a House in Which the Whole World Can Live”, written by HH Satsvarupa dasa Goswamy. I then became aware of the austerities you undertook to bring us Westerners the eternal Vedic wisdom. And, of course, i also marveled at the research and attention to detail of the writers accounts of those austerities.

In these subsequent 25 years these writings of your disciples has been invaluable to me. I especially enjoy how each, coming from different

communities and languages, have all joined forces to present different aspects of scripture. Furthermore, they are taking this knowledge to all corners of our planet. Undoubtedly, this is one of the main reason why so many people all now practising bhakti-yoga.

Thank you for adding such variety to our sadhana bhakti

Your humble servant

Kirtana-rasa dasa (Pietermaritzburg, South Africa)

Krishna-Candra das, Prema-Vanya dasi & Bhakta Gambhira-Caitanya

Dearest Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances

All Glories to your Divine Grace

I pray that by your causeless mercy, I can one day render some meaningful service to your glorious ISKCON. This ocean of service, ISKCON, is the vehicle to both engage and carry souls such as myself along the path of bhakti.

You have given us a reason to live, and that reason is knowledge of our purpose in life. Without such a profound yet simple purpose to serve Krishna, life is just empty and devoid of value.

Everything is only given value when connected to Krishna. You are the pure devotee who connects us to Krishna. You are the pure devotee who sacrificed everything for the pleasure of Krishna.

Every step of your presence on this planet is a clear guide and inspiration to any one in any walk of life. Truth is that you actually taught by example.

The pure devotee and the Lord are qualitatively one as governed by their purpose to serve one another, which is the common goal. The pure devotee has no other objective than to satisfy and please the Lord. The Lord has no other objective than to reciprocate with His pure devotees genuine devotion.

Thank you for giving us a tiny glimpse into the purpose for which we are created and destined.

Thank you for a family of devotees who always keep me in their thoughts and in their shelter despite my many faults.

Your eternal servants

Krishna-Candra das, Prema-Vanya dasi

& Bhakta Gambhira-Caitanya

Krishnarupa Sewsunker

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe

nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

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

Over the course of a recent transition in my life, I have felt most grateful and indebted since I feel connected to you in new and deeper ways. I have been able to see your mercy from different angles and lenses, and in each context, one thing is consistently true: your mercy makes the

most beautiful change in one's life, and it cultivates a steadfastness to the Absolute Truth that is exemplary.

Having recently begun my tertiary studies in the U.S., I was faced with a variety of lessons and realizations. Being alone in a new place and very different circumstances, the first thing that was clear was the powerful enjoying tendency evident in society in general (and especially manifest in youth). I could see how this tendency would surely not lead to a desirable situation for those who pursue and try to perpetuate their material enjoyment. On the other hand, I also saw this tendency within myself and realized the desire to enjoy is certainly a force motivating all living entities, as explained in the Vedic scriptures. However, you gave us the path to enjoyment that is untainted and real: your causeless mercy is so great that you want everyone not only to not suffer but to enjoy eternally in the fullest, most wonderful way. Therefore, you tirelessly worked to give Krsna Consciousness to society at large. This realization made me see the importance and gravity of trying to give Krsna Consciousness to others. How could I be alright with allowing fellow living entities to suffer in the shadowy well of material existence knowing the unbelievable mercy and prospect you've given me the opportunity to receive?

The next thing I realized was how much I desire your shelter and the shelter of your devotees. My faith was reinforced in a stronger way than ever that the standards and way of life you practically taught us demarcate the most beautiful way to live. Following that, after gradually being blessed more and more with the association of your followers and getting to see their characters, the reaffirmation became solid that amongst the devotees of your ISKCON are people of the finest caliber. Furthermore, your devotees come from a spectrum of backgrounds, paths and life experiences, and yet all of this variety finds its rightful place in the home that is your ISKCON and in your service. There is no exception when it comes to the sharing of your mercy; you leave no person out. In this regard, you entrusted us with the service of trying our best to make sure nobody is left out, and it behooves me to act on this realization. Lord Caitanya's mercy and your mercy is meant to go out to every living entity.

Srila Prabhupada, you save me time and time again from my dense ignorance by engaging me in service by your causeless mercy. Your mercy is certainly causeless because it is such a lofty blessing of which I am most unworthy and for which I only feel a tinge of the gratitude I should. By this mercy and the mercy of your Lord and your followers, I am pulled out of my ignorance and lethargy to serve you via a network of deep love. Please may I become bound by that net of love, and may I become caught up within it so that I may not ever escape despite my rebellious nature.

Aspiring to become worthy of your service and the service of your ISKCON,

Krishnarupa Sewsunker

Durban, South Africa

Lalita Gopal Devi Dasi

Dearest Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of Your lotus feet, on this most Glorious occasion of Your Vyasa Puja.

All Glories To Their Lordships Sri Sri Jagannath, Baladev and Srimati Subhdra Devi

All Glories To Their Lordships Sri Sri Nitai Gaurasundar

Srila Prabhupada, there is a song by Mangalananda Das (Michael Cassidy) called 'Lover of the Lord' that was done as a dedication to You, which describes all of Your qualities and characteristics. Please allow me to write out some of the lyrics for You.....

“ He is a kind and gentle soul

His heart is never cold

So peaceful and poetic
With a message true and bold
He's never seeking praise
So silent and so grave
And his transcendental love
Is the magic in his ways”
“ And when I see his love I know
I've got a long long way to go
When will I taste the love
That he is feeling inside
“ He is always meek and mild
With a warm and gentle smile
So simple in his living
Singing all the while
He sings out Krishna's name
His glory and His fame
To serve his Lord and Master
In pleasure or in pain
“ And when I see his love I know
I've got a long long way to go
When will I taste the love
That he is feeling inside
“ You'll find no lust and greed

In a heart that's pure and free
He's a lover of the lord
And his life is ecstasy
“ And when I see his love I know
I have a long long way to go
When will I taste the love
That he is feeling inside

Whenever I listen to this song and watch the video, my throat almost instantly swells as my eyes fill with tears. This song is the most apt description of You, Your ways, life's mission, the struggles You had to endure to bring us fallen souls to Krishna.

In Your transcendental manner You succeeded in Your mission. You carried out Your Guru Maharajh's instruction, leaving Your Holy land and came to this contaminated Western world, where You spent so many years, yet You still remained so pure and so true.

Listening to Your lectures, reading Your literature and watching Your video library, more often than not leaves me with all mixed emotions. You have the ability to make me laugh at Your wit, tear for Your struggles and fear what would my life be like had I not known Krishna.

Srila Prabhupada, I bow down at Your lotus feet begging and pleading to You, to please have mercy on me so that I always remain at Your lotus feet.

Please allow me to continue serving Their Lordships, You and Your devotees.

Thank You, Srila Prabhupada, for everything

Your most unworthy servant

Lalita Gopal Devi Dasi

Lokanath das and family

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your ISKCON, a place where conditioned souls can get the association of pure devotees.

By your mercy we are having Harinama once a month in the Johannesburg CBD and it is very enlivening for us to be engaged in the pastimes of Lord Caitanya. My dull mind gets woken up from its material entanglement when I go on Harinama and I pray that one day I will be able to go on Harinama much more often.

People doing their shopping in the thousands are benefited by hearing the holy name and their lives will never be the same again. Some people smile at the Harinama party and countless sins are burnt away by their favourable attitude. Some people dance with the devotees and their hearts are made light and full of joy through this simple service in kirtan. Some people even chant the holy name with us and they are on their way back to Godhead, never to be forgotten by Krsna due to their surrender to Him, made so easy and joyfully performed in Lord Caitanyas' sankirtan movement by your mercy Srila Prabhupada.

Thank you for saving us all. I pray that Krsna may give me the intelligence to try and repay my eternal debt to you for creating my good fortune by introducing me to this blissful Sankirtan movement which cleanses the dust which has accumulated in the heart for many years and extinguishes the fire of conditional life of repeated birth and death.

Please engage me in your service.

Your eternal servants

Lokanath das and family

Manjumedadevi dasi

To His Divine Grace AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your Beautiful Lotus Feet.

It is a great honour to be able to do a Vyasa Puja Offering to you Srila Prabhupada. Despite the huge amount of challenges that I had to face in the past few months due to relocating from Cape Town to Durban, I was still able to do my devotional service of chanting all my rounds, doing Puja and making time to read your wonderful Transcendental books. It was a very difficult adjustment trying to get settled in Durban. However, I have been able to get through all this successfully. Through this unsettling time in my life, you have guided me with your love and causeless mercy dear Srila Prabhupada and I will always be grateful to you I have made so much progress in my spiritual life since I became a devotee in 1993 and I will always be indebted to you. I have learned so much from reading your books, serving the deities at the Cape Town temple and associating with devotees. Thank you so much Srila Prabhupada for giving us ISKCON. I feel so blessed to get your association each time I read your books. I'm hoping to receive Brahmin Initiation while I'm in Durban and I know that will eventually happen with your wonderful mercy. Thank you so much for everything that you have done for us I will always feel indebted to you Srila Prabhupada.

With Love and Great Respect from your worthless grand-disciple,

Manjumedadevi dasi

Maran, Seshna, Yadav and Yamuna

My dear Srila Prabhupad thank you so much for engaging my wife and I in direct service to You and Their Lordships Lord Jaganath, Baladev and Subadra Maharani. We look forward to our weekly service and always chat how fortunate we are having being blessed to render such wonderful service.

Thank you Srila Prabhupad for always being so merciful to our family. We are forever grateful to You.

Happy Vyasa Puja Srila Prabhupad

May we continue to grow to serve and serve to grow in Krsna Conciousness

Your fallen souls

Maran, Seshna, Yadav and Yamuna

Iskcon Poenix

Durban

South Africa

Mother Chandra Gopi devi das,Atma Priya Dasi and Rasaraj das

Our Dearest Srila Prabhupada

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of Your Divine Lotus Feet

All glories to Your Divine Grace

On this Auspicious Occasion we solely embrace

By the Divine Order of Your Spiritual Master you came

thus travelling far and wide to spread the holy name

Our wild and turbulent nature to tame

Whilst aboard the ship two heart attacks you suffered

But to Krsna You fervently prayed and surrendered

We fallen souls you lovingly considered

This was your magnanimous compassion

Just to fulfil Your Lord Caitanya's Mission

Volumes of books you painstakingly published

Many hearts and souls you refurbished

You left us with a wealth of transcendental Knowledge

So much for us to read, advance and acknowledge

Only through submission , service and surrender

Pure Devotional service by your causeless mercy we can only try to render.

The Worlds Noble Prize you could of easily won but to You this was most insignificant

Through Your Globle Preaching you have achieved accolades much more magnificent.

We Thank You,Srila Prabhupada. Trying to be poet, but I am such a silly goat

Begging to be your servants

Mother Chandra Gopi devi das,Atma Priya Dasi and Rasaraj das

Durban,SA

Mukunda dasa & Lalita kunda devi dasi

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your divine grace.

When we first joined ISKCON in the early 80's, we wondered how you would forever live in your books.

Your books have become the recipe in our lives. You asked for so few ingredients and you whipped out amazing soldiers who bravely hold the canopy of love in this divine movement. Through your books you helped us fallen souls who were swimming in the material ocean for hundreds of years. Hearing the holy name brought us to shore.

You fed our soul with the chanting of the holy name and cleared out the twining weeds from our arid hearts. Your sweet kirtan and bhajans helped us water the seed of bhakti. Your prasada helped us take away everyday anarthas, cut our ego and fill our heart with love. We are forever indebted to you. We were not able to see you physically, but dear Srila Prabhupada, we see you everyday in your books and through your instructions. Thank you for choosing us fallen souls by offering us the shade of the lotus feet of your disciples. Please help us to always remain in that shade.

We love you very much.

Mukunda dasa and Lalita kunda devi dasi.

Vrindavana.

Mukunda Datta das

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories unto your lotus feet.

In this material world - we are born into different families/ we are attached to them but unfortunately these relationships are temporary (they come and go).

I am very grateful to be a part of this ISKCON spiritual family / no matter what happens I'll never be able to lose it.

I pray that I can remain in such a wonderful home, which you have built for all of us to live.

Please give us strength to co-operate and respect one another.

By loving each other, we will receive your mercy and will get the opportunity to be with you again.

Thank you very much

Attempting to become a worthy follower of yours,

Service in gratitude

Mukunda Datta das

Nadiya devi dasi

Dear Srila Prabhupada

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

Every year we observe Your Vyasa puja and celebrate Your life, a life you so tirelessly and selflessly sacrificed to propagate Krsna Consciousness throughout the world. Your sole motivation was unalloyed love for The Divine Couple, Radha and Krsna. Every endeavour, every struggle and every decision was based on love. You founded the International society of Krsna Consciousness and lovingly and expertly guided this movement. Your compassion carried You To different

countries, trying to save fallen souls at an advanced age. You never stopped preaching, even during Your final days, You continued to teach ...the final lesson.

I often think about Your final days in Vrndavan, Your desire to go on Govardhana Parikrama....that decision, your last wish, was most controversial. Some devotees were ready to execute your desire, while others opposed the decision. And it wasn't based on the false ego, but rather a genuine love for You Srila Prabhupada. Both camps only wanted to please You... Your final decision to abandon the Parikrama based on the plea of tearful disciples, indicated your submission to their love. Just as Krsna is controlled by the love of his devotees, so too are You controlled by the love of Your disciples. We often hear the cliché “ love conquers all” but the truth of it can only be fully appreciated when applied to Krsna or the spiritual acaryas.

As time goes by, we sometimes see that the false ego begins to hamper our judgment, and decisions we make are tinged with material desire, rather than love. I pray that You always guide me on the path of selfless service and remind me that the only motivation should be for the pleasure of Guru and Gauranga. On this day of Your Vyasapuja, I pray that You allow me the eternal shelter at Your lotus feet, drawing me back if I stray, teaching and correcting the error of my ways, so that I can eventually please You.

Your fallen granddaughter,

Nadiya devi dasi

Nalika Rajaram

Dear Srila Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances on your Vyāsa-pūja. On this special day I would like to offer to you my deepest gratitude.

Three years ago my life changed for the better. I found my shiksha guru and another father. Upon looking at your picture I often feel so sad that you are no longer with us. I was born at the time when you were preparing to leave. Being in your presence was therefore not an option for me. Somehow though, you are constantly in my mind and thought. Your mission has become very important to me and I am trying to assist in my little way.

Your achievements, in such a short space of time leave me in awe. Your perseverance and persistence are an inspiration. I feel that you walked with Krishna.

You have provided us with shelter and a way back to Godhead. I want to go back to Godhead and this difficult path I'm trying to follow. The devotees I have met are making this process a little easier and their constant association and instruction are helping me learn.

We miss you Guru, please guide us to become better devotees.

Your servant

Nalika Rajaram

ISKCON PMB Yatra

Namacarya das

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of Your Divine Lotus Feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

On this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja I have nothing to offer you. I am spiritually a beggar so my job is to beg

Thank you for Your ISKCON in which we are all taking shelter from the harsh realities of this cruel material world. You so meticulously created

this ISKCON for our shelter that we could not imagine. I shudder to think what would our lives would be without your mercy. Our only saving grace is Your Divine Grace.

Knowing that Your books will be the only torchlight to guide us in this dark age of Kali yuga we trying our best to distribute your books. However I am very weak and lazy to do this I beg for your blessing to increase this substantially.

You have so many centers in South Africa yet the number of people visiting them are a few. Our meagre offerings are not the true representation that you would like. We are trying our very best with the limited resources at our avail. We beg that you give us the strength and knowledge to increase this to your liking.

On this auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja I beg you to please bless us that we cooperate whole heartedly amongst the devotees and make Your ISKCON the most attractive shelter for all of us in a South Africa.

Your servant,

Namacarya das

Nanda Maharaja dasa

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your divine grace.

A few years ago a relative visited me when I just moved into my current home. He was overcome with excitement about the dwelling and the natural tranquility of the suburb. He told me: “you’ve got such a beautiful place, what more do you need?” I think he simply thought that I had reached heaven. He did not know that Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita that from the highest planet in the material world down to the lowest all places are places of misery wherein repeated birth and death take

place. He did not know that you reinstate in your purport that this world is “Anityam asukham lokam”-this material world is temporary and full of misery, not habitable for a sane gentleman.” And sure as you state I have had and still have my fair share of knocks. I am indeed a graduate of the school of hard knocks. So the phrase I reflect on today is what my relative told me one beautiful Sunday afternoon: what more do you need? Srila Prabhupada you have given me that what I really need. This Krishna consciousness. It is my surfboard in this ocean of material existence. It is always helping me to overcome the waves of anxiety. “What more do I need?”-Srila Prabhupada you have given me this chanting of the maha mantra. This is my weapon in the onslaught against maya. I pray to develop an attraction for the holy names. “What more do I need?”Srila Prabhupada you have given me my real family, a family of devotees. I pray to stay in the association of the vaisnavas and the shelter of the sadhus. “What more do I need?”-Srila Prabhupada you have shown me the places of pilgrimage. I pray to visit these dhamas regularly. “What more do I need?”-Srila Prabhupada you have given me your Bhaktivedanta purports. I pray to read them daily always and to follow your teachings.”What more do I need?”-Srila Prabhupada you have given me hope, hope that even rascals like me have a chance to succeed. I pray for your continued mercy. I am indeed fortunate. On my route to work daily I drive past the Pietermaritzburg City hall where you set your lotus feet in October of 1975. This is now indeed a sanctified place, a tirtha. I feel blessed just being in this vicinity. “What more do I need?”-Srila Prabhupada? What more do I really need? You have blessed me with so much Srila Prabhupada. I pray to appreciate you Srila Prabhupada, and repay you with love and gratitude. All glories to you Srila Prabhupada.

Your servant of your servants,

Nanda Maharaja dasa(BCais)

Pietermaritzburg
South Africa

Nandapriya-Gopika devi dasi

Dearest Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyasapuja.

I can't help but wonder, where will I be if it were not for your mercy... ? What miserable web would I have been caught in.... it scares me.... to think how easy it is to just slip into an endless cycle of birth, death and the heartache of attachment and separation..... eagerly seeking love and contentment but receiving heartache and disappointment instead where would I be if not for your merciful glance?

You have opened the door to eternal happiness, love and contentment... if only I could be intelligent enough to follow you and to stop looking for temporary happiness within this world.

You have opened the door to Gokoka Vrindavan... our home which we have forgotten... our home that we turned away from in expectation of fulfilling our own selfish desires... but you never gave up on us... you endured so much personal suffering just to save us! Your compassion knows no bounds. Guided by your love for your Gurumaharaj, you left no stone unturned to give us the most sublime truth.

Wandering on this spiritual path... There are times when I feel lost and I wonder if I will ever please you with my weak endeavours at devotional service. I am no eloquent speaker nor do I possess the necessary management skills yet I find myself in a service that requires me to take on much responsibility on your behalf. Please guide me dear Srila Prabhupada, to know the difference between exercising my ego and selfish motivation and being your instrument in executing your desire in everything I do and being aware of my intentions in the progression of your ISKCON in Pietermartizburg.

You foresaw the need for spiritual mentorship and encouragement therefore you so intelligently designed such an intricate web of saintly

association within your ISKCON, that green mangoes such as myself will have the opportunity to grow and in time hopefully ripen spiritually.... my gratitude to ALL the wonderful devotees who give me so much of their time, patience and understanding.

Please guide me in my service to your lotus feet.... without your mercy I am nothing

Begging to remain in the shelter of your lotus feet

Your spiritual grand daughter

Nandapriya-Gopika devi dasi

(c/o HH Jayapataka Swami) ISKCON Pietermartizburg

Nashvin Gangaram

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

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

I am currently at ISKCON New Vrindaban, marvelling at this amazing place that was inspired by your vision. I am now convinced that everything presently established is just a fraction of your all-encompassing vision. Please utilize me in any way to fulfil your desires.

These are some words from you and about you that I found particularly inspiring this year:

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http://www.vanisource.org/wiki/690501_-_Lecture_Festival_Appearance_Day,_Lord_Nrsimhadeva,_Nrsimha-caturdasi_-_Boston

“Vaisnava is the ocean of mercy. There is no end. As you cannot, I mean to say, draw all the waters from the ocean, it is not possible. Similarly,

a Vaisnava, a devotee, ocean of mercy. You can draw from it as much mercy as you like; still, it is full.”

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http://www.vanisource.org/wiki/760417_-_Conversation_-_Bombay

Prabhupada: (aside:) Hmm. You cannot cut it?

Devotee: The knife is not very sharp...

Prabhupada: Eh?

Devotee: The knife is not very sharp.

Indian: Hmm, that is not the way to cut it.

Prabhupada: Hmm?

Indian: Take out this slice, some slice...

Prabhupada: Yes.

Indian:...and cut it into two pieces.

Prabhupada: Yes. You do not know how to cut. One who knows, let him cut.

Indian: Take out a full slice.

Prabhupada: (Hindi)

Indian: (Hindi)

Prabhupada: Tad-vijnanartham gurum evabhigacchet (MU 1.2.12).
(laughter)

Devotee (2): This is sharp.

Prabhupada: Everything requires a guru; otherwise he remains a fool, rascal, that's all. (Hindi)

Indian: (Hindi)

Prabhupada: (Hindi with man) Hmm. (Hindi). In every item you require a guru. And to understand Krsna, or God, everyone is independent.

(laughter) Just see the foolishness. Yata mata tata patha. “Ah, you consider about your own God. It doesn't require any guru.” This foolishness is going on. For cutting a mango he requires a guru, and to understand Krsna, he doesn't require a guru. This foolishness is going on. And Krsna says,

tad viddhi pranipatena pariprasnena sevaya upadeksyanti tad jnanam jnaninas tattva-darsinah (BG 4.34)

Krsna says you have to understand, like this. But everyone is thinking, “Why shall I go to guru?”

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<http://www.dandavats.com/?p=20802>

Shyamasundar: Once we were in Mayapur. We had an old—I think it was a 1948 Hudson or some old, big car. And I was driving. We had left the main road. If you have been on the main road you know how bad it is. You can imagine how bad this secondary road was like. We were going to visit Lalit Prasad, who was Bhaktisiddhanta's living brother, who was a very old man then. We didn't know the road, and we didn't know the way very well. We knew that it was up that road somewhere. And we drove halfway up or so, and we came to a place where there was a cement bridge over a big gully. But the monsoon run-off had washed the bank away on both sides of three or four feet, as I recall. This may be an exaggeration, but it was some distance, maybe three feet. And we could see up and down this canal that there was no other way for the automobile to cross, and we still had five or six kilometers to go. So Prabhupada studied the situation. He didn't even get out of the car. He just studied the situation a little bit. Brahmananda and some of the other big guys sat in the back. He said, “You boys get out. Shyamasundar, you back up, and get going very fast, and we will make it.” [Laughs.] I got back about fifty feet or so and just gunned that old tank. And off we went. Waaaow! We flew over that first gap, screaming across this cement bridge. Waaaow! It looked like a Steve McQueen great escape movie. And the boys walked down around and got back in and off we went. [Laughs.] He was expert at everything. He also used to know everything about engineering. He used to make drawings. In fact, this may not be well known how early the Mayapur project was actually started. Right after Tamal or somebody got that first little, tiny parcel of land in Mayapur, Prabhupada planned the whole thing out one day in London at Bury Place. He sketched it all out, the temples and the buildings. And he called and asked me if there were any English devotees that were architects or knew anything. There was one, Ranchor, and Nara-Narayan was there, the builder. So he had

them come up, and he submitted this idea. He said, “We have only a few days until I must leave. I want you to work on a plan for a huge complex for Mayapur.” And that’s all he thought about for days. This must have been 1971 or ‘72. And we would walk in the park in Russell Square every morning then, and he would point to different buildings, and he would ask Ranchor and Nara-Narayan questions. You knew he knew the answers already, but he was testing their ability. Expert at everything. That was Prabhupada.

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Please bestow your favour upon me even though I do not deserve it.

An aspiring servant of your loyal followers,

Nashvin Gangaram

Durban, South Africa

Navin Manilall

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to You Dear Srila Prabhupada

All glories to Sri Guru and Gouranga

I am a lost soul without You Srila Prabhupada. Your teachings, the lessons, the examples and the philosophy of Krsna Consciousness is that you have parted unto me, is what I am eternally grateful for.

I pray for Your continued causeless mercy upon me. I pray that some day, I become a proper servant, of the servant.

In the midst of my anxieties, I think of Krsna and all resistance crumble. Only because of you Srila Prabhupada.

Thank You for being kind to this wretched under serving soul. I will forever be indebted to.

Your servant

Navin Manilall

Neeraj Maharaj

Srila Prabhupad’s vyasa puja ki jai. On this most auspicious of auspicious days we thank you Srila Prabhupad for giving us the strength, ability and opportunity for distributing your books. We pray that you will always bless us in this service.

Thanking you Srila Prabhupad

Neeraj Maharaj

Neerupa Ramchandre

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine
namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvisea-sunyavadi-pascatya-desat-tarine

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisance’s on your Vyasa-puja.

I wish to hereby inform you that from 2008 my spiritual growth has increased tremendously due to taking shelter under yourself and also devotee association.

Your inspiring books has assisted me in meeting my challenges. You are the perfect role model.

I am carrying out your orders by serving at the Pietermaritzburg ISKCON temple by helping raise funds to complete the temple and other various services.

Without you there would have been total darkness and ignorance in millions of our lives and for this we will be eternally grateful.

Your humble servant

Neerupa Ramchandre

ISKCON Pietermaritzburg

Nikunja Seva dasi

My dearest Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your Divine Grace on this most auspicious day of your one hundred and twenty first appearance day.

Srila Prabhupada, I am very blessed to have come in contact with your Divine Grace. It is very rare for one to come in contact with a pure soul. It is stated in Bhagavata Gita that if one wants to be cheated Krsna will allow you to be cheated but if one is sincere Krsna will come to His devotee.

This is my 25th year of being connected to this wonderful house you built Srila Prabhupada in which the whole world can live in. It hasn't been smooth sailing but it has been purifying, satisfying, enlivening, encouraging, uplifting, awesome, breathtaking, humorous, tragic, joyous, prayerful, ecstatic, blissful, and much much more and it's been amazing just living in this house with all your dedicated children it has made it possible for me to overcome all my trials and tribulations and to go forward in my spiritual life.

Srila Prabhupada, you are so magnanimous I remember one of disciples quoted this statement from you, "my disciples parents will know their good fortune at the time of their living their bodies".

Srila Prabhupada, we can see now even your grand disciples living is very glorious. Over the weekend one of your grand disciples Gopi Bhava left her body and it was amazing cos she joined around 1978 at Cato Ridge temple and stayed full time at temple she was an excellent cook and always wanted to please and satisfy the devotees. Due to her poor health she wasn't able to render same amount of services that she could do she lived outside temple. At the time of her leaving it was just four hours that she spent at temple. The Kirtan was ecstatic the room was packed with devotees chanting from their hearts. Gopi Bhava Prabhu was semi conscious but she was trying to chant and then just for a few seconds she opened her eyes a devotee close by held picture of Radha Krsna in front of her she looked at picture and left her body. This was so glorious at her final moment Srila Prabhupada you brought her back to lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha Radhanath. This is all due to your special mercy Srila Prabhupada. This is our final test and you so perfectly mould our lives in such a way that our whole practice of sadhana is how we make this final examine.

Thank you once again Srila Prabhupada for nurturing me and allowing me to be part of your family.

Your unworthy grand daughter

nikunja seva dasi

Nirupama Radhika devi dasi

DEAREST SRILA PRABHUPADA

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your divine grace.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you on this most auspicious event of your Vyasa puja . SRILA PRABHUPADA I am eternally indebted to you.

SRILA PRABHUPADA you accepted and executed the order of your spiritual master to perfection. At an advanced age you went through immense difficulties just to propagate this ISKCON movement. By your great potency you were able build huge temples all over the world. Your achievements were extraordinary.

Thank you SRILA PRABHUPADA. Thank you for giving us a house in which the whole world can live in.

I humbly beg you to please give me your blessings so that I can continue to serve in your precious ISKCON.

Your insignificant granddaughter

Nirupama Radhika devi dasi

Nityananda Pran Das, Aditi DD, Tulsi das, Akinchana KD

Dearest Srila Prabhupad

Please accept our most humble and respectful obeisances in the dust of Your lotus feet on this most auspicious day your vya Puja.

Nama om visnu padaya krsna prestaya BHU tale

Srimate Bhaktivadanta swami ITI namine

We were once searching souls

That was lost and afraid

We often wandered around

Without direction for days

In search for happiness

That left us in a daze.

Lord Caitanya looked down

With compassion in His eyes

And sent his Senapati Bhakta

Your divine grace

To lead us with love

His words was kind

Loving and wise

And he cherished His disciples

No matter the color or the creed.

Though Your Grace was quiet

Humble and meek

You made every ear listen

Whenever You would speak

Your Grace showed us the way

Through Guru Sadhu and Sastra

To take shelter of Hari nam

To surrender in Hari Katha

You chanted every day

To the Goswami's of vrndavan

For the strength to give us true sight

Your loving divine grace

Taught us how to serve the Supreme

With akinchana

To be humble as the blade of grass.

We flourished and they grew

Through the knowledge that we gained

Reveling the sweet Rasa of Sri Vrndavan dham

And break open the treasures of Sridam Mayapur.

These suffering souls are so thankful

To the Lord Gauranga

For sending us his Senapati Bhakta

Who was so full of love

We love you Your Divine Grace

Today Srila Prabhupad we celebrate your installation in ISKCON
Pietermaritzburg.

It's the most joyous day.

We appreciate the efforts of all the devotees here that laid the foundation
and paved the way of this historic day.

Their efforts and sincerity to you bears testimony to today's function.

While some are sitting here observing the day and ceremony unfold
we offer our thanks to sincere souls that are in Your association Srila
Prabhupad.

So today Prabhupad as you sit on your vrsasan here in Pietermaritzburg
we beg you to please bless all the devotees who have contributed to
building You this wonderful temple.

Prabhupad we sincerely pray that you will help us spread the message of
the Bhagavad Gita to everyone here in Pietermaritzburg.

We pledge on this day to serve You and your devotees we also pledge to
maintain a high standard of deity worship.

Prabhupad we beg you to please allow Sri Gaura Nitai to take their seats
on their new altar in September and October.

Please be merciful unto everyone here.

We sincerely pray we can honestly serve Your ISKCON and that we
always respect Your position as the Founder.

Thank you Prabhupad for what you have done for my family and I by
bringing us here to Pmb to assist Your Mission.

We certainly hope that Your Grace is busy preparing and making
arrangements for our next project.

We beg to always remain

Your most fallen servant

Nityananda Pran Das

Aditi DD

Tulsi das

Akinchana KD

Parama Karuna das

Hare Krishna Dear Srila Prabhupada, Please accept my humble obei-
sances, All Glories Unto You

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe

nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

Thank you Srila Prabhupada for the wonderful year so far.

It has been great engaged in service.

I really enjoyed the Vyasa Puja celebration we had for Guru Maharaja Nanda Kumar Prabhu.

I also enjoyed the festival of chariots in Durban.

Thank you for always engaging us in distributing your books.

All of this is only going on by your mercy.

Thank you very much.

Your servant,

Parama Karuna das

Paramatma Dasa

My Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisance's. All glories unto You.

We are most grateful to you for spreading Krsna Consciousness so wonderfully and spreading the glories & teachings of Sri Krsna & the holy names. Your disciples are also spreading Krsna Consciousness very nicely and lovingly and are always determined to awaken the lost souls that have forgotten Krsna. Your books and writings have always captivated me and helps me in strengthening my faith that Krsna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and that we are meant to serve him. You have started an amazing ISKCON that has been established for this purpose to spread Krsna Consciousness. We are most grateful to ISKCON and the loving & humble devotees there that are serving under the temple that have spread your teachings. I was fortunate to have come across such

wonderful devotees that have helped me to understand our purpose in life and how we can be closer to Sri Krsna. I pray that by your blessings we won't take birth again but to serve Sri Krsna selflessly in his loving abode.

Thank you Srila Prabhupad. Your Guru Maharaj would be very proud of you

Your Servant of your Servants

Paramatma Dasa

Parjanya das and Arca Murti devi dasi.

Dear Srila Prabhupada.

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you, the saviour of the world.

We cannot thank you enough for your divine intervention in our lives. Through your beloved ISKCON; your books, lectures, conversations, letters, bhajans and kirtans the dormant love for Krishna within us has been awakened.

Now, we cannot be , “ converted, diverted, perverted, and inverted because you have alerted “ us.

Your humble servants

Parjanya das and Arca Murti devi dasi.

Pooja Morar

Dearest Srila Prabhupad Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories unto your lotus feet.

You have changed the world. By your very presence and association you have changed the lives of millions around the world and continue doing so every day. We often take for granted those that most deserve our gratitude. So today on the auspicious day of your Vyasa puja I would like to offer my heartfelt gratitude to you Srila Prabhupad. Without you I would have been lost. Thank you for guiding me, inspiring me, and making me who I am today. Your mercy and compassion towards me will forever touch my heart. I pray that you forever keep this rascal under the shelter of your lotus feet.

Your servant,

Pooja Morar

Prabhanu das

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisance's at the dust of your Lotus Feet on this most auspicious day of your Appearance .

Today as I write this feeble attempt to glorify you , I find that I am in awe of what you have given me and the rest of the world . I am unable to properly grasp the magnitude of your gracious nature and your great spiritual potency that is propelling ISKCON forward to this very day .

I would like to Thank you for the opportunity to render service within ISKCON. This opportunity has given me access to your disciples and to see them tirelessly serve you in so many ways . Their attitude is infectious and I am fortunate that somehow or the other I also feel an eternal debt of gratitude to you . I have never had the opportunity to meet you but I feel that I have known you my entire life and whenever I read your books or listen to your lectures , I feel that you are physically present .

I enjoy the opportunity to serve your society , this service has given my life meanings and I pray that I will continue to serve until my last breath

, I simply pray that somehow or the other I would be able to stay fixed at your lotus feet in devotional service .

My current service has many challenges that can be frustrating and many rewards that are amazing but as I get older in my service I am able to understand that I am merely an instrument to be used in the service of my spiritual master and your ISKCON .

The challenges that I perceive are only there because I create them and the rewards are there by your mercy and I am learning to manage them as the manifestation of Krsna mercy . It is very difficult to understand how this works but HH Bhakti Charu Swami once mentioned that both good and bad situations are the mercy of KRSNA and I am trying to accept them in that way .

I enjoy the opportunity to celebrate the festivals that you have given us and this ensures that I am safe in the association of devotees rendering service to your Lotus Feet . It gives me a purpose to look forward to these festivals and also to reach out to the general public to give them the process that you so effectively gave to the world , this I feel is the greatest service that I can render to you and your ISKCON , to try to facilitate the distribution of the mercy that you so generously gave in the form of book distribution , deity worship, prasadam distribution , harinams and preaching . This encourages and enthralls me tremendously .

My humble appeal today and every day , is that YOU please bless me to continue to serve you and your ISKCON eternally .

Your insignificant grandson

Prabhanu das

Prema Bhakti ras

Hare Krishna my dearest Dada-ji

Please accept my koti koti dandavat pranam at the dust of your divine lotus feet

Dada-ji you are really the Jagat guru of this world. You have given us Krishna and taught us how to love him in the most simplest way. Thus you have made our lives on this planet much easier and bearable despite all the miseries of life.

Translating those innumerable Sanskrit texts with great accuracy and establishing so many temples in such a short time is definitely the work of a great soul endowed with an unimaginable reservoir of intelligence. Dada-ji you have really built a house for all of us to live- it is not just a phrase- but it is real.

Due to the Krishna consciousness you have given us many can surely achieve the goal of life. Today by the passing away of Gopi-Bhava, I thanked Krishna for having sent you. Had it not been for you she would never have been able to leave in such a sacred manner surrounded by devotees and a resonating kirtan of Krishnas name. Thanks a million Dada ji. You have helped to relieve her from her continual extreme suffering. I can say, with full assurance, that you will personally see that we all reach our destination some day.

Your most insignificant grand daughter,

Prema Bhakti ras

Prema Kishori Devi Dasi

om ajñāna-timirāndhasya

jñānāñjana-salākayā

caḡsur unmilitam yena

tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ

My dear Srila Prabhupada, Hare Krishna. All glories to Sri Sri Radha Radhanath. All glories to the Pancha Tattva. All glories to your Divine Self.

I am honoured to be able to write something for your Vyasa – Puja. How can I glorify an icon such as yourself? I am just a sparrow and you are Garuda. Yet I shall try. Many devotees are indebted to you, Srila Prabhupada. Often when we discuss our spiritual lives, we notice how you have changed our lives. Just imagine where we would be without your guidance.

Perhaps dancing and drinking liquor in the clubs. Or visiting the casinos to “catch a quick buck.”

We would be enamoured at the Wild Coast or the famous Sun Coast. The bright lights, the clanging of the money machines and the music gets one into illusion. The patrons are excited when they win but most times you lose. Gamblers are ignorant as the casinos have to make a profit and often times the machines are rigged. So many of our senior citizens are visiting these places of vice and yes, they are transported by buses. The “blood money” promotes greed and one patron actually committed suicide at the parking lot at the Sun Coast because he lost so much money. There is “heavy” karma involved here. Thus, the material enjoyment comes at a price – the greatest suffering and anxiety.

But thanks to you Srila Prabhupada, we have changed and become devotees. We are following the four regulative principles and improving in our spiritual lives. Taking initiation from a bona fide spiritual master attaches us to the parampara and we are protected and guided.

This is sheer bliss because as devotees we know all about the soul and the souls’ destination, devotees will reach the glorious Goloka Vrndavan and sport with our dear Lord Sri Krsna. As the Kali -Yuga progresses we can see how man has become so cruel and base. Actually, man has become

worse than an animal. The atrocities committed by man and the heinous crimes are just too vicious. Lord Caitanya our Golden avatar, descended and propagated this wonderful Hare Krsna Mantra. Srila Prabhupada, it is only through your mercy that we have the strength and the determination to lift our beads and chant.

We must always remember the merciful verse from Bhagavat-Gita as it is.

man-manā bhava mad-bhakto

mad-yājī mām namaskuru

mām evaiṣyasi satyaṁ te

pratijāne priyo 'si me

Always think of me, become my devotee, worship me and offer your homage unto me, thus you will come to me without fail. I promise you this because you are my very dear friend.

The taste for hearing and chanting awakens in our heart when we follow “trinad api sunicena”. Krsna is present fully in His Holy name and this is realized by the humility and sincerity in our chanting. Srila Prabhupada, you mentioned that when we chant Krsnas’ name, Krsna dances on our tongue, enters our ears and into our heart. What more could a devotee ask for? I will use an analogy of the seed in the soul which lies dormant and a plant that is wilting. As one waters the wilting plant with love and devotion, the plant flourishes and a beautiful rose flower blossoms. Similarly, when one chants with love and devotion and engages in loving devotional service to Sri Krsna a beautiful “rose flower” blossoms in the soul and the devotee becomes purified, ready to go home. Back home to Godhead.

Srila Prabhupada when I meditate on how you struggled to establish Iskcon in the early days it is indeed “mind boggling” Srila Prabhupada you built a house in which the whole world could live. Devotees can choose from so many services in ISKCON. From cooking, book

distribution, fund raising, harinam studying, preaching and a host of other activities.

ISKCON is a vibrant movement. From one lone Indian swami in saffron robes who was favoured by Lord Sri Krsna, to the hundreds of temples we have around the world – thanks you for the legacy you gave us. Indeed, Srila Prabhupada, Sri Krsna takes a nap in your pure heart when He needs to rest. So now ISKCON devotees need to “take the baton and run to the winning post”, we need to emulate you and follow your instructions.

Srila Prabhupada, may I take the dust of your Lotus Feet. Make me an instrument in your hands. Bless me so that I can promote ISKCON to greatest heights. May I be able to preach until my last breath. We love you Srila Gurudeva and a big thank you for choosing my wonderful and magnanimous spiritual masters – Tamal Krsna Goswami Maharaj and Bhakti Caitanya Swami.

Haribol and have a glorious Vyasa – Puja.

Your humble servant,

Prema Kishori Devi Dasi

Prema Rani Devi Dasi

Dearest Srila Prabhupad

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories unto your lotus feet.

Your life and books has been a series of divine lessons that guide us in every step of our Krishna Conscious journey. Your compassionate concern for all us suffering living entities living in the darkness of ignorance has touched me deeply. I look back to what would have been my destiny had you not shown your loving compassion unto me. Thank you is simply not enough to express the gratitude I owe you yet I humbly offer these

thanks to you from my heart and pray that you forever bestow your mercy upon me

Your servant,

Prema Rani Devi Dasi

Priya Darsini devi dasi

Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to you.

Over the past year you have given me many service opportunities for which I am most grateful. The best is helping me make time to read and study your books. Both these activities are so sweet and I can truly appreciate your endeavor to print books.

It is these books that are transforming many people's lives and making devotees worldwide.

During our visit to India last year, we were fortunate to visit Kolkatta. We visited all the places that were dear to you. Our visit to Mayapur, Jagganath puri and Vrindavana were all so special. We were so fortunate to have wonderful association and mercy . You are truly our well wisher. wherever we went devotees welcomed us and made our parikrama blissful.

You gave Krishna consciouness freely to the whole world and now devotees are reciprocating so wonderfully with you. Devotees are sincerely trying to spread your glories and I am thankful to you to be a part of this process.

You have ensured that I constantly have good association - senior devotees, my own spiritual master, His Holiness Bhakti Charu Maharaj and my husband, Prabhanu das.

Sadhu sanga you stressed is vital for spiritual growth. Thank you, Srila Prabhupada for ensuring that I am constantly surrounded by awesome people.

You have created innumerable opportunities for me to serve Lord Jagganath for which I am eternally grateful. My prayer to you Srila Prabhupada is that you keep me fixed in this service and also help me to do it to the best of my ability.

Thank you Srila Prabhupada for everything.

Your most fallen servant,

Priya Darsini devi dasi

Pundarika Vidyanidhi das

Our dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Your Divine Grace.

All glories to Your ISKCON.

All glories to the unlimited vaisnavas.

anta-kāle ca mām eva

smaran muktvā kalevaram

yaḥ prayāti sa mad-bhāvaṁ

yāti nāsty atra saṁśayaḥ

(BG 8.5)

Srila Prabhupada, above is Lord Krsna's declaration, "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", and your divine grace has so kindly created the ISKCON establishment to facilitate this magnanimous benediction of our dear Lord Krsna.

Srila Prabhupada, your ISKCON movement, is not an ordinary movement, not just another ordinary organization that is part of the material world. This ISKCON yatra moves people from here back to Krsnaloka, to Goloka Vrndavan. Your divine mercy and your powerful movement, ISKCON, is an amazing program to send the conditioned souls back to godhead.

It is an established and well known fact, that your movement, is a movement meant for transforming people, changing their hearts and sending them back to Godhead. It is no ordinary project. Each and every individual who gets in touch with your society of vaisnavas, can get transformed, and go back to Godhead. So many times we hear of devotees making an auspicious and favorable exit from this material world under the glorious circumstance of being surrounded by loving devotees in bhajan - an environment that your divine grace has so expertly created.

Your divine grace had a powerful plan, and presented it as a 100% reality within this ISKCON, that we could change our lives, we could all become Krishna conscious, and we could all go back home, back to godhead. It is a reality, and each and every devotee within this ISKCON movement believes in it!

Thank you Srila Prabhupada for awarding us this rare and priceless opportunity for making our lives truly successful.

All glories to your unlimited mercy.

Your ever-aspiring servant,

Pundarika Vidyanidhi das.

Purnendu Krishna das & Chandramukhi Radhe devi dasi

Dear Srila Prabhupada, Please accept my humble obeisance's at the dust of your lotus feet.

All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Oh merciful Sarasvata, your glorious vision for our South African Yatra continues to manifest according to your divine arrangement. Thank you for another blissful year in Krishna Consciousness. Thank you for guiding and protecting us through difficult situations whilst teaching us valuable lessons. We see your hand in everything and are grateful to be instruments of your divine will and grace.

In keeping with your global vision for our society, the younger generation of leadership are making remarkable progress in preaching efforts and festival coordination. You would be proud to note that many of our youth in our congregation are showing great interest in Krishna Consciousness, kirtana, book distribution, dance and drama. It's only by your blessings and the tireless efforts of many committed devotees that our youth are empowered to spread Krishna Consciousness with their own unique flair. We pray for your continued mercy so we can serve your mission and try our best to please you.

You always stressed the importance of pushing on our Krishna Consciousness movement as it is the highest yoga and that our actions disclose far more than our words. HG Ravindra Svarup Prabhu's Founder Acarya position paper, highlights the point that bhakti is the yoga of cooperation and of spiritual societies, in this world, the Sankirtana movement leads us into this transcendent cooperation. It's your genuine compassion for the fallen souls that have transformed them. In essence you as our Founder Acarya guarantee our collective return to the spiritual world where ISKCON exists eternally as a branch of loving devotional service to Krishna planted by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu himself.

Thank you Srila Prabhupad as ISKCON provides an authentic spiritual perspective on many of the issues that face us. ISKCON provides real meaning and purpose to our lives. Yes we are still in our infancy and we do make mistakes and together we will find the right solutions. We take heart in all of your struggles to fulfil the desire of your Spiritual Master. We are inspired to follow your instructions, be an instrument of compassion and be resolute in purpose just as you did. Thank you for teaching us the platform of advancement in devotional life, where we should accept inconveniences to please the spiritual master and Krishna, where the focus and goal is Krishna, nothing ulterior.

As I reflect on the last book marathon I am reminded of the energy within all our distribution teams. I felt your presence and we are grateful to you for helping us with that most important service. There were many who appreciated your literary work and some who became regulars at temple, but everyone we met, left with a priceless opportunity. One of my work colleagues response and much to my amazement was, “Oh Prabhupada, yes I’ll take a copy, don’t have this one”, all I could think was Jai Srila Prabhupada! You are an ocean of mercy and we are grateful to be connected to you, thank you, please keep us engaged at the shelter of your lotus feet!

Thank you Srila Prabhupad for your Glorious ISKCON that has enriched our lives. Thank you for our GBC, Diksa/Siksa Guru’s, our local authorities, our senior devotees, all of the vaishnavs and our beautiful temples. Thank you for our beautiful ISKCON Midrand temple and yatra. Thank you for blessing us with greater facility, tolerance and humility to better serve you and your ISKCON. We Love you!

Your insignificant servants,

Purnendu Krishna das & Chandramukhi Radhe devi dasi

Radha Damodara Das, Bhaktin Ashika & Radhika

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe

nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

Beloved Srila Prabhupada

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion, your Sri Vyasa Puja in the year 2017. All glories to your divine International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

Srila Prabhupada, we beg to offer our heartfelt thanks to you again and again for giving us shelter at your lotus feet. You have given us access to your divine spiritual institution ISKCON through your incredible grace and magnanimity. Reading through the historical recollections your disciples have affectionately written, the reality becomes evident. You have such an unfathomable love for the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Kṛṣṇa and thus you have exhibited unprecedented compassion to all the persons of this planet. You carefully and strategically orchestrated preaching programs all over the world and empowered your disciples to be very successful. You displayed deep care and love for people in different parts of the world, whom externally appeared to be strangers to you. But you have taught us that every living entity has an eternal loving relationship with Kṛṣṇa. You are Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s Senapati Bhakta, His military commander, especially chosen by the Lord to spread Krishna consciousness all over the world.

yadi papi chadi dharma dure dese yaya mora senapati-bhakta yaibe
tathaya

If some sinful people escape and giving up religious principles go to far off countries, then my Senapati Bhakta will come at that time to give

them Krsna consciousness.

(Locana Dasa Thakura in his Caitanya Mangala, Sutra-khanda, song 12)

Thus we understand you have a profound and unique relationship with many, many souls whom you are kindly and gracefully guiding back to Home, back to Godhead through your ISKCON.

Srila Prabhupada, you've explained that Krsna consciousness is the natural proclivity of the spirit soul and thus a life of Krsna consciousness is the only sane option. You said, "Material life is impossible". Thank you for this authentic life, this beautiful life which has no inconsistencies and which is purposeful. From science to economics, from philosophy to love, there is no life as systematic, joyful and rewarding as a life of Krishna consciousness. You have said, "Krishna consciousness gives you complete knowledge and at the end you get Krishna!" Thank you Srila Prabhupada for painstakingly guiding us on this path.

On this most auspicious of days we pray at your lotus feet that we may be worthy members of your Society, that we always appreciate the association of your devotees and never hurt them in any way. We must be very vigilant to serve your ISKCON to the best of our ability and always appreciate the great benefit of being within its shelter.

Srila Prabhupada, the following words were typed into the offering by Radhika.

Dear Srila Prabhupada, please accept my humble obeisances. You did so much for spreading Krishna consciousness. Thank you. I really appreciate all the things you did for me and the world. Thank you Srila Prabhupada. Love from your servant, Radhika.

Your insignificant servants,

Radha Damodara Das, Bhaktin Ashika and Radhika

Radha dasi(Grs)

My Dearest Srila Prabupada

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja!

Bhavad-vidha bhagavatas
tirtha-bhutah svayam vibho
tirthi-kurvanti tirthani
svantah-sthena gadabhrta

"My Lord, devotees like your good self are verily holy places personified. Because you carry the Personality of Godhead within your heart, you turn all places into places of pilgrimage(SB 1.13.10)

You came on the greatest mission
to guide us back to Godhead, our original position
To fulfill Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's prediction
You were on what seemed impossible
But by Guru's and Gauranga's mercy it became possible
Although by age you were old
You were undeterred by the heat or cold
Your preaching was very bold
Your message will never grow old
You taught us about the nature of the soul
And how to achieve the highest goal
With love and devotion you planted the seed
So that all living beings can be freed
Some might say that you are gone
Through your books you will live on and on
Shining brightly like the sun
Bringing light to the hearts of everyone
Seeing the sadness in everyone's eyes
So much mercy, love and compassion, your heart simply cries
Please help us develop the right attitude
Helps us to continue in humility and servitude

Eternally we thank you your Divine Grace
For coming to save the human race
And we thank you for bringing Radha and Krishna to so many places
So we can see Their smiling faces

Your granddaughter and servant
Radha dasi(Grs) (Durban)

Radha Giridhari dasa

Om ajnana-timirandasya jnananjana-salakaya

Caksur unmilitam tasmai sri-gurave namah

Nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

Srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin it namine

Namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine

Nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-desatarine

Dearest Srila Prabhupada

Your guidance and inspiration through your books , your disciples , your instructions and your wonderful ISKCON devotees has become the constant stepping stone to my spiritual journey. Your blessings will surely carry me through my endeavour for acquiring love for Lord Krsna and His devotees. What more can i ask of you , Srila Prabhupada since you have accepted me in your ISKCON home and bestowing me with the greatest fortune of having the association of all the wonderful Vaisnavas who have become my very life in this material world.

You have worked tirelessly to establish this wonderful ISKCON society and i thank you , Srila Prabhupada on this most glorious occasion of your Sri Vyasa Puja and beg you to please accept this offering and allow me to remain as your loving servant of your ISKCON society.

Your most worthless servant and grand disciple

Radha Giridhari dasa

Radhakund devi dasi

Dearest Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you dear Srila Prabhupada.

Dearest Srila Prabhupada, as the auspicious occasion of your Vyasa Puja approaches, it forces me to take stock of my own life and reflect within myself and on my Krsna consciousness.

Prabhupada there are so many things that I am thankful to you for. Your exemplary life, is an inspiration to all of us fallen souls. You taught us how to have faith in this Krsna conscious process. You taught us the true meaning of serving one's spiritual master. Even though your spiritual master, Bhakti Siddantha Sarasvati Thakur, was no longer on the planet, you held his instructions very close to your heart. He had instructed you to print books and go to the West to preach to us fallen souls. You set out to the West at a tender age of 69, to fulfill your beloved spiritual master's wishes, despite great challenges, and even through great pain and discomfort to yourself. Even though you suffered 3 heart attacks, whilst on the cargo ship, Jaladuta, and were 'alone', you portrayed the perfect example on how to pray and depend on Krsna! What a perfect example of unwavering faith in the Lord!

Prabhupada, I recall reading how the one night, the ‘hippie’ you were staying with, became aggressive towards you, whilst he was in a drugged and intoxicated state. You ran out into the street, to flee from this aggressive and dangerous situation. Prabhupada, you are the embodiment of perseverance. Even in this circumstance, when most people would have succumbed to the extreme challenge, and gone back to Vrindavan, you did not! Instead you stayed on in the West, holding your guru maharaj’s instruction close to your heart. How fortunate we are! Dear Prabhupada, you stayed on and pushed ahead to reach out to all of us fallen souls. You, in your timeless wisdom, knew how we fallen souls needed to have a lifeline to cling on to, in this miserable condition of life in this material world.

Srila Prabhupada, I am so deeply indebted to you for providing us this lifeline of getting out of this turbulent ocean of repeated birth, death old age and disease. You have, by your causeless mercy, given us this practical process of chanting and loving devotional service to Krishna, to facilitate our journey back home, back to Godhead. You have with your timeless wisdom, painstakingly translated the scriptures, so that we can understand our position in this material world, and thereby be equipped with starting our journey back home, back to Godhead, during this very lifetime. Your purports, written so expertly are so clear to understand to us degraded fallen souls.

You pushed yourself to complete the Krsna book, before you could leave your body. You once told ‘your American boys and girls’, whilst showing them the Krsna book, ‘Why did Krsna enact these pastimes? He enacted these pastimes so that when we hear these pastimes, we would fall in love with Krsna!’ Prabhupada, if it was not for you, we would not be having the Krsna book. You opened up this new literary world of Krsna. You have given us these wonderful and relishable pastimes of Krsna that we can hold on to. Who can resist this beautiful little cowherd boy, and all His wonderful butter stealing antics! The beautiful pastimes of Srimati Radharani and Krsna, and Radharani’s mother in law, Jatila. The wonderful and often hilarious pastimes of how Jatila tried to keep Krsna

away from Radharani, but how Krsna always found a way to meet up with His beloved Srimati Radharani, and thus defeat Jatila’s efforts! Such nectarean pastimes, all made possible for us to enjoy and love, due to your mercy! Dear Prabhupada, thank you so much for thus making Krsna consciousness so relishable and easy for us.

Prabhupada, you taught us how to pass the ‘final exam’ in our Krsna consciousness. You showed us by your perfect example how to stay focussed on Krsna, even as you were leaving your body. You have taught us through your books and your perfect example, on how to lead our life in Krsna consciousness, so that we can be properly equipped when the time comes to leave our body, and thus facilitate our journey back home, back to Godhead.

Your dear son, H.H. Bhakti Tirtha Mahraj, once said that we have spent so many lifetimes, doing things our way. However, this was obviously not the right way, since we are back here in this material world. Therefore in this lifetime, we should do things differently, and really dedicate this one single life to Krsna consciousness, so that we can go back home, back to Godhead.

Srila Prabhupada, on this auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja, I humbly beg for your mercy and blessings to be able to dedicate this lifetime in Krsna consciousness, and loving devotional service, to facilitate my journey back home, back to Godhead.

Saviour of the whole world, Srila Prabhupada ki jaya!

Your indebted granddaughter,

Radhakund devi dasi

(ISKCON Midrand, Gauteng, South Africa)

Radhasharan das and Radharani Devi Dasi

Dearest Srila Prabhupada

We offer our Obeisances at the dust at your Divine lotus feet. All glories to your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion of Sri Vyasa Puja.

Thank you dear Srila Prabhupada for your causeless Mercy that you have bestowed on us by giving us Your Iskcon movement.

Thank you for your shelter of your Divine lotus feet and everything transcendental, blissful, auspicious, ecstatic, and spiritually uplifting that you have bestowed on all of us.

Thank you also for this huge amazing Iskcon family you have created for us to serve together with, on our journey back home.

Thank you for changing our lives dearest Srila Prabhupada... We are forever indebted to your Divine Grace.

Praying that we always remain at the shelter of your lotus feet.

Your aspiring servants

Radhasharan das and Radharani Devi Dasi

(Cape Town)

Radhastami devi dasi & Krishnastami das

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances All glories to Sri Sri Radha Radhanath

I have read both of Yamuna's books and I am amazed by the amount of love that she had for you. She was very fortunate as she had a personal relationship with you. It was more like a father and daughter relationship.

I pray that I can imbibe her mood of selfless service as she endured so many hardships but was still so attached to the holy name and eager to give it to everybody she met. She took your instructions with her heart and soul. I have been desiring to be constantly engaged in the service of Krishna and at the end of this life, go back home. I feel such a fool, as Yamuna being such a pure devotee did not pray to go back home but to go wherever you are preaching. Please bless us so that we can continue to serve Sri Sri Radha Radhanath in the same mood as Yamuna as she was perfect in whatever she did, either cooking, gardening or deity worship.

Your humble servants,

Radhastami devi dasi and Krishnastami das

Radhika Jivana dasa

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances

All glories to your ISKCON

This year I was fortunate to visit your temples in Australia and I have seen how the devotees are serving so wonderfully to maintain and expand Iskcon especially through book distribution, Harinam and vegetarian restaurants. To the devotees that I have spoken to in Australia, you are the main inspiration. Also, recently I had the opportunity to observe some of the top South African book distributors in at the Grahamstown festival. They (Krishna Caitanya dasa, Patita Pavan Nitai dasa and Saunaka Muni dasa) distributed 1200 books in eleven days. And again you are the main inspiration for such a wonderful result.

Dear Srila Prabhupada, thank you for everything. On this auspicious day of your appearance in this material world to save the fallen conditioned souls, I sincerely pray at your divine lotus feet for spiritual strength that I may never deviate and always remain a menial servant in Iskcon.

Aspiring servant of your servants

Radhika Jivana dasa

(SSRRT, Durban)

Radhika Prasada devi dasi

namo om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale

srimate bhaktivedanta swamin iti namine

namaste sarasvate deve gaura vani pracarine

nirvisesa sunyavadi pascattya desa tarine

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who is very dear to Lord Krishna, having taken shelter at His Lotus Feet.

Our respectful obeisances are unto You, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism. auspicious day of Vyasa Puja.

Srila Prabhupada so much has happened in my life since Your last Vyasa Puja. Your Divine Grace has given me more opportunities in devotional service than I can count. I am most grateful to Your Divine Grace for never neglecting me and most of all, when the three presidents of Lenasia asked me to step down from my service to Sri Sri Nitai GauraHari. Your Divine Grace has wiped my tears and allowed me to still serve Your Divine Grace. I am happier now that I distribute Your books and share Your mercy with others.

Srila Prabhupada I have meditated on a particular pastime of Your Divine Grace for a long time. This was in Mayapur in the early seventies. A devotee was asked to leave the temple by the temple president. Your

Divine Grace had chastised the temple president for asking that devotee to leave. This incident pained Your heart very much. The chastisement Your Divine Grace showered that day to the temple president was Your pastime of love. Meditating on this one pastime I have learned so many lessons. I often asked myself why Srila Prabhupada did this pastime pain You so much. I realized that is the essence of what You have been instructed by Your Guru Maharaja to preach and send souls to Lord Krishna. Any person acting against that instruction of Your Guru Maharaja will obviously cause havoc at the least cause pain at Your lotus feet. Srila Prabhupada You have dedicated Your life to helping Your Guru Maharaja, with all Your heart exemplifying the instruction of following all the instructions of Your Guru Maharaja.

Your Divine Grace is impeccable in following in the footsteps of Your spiritual master and today we have by Your Grace, the International Society of Krishna Consciousness. When Your Divine Grace founded ISKCON in 1966 Your divine Grace could see the past, present and future of The International Society of Krishna Consciousness. Your Divine Grace is the prominent Founder Acarya of ISKCON. Your Divine Grace was born with a mission that came from Lord Krishna. Lord Krishna connected Your Divine Grace to Your guru Maharaja, Srila Bhakti Siddanta Saraswati Goswami Maharaja Thakur. Your Divine Grace has followed every instruction of Your Guru Maharaja simply for His pleasure exemplifying the principle very nicely of devotional service, for all members and all members still to come to ISKCON.

Srila Prabhupada, Your Divine Grace has been my beacon of hope. Srila Prabhupada as Your Divine Grace has been guiding me for the last twenty years in devotional service. I humbly pray at Your lotus feet, please Srila Prabhupada continue to guide me in devotional service, when Your Divine Grace feels it is the right time You may take me back to Godhead, Krishna through the back door. As You so often said: "I have the key to the back door to Goloka Vrindavana". I pray to always hold onto the tip of Your dhoti and clasp your lotus feet in the most secret chambers of my heart.

Thank You Srila Prabhupada for this enlightening journey in ISKCON.

I remain forever indebted to Your lotus feet Srila Prabhupada please may I offer Your Divine Grace my gratitude by offering a heart laden with pure love at Your lotus feet.

Your insignificant servant of the servant

Radhika Prasada devi dasi

Rāmānujāchārya Dās

Our Debt to Śrīla Prabhupāda

It is said that one can never repay one's debt to his spiritual master. Of course this is true because if one's spiritual master gives one the greatest gift, the means to attain love for Kṛṣṇa and return to the spiritual world, what could be equal to such a gift? So how has Śrīla Prabhupāda given us this matchless gift? He has taught us and trained us in the activities by which we can attract the mercy of Kṛṣṇa. If it were not for Śrīla Prabhupāda we wouldn't even know of these activities. The following practices and their results are described in Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī's Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu whose summary study was given to us by Śrīla Prabhupāda as The Nectar of Devotion.

“Persons who are decorated with tilaka or gopī-candana, and who mark their bodies all over with the holy names of the Lord, and on whose necks and breasts there are tulasī beads, are never approached by the Yamadūtas.”

“From the body of any person who claps and dances before the Deity, showing manifestations of ecstasy, all the birds of sinful activities fly away upward.”

The person who has once offered respects, bowing down before the Deity, will not come back to this world, because he will go directly to the abode of Kṛṣṇa.

“Even if born of a lowly family, a person who follows the Ratha-yātrā car when the Deities pass in front or from behind will surely be elevated to the position of achieving equal opulence with Viṣṇu.”

“Persons who attempt to visit the holy places of pilgrimage, like Vṛndāvana, Mathurā or Dvārakā, are actually glorified. By such traveling activities, they can pass over the desert of material existence.” “A person who is circumambulating the Deity of Viṣṇu can counteract the circumambulation of repeated birth and death in this material world.”

“Simply by worshiping Kṛṣṇa one can easily achieve all the results of heavenly opulence, liberation, supremacy over the planetary systems of the universe, all the opulences of this material world, and the mystic power of performing the yoga system.”

“If person stays in the Lord's temple even for a few moments, he can surely achieve the transcendental kingdom of God.”

“This word Kṛṣṇa is so auspicious that anyone who chants this holy name immediately gets rid of the resultant actions of sinful activities from many, many births.”

“A person who chants the holy name of Kṛṣṇa once can counteract the resultant actions of more sinful activities than he is able to perform.”

“For any person who is chanting the holy name either softly or loudly, the paths to liberation and even heavenly happiness are at once open.”

“Any person who comes before the Deity of Lord Kṛṣṇa and begins to chant different prayers is immediately relieved from all the reactions of sinful activities and becomes eligible, without any doubt, to enter into the Vaikuṅṭhaloka.”

“A person who honours the prasāda and regularly eats it, not exactly in front of the Deity, along with caraṇāmṛta, immediately can achieve the

results of pious activities which are obtained through ten thousand performances of sacrificial rites.”

Even one who has never done any pious activities will become eligible to enter into the kingdom of God if he simply drinks the caraṇāmṛta which is kept in the temple.

“If the smell of the garland which was offered to the Deity in the temple enters into a person’s nostrils, immediately his bondage to sinful activities becomes cleared. And even if one has no sinful activities, still, by smelling such remnants of flowers, one can advance from Māyāvādī [impersonalist] to devotee.”

“Any person who goes to Vṛndāvana and sees the Deity of Govindadeva is free from the courthouse of Yamarāja and is allowed to enter into the highest planetary system, in which reside the demigods.” “If someone sees the face of the Lord while āraṭi is going on, he can be relieved of all sinful reactions coming from many, many thousands and millions of years past. He is even excused from the killing of a brāhmaṇa or similar prohibited activities.”

So, these are some of the most auspicious activities which Śrīla Prabhupāda introduced us to, and trained us in. The following is a letter written by Śrīla Prabhupāda to the residents of ISKCON New Dvaraka, 3764 Watska Ave., Los Angeles, California on the 14th of August, 1976:

“If you feel at all indebted to me then you should preach vigorously like me. That is the proper way to repay me. Of course, no one can repay the debt to the spiritual master, but the spiritual master is very much pleased by such an attitude by the disciple. Our only business is to be fixed up in devotional service by pleasing the spiritual master. The real ocean of mercy is Kṛṣṇa and it is the duty of the spiritual master to tell his disciple to come to the ocean and be happy. The spiritual master’s duty is to lead the disciple to this ocean. I am trying my best and if you try to follow surely you will benefit. Kṛṣṇa is unlimited, no one can catch Him, but if someone follows the parampara, he agrees to be captured. Everyone is afraid of Kṛṣṇa, but Kṛṣṇa is afraid of Mother Yaśodā. That is Kṛṣṇa’s

special mercy. I hope this meets all of you in good health. Your ever well-wisher, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami

So, although it is not possible to repay Śrīla Prabhupāda, we should try to do so by following his instructions, and by spreading his teachings to others. I only lament that I cannot do more. As Śrī Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura says, “janme janma prabhu sei.” “The spiritual master is my Lord birth after birth.” I pray that in my next birth I may be again engaged in the saṅkīrtana movement of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and in the service of Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Rāmānujāchārya Dās

Ramkinkar das, Vaidarbhi devi dasi & Dr Krishna Prasad Rambarran

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept our humble obeisances, all glories to your Divine Grace.

We wish you a Happy Vyasa Puja 2017. We always look forward to your Appearance Day Celebrations to renew our commitment to do more in your ISKCON Movement.

Your deep mood and vision of spreading Krishna Consciousness is noted through your valuable strategic plan and goals namely:

1. Harinam, the Yuga Dharma, Chanting Hare Krishna individually and collectively,
2. Book Distribution, supporting the strategy through Bhakti and philosophical logical conclusive absolute truth and
3. Food for Life, feeding the soul and making it attractive for lost souls to join ISKCON.

Your ISKCON means the above three. If we are not engaged in these 3 goals although being in ISKCON, we are really far away. In your

presence your ISKCON was flourishing in all parts of the world under your direct Leadership and Management. We saw temples, restaurants, farms, schools, colleges, sankirtan parties mushrooming with amazing outcomes of success. To give impetus you established the BBT to print books, the GBC to manage what you gave and MVT to protect the Mayapur and Vrindavan temples as long as the yuga lasts.

In your physical absence, we pray you continue to kindly give your divine blessings and guidance through your books and letters so that the future followers will continue to push your ISKCON in “Every Town and Village”. We are happy to inform you that we are engaged in the three goals that you gave, which gives tremendous joy to many souls and the team.

Thank you Srila Prabhupada for so lovingly giving the whole world Krishna Consciousness, making this a better place to help us to go back home back to godhead.

All glories to you Srila Prabhupada.

With love

Ramkinkar das, Vaidarbhi devi dasi and Dr Krishna Prasad Rambarran

Ramvijay das

Dear Srila Prabhupada

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

Over the last year, I have put more focus on one of the many treasures you have given us; your books. I have started for the first time, to undertake detailed study of your writing in a systematic way. I have been inspired to do this by being given glimpses of the wonderful treasures hidden in your writings by your stalwart followers.

Being your follower for more than two decades now, I do have some understanding of the philosophy of Krsna consciousness as presented by Your Divine Grace. However, I feel that I have also missed so much of what you have given us in the details of your presentation of Krsna consciousness.

Although I sometimes am not so consistent with trying to immerse myself in your books, over the last year I have discovered so many valuable treasures that you have placed in plain sight. These treasures give us so many deeper insights into the subtleties of spiritual life and also give us a better understanding of the extent you went to, to try to give us everything. Thank you so much for making all of this available to such fallen conditioned souls as ourselves.

I have realised in this endeavour, that I feel so much more connected to you by taking up the endeavour and would like to thank you for this inspiration through your followers. Please keep me always connected to you by allowing me to delve more deeply into these treasures and keeping me active in your service.

Your aspiring servant

Ramvijay das

Durban – South Africa

Ranga devi dasi

My dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your divine self.

My glorious master, your glories can be proclaimed throughout the three worlds, only if we as your followers carry on your mission and expand it across the globe. You have given us the foundation. We need to build

ISKCON by our preaching efforts, expand and cultivate. Then, only can we proclaim to be your followers.

The past year seemed to be very fruitful. I had many opportunities to distribute your literatures to the fallen masses out there via the sankirtan festival. Its invigorating and exciting just to go out and plant the seed of bhakti in the hearts of the conditioned souls. We had such incredible experiences

Also teaching and preaching your glories and that of Lord Krsna inspires me to become even more serious in my devotional life. Our class of youth in the Bhaktivedanta college of education and culture were truly amazing, some of whom are continuing to study further. These kids seem very dedicated at your lotus feet. Srila Prabhupada, please bless me so that I may continue to inspire them. Its only by our dedication at your lotus feet can we express our love for you.

My dear lord and master you have given us everything. When I read the transcendental diaries of your beloved disciples, it dawns upon me how urgent this message of Krsna is. You, went through great trouble to save the fallen, including myself, therefore I'm trying in my little capacity to assist in this glorious mission. This is the only means that I can show my gratitude to you, by engaging in preaching activities.

There's lots to be done in Africa, it is said that charity begins at home, so here in the Southern tip of Africa, although we are faced with political, economic, racial and other problems, it behooves me to promote this crest jewel of your mission to as many people as I can. It's not always easy as it may seem, and you personally mentioned that to Srila Gurudeva. All we can do is try our best. With Gaura purnima coming up, we are trying to organise a harinam in Welbedacht near the bottle store. To promote Lord Caitanya's message to the Jagais and Madais of Kali yuga, so they also take shelter of the all merciful Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda.

As Lord Caitanya says in Caitanya Bhagavat:

Prithivite ache yata nagaradi grama Savatra pracara haibe mora nama
This chanting of the Lords holy names will be spread to every town and village.

Srila Gurudeva, HH Indradyumna swami, in his class on Lord Nityananda's appearance day mentioned that, although we are born in this degraded age of Kali yuga, we are given the opportunity to participate in the Lords pastimes, this sankirtan mission. In no other incarnation are we given this opportunity. This is only possible because you, my dear Srila Prabhupada made all this possible by coming to the foreign shores of the "Wild West" and implanting the seed of bhakti in the hearts of us, melecchas and yavanas. How else, can this be possible? We were merely following the general mass of people and going to hell, engaging in all sorts of abominable activities. The blind leading the blind, we would have all fallen into the ditch of materialism.

Srila Prabhupada, you mercifully picked us up and situated us in our constitutional position as servant of Krsna. For this I am eternally grateful. I pray to the previous acaryas and to Your Divine grace to please bless my endeavors and may it increase many times over.

May I always remain your eternal servant!

Your granddaughter,

Ranga devi Dasi

South Africa

Lives at Sri Sri Radha Radhanath temple

Ranga devi dasi

Sharmaine Rathan

Durban

South Africa

Rasa Krida dasi

Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you on your most special, sweet and auspicious Vyasa Puja day.

As the years go by, I am trying to become increasingly grateful and thankful for all that you have given to this world. Specifically this year, I reflected on how important devotee association has been in my life and how integral it is to have a support network of devotees in order to keep our spiritual lives afloat. I am so grateful for this within your ISKCON home, which is only possible because of your hard work, dedication, love, selflessness and compassion. It is only possible because of your love for Lord Krishna.

Association with devotees and pure-hearted spiritual masters whom are teaching by your example is truly a shelter for me within this powerful world of dualities and illusion. I am so covered by materialistic desires. Negative and bad qualities are filled in my heart. It is only through mercy of these amazing souls and by your empowerment, that I can even attempt to be on this path of pure devotional service to the Lord. I pray that you will please shower blessings on me to have a loving service attitude and mood, to be humble, tolerant, appreciative and less proud. I pray that you will give me your mercy to remain within ISKCON and to serve with love, humility and cooperation. I would love to be able to contribute my energy and time to your mission as much as I possibly can this year. This is of course only possible with your blessings. Thank you Srila Prabhupada.

With love and appreciation,

Your servant of servants,

Rasa Krida dasi

Rasamandala Das and Rasalila Devi dasi.

All Glories to Lord Jagannath , Baladeva and Subadra, Sri Sri Radha Radhanath, Gaura Natai

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept our humble Obeisance's. All Glories to you Srila Prabhupada on this very auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja.

We're part of your ISKCON family and we can't imagine what life would've been like had you not come to the west in 1965. You made a huge sacrifice for Us in your old age.

Instead of going into retirement and improving your own spiritual life in Vrindavana you chose to save us worldly people from material frustrations; you gave us meaning to life through the Krsna Consciousness movement and through the holy name of Radha Krsna.

You thought us through your books that the purpose of Human life is to be a servant of Krsna and his devotees. You gave us the Hare Krsna Mantra; the Great Maha Mantra of deliverance.

HARE KRSNA HARE KRSNA KRSNA KRSNA HARE HARE

HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE HARE.

You said if we have any spare time we must simply chant and finish our Krsna Consciousness activities in this lifetime because we need to go back to Godhead; there is no one that cared for Us as much as you did.

Therefore we can't repay you, we will remain indebted to you Srila Prabhupada forever in every lifetime. We can only beg for your mercy lifetime after lifetime. Please give us the shelter of your lotus feet.

Have a wonderful Vyasa Puja.,

Your grand disciples and servants

Rasamandala Das and Rasalila Devi dasi.

Disciples of One of your great Sons – Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami.

NJP – Phoenix.Durban.

Rasa-sthali Dasi

My dear Srila Prabhupada,

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

Thank you for accepting my service and thank you for keeping me engaged in service. Service to Your Divine Grace is a privilege. It is not something that I am entitled to and often I feel unworthy to render you service. I know you accept my service because you continue to keep me in service. To be your instrument is an honour. On this sacred day, I again pray to you to help me serve you better, please align me to your desires and most of all, protect me from anything that may block my service to you.

Your aspiring servant,

Rasa-sthali Dasi

Rishi Kumar Das

Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of Your lotus feet, which are my only shelter

All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Before sitting to write this year's offering to You, Srila Prabhupada, I could not help but realise that every year I always promise to do something worthwhile, to do something meaningful, to do something that

will adequately express my gratitude and show my indebtedness to You. However, I find myself in the same, if not worse position every year.

This is indeed my foolishness.

You have provided me with everything that I could have ever asked for and even more; yet I still find myself trying to find happiness elsewhere.

So many devotees have made rapid advancement and are making such rapid advancement, engaging in so much of service, spreading this Krsna consciousness movement so nicely and assisting You in Your mission but I cannot say the same for myself. Rather, I find myself always becoming bewildered and lost.

At the recent Krsna Balarama Youth Group Retreat held in Drakensberg, South Africa, His Holiness Bhakti Bringa Govinda Swami reminded us of Your request: “Kindly assist me in spreading this Krsna consciousness movement”.

Srila Prabhupada, You so humbly, so sincerely asked us to help You in Your mission. This made me think, “Am I really helping Srila Prabhupada?”

Maharaja urged us to “turn back to Krsna”. Srila Prabhupada, please help me. I know if I turn back to You, I will be turning back to Krsna because You are His representative, You are our saviour, You are our only hope.

I am certainly bereft of Your mercy. So this year, instead of making empty promises, I beg at Your lotus feet to bless me so that I can do something useful, something meaningful, something tangible to serve Your ISKCON. I pray that I can become strong in my Krsna conscious practices and realize that happiness can never be found in this fools' paradise.

Hare Krsna.

Begging to remain Your servant life after life,

Rishi Kumar Das

Rishikesh Ramjith

Hare Krishna !

Dear Srila Prabhupada, please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your divine grace.

Recently I completed the ISKCON Disciples course in Cape Town, South Africa. The biggest take away from the course, in my opinion, is the importance of initiation and maintaining a relationship with you. I learned that you have a unique relationship with each and every devotee and how it needs to be developed to attain Prabhupadasraya (your shelter).

This is my promise, that I will get to know you better through your books and lectures. The course further deepened my appreciation for what you have done for us, undeserving souls.

Most people who are 70 years of age would be retired but you went to the West to preach about the Lord Krishna, your Supreme Master. From nothing you have built an empire on pure faith in Krishna. You cleverly built this empire to last 10 000 years. How one does such an act should be proof of divine intervention.

Your physical body was small and frail but you walked as though you were the king of a pride of lions. Your walk, however, is but a small indication of your fierce and ferocious confidence in the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Even after accomplishing many things such as, founding ISKCON, setting up ISKCON culture, establishing styles and standards of deity worship and so much more, you only ever thought of your achievements as you merely following your spiritual master's instructions. The modesty of such an act is far beyond my comprehension.

You are always merciful, especially on the occasion of your divine appearance. I beg you today to please help me get closer to you.

Your most fallen great grandson

Rishikesh Ramjith

Rukmini Devi Dasi

om ajñāna-timirāndhasya

jñānāñjana-śalākayā

caṅsur unmilitam yena

tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ

My Dearest Ever-Well-Wisher

It's said that if the air that touched the body of Vasudeva Dhatta brushed upon on conditioned soul, that fortunate being would become free from all suffering. Let alone the potency and eternity of your written words and direct instructions, your physical form purifies the three worlds. Sometimes I try to capture your image in my minds eye, the vein that protrudes on the temple of your regally raised head or your eyes glistening with compassion. I never thought that feet could be a thing of exquisite beauty, yours taught me otherwise. Call me a sentimental fool for finding solace in these impressions instead of a sloka, but they purify me. Such is your potency.

Isn't it mind-blowing, how a Vaisnava transcends physical boundaries? Who can deny your existence? I find you at your Samadhi, in a Vrindavana mangal arati. I find you in those precious rooms in Radha Damodar Mandhir. There your sacrifice is etched in every raw, red brick and your still fingers poised to rewrite the laws of karma with mercy. I find you at guru-puja; your acceptance, direction and encouragement embedded in a hopeful flower. I wish to find you more and more in every verse and purport.

I find you most in devotional service; 'lokanatha lokera jivana' Your mission, our inheritance, is the single thread on which my spiritual life hangs on. The Srimad Bhagavatam describes that one who accepts the path of devotional service will never trip or fall even whilst running with their eyes closed. Such faith inspires me. Yet my path is slippery, like Krishna dasa Kaviraja says, and I'm praying for the staff of your mercy to pull me

upright. Unflinching faith in the process of devotional service is a rare gift. Please cast your glance my way.

Yet I feel that you want something more, or maybe I do; internal growth, devotion in substance and less shadow, nobility, integrity, and character. ‘You’re a beautiful young girl,’ you told your disciple, Rukmini devi, ‘now you have to make the inside beautiful, then Krishna will come kidnap you.’

And still, I must not lose sight of the fact that being your faithful follower is the essence. Who can call themselves your follower if lacking the spirit of sharing Krishna with others?

A confession; sometimes I wonder if all this effort, grandiose in my mind but meager in reality, is actually changing anyone. I look back and I can’t see much progress. I beg that you will empower me. There so much that can be done. I’m so limited. Or maybe I beg that you make my heart peaceful with being an “invisible” who works to build a cathedral they will never see.

Dear Srila Prabhupada, clear my vision so I can see the path you choose for me. Put fear to sleep. As the wind of change blows, let me find your service as my constant. Guide my words. Direct my actions. Refine me, the rough edges does not help. And when the dust settles, let the remnants inscribe, “ a faithful servant.” Maybe it’s not too late.

A servant of your servant’s servant With Gratitude,

Rukmini Devi Dasi

Saci dd

My Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

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

All Glories to their Lordships Jaganatha, Baladev and Subhadra Maharani.

All Glories to You! on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja.

My wonderful Srila Prabhupada, how would this world have been without You? How would my life have been without You? When I think about this question I feel scared. You have managed to create a safety net that protects us from the clutches of maya. It helps us understand that every hardship and every smile comes from Krishna. This safety net comes in the form of Your books, Your most elevated disciples, Your ISKCON, Your divine lotus feet and most importantly the Maha Mantra. Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare.

Please bestow mercy on this worthless soul that she may always be trapped under Your net and may never leave the shelter of Your divine lotus feet.

Trying to be Your servant,

Saci dd (RSA-GP)

Sadhu Seva Dasa & Radhadyuti devi dasi

Hare Krishna

Dear most Srila Prabhupada

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace, on this auspicious occasion!

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

Often we wonder what may have become of us had we not had the good fortune of meeting one of your followers. What hellish sort of existence

we may have had? It is only by your unprecedented compassion that our lives have some meaning. Now, we cannot even imagine a day without your presence. Srila Prabhupada, your mercy has no limits. We were without hope, but by your causeless mercy you have dispelled the darkness in our lives.

Srila Prabhupada, please grant us the mercy to become soldiers in Lord Caitanya's army. Please grant us the ability to distribute the mercy, to distribute books.

Please allow for this book distribution to become the center of our lives. Please allow us to learn to serve you without reservation, lifetime after lifetime.

Srila Prabhupada, we remain indebted to you for your utmost mercy shown towards us and the entire world. Your glories cannot be measured.

we remain your dependent servants,

Sadhu Seva Dasa and Radhadyuti devi dasi

Sanjeev Singh

All Glories to His Divine Grace A.C. Srila Prabhupada

Hare Krsna. Whilst I'm not a worthy soul in terms of devotion and true Krsna Consciousness, the teachings of Srila Prabhupada give me hope that someday I might very well be!

There always seems to be an air of utmost spirituality and transcendental nature all around and about His Divine Grace's association - His teachings, His writings, His letters, His wisdom, His appearance in photos; His voice in the lecture recordings and daily walk recordings, and His pure devotees.

A fallen soul such as I consider myself fortunate at least, to have had the good grace of being enlightened somewhat about Srila Prabhupada through His devotees - and for that I will be forever grateful

Hare Krsna

Sanjeev Singh

Sarisha Harrychund

Dearest Srila Prabhupada

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe

nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

Please accept my humble obeisances! All Glories to You on this auspicious day of your Sri-Vyasa-Puja.

Over the past year, I have been feeling increasingly self-critical on my progress in my spiritual life. I have many material afflictions that continually make my spiritual goals seem idealistic. After seeking the guidance of your dear devotees, I am simply trying to maintain my chanting of the Holy Name regularly, reading Your books, and associating with the devotees.

In this way, through Your mercy, through the mercy of the Holy Name, and through the mercy of your ISKCON movement, which is Lord Caitanya's movement, I pray that my heart and mind can be cleaned, so that my attitude and behaviour may always be pleasing to you. As your presentation of Krishna Consciousness was never artificial, I pray to also be an authentic representative of your Krishna conscious teachings.

Thank you, Srila Prabhupada, for giving me the opportunity to have a life of happiness, good health, peace of mind, and to develop good qualities through God consciousness.

Your servant,

Sarisha Harrychund

Sarvakanthie

Srila Prabhupada. Vyasapuja Offering.

My Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

My dearest Srila Prabhupada, please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to the Sankirtan Mission of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

Titled: "Give Love"

Men have combed the world for Gold, but you Dear Srila Prabhupada, gave love.

You made the hippies into happies. A Happy life you said, Follow the 4 regulative principles,

Your life will be sublime, Be yourself a spirit soul, A warm heart, Is what will set you apart,

From the gutter you lifted Those hungry nervous wrecks, Prasadham is the diet, Food for the soul, Which will touch your heart, Don't let life pass by, Back to Godhead.

On the road, a sparkling eye, You told the Indians! These are "My Dancing White Elephants", Who have given up their pants, Surrender is the name of the game, Shave your heads, don't feel shame, Dance and chant and sweat away those extra pounds, Who cares if you are square or round', When like our Beloved Krishna above, You can offer the world your love,

My Dearest Srila Prabhupada, I wish you a very happy Vyasa puja, may I celebrate many many more in the years to come. Have a wonderful day.

Thanking you, always keep me at your lotus feet and never let me go,
Hare Krishna,

Your not so humble and insignificant granddaughter,

Sarvakanthie d

Shatrughna das & Arcita devi dasi

Nama om Vishnu padaya krsna prestaya bhutale srimate Bhaktivendanta swami Iti namine.

Namaste sarasvate deve gauravani pracatrine nirvesesa sunyavadi prapadyadesa tarine.

Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All Glories to Your Divine Grace.

On this most auspicious day of Your Sri Vyasa Puja please allow us to express our heartfelt love.

Srila Prabhupada, our difficulties are due to our spiritual blindness .We are full of doubt,

we don't know where to go, what to do. Your Divine Grace is our only savior and well wisher.

Your Divine Grace has the knowledge of all the spiritual and material

World and are the embodiment of the teaching of Bhagavad Gita. Please Srila Prabhupada

with that shining lamp of knowledge please destroy our darkness born of ignorance, and constantly dwell in our hearts.

Your Divine Grace is our most gentle Lord and master whom has always portrayed the highest standard .

With the greatest care and attention we humbly take Your Divine Lotus Feet upon our heads constantly praying to be eternally engaged, devoted in serving , worshipping Your Divine Grace and Your mission.

Your eternally indebted grand children

Shatrughna das

Arcita devi dasi

Shukadev das

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe

nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

My Dearest Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my most Humble obeisances at Your Devine Lotus feet.
All Glories to You on Your most auspicious and revered Appearance Day.

As is customary amongst all Your Disciples, Grand Disciples, Friends and well-wishers let me start by most joyously and ever full of gratitude, convey my Heartfelt Thank YOU.

Every deed, book, message, instruction and blessing that You have given to us was selfless and purely for the upliftment and propelling of our own lives. Single handedly You came to the west and followed so dutifully

and faithfully Your Gurus Instruction. Today all those efforts show to the world a Success blueprint - “ISKCON”. Our journey back home starts the day we find Your work, Be it in a temple or book....but that marks our start to our destination back Home back to Godhead.

I will never forget the day I took up the Chanting that You gave to us which I give deep gratitude to My Spiritual Master for having given it to me. The feeling was unexplainable as many in history have also experienced. You Always said Krsna Lives in His Name and this one Truly feels when one takes seriously your messages of attaining a perfect purpose. The Maha mantra and Lord Gauranga which many of us have not heard of before. Your Preaching is a Reservoir of transcendental Nectar coming from You an Ocean of Mercy just for the benefit of us fallen souls.....I'm ever indebted.

Please bless me Always to follow dutifully my Gurudev and please bless me that I will Always Remember Krsna and Radha and Never forget Them. May I serve at the Lotus feet of My spiritual Master Lifetime after Lifetime always relishing the narration of the divine pastimes and offer whatever I can for Your pleasure via His Mercy.

Your Ever Loving Grandson,

Shukadev das

Shyama Gopi Dasi

Dear Srila Prabhupada, please accept my humble obeisances at your Lotus feet. Thank you

very much for having changed my life completely to this point of spiritual maturity. It was in the year 2006 that your disciple His Holiness Krishna Das Swami entered our lives. For the first time your teaching became practical and I gained a better understanding of the message in your books through the instructions of HH Krishna Das Maharaj. Since then,

Maharaj has accepted me as his disciple and I was initiated on the 25 December 2013. This has radically transformed my life and I am very grateful to you for that opportunity.

Your servant,

Shyama Gopi Dasi

Shyamalata Devi Dasi

My Dearest Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humblest of obeisances on your Vyasa puja. All glories to Sri Sri Jagannath, Baladeva and Subdra Maharani!

You have opened my eyes with the torchlight of knowledge for which I am eternally grateful.

In April 2017, His Grace Viyajananda Prabhu held a demonstration on how to make a variety of delicious traditional Indian sweets. His Grace worked with so much of love and purity to impart Your great teachings. I pray that I can also imbibe such qualities. With His Graces association, I hope to improve in my service to Their Lordships.

Your books and lectures fills my life with Your perfect knowledge of Lord Krishna and His associates. Your struggles of distributing Krishna prasadam has become a challenge to me to continue in Your mission even in a minute way.

I love You Prabhupada!

Your unworthy grand disciple,

Shyamalata Devi Dasi

Phoenix

Durban

Smita Krsna das

All glories to Your Divine Grace

You gave meaning to the human race

Until your appearance we floundered in disgrace

Insurmountable suffering we had to face.

“My mantra upasaka,” Krsna declared bold,

“Senapati bhakta, following my descent in gold.”

Chosen for Gauranga’s message sublime

Intimate servant, qualities divine.

When as THE guru you arrived in the West

For your disciples you were the first,

but so it is for the next generations too,

The relationship with our guru is based on you.

Though my spiritual growth is only nascent

I realize your position always pre-eminent.

In the ever expanding ISKCON community

You will eternally be

The only captain on the stormy sea.

Holding your lotus feet quells my fears,

O, Acarya of the next ten thousand years.

I beg to remain a useful servant,

Please give me your shelter although I am errant.

Smita Krsna das

Durban, South Africa

Sri Mukunda Das

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

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

My Dearest Srila Prabhupada, please accept my most humble obeisance's at the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to you, Srila Prabhupada. Today is the most auspicious day of your appearance, and for me it is a very holy and meaningful day.

Srila Prabhupada, you are the glorious, incomparable paramahamsa whose preaching throughout the world was the only thing of any real importance that has ever happened.

Srila Prabhupada, I am so happy to be part of your ISKCON which is the only spiritual platform that can deliver the soul back to Krishna. By your mercy I spend most of my time trying to serve at the Goshala a recently acquired farm where we have 10 cows. I serve by taking care of the cows, preaching and spreading the holy name to all visitors that come to visit the cows. My life continues to find some meaning and purpose due to the eternal gift that you have given us.

Srila Prabhupada, your lotus feet are my only solace, birth after birth.

Begging for mercy at your lotus feet

Your most unworthy servant of servants

Sri Mukunda Das

Sridama dasa, Krishna Akarshini devi dasi, Sacinandan and Nitai.

Hare Krishna dearest Srila Prabhupada.

My beloved Srila Prabhupada, please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Your life was a sacrifice for all of mankind. Had you not pleased your spiritual master, the world...we...would be very lost and would be preparing ourselves to go straight to hell.

Your mission saved so many millions of people, and continues to do so every day. Your mission is saving me and my family, and for that, I'm truly indebted to you.

I owe you my life Srila Prabhupada, and I pray that I can add value in your ISKCON one day. You have made it simple and easy for us, you were so tolerant and displayed all the qualities of a pure Vaisnava, and your leadership by example is what the world looks up to.

I can assure you on one thing I know for certain, one of your disciples, HH Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja, has learnt so well from you, that he has become an inspiration to thousands of people across the world too. I'm sure that he learnt those values from you, as he is always talking about the greatness you exuded when you were around.

I love you Srila Prabhupada, please bless me to continue serving you at our home, and bless us to stay in devotional service. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the sacrifices that you made for us.

Your insignificant servants,

Sridama dasa, Krishna Akarshini devi dasi, Sacinandan and Nitai.

Sri-Govinda, Jayalatita, Tara and Harini

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Thank you for giving us Krsna.

Thank you for your books.

Thank you for creating a society of civilised men and woman.

Your Servants

Sri-Govinda, Jayalatita, Tara and Harini

Subal sakha das & family

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe

nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

There, in a quaint lounge in a tiny Indian suburb of a hardly noticeable dusty rural town in apartheid South Africa, sat two white saffron-clad men from Vaikuntha, shaven-headed, radiant and blissful.

The encounter was astonishing, memorable, delightful!

Who were these unusual men? What was their message? Little did we know that they first saffron coloured wave of love of Krishna had rolled into our home.

Successive waves, coloured green (the colour of the Science of Self Realisation), cream (the colour of Simply Wonderfals) - waves of every colour of the rainbow - kept on rolling in. Gently pounding away at the mountains of our ignorance. Debate that consumed our lives on who was

supreme was now useless. Had we been saved? Who was responsible? Please say we are saved. Now we know.

The expanded storehouse of transcendental love, unknown to us and confined to the holy land of India for several centuries, was recently plundered for a second time.

By the agency of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur and Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur, His Divine Grace Srila A C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada single-handedly plundered the store house of krsna-prema for the benefit of the Western worlds. What shall we, whose minds are steeped in matter, say about your glory. “Where is renunciation? Where is tranquil indifference to the temptations of sense pleasure or the torments of hell? Where are great waves of humbleness? Where is uncommon prowess? Where is the path of intense devotion? Where are these virtues present in the same way they are present in those who have made Lord Gaura the goal of their lives?” [Srila Prabhodananda Sarasvati Thakur Caitanya Candramtra Verse 20] What can we say about the divine purpose of your books or the saving grace of ISKCON.

The universe of our Krishna consciousness is powered by the dust of your lotus feet.

Surely in time, the power of your influence will be revealed and understood more and more - how you changed the course of history. For now the brilliant moon of your greatness is overwhelmed by the bright sunshine of intimate love from your disciples and servants.

Thinking of you, deeply appreciating your kindness upon us and how you created our good fortune, with all the gratitude we can muster, like devotees who worship mother Ganga by offering Her waters unto Herself, we worship you by offering a verse from your Srimad Bhagavatam unto you

..

“Dear Lord, by virtue of a moment’s association with Lord Siva, who is very dear to You and who is Your most intimate friend, we were fortunate to attain You. You are the most expert physician, capable of treating the incurable disease of material existence. On account of our great

fortune, we have been able to take shelter at Your lotus feet.” [SB 4.30.38
The Activities of the Pracetas]

Thank you for everything dear Srila Prabhupada.

Aspiring servants of the Vaishnavas,

Subal sakha das & family

ISKCON Newcastle

Sudama das, Rasika dasi, Radhika and Gopika

Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feel, on this momentous and joyous occasion of your 2017 Vyasa-Puja celebrations. All glories to your Divine Grace.

Dr. Elwin H. Powell, Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York, Buffalo, had this to say in a review of your Bhagavad-gita As It Is:

“...If truth is what works, as Pierce and the pragmatists insist, there must be a kind of truth in the Bhagavad-gita As It Is, since those who follow its teachings display a joyous serenity usually missing in the bleak and strident lives of contemporary people.”

Professor Powell, was quick to notice the effect of your Bhagavad-gita As It Is, on any person who may obtain a copy and try to follow Lord Krishna’s words as you have described and made more understandable through your Bhaktivendanta Purports – the effect of becoming transcendently joyous through even a little application of Krishna Consciousness in one’s life. And not only the Bhagavad-gita As It Is, but all of your books bring much needed joy and serenity to the bleak and strident lives of contemporary people of this world. Only you, a very special, eternal associate of Sri Sri Radha Radhanath, could have such

an effect on the steel-framed hearts of contemporary people, ourselves certainly included.

And the effect of reading your books, has a very profound, almost intriguing result – it somehow or the other will draw any person back to the Lotus Feet of the Lord, and such a result is guaranteed. This is extent of your mercy and compassion. Recently, we came across a couple who, after going through some difficulties in their life and the untimely passing of their son, was drawn to the New Jagannath Puri Temple in Phoenix, Durban, after having purchased and read one of your books from one of your dedicated Sankirtana devotees. In this way, the seed was planted and, they entered the temple room once Sunday afternoon, with a very sincere and deep desire to surrender to you and join your ISKCON movement, after having read the book. On that day, we somehow were put in contact with them by divine arrangement and gave them sets of chanting beads and the Science of Self Realization to read. Since that they we have observed a very clear transformation from bleak and strident, to real serenity and joy in their lives. They are regularly attending the temple program and festivals’ and even trying to chant 16 rounds or more.

Srila Prabhupada, you continue to astound us and the world over with the power and potency you have invested in your books – the power to bring anyone of the 7 billion people on this planet, nay, anyone in the material world, to their original constitutional position, of being eternal loving servants of the servants of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Krishna. For this, we can humbly say that we are grateful and appreciative, and pray that we may attain a fraction of your mercy so that we can advance towards this goal.

Your eternal and lowly, servant of your servants,

Sudama das, Rasika dasi, Radhika and Gopika

Mount Edgecombe, Durban,

Sukh Sagar Dasa

On this auspicious day of Your Vyasa puja, please accept my respectful obeisances at the dust of your Lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All Glories to Sri Sri Radha-Radhanath. All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahuprabhu.

I was very fortunate to have taken shelter of one of your most glorious sons, His Holiness Krsna Dasa Swami on 20th Feb 2014. I am forever indebted to You for this miracle.

All glories to You, Srila Prabhupada, for spreading Krsna Consciousness all over the world through the International Society for Krsna Consciousness. (ISKCON).

Dearest Srila Prabhupada we cannot even fathom the debt that we all owe you for giving us such wonderful gifts such as Your transcendental literature, Harinam Sankirtan, Krsna Prasad, the Maha mantra, the dear most Vaihnavas and most importantly a free ticket back to Godhead.

Please grant me your mercy, so that I will never forget your gifts and remain at the shelter of your Lotus feet and render loving devotional service.

Your insignificant servant

Sukh Sagar Dasa

Sukumari dasi

Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your divine grace.

In Yamuna-devi's memoirs - "An offering of Unalloyed Devotion" your loving and compassionate nature is mentioned many times. And how you really wanted your followers to be steadfast in following standards

outlined by you for the perfection of one's life, the four regulative principles and to immerse themselves in the chanting of the Lord's holy name. In the early days many of the devotees took to Krishna consciousness because you showed them so much of love and in turn they loved you. They saw you as a pure representative of the teachings you were presenting. They saw your sincerity when you chanted the Lord's holy names and saw that you had a genuine desire to help people end their suffering and teach them the real purpose of living. And that is why they took to the process of devotional service.

I am grateful that your love and compassion is also showering upon me and I feel fortunate to be called your grand disciple.

On the occasion of your Sri Vyasa-puja, please guide and give me the strength to become a real devotee as you want us to be—caring, loving and compassionate with the way I reciprocate with both devotees and non-devotees, committed to the vows I have taken, have firm faith in the holy names of the Lord and be joyful in my execution of devotional service. I want to reciprocate with the love that you have given me by becoming a true follower of your divine grace.

Your grateful little grand daughter,

Sukumari dasi (Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple)

Swarup Damodar Das

Srila Prabhupada Vyasa-puja Offering 2017

Dear Srila Prabhupada,

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

Over the past year I've facilitated the recently introduced ISKCON Disciples Course six times. The course, aimed at improving the quality of

disciples in ISKCON, is generally very inspiring to everyone who participates. The section of the course all students appreciate the most guides us to develop an authentic, non sentimental appreciation of your distinctive position in ISKCON and in our spiritual lives. This section also helps students appreciate various perspectives of your unique and tremendous empowerment by Lord Caitanya and how you are clearly that person fulfilling the desires of the previous acaryas.

HH Giriraj Swami recounts a revealing anecdote with you and HH Tamal Krishna Goswami:

“Once, Tamal Krishna Goswami himself needed an operation in Bombay. He had gone to Jaslok Hospital, the best in Bombay at the time. But when Srila Prabhupada heard about it, he wanted to stop the operation. So he got into our jeep, the only vehicle we owned, and rode all the way to central Bombay, to the hospital. But when he got there it was too late. Tamal Krishna Goswami had just come out of the operation theater, and when he opened his eyes and saw Srila Prabhupada, he told him that he had just had a dream: Srila Prabhupada had been giving a report to the previous acaryas about his work on the planet earth, and Srila Prabhupada had said that people basically had no spiritual assets—no knowledge, no austerity, practically no good qualities at all. But in the dream Srila Prabhupada had said that they did have one qualification: ‘Their one qualification is that they have faith in me, and they do whatever I say.’ Then Tamal Krishna Goswami looked up at Srila Prabhupada to see his response. And Srila Prabhupada agreed, ‘Yes, it is true.’ ”

When immersed in such indisputable understanding of Your Divine Grace, how can one not aspire to surrender their lives at your lotus feet? This understanding is beyond sentiment; it is real and defensible. Appreciation of you is not static or limited like that of a normal person. Reading your biographical and anecdotal chronicles by your disciples and hearing devotees’ accounts of how you touched their lives through your books, your mission, your devotees and your mercy is evidence that your glories are ever-increasing.

I often feel guilty that I borrow strength from your increasingly glorious position. To increase my respectability, I attach myself to you and thus show off my position as your servant. Yet, you are tolerant and generous and allow me to serve. The process of bhakti, and the most exalted of the guardians of bhakti, Your Divine Grace are constantly purifying my numerous material desires; desires led especially by the hankering for adoration and prestige amongst your followers. You write in Bhagavad-gita As It Is, “Humility means that one should not be anxious to have the satisfaction of being honoured by others.” (Bg.13.8-12, purport) A more succinct and impactful definition of humility cannot be found! And how especially relevant to me is this statement!

I feel grateful to have been included to serve Your Divine Grace. I am always proud of the scant karmic material capabilities that I have acquired. “A pauper proud of his penny.” I pray to be released from all attachment to those abilities, so I may become a worthy receptacle to receive your empowerment and mercy. Sri Yamunacarya in his Stotra-ratna writes:

bhavantam evānucaran nirantaram
praśānta-niḥśeṣa-mano-rathāntaraḥ
kadāham aikāntika-nitya-kṅkaraḥ
prahaṣayīṣyāmi sa-nātha-jīvitah

“By serving You constantly, one is freed from all material desires and is completely pacified. When shall I engage as Your permanent eternal servant and always feel joyful to have such a perfect master?”

I too, desire to become your permanent eternal servant. I pray that I can genuinely make that the goal of my life.

Always desiring your service in the dust your lotus feet,

Swarup Damodar Das

(Durban, South Africa)

Syama Kunda das

nama om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale srimate bhaktivedanta svamin iti namine

namaste sarasvate deve gaura vani pracarine nirvesesa sunyavadi pascatya desa tarine

Hare Krishna Dearest Srila Prabhupada

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to You!

As with every Vyasa Puja offering I will start by thanking You for everything and pray to continue doing so forever. For I will never be able to thank You enough for giving me this opportunity to fulfil the mission of my human form of life and put a stop to the miseries of material existence.

In spite of the ocean of faults that lie within me and the challenges I face with my mind and senses; under the order of Your disciple, I am trying to push forward Your wonderful movement which is the ultimate benediction for all humanity, no, rather for all living beings. Even though I am simply insignificant and have no qualifications, I am begging You Srila Prabhupada, on this most auspicious occasion of Your Vyasa Puja to give me a drop of Your mercy so that I can do something to please You. Srila Prabhupada please also give me the blessings and intelligence to co-operate with the members of Your magnificent ISKCON in this endeavour to flood the world with Krishna Consciousness.

Thank You ever so much Srila Prabhupada.

Hare Krishna

An insignificant servant of Your servant
Syama Kunda das

Syamananda das

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe

nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who is very dear to Lord Krishna, having taken shelter at His lotus feet. Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Chaitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Syamananda das

Hare Krsna Dear Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances, All Glories unto You

A lot has happened over the last year Srila Prabhupada.

In a short space of time, you and Lord Krsna orchestrated some plans to force us to take shelter of His Grace Nanda Kumar Prabhu and then to become his disciple and assist him with his preaching work.

By doing so, you have brought us closer to the Lord and His devotees and you entrusted us with some responsibilities to carry. We trust that this is all part of much bigger plans that you and Lord Krsna have, that we don't fully understand right now. But we are thankful that you are using us as instruments towards these plans for your mission to expand.

I humbly ask you, if you so desire, to give us the ability, intelligence, surrender and devotion needed to do what is needed to assist Guru Maharaja and the devotees. We definitely have no qualifications or any wonderful skills so we pray to you to carry us forward and do something pleasing for you.

We pray to you to protect your society by helping us stay true to your teachings and instructions and to keep you in the centre of all our activities as only this will ensure that you are pleased and ultimately Lord Krsna is pleased.

We pray for you to somehow empower us to preach strongly but with compassion and turn souls towards Krsna by taking to your books and teachings.

Whatever happens we know that you are always there for all of us and we pray to have your divine association life after life, wherever we may be.

Thank you for continuing to deliver the whole world Srila Prabhupada, and for coming to save us when no one else would come, thank you very much.

You are our ever well wisher.

Your struggling servant,

Syamananda das

Tamohara das & Merumala devi

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

When we reflect on the past year, we see that your mercy was ever present in each step of our spirituality. ISKCON which has now celebrated 50 years has benefited our lives tremendously. Although our part within

your great organisation is small, we hope that we can continue to serve this movement as much as ISKCON has served us.

It is only through your struggles and hard work, that we sit here today reaping the benefits of temples all around the world. A global family that always is there to take care of us despite creed, nationality or social standing. Devotees whose association is key to the success of our spiritual lives are strategically placed there by you.

We have grown in leaps and bounds both personally and spiritually. Although we are just minuscule servants of the servant, we hope that as a family, we can grow spiritually stronger.

Please can you bless us to continue our devotional service in a manner that is most pleasing to you and to inspire others to do the same.

Your servants,

Tamohara das and Merumala devi

Tulasi devi dasi

My dearest revered Srila Prabhupada.

I am extremely honoured to be given an opportunity to glorify Your Divine grace and to thank You dear Srila Prabhupad from the depths of my heart for everything that You have done for this material world.

Srila Prabhupad You have left the world a legacy and have bestowed good fortune in the form of Your books, temples, farming communities, lectures, the devotees and most importantly the Maha mantra. An infinite number of thank you dear Srila Prabhupad will never be enough for saving us that have taken to the process of Krsna consciousness as You have given us.

Dear Srila Prabhupad on this most auspicious day of Sri vyasa puja i pray that You always keep my loved ones and i in the mercy and association

of the devotees and may we never leave the shade of Your ISKCON movement.

Thank you Srila Prabhupad for Your love and compassion.

Your insignificant grand daughter

Tulasi devi dasi

Tongaat

South Africa

Ujjvala Rasa dasi

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe

nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

My Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

All Glories to Your Divine Grace! All Glories to Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Radhanath!

Thank you for your ISKCON, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. A home that you built in which the whole world can live in. A home in which thousands around the world come under its roof to celebrate festivals, every day...every week...every month...every year, thus experiencing an abundance of joy, bliss and mercy!

Yet, this is not a singing, dancing and eating movement! It is Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu's sankirtan movement, a preaching movement with a mission to spread love of Godhead, Sri Kṛṣṇa, and to help all of us fallen, conditioned souls to go back to our original home in the spiritual world!

Alas! The thought of preaching has daunted me for many years and I wondered if I could ever become a missionary in your ISKCON movement. I did not understand the philosophy well nor did I have knowledge to preach. How could I please you dear Srila Prabhupada? How could I please Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, who is the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself?

By hearing, I realised that I should take to the study of your books, especially the Bhagavad Gita As It Is. Upon taking up the study under the expert tutorage of exemplary devotee teachers, we heard about the most confidential knowledge, wherein Lord Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and the soul is eternally related to Him through transcendental loving devotional service, and by executing pure devotional service to Sri Kṛṣṇa, we can go back to Him in the spiritual world. Questions such as: Who am I? What is the soul? Why am I suffering, why me? What happens after death, is there life after death? What is karma? Who is God? Who are the Demigods? What is material and spiritual nature? What is renunciation? Lord Kṛṣṇa answers all these questions and much more in the verses of Bhagavad Gita As It Is! Indeed! Your eloquently written purports illustrate the deeper meaning of each verse, which helps us to understand the subject matter more clearly, under the guidance of the bona fide teacher.

At the end, Lord Kṛṣṇa gives us His assurance in the following verses:

BG18.65 translates: “Always think of Me, become My devotee, worship Me and offer your homage unto Me. Thus you will come to Me without fail. I promise you this because you are My very dear friend.”

BG18.66 translates: Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto Me. I shall deliver you from all sinful reactions. Do not fear.”

BG18.70 translates: “And I declare that he who studies this sacred conversation of ours worships Me by his intelligence.”

Thus armed with some knowledge about these subject matters, I began to tell my family members and friends and even the Temple guards

about what I learned! Then I realised that I was preaching!! Oh! Srila Prabhupada! I am beginning to feel like a missionary in Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's sankirtan movement, your ISKCON! However, my knowledge is very feeble, and I humbly pray for your mercy to be able to preach Lord Krsna's glories. I happily encourage others to study your books too, especially Bhagavad Gita As It Is! Thank you dear Srila Prabhupada for Krishna consciousness in my life.

By your instruction, we should tell everyone we meet about Lord Krsna and His glories. This is preaching! This is missionary!

Your humble servant of your servant,

Your grand-daughter,

Ujjvala Rasa dasi

(Durban, South Africa)

Urukram das , Jalangi Dasi, Shruthi Kirti and Shreyah Kairava

My Dearest SRILA PRABHUPAD

ALL GLORIES TO YOUR LOTUS FEET

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in your most wonderful Iskcon . We are so fortunate that by the mercy of their Lordships Jagganath Baladev and Subadhara and Sri Nitai Gaurasunder, your grace and our spiritual master HH Partha Sarathi Goswami, we are afforded the amazing opportunity to offer some service. We pray that you guide all our endeavours so that we can please you. Please engage us always.

Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to you for the books you wrote. Increasingly they are the solace in many of disasters in this life. We pray that we can some day understand how to be good examples of vaisnavas who live those nectarian instructions.

We really appreciate that you have given us your disciple to guide us. Without his encouragement and guidance, we are disconnected and lost.

Srila Prabhupad we owe our greatest debt to you. We pledge to spend every lifetime in your service. Please accept our service to your LOTUS FEET always.

Father to all, Teacher and guide

You taught us how we should lose this useless material pride

Floating on the boat of sense gratification we wasted our life

We didn't how valueless was our strife

Your books and example are our beacons of hope. You saw our suffering . You threw us a rope.

We're holding on ever so slightly , afraid to let go. We have to have faith that you will lead us because you know.

The Supreme Lord has sent you , his sincere soul. Please help us realise this is the goal.

Servants we are and forever will be. Your example has shown us what we are struggling to see.

Please bless us with your mercy

Your servants

Urukram das , Jalangi Dasi, Shruthi Kirti and Shreyah Kairava

Vaishnav Pran das

My Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Sri Guru & Gauranga. On this auspicious occasion of your

vyasa puja this lowly servant of Krishna prays that I can glorify your divine grace by the mercy of the vaishnav's.

vancha-kalpa-tarubhyas ca kripa-sindhubhya eva ca
patitanam pavanebhyo vaishnavebhyo namo namah

I offer my respectful obeisances unto all the Vaishnava devotees of the Lord, who can fulfill the desires of everyone, just like desire trees, and are full of compassion for the fallen conditioned souls.

This year was very challenging both internally & externally.

So much to do & not enough time.

Sp much to do to please Srila prabhupada & not enough hours in the day to do it. Not enough time, not enough sleep for sustenance both spiritually & materially.

This is the disease of the material world.

Time... ..TimeTime

Time & tide wait for no man

Srila Prabhupada what would I do without your mercy and the mercy of the devotees.

What would I do without engagement in devotional service.

What would I do ...oh what would I do...

By your mercy you have given us the perfect formula handed down by our sampradaya.

The perfect formula for engagement in devotional service which is in your books.

The perfect formula for the salvation for the whole world.

On this auspicious day of your vyasa puja I humbly beg with a straw in my teeth that you will cast your glance on me. Because by your glance

my life will be successful in this journey of Krishna consciousness, on this journey of going back to godhead.

Please bless me so that these three essential aspects will fructify in my heart

Viz. nama gane sada ruche

Vaishnava seva

Jiva doya

Your lowly insignificant servant,

Vaishnav Pran das

Vaisnava Priya dasi

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Struggling in this material world

Tossed & turned by the waves of time

From this body to the next in the cycle of birth & death

When will I learn that this place is not home

You came to give us the message of Lord Gauranga

The sweet chanting of Krishna's Holy Name

And the association of Devotees has made it so simple

Yet so fallen am I that I hesitate to accept

Critical and challenging of those around me

Causing so much anxiety and trouble

If only I could realise how insignificant I am

If only I could burst this huge ego bubble
Dear Srila Prabhupada, Your mercy is all I need
From the clutches of Maya to be freed
I humbly beg you to cast your merciful glance
So that this wretched soul will stand a chance

Your servant
Vaisnava Priya dasi

Vaisnavi Carana Devi

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

My dear Spiritual grandfather, Srila Prabhupada,

As I sit here writing my offering to you, I feel so fortunate and blessed to be given this very rare opportunity.

On behalf of my family and I, Thank you for coming into our lives, thank you for sending your warriors to help us in our spiritual challenges on earth. Thank you for giving us Kṛṣṇa and thank you for saving us from ignorance.

Thank you for sending your son His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaj to be my spiritual father and guide, he walks in your footsteps and helps us in every way possible.

It's because of you and your amazing books, we are on this path.

Thank you once again, please continue to give us your mercy so that we stay fixed on this path of bhakti, surrounded by Sri Kṛṣṇa's devotees.

Jai Srila Prabhupada

Your Grand daughter,

Vaisnavi Carana Devi

Vanamali Das, Ananda Chandrika Devi Dasi & Radhe Radhe Dasi

Dear Srila Prabhupada

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

In Your Srimad-Bhagavatam (3:25:27), the purport to the translation of the verse states 'hearing or associating with devotees is the most important function for self-realization'.

The spirit soul - our real self - is only truly happy when serving the Lord. The happiness is sublime and unsurpassed in comparison with any material pleasure. Good devotee association helps us understand these and other concepts and also affords us various opportunities to engage in devotional service, so we can remember Krishna more often in our daily lives. In the past year, we have been blessed with showers of mercy in the form of some of your overseas disciples who held seminars to educate us on various topics. Their dedication to ISKCON is contagious, and I pray that we can imbibe their spirit of enthusiasm and eternal gratitude they have for you. You will be pleased with their outstanding

work and commitment to ISKCON. On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyasa Puja, we pray to be engaged in more devotional service opportunities.

Your eternally grateful grandchildren,

Vanamali Das, Ananda Chandrika Devi Dasi & Radhe Radhe Dasi

Vasu Ghosh das

All glories to Srila Prabhupada! Dear Srila Prabhupada, this lowly fool is truly indebted to your Holiness. You are the true benefactor for all mankind. In this fast paced world where almost everyone is looking for instant gratification and continuous sense enjoyment not even concerned of the consequences of their negative karmic reactions. We are all looking for permanent love and happiness in this material world. We are not stopping to ask the question, how is it possible to obtain permanent love and happiness in this perishable temporary material body in this temporary anxiety filled material world. You, Dear Jagad Guru Srila Prabhupada have given us the answer. The chanting of the Maha Mantra, the great chanting for deliverance. Dear Jagad Guru Srila Prabhupada I pray that you shower your glance of mercy on this fool and I pray that Your ISKCON live for the next ten thousand years and more.

Your humble servant,

Vasu Ghosh das

Haribol, my dear JAGATH GURU.

Veronica Panday

I offer my humble pranaams onto you. Please accept me.

Thank you for everything that you do for Iskcon and the dear devotees. Thank you for bringing me here at Iskcon –at the feet of Bhagwaan Shree Krishna and Matha Radharani. Thank you for your blessings .

Please continue to cast your merciful eye and hand upon me, and take me to the next level of devotion .Please assist my family to come under your guidance and love Please be merciful to my Prabhoo-Please cast your merciful glance upon him, so that he is attracted to the Lords feet and the Holy Name .Please help him to spread the word of the Lord- by dropping one of your Hiroshima bombs on his lap...

Sorry if this is a tall order.

Your most fallen child

Visvambhara dasa

Dearest Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your Divine Grace on this auspicious occasion of your vyasa puja.

I was reflecting on how in material existence, it is such a common phenomenon to want to escape difficulties. Escape is the remedy to so many problems we encounter. If we have problems with family we want to divorce, if we have challenges at work we want to change jobs, if we don't like the courses at university, we want to change the course or drop out of studies. If all this is becoming too much, and our lives are out of control we want to escape this life, by taking our lives – by committing suicide. This is a practice more common nowadays than we like to admit.

Arjuna, in the beginning of the Bhagavad Gita, also wanted to escape from his problems or the dilemma of having to kill his own kinsmen. He wanted to escape from that duty. He indicated it was better to beg alms, which was not his duty, than to kill his family members, which in this instance was his duty – as they were demonic personalities and the Lord's

desire. So he wanted to escape his obligations, as they were very difficult ones for him at that point. Taking the lives of other human beings, what to speak of family members, even for a ksatriya, is never easy but it needed to be done under the circumstances outlined in the Mahabharath.

Krishna, however, changed his consciousness. Arjuna's consciousness was lifted by the words of the Supreme Lord, standing on the battlefield like an ordinary charioteer. He learned that escape was not the real answer, but surrender was – surrender to the real authority – The Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Within this mind-boggling material world, you have created a place where all of us can be cleared of this confusion. You have created an institution where all our demonic doubts can be killed with real knowledge – transcendental knowledge. This institution is the gateway through which the sincere practitioner can pass through to serve his eternal Master in His abode. This institution teaches how to do what Krishna wants from all of us – surrender unto Him in full love and devotion. This is the real escape for all of us. The eternal escape.

All glories to your ISKCON and your sincere followers. Thank you for offering us these gems so we can make the ultimate escape from this material existence.

Your aspiring servant

Visvambhara dasa

Vraja Priya devi dasi and Revati devi dasi

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhutale

srimate bhaktivedanta-swamin iti namine

namas te sarasvate devi gaura-vani-pracarine

nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascaty-a-des-a-tarine

Dear Srila Prabhupada

Please accept our humble obeisances in the dust of lotus feet. All Glories to Your Divine Grace.

On this most joyous occasion of Your Vyasa-puja celebration we are privileged to be given the opportunity to express our gratitude to Your Divine Grace, the benefactor of all human society. Although we are unqualified we take this opportunity to declare our indebtedness to Your Divine Grace.

We bow down at Your Lotus Feet for the unalloyed mercy and kindness You have so graciously bestowed upon us. Please dearest, Srila Prabhupada help us to become more enthusiastic in our effort to serve at the lotus feet of the servant of your servants

Thank You for allowing us to be engaged in transcendental service and thank You for bringing Krsna Consciousness to us and the whole world. We would like to express of indebtedness to You dear Srila Prabhupada for saving us and allowing us to always be able to associate with You.

We are most unqualified to ask for anything of Your Divine Grace but we pray for your causeless mercy.

Your insignificant servants begging for the dust of Your lotus feet

Vraja Priya devi dasi and Revati devi dasi

Vrsabhanu Nandini

My dearest SRILA PRABHUPADA

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

On this auspicious day of your vyasa puja I would like to say Thank you. Thank you SRILA PRABHUPADA for giving us krishna consciousness. I was born into this movement and I am extremely indebted to you .

Please give me your mercy that I may remain in this movement eternally .
Let me always remember you and never forget you.

Your great grand daughter

Vrsabhanu NandinI