



Homages from
the Publishers



Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (Africa)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our obeisances on this most blessed day of your Vyāsa-pūjā. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for your sacrifice. We are also grateful for your generosity in allowing us to serve within the African division of your Bhaktivedanta Book Trust. The African BBT has been growing from strength to strength under the inspirational guidance of your stalwart devotee His Holiness Jayādvaīta Swami. We have a better understanding of your instructions due to Mahārāja's constant vigilance, and for this we feel doubly blessed.

We are happy to report that we are committed to printing new African titles and maintaining the BBT annual conference, now in its fifth year. A few weeks ago we successfully hosted the second annual Bhaktivedanta Swami Lecture in your honor. That night we awarded the "Bhaktivedanta" honor to the grandson of Nelson Mandela and gave him a set of your books.

We have also produced an Afrikaans version of *Coming Back*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are trying our best to fulfill your instructions. On this auspicious day we pray for your mercy so that we may remain committed to the superimportant mission of book production and distribution in Africa.

Your servants at the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust offices in Africa.

(written by Govardhana Dāsa)

Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (Far East and Middle East)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances under the dust of your transcendental lotus feet. All glories, all glories, all glories to Your Divine Grace, without whose mercy there would be no chance whatsoever for escape from this endless, painful cycle of repeated birth and death.

It was thirty-nine years ago that you most mercifully told me to "just work with my books and be a spiritual doctor" (and with this you were also telling me not to waste my time thinking about becoming a material one).

And it's been thirty-eight years since I had the good fortune of telling you that, by your divine grace, we had been able to get your books into a Muslim university in northern India. I remember as if it were yesterday how you literally lit up at that moment, eyes seemingly as wide as the ocean, upon hearing the word "Muslim" in relation to your books. You shared your excitement with us, especially as you were indeed the very first Library Party book distributor yourself, having put your first three *Bhāgavatam* volumes into libraries as far north as Kashmir. We know because we found them in a library up there!

Therefore it is with the greatest happiness that I am able to report to you today that, as I write, tens of thousands of your books are being printed in Arabic and Farsi, as well as in Vietnamese, Korean, and other Far Eastern and Middle Eastern languages. Very soon these books will be widely distributed to thousands upon thousands of university students and others throughout the Western world who speak these languages, as well as to people in the "mother countries" whenever possible. The website bbt.feme.com displays these specially designed foreign-language titles, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your Divine Grace said many now-legendary things about the great importance of distributing your books in these difficult foreign languages (and the great mercy to be had by anyone who does so). No matter where those foreign-language speakers may now be living or studying, when they receive a book in their own language your philosophy goes straight to the deepest parts of their hearts and souls.

And your book distributors are saying that it is surprisingly easy to do this type of *saṅkīrtana*, since, while living and studying in lands other than their mother country, these foreign-language speakers very much yearn for books in their mother tongue and are delighted to receive them. And as a result, they often give generously for the privilege of getting them.

As you well know, the effects of such book distribution can often expand exponentially. For example, every Saudi Arabian university student studying in the West who will soon be getting one or more of your Arabic books—every one of them—may very well bring those books home with them. Home to a place where no devotee has ever been able to distribute books before.

What might happen to those places then, Śrīla Prabhupāda? Just one of your books can change the entire world!

You have given some hints of what might happen, but only you and your beloved Śrī Śrī Rādhē-Śyām know the full answer to this, and, of course, we must ultimately leave all results up to you.

Despite our lack of any intelligence or any good qualities whatsoever, we still humbly beg and beg again that this endeavor will be fully blessed by Your Divine Grace and Their Lordships. May you somehow be pleased to bless us with further and further success in this immeasurably important service, a service you have so mercifully personally asked us to do.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we pray for and so much need your unlimited mercy so that we may somehow be successful in this incalculably important service.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you again, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your divine guidance and ever-present inspiration. Thank you forever for your truly inconceivable causeless mercy upon this fallen and truly insignificant soul.

Your eternal and eternally grateful servants at the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust offices handling Far Eastern and Middle Eastern languages.

(written by Satyanārāyaṇa Dāsa)

Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (North America)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you!

In a spirit of cooperation that we hope you would condone and appreciate, the North America BBT has been working diligently with the trust's beneficiary, ISKCON, to increase distribution of your books. Over the last several years these efforts have resulted in the rejuvenation of book distribution in North America, which in turn has positively influenced book distribution around the world.

In 2013 North American temples sold \$1.43 million worth of books. This is an increase of 23% over last year and the biggest year in more than thirty years. In the last twenty-six years the BBT has sold \$26,260,000 worth of books.

With the cooperation of the temples we will try to increase sales by ten percent every year for the next

Korean



Farsi



The ever-fresh and hopeful eyes of a newborn baby. The beaten defeated eyes of a dying old man. Eyes that become fully relatable and riveting once they appear to be those of your own Korean or Iranian baby, your own dying Vietnamese, Arabian or Japanese grandfather. Srila Prabhupada expertly guides them and all of us how to cross over the bridge to that eternal world *Beyond Birth and Death*.

Japanese



Arabic





three years so that in the year 2016, which will be the 50th anniversary of your founding ISKCON, we will sell \$2,000,000 worth of books for your pleasure.

Please bless us in this endeavor.

Your servants at the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust offices in North America.

(written by Arcita Dāsa)

Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (Northern Europe)

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this universally celebrated day!

You and your books have been pivotal to me since the beginning of my devotional life, and this is still true after almost thirty years on this path. Your books have convinced me that Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and that *bhakti-yoga* is the topmost way of life.

As a young medical student in Tbilisi, Georgia, I came in contact with the devotees. Among them I was the only one who could speak English. This was at a time when Georgian devotees still had to hide from the government. Very soon after the initial contact, the devotees asked me to translate your books into Georgian, my mother tongue. In those days none of your books were available in this language, and there were hardly any in Russian. We were pioneers of Soviet transcendental book production.

I didn't have any experience as a translator, so I was reluctant. Then, to my amazement, an old friend of my father's, a man fluent in English and an experienced translator himself, suggested I translate one of my "Hare Kṛṣṇa books." He thought that, at the very least, it would benefit me because it would improve my English.

This unexpected second request to translate your books into Georgian was a strong impetus for me to take up the task. I began with *Easy Journey to Other Planets*. A devotee friend gave me an old typewriter, which was clumsy and noisy, but I soon got the hang of it. Every day, for hours, I typed and retyped the texts of *Easy Journey*, *Śrī Iṣopaniṣad*, and later the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. My parents were annoyed by the noise, but they never disturbed me in my service.

After some translation work and lots of typing, I naturally wanted to see the books in print. At that time it was highly illegal and very dangerous to print a book. I decided to check out the printing houses in my city—discretely, to limit the danger of being detected. The devotees were filled with joy when they saw the first three hundred copies of *Easy Journey to Other Planets*, printed in their native language in our beautiful Georgian alphabet.

When things started easing in my country and I was able to move abroad, I went to Korsnas Gard, the main book production center of the North European BBT. It was amazing. So much dedication to book production and printing. Book distribution was booming. More devotees came from Georgia, and we built a great Georgian editorial team. Within a few years we managed to translate almost all your books except the *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*.

Then I got married, moved out of the temple, restructured my life, and found a way to become financially self-sufficient. I am now an oncologist, but I have never given up dedicating time to editing your books.

It has been hard, but if one learns to deal with challenges, life becomes easier. I am now working at a prestigious hospital in Denmark. Despite lots of responsibilities and long working hours, I still work on your books. Serving your books is my innermost passion.

Luckily, Kṛṣṇa has sent me inspiration in the shape of an elderly professional editor, Rosa, whom I have known since childhood. Rosa still resides in Georgia, is now in her mid eighties, and is as fresh and intellectually sharp as ever. Her editing is wonderful. She has actually become so familiar with your books that she knows the names of Kṛṣṇa's incarnations and the devotees better than the names of her own kinsmen (as she humorously puts it). I always tell her that Kṛṣṇa keeps her fit and won't let her go until we have finished all your books. She is always happy when I tell her that.

We have done many books together—a new edition of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, the entire *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the *Kṛṣṇa* book, and a few smaller books—and we are now working on *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*.

Currently, not many books are being distributed in my country, but this hasn't deterred us. We simply want to make the books available, knowing that eventually they will find their way into the hands of the thoughtful people of Georgia. Your books are Deities; they will find their readers.

Even though I am a scientist and have respect for scientific progress and achievement, I always remember Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the biggest scientist of all. I have learned about Him only from your books. Nowhere else is Kṛṣṇa consciousness so directly, devotionally, and convincingly explained, and no other service is more ecstatic than the service of translating and editing your books. Your books bring us closer to Kṛṣṇa. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Every single day I meet cancer patients, many of whom won't live much longer. Until I have my own clinic, I am unfortunately not allowed to openly tell them everything I have learned from you about life after death, yet every now and then I manage to indirectly tell them what I know about reincarnation and encourage them to think about it. I hope that in the future I will have more opportunities to speak openly to them about spiritual life and you and your books.

I once had a patient who was about my age. He had had a malignant melanoma but had been free of cancer for some years. We became good friends, and he often visited me. He was quite shy by nature, but he felt comfortable whenever we met. At one point I told him I was a Kṛṣṇa devotee and gave him a copy of your *Bhagavad-gītā* in Danish. We stayed in touch for some years after that.

Then some months passed without my hearing from him. I finally picked up the phone and called him. His wife answered. She told me my friend had passed away. "Why didn't you let me know the cancer had returned? I would have loved to see him before he died," I said.

She told me he hadn't wanted to disturb me, but she said he had been fond of reading the *Gītā* and had spent a lot of time with the text. She said it had given him courage. I am sure his next life will be a great success!

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, my eternal well-wisher and master.

Your humble servants at the North European offices of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust.

(written by Nandapriya Dāsa)

