

HOMAGES FROM ISKCON CENTERS



Allahabad

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

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

Golden Jubilee of the Golden Age

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this momentous occasion—your Vyāsa-pūjā day during the year in which we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness—we offer our humble obeisances unto your lotus feet and pray for your mercy to further carry on your divine mission.

Five thousand years ago, Śrī Kṛṣṇa spoke the *Bhagavad-gītā* to deliver mankind from the darkness of nescience; five hundred years ago He appeared as Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu to teach the process of pure devotional service based on the chanting of the Holy Name; and fifty years ago Your Divine Grace established ISKCON to propagate Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world.

As stated at *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.1.12, What is the use of living thousands of years without Kṛṣṇa consciousness? Better to live a moment in full Kṛṣṇa consciousness, for that gives one a start in searching after one’s supreme interest. Along the same lines, what ISKCON has achieved in a mere fifty years is far more valuable than hundreds of years of propaganda by godless, materialistic, impersonalistic, nondevotional organizations. As predicted in the Vedic literature and confirmed by Your Divine Grace in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 8.5.23, within the dark Age of Kali there will be a period of ten thousand years where Kṛṣṇa consciousness will spread all over the world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, an essential event in that ten-thousand-year spread of Kṛṣṇa consciousness was your founding of ISKCON in July 1966 in New York City. Therefore this year we are celebrating ISKCON’s Golden Jubilee, the fiftieth anniversary of your founding the movement.

The Vedic programs Your Divine Grace inaugurated in the Western countries through ISKCON—such as *harināma saṅkīrtana*, book distribution, Deity worship, *prasādam* distribution, and cow protection—are ever expanding. In the early 1970s, when you brought a party of your early disciples to India, the Indian people became inspired to take up their own culture by seeing your “dancing white elephants” lead by example. Just as Kṛṣṇa killed all those demons opposed to Him, your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement has overcome many obstacles put in its path by demoniac forces and has continued to grow. Even in India propagation of Vedic culture has become very difficult because of the Indians’ embrace of modernization, but still ISKCON has been able to bring many thousands of Indian people back to their original Vedic culture. Through youth groups such as ISKCON Youth Forum, the educated younger generation is being guided toward Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the prime of their valuable human lives. And through congregational programs as Bhakti-vriksha, families are also being inspired to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness. And Nama-ḥaṭṭa and *padayātrā* programs have been immensely successful in bringing villagers to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Apart from this year’s marking fifty years of ISKCON, this year is also significant in connection with the temple construction in Śrīdhām Māyāpur. Many years of dedicated service by your disciples to fulfill your vision for the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium is bearing fruit. As per your desire, ISKCON has become “the United Nations of the spiritual world,” with devotees from over a hundred nations attending this year’s Gaura Pūrṇimā festival. Not only will the TOVP attract people from around the world by its splendor, but it will also educate them about *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*’s teachings on cosmography and thereby defeat the modern so-called scientists, who are cheating the innocent public with their imaginary theories.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the list of ISKCON's—and thus your—accomplishments is endless, and therefore just as one may honor Mother Gaṅgā by offering her water back to her, we would like to conclude by offering you your own prediction for the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, which you made in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.28.31:

As far as we are concerned, we have already started the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, and many thousands of Europeans and Americans have joined this movement. Indeed, it is spreading like wildfire. The cult of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, based on the nine principles of devotional service, . . . will never be stopped. It will go on without distinction of caste, creed, color, or country. No one can check it.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg you to bless us so we will become qualified to become instruments in your hands for the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare
Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare

Your servants at ISKCON Allahabad, India.

Amritsar

Respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet, which are like an oasis providing shelter and solace to conditional souls like us, who are suffering in the blazing heat of the desertlike material world. All glories to the blessed Vyāsa-pūjā *mahotsava*, the appearance day of Your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as your grandchildren, we have full faith in your instructions. You are a direct manifestation of the mercy of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu upon the fallen souls. Since 1996 we have been preaching here in Amritsar, and only by your mercy have we been able to establish two centers in this city. More and more people here are taking to Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We definitely feel that such rapid growth of Kṛṣṇa consciousness is simply the fructification of the seed you planted when you visited Amritsar in 1970 to attend the Nirmal Swami Vedanta Sammelan. It is only by your mercy that our meager efforts are having some success. On this glorious Vyāsa-pūjā day during the 50th-anniversary-year of your great ISKCON, we re-commit ourselves to staying under the shelter of your divine lotus feet and carrying out your orders throughout our lives with full honesty and conviction.

Your unworthy grandchildren at the ISKCON temples in Amritsar, India.

Athens

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Fifty years ago you formally established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, a society that is still expanding and developing according to your instructions.

You called your newly registered legal entity an “international society” because, although at the time it consisted of only a little storefront in New York City, you envisioned it one day reaching far beyond the limited boundaries of any nation. You intended your society to be far different than any ordinary society. The word *society* indicates an organized group of people that stick together because they have something in common and associate with one another in a specific time and space. What binds together the members of the International Society for Krishna consciousness is our love for you and Lord Kṛṣṇa.

On this occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would like to thank you for changing our lives, liberating us from so many bad habits, and teaching us how to live with a divine attitude. And how much more we have to learn!

We aspire to become better servants of you and your Society. This is our only aspiration.

Your servants at ISKCON Athens, Greece.

Austin

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śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnīti nāmine*

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Grateful to Be Prabhupāda’s Monkeys

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances in the sacred dust of your divine lotus feet on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

The service you have engaged us in is absolutely amazing. Previously, as far as we knew, life existed only on this planet earth. We thought that the rest of the universe was uninhabited. We did not know that every planet in the universe is inhabited, even the sun. And now you have engaged us in a mission for delivering all the conditioned souls throughout the entire universe. In this connection, in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, one of your many gifts to us, we find this wonderful prayer by Prahlāda Mahārāja:

*svasty astu viśvasya khalah prasīdatāṁ
dhyāyantu bhūtāni śivam mitho dhiyā*

*manaś ca bhadrāṁ bhajatād adhokṣaje
āveśyatām no matir apy ahaitukī*

“May there be good fortune throughout the universe, and may all envious persons be pacified. May all living entities become calm by practicing *bhakti-yoga*, for by accepting devotional service they will think of each other’s welfare. Therefore let us all engage in the service of the supreme transcendence, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and always remain absorbed in thought of Him.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.18.9)

How amazing it is that while we have a hard enough time getting our minds out of the gutter of material sense gratification and fixing them on Kṛṣṇa, at the same time you are engaging us in a spiritual revolution for Krishnizing the entire universe. How is this possible? This reminds us of Lord Rāma’s engaging the monkeys in building a bridge of floating stones across the ocean, from India to Laṅkā. By the divine potency of Lord Rāma, such a miracle was possible.

If we examine our own spiritual position, our own spiritual potency, we must conclude that we have none. But you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are a spotlessly pure devotee whom Śrī Kṛṣṇa has invested with the potency to deliver the entire universe. Just as Lord Rāma engaged his monkey army to build a bridge over the Indian Ocean so He could enter Laṅkā, now you have engaged us monkey servants to build a bridge called ISKCON, started in 1966, by which all the conditioned souls in this universe can cross over the Virajā River and enter into the spiritual world. We are indeed grateful to be “Prabhupāda’s monkeys” so we can assist you in creating this most sublime spiritual revolution in the history of the universe.

Your monkey servants at ISKCON Austin, Texas, USA.

(written by Saṅkarṣaṇa Dāsa Adhikārī)

Baltimore

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you.

This year we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of ISKCON. So many programs will be organized all over the world in your honor. But we are still mesmerized at how at such an advanced age, and almost penniless, you came to the West and conquered not only here but the world over. This is only possible for a devotee who is empowered by Lord Caitanya to spread His glories. Śrī Prabhupāda, you are that empowered devotee who has changed and are continuing to change the lives of millions of people all over the world through your *vāṇī*, your words, in the form of your books..

At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.7.6 it is said:

*anarthopāśamaṁ sākṣād bhakti-yogam adhokṣaje
lokasyājānato vidvāṁś cakre sāvata-saṁhitām*

“The material miseries of the living entity, which are superfluous to him, can be directly mitigated by the linking process of devotional service. But the mass of people do not know this, and therefore the learned

Vyāsadeva compiled this Vedic literature [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*], which is in relation to the Supreme Truth.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are more merciful than any other *ācārya*, for you brought this linking process of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* into the lives of so many people in Kali-yuga. Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu was so merciful to you that He kept this task of preaching in the West for you to accomplish in the future.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your position is so special that you were hand-picked by Lord Kṛṣṇa to spread the teachings of *Śrīmad Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* throughout the whole planet. This is being done through your books, which are your most important and lasting contribution. The Bhaktivedanta purports are your “emotional ecstasies,” and just by reading them one can understand your special position. Certainly the message of the *Gītā* and *Bhāgavatam* is difficult for our tiny brains to digest, but by the mercy of your timeless, classic Bhaktivedanta purports one can understand everything completely, without any doubt. Devotees should read and re-read your *Gītā* and *Bhāgavatam*, for in your Bhaktivedanta purports one will find new insights every time. Your purports are so amazing that they can transform the lives of anyone who reads them receptively.

You are a true carrier of the mercy of all the previous *ācāryas*, and you are the foremost of all of them. It was truly said during your Centennial celebrations that there was never an *ācārya* like you in the past and there will never be an *ācārya* like you in the future. There is not the slightest doubt regarding this.

This year is very special for us here in Baltimore. This year we will celebrate not only the fiftieth anniversary of your incorporation of ISKCON but also the fortieth anniversary of your visit to New Kulīnagrāma *dhāma*, the Baltimore *yātrā*. This year also marks the fortieth year of our worshipping our dearest Lordships—Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadra. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we want to celebrate this special year in honor of all those special moments by offering our new temple to our dearest Deities and to your good self this year.

Śrī Prabhupāda, please empower us so that we can make this temple a *saṅkīrtana* sanctuary, with lots of book distribution and preaching.

Our true offering to you will be when we can study, understand, follow, and distribute your books and share with others what has been bestowed upon us.

Sincerely in your service,

Your devotees at ISKCON Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

Baroda

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances unto the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in many of your lectures you explain that the appearance of a bona fide guru in the life of a conditioned soul is solely to manifest the greatest fortune for that soul. It is through the mercy of Lord Kṛṣṇa that one gets a bona fide guru, and by following the guru’s instructions and serving him sincerely one gets Lord Kṛṣṇa and thus attains the perfection of life.

With the passage of time we are seeing that in this Age of Kali there are so many agents of Kali who come in the garb of gurus and then cheat their so-called disciples. By seeing this pitiful situation, we

consider ourselves so fortunate that you, the most merciful *ācārya*, appeared in our lives to purify our vision and enlighten us with the torchlight of knowledge.

This year we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of your establishing the ISKCON movement in New York City. After you had done this, within a short span of eleven years you opened one hundred and eight temples worldwide, traveled the whole world twelve times, initiated thousands of disciples all over the world, and wrote dozens of books. Because of your incredible courage in traveling to America at the advanced age of sixty-nine to fulfill the instruction of your Guru Mahārāja, the whole earth has become filled with so many Vaiṣṇavas.

You distributed your mercy by continuously traveling all over the world. You mercifully accepted disciples from all over the world and created this most wonderful family of Vaiṣṇavas, the ISKCON *saṅgha*. Your ISKCON is the wonderful boat taking all of us across this ocean of birth and death, and you are the most competent captain of this ship.

During those eleven years you would spend all day preaching, distributing your mercy to whoever came to see you, and during the early-morning hours you would extend this mercy to all people of the world for all time by dictating your books. You took on these great austerities only due to your pure love and limitless compassion for all the conditioned souls rotting in this material world.

Here at ISKCON Baroda, you have showered your blessings upon us in so many ways.

The Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmsundara Temple is one of the most attractive and magnificent temples in all of Baroda. Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmsundara, Śrī Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadra, and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi are being dressed so gorgeously that many visitors come every day to have Their *darśana* and obtain Their choicest blessings. The temple atmosphere is very serene and spiritually surcharging.

ISKCON Baroda is famous all over the city for arranging gorgeous festivals, such as Śrī Jagannātha Ratha-yatra and Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī. Hundreds of thousands of people come to the temple to have *darśana* and take *prasādam* on these holy days.

Śrī Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā is so famous here that it is being celebrated as the most popular festival of the whole city. Even the people of other religions come to have *darśana* of the Lord, and at several places along the procession they too perform *ārati* for Lord Jagannātha.

Congregational and youth preaching are going on very enthusiastically at your ISKCON Baroda temple. We do *nagara-saṅkīrtana* every Sunday, as well as on some other, special occasions.

By your mercy, the youth of Baroda have started taking a keen interest in the divine message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Nowadays many intelligent youths are attending our programs, and many are sincerely taking up the practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

The Baroda temple organizes many other outreach programs to educate and train society at large in the science and practical application of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Thank you so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for all the many devotional engagements you have given us. By continually engaging in these services, we can very easily escape Māyā's traps.

Although we are trying from our side, we know that all our efforts can be successfully carried out only if you continue to guide us through your books, disciples, and granddisciples. We are very weak and prone to go astray, but we have hope that just by trying to follow the path you have so mercifully shown us we will surely reach our desired destination—eternal engagement in pure loving service for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmsundara and Their dear devotees.

Please make us your instruments in fulfilling your desire to spread Lord Caitanya's mercy to every town and village.

Your servants at the Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmsundara Mandir, ISKCON Baroda, India.

(written by Vaiṣṇavī Dāsa Brahmācārī)

Berlin

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your feet.

Recently we watched a video of you performing the *ārati* ceremony for the Deities of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and then circumambulating Them, together with many of your disciples. Every gesture and glance of yours conveyed exclusive and intense loving absorption in Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa on the altar. At the end of the circumambulation you raised your arms and started to dance and jump enthusiastically, your eyes remaining fixed on Them.

Everyone around you could not help but do the same. Who can imagine the ecstasy felt by those devotees at this time?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, kindly be present for us, too. Kindly guide and enthuse us so that we may become absorbed in trying to give Kṛṣṇa pleasure. Only this can create the divine atmosphere of loving devotional service that will completely transform us and also attract and transform those we are trying to reach out to. Kindly also continue to inspire your dear disciples and other dear followers to visit us, so that we can learn about devotional service from them.

Your aspiring servants in Berlin, Germany.

Brahmapur

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nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

On this auspicious occasion of your appearance day we feel proud to be a part of Lord Caitanya's army, fighting against Māyā under your command. In this journey of preaching your message, many join us and many leave us. But we have realized that, seemingly against all odds, your desire for Kṛṣṇa consciousness to continue to be spread will be fulfilled.

The temple construction is continuing, and the three main domes are complete. Hopefully this year we will be able to complete the ornamental work. To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of your founding ISKCON, we have organized events for children and youths, such as a *Gītā śloka* competition and skits. For your pleasure we are planning to rent a book stall in the Brahmapur Railway station to increase book distribution.

We cannot fully fathom your unlimited glories. We hope time will unfold them to us as we sincerely serve according to your instructions and with a cooperative spirit. Once again, thank you very much for giving us the safe and strong boat of ISKCON to cross over this vicious Age of Kali.

Your eternal servants at ISKCON Brahmapur, India.

Budapest

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you!

On this glorious day of your appearance, in the name of your Budapest family of devotees I would like to thank you for the sacrifice you made for us and to summarize how we are trying to express our gratitude for all your gifts and sacrifices.

You gave up your personal comfort, the prospect of a peaceful retirement in Vṛndāvana, and, despite your advanced age, left India on a perilous journey to the Western world, cherishing your spiritual master's instructions in your heart. Your journey was long, uncertain, and tiresome, but you reached your goal, for you live even now in the hearts of millions of devotees. You took up residence in our hearts and, by your love, you are still keeping your huge global family together. Clearly, these spiritual ties were forged by Kṛṣṇa Himself, and you were a wonderful tool in His hands, collecting us together.

Wherever we go on this planet, yours is a household name: your books, your knowledge, your mercy toward all living beings, and your devotion are expanding unlimitedly, and wherever they take root, they stay and never leave. Wherever we go, we see that your books are read, your temples are full, and the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* is being chanted. We have been caught by you in the net produced by your blissful devotion to your beloved Lord. This makes us one family, with a common, loving grandfather.

You are also here with us in Budapest. We are fortunate, for you engage us in your service under conditions that are very favorable for preaching. This year is the tenth year that Śrī Śrī Dayāl Nitāi Vijaya Gaurāṅga have occupied Their wonderful onyx altar, with a very well-equipped crystal-clean *pūjārī* room behind. For ten years now your aspiring followers have been able to practice their *sādhana* under very pleasant conditions, the temple administrators have had proper facilities, and there have been first-class buildings available for preaching and education. One measure of success of our main temple in Budapest is that an increasing number of residents regularly frequent our restaurant for daily *prasādam*. Your *saṅkīrtana* soldiers cannot be checked in distributing your mercy daily in this big city, and the temple sees hundreds and hundreds of visitors at festivals and programs where Vedic knowledge and related skills are distributed at various lectures and courses. Your restaurants throughout the city help hundreds of people get satisfaction and spiritual advancement every day and are bases for successful preaching and *bhajana* programs that attract many people to a full house. The blissful *harināma* parties go everywhere in the city, and the popular *prasādam* distribution program is feeding *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* to nearly two thousand people every day, attracting favorable publicity in the media.

These are our main efforts to satisfy you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We know you desire continuous and unlimited growth, and we are not satisfied with the results achieved so far. This year, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of your ISKCON, we plan to have a book distribution marathon that will produce greater results than ever. Please be with us, bless our plans and aspirations, encourage us, and allow us to serve you now that we have the privilege of your auspicious association.

Your servants in Budapest, Hungary.

(written by Gāndharvikā-prema Devī Dāsī)

Canberra

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your divine devotional service. All glories to Guru and Gaurāṅga.

Please accept *daṇḍavat praṇāmas* from your aspiring servants at ISKCON Canberra, Australia. By your mercy, The local ISKCON group—composed of your disciples, granddisciples, friends, and well-wishers—is growing due to the efforts of a core group of your sincere servants. Inspired by your directions, we have established a number of regular programs, such as Friday night city *harināmas*, Nāma-haṭṭa programs at the residences of congregation members, Bhakti-Vriksha programs hosted at the temple, *kīrtana* programs at universities, and regular temple programs. We continue to observe Vaiṣṇava festivals with great enthusiasm. Last year we hosted a record number of guests during Janmāṣṭamī and had to hire an external facility to accommodate such a large crowd. This year we participated in the Canberra Multi-Cultural Festival by performing a Ratha-yātrā for the pleasure of our beloved Lordships—Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā. We distributed *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* and your books during this festival and received honored guests from the highest level of the local government. The *āśrama* devotees continue to work tirelessly to help raise funds to maintain the temple, deliver *prasādam* twice-weekly in our Food-for-Life programs, and distribute your books.

We continue to devise new ways of distributing the chanting of Kṛṣṇa's holy names to as many residents of Canberra as possible. We pray for your blessings so that we may remain united and take your instructions to heart. Please give us your mercy so that we may continue following your instructions and remain fixed under your lotus feet, because we know that doing so will keep us in the cool shade of *bhakti* and away from *māyā*.

Again and again we remind ourselves of the gigantic risks you took to spread the chanting of Kṛṣṇa's names through every town, country, and village on this planet. We remember your severe trials on the journey to America, and how can we ever forget the moment you stepped off the *Jaladuta* onto foreign soil? Although alone, you were armed with your books, your commitment to carry out Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī's orders, and your sublime consciousness fixed on the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. These pastimes of yours are completely transcendental and so potent that anyone who hears them becomes a devotee of Kṛṣṇa. Let the memories of your wonderful deeds remain with us for all generations to come.

Please forgive our offenses and give us the strength to carry forward this wonderful *saṅkīrtana* movement inaugurated by Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Praying at your lotus feet, we remain

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON Canberra, Australia.

Chandigarh

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble and most respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories unto you

and your all-loving followers in the disciplic succession.

Once again, thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for offering us this opportunity to reflect upon some of your wonderful qualities. The sky is limitlessly high, but it is the duty of the bird to fly as high as it can, as per its empowerment by the Lord; similarly, it will never be possible for us to glorify you as much as you deserve, but we should make an effort, as per our capacity. May this effort please Śrī Kṛṣṇa and His devotees!

In one of your lectures Your Divine Grace remarks, “This very word *kṛṣṇa* means ‘all-attractive.’ You can attract [Kṛṣṇa] by your love, not by anything else.” In this offering of ours, we will try to reflect upon this essential foundational principle of our practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness: One can attract Kṛṣṇa only by love, and nothing else.

Of course, there are different levels of devotional service according to the motivation of the practitioner. One may serve Kṛṣṇa out of fear or to receive something in return, or one may render service out of a sense of duty, etc. But these motivations preclude rendering loving devotional service to Kṛṣṇa. Loving devotional service, in simple terms, means rendering service to Kṛṣṇa only out of loving feelings for Him. In such service one serves the beloved simply to please the beloved; the goal is just the pleasure of the beloved and nothing else.

Sometimes, to illustrate the standard of pure devotion you told the story of Kṛṣṇa pretending to get a headache. Kṛṣṇa said the only medicine that could cure His headache was the application of dust from the feet of His devotees on His forehead. Fearing that they would go to hell for allowing their foot-dust to touch Kṛṣṇa’s head, none of the devotees were ready to give their foot-dust—until the *gopīs* were asked. They readily agreed, even if it meant they would go to hell, because they had genuine selfless love for Śrī Kṛṣṇa and thus their only concern was His welfare.

In genuine love, one’s thoughts are absorbed in meeting the interests of the beloved, not one’s own interests.

Our mission, as per your teachings, is to propagate through ISKCON such pure loving devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa. How to put this into practice? In other words, Śrīla Prabhupāda, how did you accomplish this mission?

You explain the process in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.32:

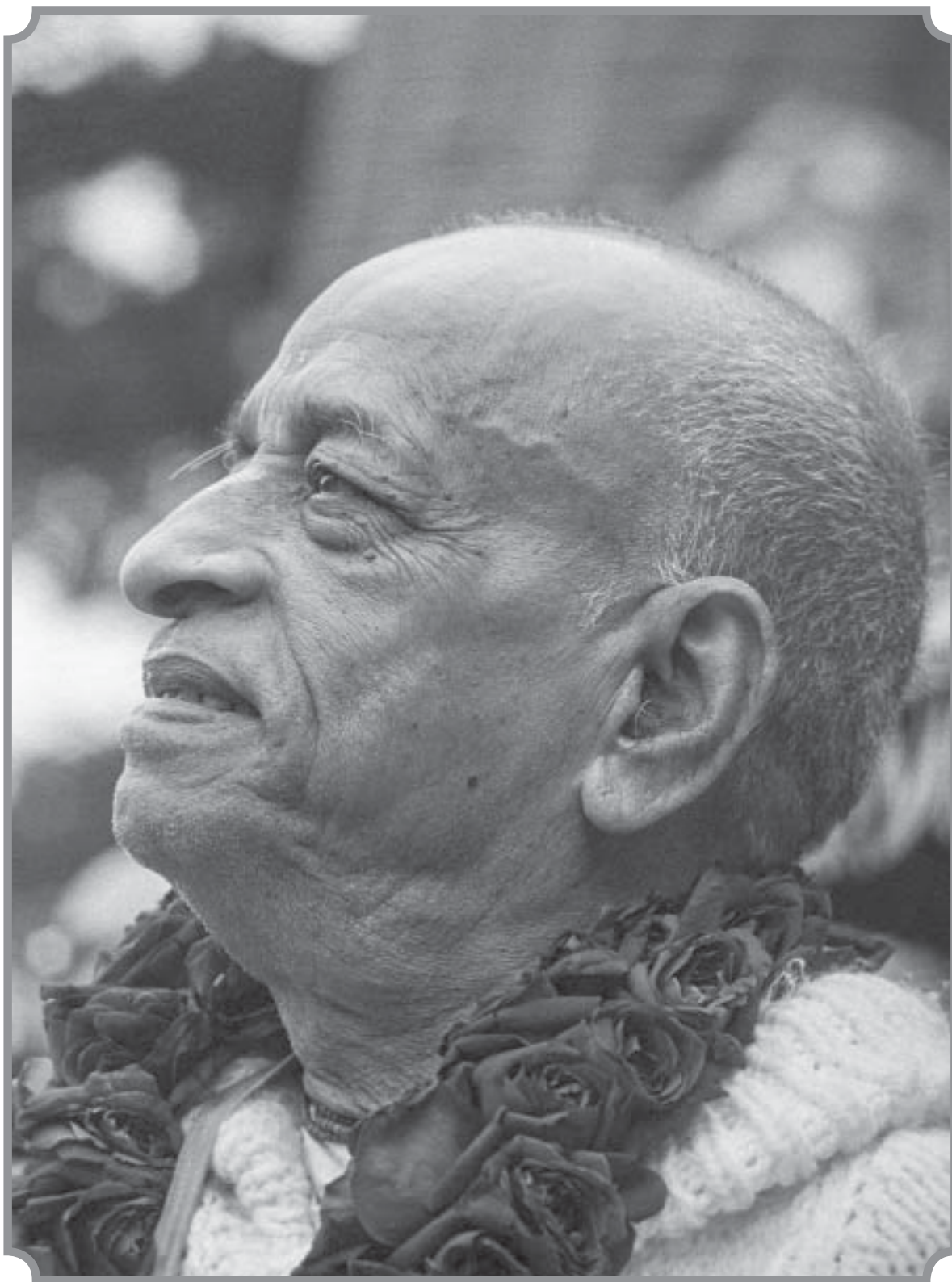
The Lord can be realized through the aural reception of the transcendental message, and that is the only way to experience the transcendental subject. As fire is kindled from wood by another fire, the divine consciousness of man can similarly be kindled by another divine grace. His Divine Grace the spiritual master can kindle the spiritual fire from the woodlike living entity by imparting proper spiritual messages injected through the receptive ear. Therefore one is required to approach the proper spiritual master with receptive ears only, and thus divine existence is gradually realized. The difference between animality and humanity lies in this process only. A human being can hear properly, whereas an animal cannot.

Lord Caitanya confirms this truth in the following famous verse, part of His teachings to Sanātana Gosvāmī:

*nitya-siddha kṛṣṇa-prema ‘sādhya’ kabhu naya
śravaṇādi-śuddha-citte karaye udaya*

“Pure love for Kṛṣṇa is eternally established in the hearts of the living entities. It is not something to be gained from another source. When the heart is purified by hearing and chanting, this love naturally awakens.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya* 22.107)

So to awaken the love for Kṛṣṇa lying dormant within the heart of every living entity, one needs to make that pure love available through the medium of pure glorification of Kṛṣṇa’s holy names, qualities, pastimes, teachings, etc.



This is how you accomplished your mission: You awarded everyone the chance to experience pure *kṛṣṇa-kīrtana*, *kṛṣṇa-kathā*, and *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*, and everyone felt nourished. Whether you were among the hippies on New York’s Lower East Side or at Bhaktivedanta Manor or in Śrī Vṛndāvana *dhāma*—no matter where in the world you were, your program was very simple, clear, and natural: chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* and hearing the *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* daily.

The lack of qualifications of your audience didn’t matter to you. You were fully aware of the disqualifications that Kali-yuga imposes on everyone:

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

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

Or, in your own words:

*rajas tamo guṇe erā sabāi ācchanna
bāsudeb-kathā ruci nahe se prasanna*

“Most of the population here is covered by the material modes of ignorance and passion. Absorbed in material life, they think themselves very happy and satisfied, and therefore they have no taste for the transcendental message of Vāsudeva. I do not know how they will be able to understand it.” (*Mārkine Bhāgavata-dharma* 3)

However, the potency of *kṛṣṇa-kathā* emanating from the lips of a pure devotee is much greater than the strength of any *anarthas* within the hearts of the people of Kali-yuga. Again, in your own words:

*bhāgavater kathā se taba avatār
dhīra haiyā śune jadi kāne bār bār*

“The words of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* are Your incarnation, and if a sober person repeatedly receives it with submissive aural reception, then he will be able to understand Your message.”

So on one hand there are the condemned people of Kali-yuga, and on the other hand there is the potent medicine of the Holy Name and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. The critical factor is the qualified doctor who can inject this medicine:

By cultivating spiritual knowledge, we can realize that we have nothing to do with all this material paraphernalia. Then at once we become free from material attachment. This clearance of the misgivings of material existence at once takes place by association with the Lord’s devotees, who are able to inject the transcendental sound into the depths of the bewildered heart and thus make one practically liberated from all lamentation and illusion. That is a summary of the pacifying measures for those affected by the reaction of stringent material laws, exhibited in the forms of birth, death, old age, and disease, which are insoluble factors of material existence. [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.8.4]

As this fire of pure chanting and recitation, carefully administered by the Lord’s devotees, enters the receptive ears of the woodlike living entities, the fire within comes out. Due to your pure love for Śrī Kṛṣṇa, your love for the living entities was selfless and spiritual. The consequential loving exchanges, topped by distribution of pure *kṛṣṇa-kathā*, *kṛṣṇa-kīrtana*, and *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*, empowered your followers to go beyond all their conditionings, evaporated their *anarthas*, and inspired them to happily reciprocate your love by abiding by your instructions. Fifty years ago this transformation initiated by Your Divine Grace resulted in the formation of the worldwide ISKCON movement.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for pouring down this pure love of Kṛṣṇa upon all of us through your pure followers and thus inspiring us to embrace Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Since up till today your genuine followers are continuing the same program you gave, we are now celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of your founding ISKCON.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, in this Golden Jubilee Year please bless us so that we may uphold the tenets of the spiritual program you gave: the pure platform of hearing and sharing *kṛṣṇa-kathā* and chanting of the Holy Names. Let us be attracted by the love experienced through sharing the Holy Names and *kṛṣṇa-kathā*, and may we attract others to come to the same platform. Let us not get bewildered by the illusory potency of the Lord in its various names and forms, within or without, and may we preserve the purity given by Your Divine Grace.

By your mercy and blessings and the guidance of senior Vaiṣṇavas, your center in Chandigarh is stable and progressing steadily. The preaching is expanding. Keeping in view your invaluable instructions that education and training are essential for the stability and growth of our society, we take special care to regularly conduct various courses and seminars. Last year fifty-two devotees attended the Bhakti Shastri Course conducted in Hindi by the Māyāpur Institute. Also, we held an ISKCON Disciple Course (IDC), taught by a senior, experienced Vaiṣṇava, which seventy devotees took advantage of. This year, instead of our usual six Ratha-yātrās we held seven. We also held six Shobha-yātrās (mini Ratha-yātrās), which were highly appreciated and well attended. A qualified engineer has joined our temple as a full-time *brahmacārī*.

Also, a big built-up temple was handed over to us for preaching purposes in Panchkula, a town about six miles from Chandigarh. Our GBC and the local devotees worked very hard to get this preaching place. During the December marathon we distributed thirty thousand *Bhagavad-gītās* and *Kṛṣṇa* books, which were the most in our temple category (small). One more BACE was opened near an Engineering College in Himachal Pradesh. Now we have six BACEs near important Engineering Colleges in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Union Territory of Chandigarh. We conduct regular spiritual courses every week for young boys, young girls, and *grhasthas*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, kindly continue showering your mercy upon us so that we may continue serving your mission for our whole lives. And once again, please accept our humble and respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet.

Thank you.

The fortunate recipients of your mercy at ISKCON Chandigarh, India.

Chennai

My beloved grand-spiritual-master, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to all Vaiṣṇavas. Hare Kṛṣṇa!

On this day, your especially glorious appearance day during the Golden Jubilee year celebrating your founding the ISKCON Society fifty years ago, I thank you very much for helping me get onto the transcendental boat of your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement.

In my younger years I used to read many *Bhagavad-gītās* in an effort to understand that profound book. But I never understood it clearly. But when I got your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* in December of 1982, I became completely blissful, for it answered all my questions with its meticulous word-by-word meanings and your brilliant purports. I love this book. I am ever indebted to you. I cannot fully express my gratitude

to you. Please bless me so I may help you in your movement for the rest of my life.

Here are a few of the important instructions I learned from your books:

1. One should learn everything “as it is.” No interpretation. This approach helps one know the Absolute Truth.

2. If one wants to buy pure gold, one must first know the qualities of gold. This protects one from getting cheated while buying pure gold. Similarly, one should know the qualities of God to protect one from being cheated by some fool who claims to be God.

3. One should apply the formula *sādhu-śāstra-guru-vākya, cittete kariyā aikya*: “One should accept as one’s guide the words of the *sādhus*, the *śāstra*, and the *guru*.” This formula protects one from deviating from the *paramparā*.

4. The essence of our movement is preaching. Kṛṣṇa likes a preacher the most. To become a perfect preacher, one needs to adopt this formula: “Your books are the basis, utility is the principle, purity is the force, and preaching is the essence.” Living by this formula helps one become a pure devotee.

5. One should not become a *prākṛta-bhakta*, a materialistic devotee. In other words, one should follow the rules and regulations in order to become purified and to advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, not out of some material motive. Living by this principle also helps one to become a pure devotee.

6. One should not bypass the spiritual master and try to serve the Supreme Lord directly. This attempt violates a central principle of Vaiṣṇavism enunciated by *guru, sādhu, and śāstra*: “By the mercy of Kṛṣṇa one gets the *guru*, and by the mercy of the *guru* one gets Kṛṣṇa.” Only by observing this principle rigidly can we hope to go back home, back to Godhead.

7. A bona fide spiritual master is an extraordinary person because he has seen the truth. He in turn shows that truth to his disciples. Understanding this truth protects one from deviating from the *paramparā*.

8. It is not enough to get a bona fide *guru*; one should also try to become a bona fide disciple. One should accept the instructions of his *guru* as his life and soul. This practice helps the disciple in turn become a bona fide spiritual master.

My dear Śrīla Prabhupāda! I am like an insignificant insect. I do not know how I can help you in your magnanimous mission. Without your mercy it will be impossible for me to do so by using my abilities, strength, intelligence, power, etc. But with your causeless mercy I will be able to successfully do so.

Hence, herewith I beg at your lotus feet to shower your causeless mercy up on me so that I can please you, my *dīkṣā-guru* and Kṛṣṇa.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to all Vaiṣṇavas!

Thank you very much.

Your servants at ISKCON Chennai, India.

(written by Parameśvara Dāsa)

China

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

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

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. On this most auspicious and sublime day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I offer prayers to you on behalf of the devotees in China. All glories to you and your auspicious appearance day! All glories to Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement!

At *Bhagavad-gītā* 3.21 Lord Kṛṣṇa says, "Whatever action a great man performs, common men follow. And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues." You are such a great person who sets standards by exemplary acts for the fallen souls to pursue.

When you left Lord Kṛṣṇa's most sacred land of Śrī Vṛndāvana in 1965, you went to the sinful West to fulfill your spiritual master's order. You then spent twelve years spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to all parts of the world. This great achievement is unparalleled. Only an especially empowered representative of God could perform such a miracle and save the world.

You established ISKCON, such a big spiritual family, and you well prepared all kinds of plans for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Although some of them were not completed during your time with us, you wrote them down or told them to your intimate disciples so that your granddisciples and future generations of devotees can complete them, all the while remaining dependent on your mercy.

The longer one lives in this big spiritual family, the more happiness one can feel. This is especially true of us Chinese devotees. After joining this big family, we deeply feel your mercy. Even long after your departure, you are still taking care of us, your youngest children, through your instructions and your representatives. In this way we are making progress step by step, and gradually we are catching up to our predecessors in all the other countries. With your kind guidance as the founder-*ācārya* and our foremost *śikṣā-guru*, and under the protection of all the ISKCON gurus and the visiting senior devotees, the Chinese devotees are making a great effort to study your books and preach according to the direction of the senior visionary Vaiṣṇava leaders. In this way we are confident that Kṛṣṇa consciousness will flourish in China, just as it has in the other successful *yātrās* around the world. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we hope not to be unworthy of your mercy and expectations.

This year we will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of your founding the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, the worldwide spiritual organization whose only purpose is to provide the highest benefit for human society and provide shelter for the worldwide community of Vaiṣṇavas. Fifty years is not a long time, and yet so much has been accomplished. And needless to say, each and every one of us in the Chinese *yātrā* is honored to be playing our small part in your mission.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you wrote a glorious chapter in world history during the short twelve years you traveled the world tirelessly, preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness and nurturing ISKCON. During that time and since then you have touched millions of hearts. Following in your footsteps, we continue to write that history, sustained by your inspiring guidance and instructions. We are like children offering back to the father what we have borrowed from the father.

From the pioneer days in China, when we could only privately meet in small apartments for association, to the present day, when we are able to present countless public programs where hundreds of enthusiastic people chant and dance, a lot of hard work and perseverance have gone into devotees' endeavors to please you. But that is not all. For the fiftieth anniversary of your ISKCON Society we wish to offer you a long garland of hundreds of enthusiastic Chinese Vaiṣṇavas, who are now getting trained to be great preachers and educators. We have the Chinese BBT, which has produced and legally registered your *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, and many small books. All across the country, more and more people are buying your books. Your expert devotee scholars are also cultivating the field of academia. Important books are being presented to Chinese scholars to establish the concept of Vedic culture based on your teachings.

This year we wish to offer you two major projects, one in Shanghai and one in Beijing. The former is a very nice new cultural center, and the latter is a very large temple complex, complete with *āśrama* facilities and an educational center for seminars and retreats. Last but not least, July will see the very first National Yātrā festival, with many senior devotees and hundreds of Chinese devotees coming together to glorify Your Divine Grace.

Now nothing can check the flood of devotion to Lord Kṛṣṇa and His holy names spreading across this vast land. Once it was called the Middle Kingdom, a land where kings were known as the representatives of heaven. Now, by your mercy we can establish the highest kingdom by placing Lord Kṛṣṇa in the center of everyone's life and recognizing you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as His ambassador.

Please continue to protect us and bless us so we can continue helping you spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness successfully in China!

Once again we offer our humble obeisances unto your lotus feet!

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

All glories to your Chinese *yātrā*!

All glories to ISKCON's fiftieth anniversary!

Your servants in Mainland China.

(written by Sandhini Devī Dāsī)

Churriana

My dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

*om̐ ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-salākayā
cakṣur unmilitarī yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your loving lotus feet. All glories to all the Vaiṣṇavas.

This year, 2016, is such an important year for all the devotees of Kṛṣṇa in the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, because it was fifty years ago, on July 13th, 1966, that you founded this magnificent Society for the benefit of all human beings for all times, past, present and future.

No one—past, present, or future—can estimate the immense value of the incredible gift you have given to all of us. What started in a small storefront at 26 Second Avenue, on New York's Lower East Side, has today taken on mammoth dimensions, with more than 650 centers all round the world, including in such major cities as London, New York, Paris, Los Angeles, Durban, Mumbai, New Delhi, and Moscow.

Besides these centers, there are 65 farms and eco-villages, 54 educational institutions, and 110 vegetarian Hare Kṛṣṇa restaurants. Additional statistics, as of August 2015, follow:

ISKCON has about 75,000 initiated devotees; 7 million worshipers annually attend ISKCON centers; 516 million books have published by BBT and distributed worldwide; 3 billion plates of sanctified vegetarian meals (*prasādam*) have been served worldwide; 1.2 million plates of sanctified vegetarian meals are served daily to the Indian children as part of the "Midday Meal" or "Annamrita" program run by ISKCON's Food Relief Foundation; 1,000 *harināma* chanting parties go out onto streets worldwide every week; 6,000 Vaiṣṇava festivals are held every year in ISKCON centers—festivals such as Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī, Gaura Pūrṇimā, Rāma Navamī, and Śrī Jagannātha Ratha-yātrā; Padayātrā devotees have walked over 130,000 miles on Padayātrā worldwide, visiting 52,000 villages in 110 countries. And there are so many more achievements that we are unable count.

What was once reserved for only a handful of learned *brāhmaṇas*—the transcendental knowledge of the Absolute Reality, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, including knowledge of His name, abode, pastimes, form, entourage, paraphernalia, etc.—is today easily available to everyone. The only qualification is that one must be a sincere seeker of the truth.

Thanks to the strategically easily accessible ISKCON centers throughout the world, one has to only dedicate some time of his supposedly busy schedule and visit them. And no sooner does one set foot on these premises that, lo and behold, one immediately comes in contact with a completely different realm, a realm uncommon to our material world. The soothing fragrance of the natural incense and fresh flowers hits one's nasal senses, and instantly all the anxieties of the mundane world dissipate, and one starts feeling joyous and jubilant. One generates a hunger for more of such pleasure to satiate his unhappy and ever-dissatisfied senses. And then, when he enters the temple hall and his gaze falls upon with the fascinating forms of the Deities of Śrī Śrī-Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and Śrī Śrī Gaura Nitāi, dazzlingly and expertly dressed in elegant silk garments with delicate embroidery, decorated with fine jewels, garlands of fresh and colorful seasonal flowers, the long lotuslike enchanting eyes, the blooming smile, he, in a flash, gets transferred to the spiritual world, which his soul has been seeking since time immemorial. Hands join together, tears of ecstasy flow from the eyes, and the head bows to touch the floor in a reverential mood. One and all have this experience, irrespective of cast and creed.

Such is the potency of these marvelous ISKCON centers that have been built under your expert guidance and profound Vedic knowledge. There may be many other temples in India and throughout the world, temples constructed exquisitely by many other strong institutions and rich individuals, but the standards of Deity worship and care that you have inculcated in your Society are unparalleled. The success is measured by the outcome. We can see how, to celebrate the festival of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī, hundreds of thousands of people flock to your centers worldwide. All visitors get the heart-satisfying vision of Their Lordships and sumptuous *prasādam*, spiritual food with a special unique taste undiscovered ever before by the material tongue.

Now we come to the point of the books published by you. Profound transcendental knowledge of the Supreme Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and everything related to Him has been presented by you to humanity in 22,000 pages of text in 147 books, including the 18,000 verses of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, 700 verses of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, 11,555 verses of *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, all with their original text, transliterations, word-by-word meanings, translations, and illuminating purports. Great mundane and even Vedic scholars are dumbfounded by your vast knowledge of the spiritual nature, and the entire literary world is fascinated with your lucid explanations of the most intricate mystical subjects. Such erudition has not been achieved even by the greatest authors of past and present times.

Today, due to these inestimable and precious books, even the unscholarly population has mastered the knowledge of God with complete authority and can perfectly challenge many so-called gurus who speak on the *Vedas* with no self-realization or complete understanding of the transcendental nature of the Lord. Even small children studying in your *gurukulas*, age 6 to 8, can recite such highly elevated scriptures as the *Brahma-saṁhitā*, which comprises orations of appreciation of Lord Brahmā, the creator, to Lord Kṛṣṇa. It has become so common to see the general populace—including businessmen, doctors, lawyers, politicians, film actors, fruit and vegetable vendors, taxi drivers, rickshaw drivers, laborers, etc., becoming great Vaiṣṇavas, devotees of Lord Kṛṣṇa, and many of these devotees are simultaneously also preaching to others. This is all due to your kind, magnanimous, unconditional, and unmotivated mercy.

While introspecting, I sometimes wonder what would be the sight of the world today if there were no ISKCON. I just shudder at the thought. Even with ISKCON existing for the last fifty years, there is still so much unruly, undisciplined, and demoniac mentality among the general materialistic people possessed of lust, anger, greed, envy, and false ego. They simply want to obtain some flimsy wealth and power, and so they stoop down to the low animalistic behavior of “might is right.” So we don't really need to imagine what this world would be like without ISKCON: it would be a nightmare. I and my family, along with so many tens of thousands of other families, feel so protected and peaceful under the protection of our grand-spiritual-master—you, Śrīla Prabhupāda—that we have no words to express our gratitude. Our

whole lives have changed. Although coming from various backgrounds, some even more fallen than the *mlecchas* (dog-eaters), we have today learned the art of living like God-men. Our dress, food, language, daily routine, friends, and thoughts are all now so different than the materialists', and we derive so much happiness and pleasure being in that condition.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, it's only thanks to you that today many of us have started living like civilized human beings, or, as you would sometimes say, like "gentlemen." Any devotee unfamiliar with your background would find it difficult to understand why a Vaiṣṇava, already 68 years old, who is perfectly situated in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and living in the best place on earth for Vaiṣṇavas, the holy land of Vṛndāvana, and occupying a room very strategically placed within the premises of the divine temple of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara, with an outstanding view of the a courtyard containing shrines to Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī, and with the kitchen facing the *bhajana-kuṭīra* of Jīva Gosvāmī, the great Vaiṣṇava philosopher and follower of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, who is Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself in the garb of a devotee and with the mood of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī—why such a Vaiṣṇava would want to leave such divine arrangements and go to the West, and especially America, where the youth were absorbed in sense gratification, especially sex and drugs. And you had no money and no contacts whatsoever. For any layman all this would sound insane. But as we, your followers, all know, your love for your spiritual master and determination to carry out his order to preach to the English-speaking people was greater than any possible desire for a comfortable Vaiṣṇava retirement.

Your great pains and efforts to preach in the West have today truly paid off. Your society, ISKCON, has thrived for fifty years now and has grown to such heights of triumph that there is no stopping it. Not only English-speaking countries but all countries around the globe have been flooded with your mercy and love. Many intellectuals, atheists, and even staunch orthodox members of other religions are changing their views and taking to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Devotees in all the ISKCON temples around the world offer prayers to you during morning *guru-pūjā*. But I feel that is not sufficient, for what you have done for all of us and humanity at large cannot be repaid by just simple prayers. We should all pray to be your faithful dogs forever, confident that you will take us back to Godhead, back to Kṛṣṇa.

I am such a tiny and insignificant worthless soul who has gotten the chance to be aboard your ship of ISKCON since 1991. I feel so fortunate, but at times I curse my luck for not being able to have your association earlier. In the early 70s, when you returned to India with your white elephants (American and English devotees) and came to Bombay to build a big temple of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārī in Juhu, I was a young boy of about sixteen staying in Bombay in the area of Bandra, which is less than five miles from Juhu. Just thinking now that you, with great disciples of yours like His Holiness Girirāj Swami and His Holiness Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Goswami, along with many more, were there in Juhu trying to sort out the problems related to the construction of the temple, just five miles from where I was staying, uselessly wasting my youth—this thought makes me feel sick and horrible. I often went strolling on Juhu Beach but was unaware of the building being constructed by the Hare Kṛṣṇas. Though physically I was so near, my destiny was not to personally meet the most glorious person that anyone could hope to meet.

Anyway, as it is said, better late than never. By Lord Kṛṣṇa's grace and your mercy, all my close and extended family members are now initiated devotees under the expert guidance of His Holiness Bhakti Chāru Swami and His Holiness Girirāj Swami. For the past twenty-five years we have all been very closely connected to the ISKCON center established in 1989 in Churriana, Malaga, Spain. Our principal Deities are Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. In all there are about twelve devotees—both *grhasthas* and *brahmacārīs*—living in or near the temple and serving the Deities with great enthusiasm. On Sundays about fifty congregational members visit the temple. We also have a boutique and a small food stall. During festivals like Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī we receive about 700 to 800 guests, mainly local Spaniards and some Indians as well.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us so that we can serve the Lord and your movement more and more up till our last breaths, and also in future births, wherever the Lord wishes to place us. May we continue to have your mercy and never leave your movement and the association of the devotees of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Begging for your mercy once again, we remain

Your most fallen and insignificant servants at ISKCON Churrina, Malaga, Spain.

(written by Vinoda Vihārī Dāsa)

Delhi

Most respected Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet on this auspicious 120th anniversary of your appearance day.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, as you famously revealed once to your disciples, we had no *sukṛti*—our good fortune was all granted by you. In the same way that you mercifully went to the Bowery and transformed hippies into happies, kindly mercifully enter our hearts so we can scrutinizingly study your books—the lawbooks of this world for the next 10,000 years—and imbibe, discuss, and preach them from all angles of vision. Above all, Śrīla Prabhupāda, if you so desire, kindly bless us, your granddisciples, so that we will always live by your Bhaktivedanta purports.

Once in an airport a reporter asked you, “If your movement is so important, why do you have so few followers?” You replied, “Because we have four rules: no illicit sex, no intoxication, no meat-eating, no gambling.” Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, at ISKCON Delhi we seek your blessings so that all temple-resident devotees and congregation members will be inspired to be steadfast in following the four regulative principles for the pleasure of the *guru-paramparā*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your leading disciples gratefully acknowledge that your direct chastisement was your special mercy. Unfortunately, none of us, your granddisciples, will ever be able to benefit from this aspect of your mercy. Therefore, through your innumerable recorded lectures, morning walks, room conversations, and Bhaktivedanta purports, kindly rectify our offenses in our services, in our chanting, and in our mutual relationships. Here in Delhi we are blessed many *brahmacārīs* and congregation members fully committed to distributing your books. We understand that the only reason we enjoy the unqualified mercy of being able to mobilize three thousand devotees to go out for the December Gītā Marathon is because Delhi is your *līlā-sthālī*, a place where you personally distributed books. Śrīla Prabhupāda, kindly empower us to more and more often engage more and more devotees in distributing more and more of your books. Above all, Śrīla Prabhupāda, kindly empower us to study your purports scrutinizingly and preach on the basis of the same.

Once in a talk at a college you said that Kṛṣṇa consciousness is natural for the soul but that when human intelligence is affected by the modes of nature we begin to act unnaturally. Please, Śrīla Prabhupāda, kindly inspire us from within and through ISKCON’s contemporary *ācāryas* to see Kṛṣṇa’s instructions in the right light and to never misuse our human intelligence and act unnaturally. To be natural is to be Kṛṣṇa conscious; but for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we could never have appreciated this most intrinsic need of the soul.

In Delhi in each of the last three years, devotees have distributed more than half a million of your *Bhagavad-gītās*! One and half million *Gītās* means nearly three million readers! Just as we were feeling ecstatic at these numbers, we learned of the humungous numbers of books distributed by your surrendered disciples in the early and mid 70s. Śrīla Prabhupāda, so many books went out then because devotees were inspired by your words and your personal example and purity; this was the source of the surrender and dedication of your disciples, who were serving your *vāñī* in separation. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg Your

Divine Grace to empower us to serve you in separation and please the *guru-paramparā*, whose pleasure, you always maintained, is the secret of advancement in devotional service.

As desired by you and as fulfilled by His Holiness Gopāl Krishna Goswami Mahārāja and his team of devotees, there are now more than fifteen active ISKCON temples in Delhi-NCR, and each one of them is serving as a beacon in an increasingly bleak civilization. Hundreds of college youth swaying in time as they ecstatically chant the *mahā-mantra*; scores of families traveling together on pilgrimage to Vṛndāvana-dhāma or Śrīdhām Māyāpur; roomfuls of corporate executives or academic scholars listening spellbound to a devotee speaking on Kṛṣṇa consciousness—Śrīla Prabhupāda, without your teachings, your Bhaktivedanta Purports, none of these and countless other preaching successes would be impossible.

As several of your granddisciples are become trained in spiritual academic courses, become armed with the Vaiṣṇava philosophy, we are getting more enrichment in the form of Gauḍīya *siddhānta*, which will transform the consciousness of a hopeless society operating in the lower modes and ignorantly glorifying itself as liberal. These devotees are today bringing in a revolution by training various segments of society.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this is ISKCON-50 time! We are planning celebrations across the world, but the true offering to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is if we remain bound together by your teachings and, whatever happens, never leave ISKCON. In other words, may we always cooperate in serving you out of love! We see that several pseudo spiritual organizations are professionally preaching to various discerning segments of society. You once said that the secret of success is organization. Kindly bless us so that we can put our efforts together in an organized way and bring about a profound transformation of consciousness in the people in the Delhi-NCR region and beyond. We have extraordinarily talented and extremely industrious devotees and abundant facilities, but we need to put it all together and go beyond mediocrity and think big in everything. We want to not just maintain but grow this movement.

We seek your blessings in serving with in a highly organized way, being absorbed in your teachings, and always acting in line with the teachings of the predecessor *ācāryas*. These are the secrets of success in devotional service. And that comes only by pleasing you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We seek your mercy!

Your servants at the ISKCON temple in Delhi, India.

(written by Mohanarūpa Dāsa)

Detroit

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

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

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We would like to offer you our heartfelt gratitude for allowing us to participate in the grand celebrations surrounding the fiftieth anniversary of your founding ISKCON.

Please accept our most respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.

Under the umbrella of your blessings, ISKCON is growing all around the world, including here in

Michigan. Your compassion for every soul is attracting more and more people toward the temple to experience something they have never experienced before – love of Kṛṣṇa. All the three projects in Michigan are expanding on the strong foundation you established – the glorious Devasadhan Mandir. Plans are being made to expand the home of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṅjabihārījī and prepare Farmington ISKCON to welcome new sets of Deities. All the devotees are working together, remembering one of your most important instructions: “Your love for me will be shown by how you cooperate among yourselves after I have gone.”

You gave us the greatest gift – the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* – by which millions of people are being connected to Kṛṣṇa. At 26 2nd avenue, in 1966, you established a picture of Śrī Pañca-tattva as the first “Deity.” You introduced Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda and showed us how to please Them. You highlighted Lord Nityānanda by narrating his most sublime pastime – how He would go door to door in Bengal and plead with everyone to take the Holy Name.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would like to put all our efforts into going door to door to give the Holy Name through your books, *harināma*, and festivals. You predicted that the cultural conquest would start from Detroit. with your blessings, we would like to continue working toward that goal, to fulfill your desire.

Her Grace Mālatī Devī Dāsī, our GBC, and His Grace Śrī-Nanandanana Prabhu have been continuously inspiring us to bring new souls to your lotus feet. As a result, a number of Krishna Kids are growing up strong in Kṛṣṇa consciousness under the able leadership of Her Grace Nitya Kiśorī Devī Dāsī. We all are enjoying the vibrant and blissful atmosphere created their loving participation in temple functions.

O savior of the whole universe, we beg you to give us the good fortune of rendering loving service to your lotus feet and to our most merciful Deities, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kuṅjabihārījī, as long as we are in these bodies. Please hold our hands tight, because we have tendency to run away from you.

Begging for forgiveness for our unlimited offenses,

Your humble servants at Devasadan Mandir, Detroit, Michigan, USA.

(written by Jagad-Guru Dāsa)

Durban

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your chief servants and their worshipful followers. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

The world is yet to find out that you have changed its current, that your teachings are causing a ripple that will over the next ten thousand years grow into a giant tsunami in the vast ocean of material existence.

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu declared that there will be a great personality who will descend and spread the chanting of the holy name throughout the world, and thus Kṛṣṇa consciousness would be established

“in every town and village.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are that great personality Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu referred to. In the latter stages of your life you undertook a dangerous journey on a cargo ship from India to New York. After much perseverance, you succeeded in opening 108 temples in just ten years. Your ISKCON has grown in the last fifty years, and the holy name is resounding in every corner of the planet. Therefore, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are that great personality, worthy of unending glorification for what you have done for humanity.

But glorification is more than worship or in-house hymnal veneration. Glorification is also distributing your transcendental message and honoring it by living it. ISKCON Durban can proudly report that we were the African champions over the 2015 Prabhupāda Book Marathon. Due to the strategy and inspiration of Vibhu Caitanya Prabhu, our Temple President and the Book Distribution Minister for South Africa, we were able to achieve our goal of surpassing Kenya in book distribution. He was ranked among the top three individual book distributors, and I honestly idolize the example he set. Our temple was able to perform like this only by the mercy you bestowed upon us through him. We thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

We will continue to honor you by increasing book distribution this year. In honor of fifty years of your ISKCON, we will hold another book marathon in July. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us with the eagerness and inspiration to make an extra effort to flood this country with “your emotional ecstasies,” your Bhaktivedanta purports

I am inspired by the example of the bird Jatāyu in his attempt to save Sītā Devī. Jatāyu fought like a young bird, though he was old and knew that he was no match for Rāvaṇa. He attacked Rāvaṇa out of devotion to his beloved Lord Rāma, while meditating on Him. The result was that Jatāyu did not die in vain but was blessed with the *darśana* of Lord Rāma and died in His arms. Śrīla Prabhupāda, please bless us so that we may strive to spread your mercy to all Kṛṣṇa-deprived areas of our country with Jatāyu’s enthusiasm and determination, till our material bodies become invalid and eventually perish.

Again, we thank you for everything, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your aspiring servants at ISKCON’s Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rādhānātha temple in Durban, South Africa.

(written by Śaunaka Muni Dāsa)

East Hartford

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!
Spiritual life is like a razor’s edge. At any moment one can get cut, or fall into *māyā*.
In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.26.24, you explain:

[T]he path of spiritual realization is just like the sharp edge of a razor. The example is very appropriate. One shaves his cheeks with a sharp razor very nicely, but as soon as his attention is diverted from the activity, he immediately cuts his cheek because he mishandles the razor.

A little inattention may cause us to fall down into the clutches of Māyā. Māyā is waiting, and the moment we are careless or thoughtless we fall under her spell.

We always need help, and you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are our savior, our real friend, and our connection

to Kṛṣṇa as the “transparent via medium.” Not only are we connected to Kṛṣṇa through you, but we are also connected to the entire disciplic succession, as well as all Kṛṣṇa’s incarnations and energies. This is certainly true for us, your initiated disciples, but it is equally true that anyone who sincerely accepts you as their *śikṣā-guru* can take shelter of and seek help from you or from any transcendental personality—Jīva Gosvāmī, Rūpa Gosvāmī, Haridāsa Ṭhākura, Vṛndā Devī, Lord Balarāma, Lord Caitanya, Lord Nityānanda, Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva, and Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, to name a few. We can and should ask them for help when we feel weak and need spiritual strength, when Māyā is beginning to overpower us. We have an abundance of help available to us because of our connection to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. With that help, we will be able to serve you better and perhaps be of some real use to your ISKCON movement.

On our own, we conditioned souls are unable to resist the temptations of Māyā. We need help, and it is available to all who take shelter at your lotus feet. Please let us remember all the sacrifices you made to attract us back to the spiritual world. By your mercy, may we take advantage of the transcendental personalities you have introduced us to and not be proud, thinking we can do this on our own.

Please help us be determined, enthusiastic, and patient in our struggle to keep our attention always on the razor’s edge of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your servants at ISKCON East Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

(written by Pyāri Mohan Dāsa and Jivanauśadhi Devī Dāsī)

Gainesville

Prabhupāda Math

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace and your unparalleled devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa in this world.

You said:

“Add Kṛṣṇa as the One before the zeroes you possess;
 Turn nothing into millions in your Kṛṣṇa consciousness.”
 Proposing this experiment to Kali-yuga’s dregs,
 Inserting sixteen *japa* rounds augmented with four regs,
 You estimated less than average souls could be content
 When transformed into Vaiṣṇavas, devoted cent per cent.

The exponential power of your message saved our souls,
 Converting minuses to pluses, fractioned lives to wholes.
 Compounding our devotion in the subset of your clan,
 Subtracting sinful actions in the process, as you planned,

We verified your formula and gauged the Absolute,
Amending nearly all our voids and errors at their roots.

Dear Prabhupāda, you calculated everything so well,
In half a century of testing, ISKCON wasn't quelled.
For even partial pundits measure souls as Kṛṣṇa's parts;
Transcending race and gender with their constant, loving hearts.
Your limitless equation, systematically applied,
Will multiply your followers, whom nothing can divide.

Your servants at the Krishna House college center, ISKCON Gainesville, Florida, USA.

(written by Kālakaṇṭha Dāsa)

Gītā-nāgarī Baru

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

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

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

*mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-guruṁ dīna-tāraṇam*

*jaya śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu nityānanda
śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda*

Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare
Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our heartfelt obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories unto you, the dearest associate of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

This is the most auspicious day, the day of your appearance, the best day to glorify your transcendental qualities, which are hidden treasures manifesting your pure devotion. We are such fallen souls, but out of your causeless mercy you have given us shelter at your lotus feet and engaged us in the devotional service of Śrī Śrī Rādhā Mādana Gopāla.

The scripture declares that the spiritual master is nondifferent from Kṛṣṇa:

*guru kṛṣṇa-rūpa hana śāstrera pramāṇe
guru-rūpe kṛṣṇa kṛpā karena bhakta-gaṇe*

“According to the deliberate opinion of all revealed scriptures, the spiritual master is nondifferent from Kṛṣṇa. Lord Kṛṣṇa in the form of the spiritual master delivers His devotees.” (*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Ādi 1.46*).

You have given us so many wonderful instructions for expanding the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, especially by book distribution, and because devotees all over the world are adhering to your guidelines, so many people are getting your books and becoming interested in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are *patita-pāvana*, the savior of the fallen souls. You are the pioneer of the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement, and because of your heroic preaching efforts, Kṛṣṇa consciousness is now spreading to every town and village in the world.

Please be kind upon us. Please give us one more drop of your mercy so that we will take your orders to heart and reject all contrary ideas, and thus become your unconditioned servants.

By your mercy, here at Gītā Nāgarī Baru everything is going on nicely. We now have about 60 hectares of land, with 35 *grhastha* couples (133 devotees). Our Deities are Śrī Śrī Rādhā Madana Gopāla, who reside in Their beautiful temple. We also have a *yajña-śālā*, an office, a school (kindergarten through senior high school), a guesthouse, and a building for Sunday marketing. We also have a medical clinic, the Śrī Viṣṇu-sahasra-nāma Vana, the Bhaktivedanta Library, a building that serves as an art center, and a farm. On the farm we have six cows. Some of the devotees who live here are farmers, and some are teachers. In all our activities we follow the instructions of His Holiness Bhakti Rāghava Swami, His Grace Gaura Maṇḍala Bhūmi Prabhu, and Her Grace Aṅgalatā Rādhā Devī Dāsī.

In our community all buildings use solar panels for electricity. We harvest fruits, vegetables, etc. We want to minimize everything we need from outside the community. We are trying to fulfill your desire to live by the motto “simple living and high thinking.”

On this, your glorious Vyāsa-pūjā day, we beg you to please keep us engaged in devotional service and under the shelter of your instructions. We pray to always remain your surrendered servants.

All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, who are truly *lokerā jīvana*, the life and soul of this world.
Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your eternal servants at the Gītā-nāgarī Baru farm community in Lampung, Indonesia.

Gītā-nāgarī

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our respectful obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you on this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

When we watch the video of your visit to Gītā Nāgarī in 1976 and hear recollections of your visit, we are awestruck with the scope of your vision for us. “Simple living and high thinking” is a grand concept in this Age of Kali. How can we sufficiently thank you for the shelter and inspiration you bring to us every day, no, every minute?

Your great disciples remind us to chant Kṛṣṇa’s holy names sincerely and with attention, as they were instructed by you. We are charged with developing cooperation and clear communication skills, and with

hosting the guests of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Dāmodara in a way that will please you. To follow your instructions with determination and integrity requires us to read your books. Listening to the recordings of your lectures, we find renewed inspiration and understanding to help us face challenges and overcome obstacles.

The humility and appreciation you expressed to your disciples have given us the will to make a small effort to help pull the wagon of your desires for the world. When five hundred or so devotees drive hours to celebrate Ratha-yātrā, we remember that you began this amazing festival so many years ago to fulfill the desire of your spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja Prabhupāda.

How can we rest when we see so many suffering souls in our midst? The ravages of cow slaughter, intoxication, and exploitation of the natural resources Kṛṣṇa has provided leave us with no choice but to hold on even tighter to your lotus feet. It is our great opportunity and pleasure to make a plan to follow your instructions with greater commitment and sincerity.

Your ISKCON has provided the structure and purity with which we can stay on track with your ideals and work to fulfill your desire to share an answer to those tired and discouraged souls ready to change their lives. We ask for your blessings to be steadfast and humble enough to inspire those you send to Gītā Nāgarī. May we send them back to the cities with the knowledge that your vision is being put into a practical alternative lifestyle that they can implement in their own lives. Let us especially reach out to the next generation and share your teachings with them.

Your efforts to fulfill Lord Caitanya's mission of bringing everyone back to Godhead must be our daily inspiration and solace. May we who have received your mercy be empowered to offer this blessing to all we meet and interact with. We beg again and again for your support and help. Please allow us to offer some effort to please you in living a life you would be happy to see us live.

With all our love and gratitude,

Your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren at the Gītā-nāgarī farm community in Pennsylvania, USA.

Guyana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you on this auspicious occasion of your divine appearance.

Your appearance in this world was not an ordinary event. Today it is most appropriate to soberly reflect on the greatness of your mercy and mission on this planet. This year ISKCON worldwide is trying to stay more focused on fulfilling its ambitious fiftieth-anniversary pledges and taking the opportunity to spread your glories far and wide. Your ISKCON has no parallel in the world in terms of its rapid global spread, its trans-national, trans-ethnic, and trans-professional appeal, its outward simplicity, and its followers' devotional energy.

ISKCON's fifty-year history is a history of unequalled triumphs, thanks to your perfect leadership and deep vision. Every year there are new advances with respect to the propagation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the world. We have noticed how all aspects of your International Society for Krishna Consciousness are expanding exponentially, beyond expectations. We have noticed too how the universe of ISKCON is expanding unlimitedly, and how your movement's spiritual atmosphere is culturally inundating the world.

The seeds you planted have fructified abundantly, and by your grace the fertility of preaching fields grows and their range extends more and more. Now, after fifty years, you are established as the self-evident world *ācārya*, who continue to spiritually influence and guide the masses. The celebrations during this Golden Jubilee year represent the start of a new era for ISKCON, and for the history of the world. In time, everyone will realize that your appearance on earth marked a turning point in the spiritual evolution of its inhabitants.

During your manifest presence with us, different people saw you differently. Some saw you as a great writer and philosopher, some saw you as a spotless religious leader, and some saw you as the founder of ISKCON. But only your deeply realized devotees could understand your transcendental nature beyond the externals, as the *nitya-siddha* envoy coming from Kṛṣṇa to fulfill Lord Caitanya's prediction.

Because you had cent percent faith in the words of your spiritual master, you were uniquely successful in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. The lesson is that if we have similar faith in your words, we shall achieve all success in our own spiritual endeavors and, in this way, properly serve you. Through your *vāṇī* you are alive and ever present as the clock of ISKCON ticks. And as your teachings penetrate more and more sincere hearts, more and more will come to acclaim and adore you. The simple lesson: No need to change anything; just faithfully serve your orders, and everything will be all right.

Due to the unique intensity of your compassion, every day you are deeply affecting the hearts of thousands of conditioned souls through your books and your ISKCON. On this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, falling within the fiftieth-anniversary year of your ISKCON, we are amazed by the energy generated within the bosom of your Society all over the world. As time passes the world will feel the weight and scope of your ISKCON.

By your mercy we were registered in Guyana in October of 1976. From our humble beginnings at 24 Uitvlugt Front, we have steadily grown until, today, forty years later, ISKCON of Guyana owns many properties and has wonderful temples in all three of Guyana's counties. Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Caitanyacandra were installed in 1985, and in 1986 Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Gokula-candra were installed in Berbice. This year your extremely dedicated devotees of Guyana are planning unique offerings to you, with many making special personal commitments and individual temples pledging fiftieth-anniversary offering to Your Divine Grace.

In Georgetown, our GBC is guiding your sincere followers there in completing the most amazing and ambitious multi-story colossal Vedic complex, the Nimai Pandit Study Centre, perched at the head of the main road to the University of Guyana. The strategic location of this project will serve as a hub bringing to life the ancient teachings of the *Gītā* and Vedic culture to the capital city and its environs. But more importantly, the project is aimed at capturing the intellectual class. Already there are so many young, sensitive, searching minds from the university and college who are becoming attracted to the Kṛṣṇa conscious lifestyle. The project will have a library open to the public carrying all of your books; a Sunday school; and a vegetarian restaurant.

Our temple at Crane Old Road pledges increased book distribution, more Śrīla Prabhupāda awareness programs, the setting up of a devotee care fund, and renovation and extension of all existing facilities, including a conference hall for education and training, a new gift shop, a book store, and a *prasādam* outlet. Also, the temple will construct facilities to house the office of child protection, the ISKCON Guyana education ministry, the communications ministry, the *varṇāśrama* development ministry, the compliance office, etc. This year our Berbice Temple is restructuring its administrative model to be based on more sustainable programs. Devotee care and raising all-round standards are vital in developing its strategies. Our Essequibo and Linepath centers are involved in similar activities. All five Ratha-yātrās planned this year will be dedicated as fiftieth-anniversary initiatives.

All of us in the Guyana *yātrā* feel very fortunate to somehow be associated with the great heritage you have given us. During this year celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of your incorporating ISKCON, we have increasingly come to appreciate your unique qualities and accomplishments and the timeless and universal benefit found in your instructions. Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī's perception of you was the most perfect, and he thus instructed you to glorify the whole disciplic succession by preaching Lord

Gaurāṅga’s message all over the world. Out of your kindness you have left us the strong boat of ISKCON, which will carry us across the ocean of this material existence.

Today all of us in the Guyana *yātrā* beg you to grant us the boon that we may increase our attachment to your lotus feet, for such attachment far exceeds and includes all other boons. You said that the spiritual grandfather is more merciful to the grandchildren than the spiritual father. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg you to continue to give us your causeless mercy, for in this Kali-yuga there are so many obstacles to overcome. We beg too for your mercy so that we may someday become qualified sons and daughters in the noble Bhaktivedanta line.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, remembering you and serving your mission gives solace to the heart afflicted by material existence. Your form is the embodiment of attachment to Kṛṣṇa. You are the source of strength that will keep us pure.

Your servants in Guyana.

(written by Paramātmā Dāsa)

Hong Kong

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, and all glories to your ISKCON Society.

In honor of the fiftieth anniversary of your registering the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in New York City, we at ISKCON Hong Kong wish to show our appreciation by writing a short history of ISKCON’s establishment and achievements in Hong Kong.

We first wish to express our deepest gratitude to you for sending Bhūrijana Dāsa and his good wife Jagattāriṇī Devī Dāsī to establish the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement in Hong Kong in 1970. Through their sincere and dedicated efforts, the Chinese people received their first opportunity to hear about and experience the glorious path of devotional service as presented by Your Divine Grace. It was during this time that the first Chinese person came to Kṛṣṇa consciousness and took shelter of your lotus feet. You initiated him in 1974 and gave him the name Yaśomatī-suta Dāsa. Inspired by you, he translated some of your books into Chinese, thus laying the spiritual and philosophical foundations for future generations of Chinese devotees.

The torch of the initial establishment of ISKCON in Hong Kong that was lit by Bhūrijana and Jagattāriṇī was then passed to another sincere and dedicated disciple of yours, Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Gosvāmī, whom Your Divine Grace instructed to establish Kṛṣṇa consciousness in mainland China. Using Hong Kong as a steppingstone, he was able to do this, and now the results are becoming more and more manifest, in both Hong Kong and mainland China. He preached very effectively and, with the assistance of Giridhārī Swami and other surrendered devotees—both your disciples and your granddisciples—opened the first ISKCON-owned temple property in China in 1986. At that time the Hong Kong *yātrā* was also graced with the installation of the Deities of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi. They continue to grace this city and shower Their mercy upon the devotees and all others who visit Their temple.

To better reach the Chinese community in Hong Kong, the International Yoga Institute was established in 1981 as a medium to share Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the local people. To this day the institute continues

sharing Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the students who attend its classes. To better reach Chinese people, Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Goswami wrote *Yoga for the Twenty-first Century*. Soon translated into Chinese, this book has attracted many Chinese to take shelter of the process of devotional service as presented by Your Divine Grace.

The Food for Life program has achieved great success sharing *prasādam* and Kṛṣṇa consciousness with the people of Hong Kong. Weekly cooking classes have been held in the temple for almost thirty years. Vegetarian cooking demonstrations have also taken place in schools and other public venues. The *prasādam* cakes and cookies are very popular. More recently, various international banks have sponsored the preparation and distribution of *prasādam* to thousands of people in Hong Kong. Employees of these banks come to the temple to help prepare the *prasādam*, thus visiting a place many would otherwise be unlikely visit, and then they go out with the devotees to distribute the *prasādam*, thus performing some devotional service they would otherwise not have an opportunity to perform.

Although the distribution of your books in Hong Kong has decreased compared to the levels of the 1980s and 1990s, it continues steadily to this day due to the inspiration received from Your Divine Grace. A dedicated group of devotees continues to go out and share your teachings with others. Book distribution has also been diversified into participation in the annual Hong Kong Book Fair, which ISKCON has participated in for more than five years now.

The annual Hong Kong Ratha-yātrā, which takes place on Christmas Eve, continues to be a special attraction for the people of Hong Kong, who clog the roads on Christmas Eve in a spirit of celebration. The devotees are in no less a celebratory mood. The colorful Ratha-yātrā cart, the beautiful deities of Lord Jagannātha, Lord Baladeva, and Śrīmatī Subhadrā Devī, as well as the loud and enthusiastic *kīrtana* sung by the happy devotees, enchant the thousands of people who are out that night. The Lord of the Universe and His devotees obtain a police escort for the entire event.

The message and culture of Kṛṣṇa consciousness have also spread to the world of academia. Numerous university student groups and classes visit the temple to hear about and experience the Vedic culture of ancient India. Although there are almost a dozen Indian temples in Hong Kong, the educational institutions of Hong Kong all know that the ISKCON temple is the place to visit should they wish to hear about and experience the genuine Vedic spiritual culture and teachings of India. Through the support of kind devotees, last year we were also able to sponsor a program in one of the universities of Hong Kong in which the Vedic/Hindu/Vaiṣṇava culture and teachings were taught as a formal university class. The teachers were your disciple Kṛṣṇa Kṣetra Swami and your granddisciple Īśvara Kṛṣṇa Dāsa. Through this course, numerous Chinese students were able to hear, in an academic setting, about the spiritual teachings of ancient India from the Vaiṣṇava perspective. Through this program some students became devotees and are now your granddisciples.

We also wish to thank you for sending numerous disciples of yours who, inspired by you, travel the world sharing your teachings and mercy with others. Some of these devotees visit us here to help us in our efforts to develop Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Hong Kong. These disciples include Indradyumna Swami, Bhakti Bhṛṅga Govinda Swami, Keśava Bhārati Dāsa Goswami, and Kṛṣṇa Kṣetra Swami, who have all kindly been visiting Hong Kong for many years on your behalf. We particularly wish to acknowledge and thank your surrendered disciples Giridhārī Swami and Bhakti Vighna Vināśa Narasiṃha Mahārāja, who have been serving in the Hong Kong *yātrā* from the early 1980s; they both helped establish the first temple and over the years helped further expand the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement in Hong Kong. In the early 1990s Kṛṣṇa Baladeva Dasa also began visiting and continues to this day. It is by the efforts of all these devotees that we, your granddisciples, know about you, and for that we are forever grateful. Glorification of them is also glorification of you, as everything they do is for you.

Although we are not your direct disciples but your granddisciples, we also feel that we have a special relationship with you. Grandchildren and grandparents always share a very special relationship of love and affection. Speaking of your disciples' relationship with Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you once said that the grandfather is more affectionate to his grandchildren than the father is to his children. Thinking in this way, we also pray for your love, affection, and shelter. We pray that you continue to

always shower your mercy and kindness upon us and thus inspire us to continue serving and assisting your disciples and Your Divine Grace in further spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Hong Kong for many years to come.

As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of your founding ISKCON, we are reminded that we shall be forever indebted to you for giving us this eternal gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and for allowing us to be a part of this glorious *paramparā* and of the ISKCON Society.

Your grateful servants at ISKCON Hong Kong.

(written by Dāmodara Chandra Dāsa and Kumārī Rādhikā Devī Dāsī)

Karuna Bhavan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Param vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam! Let there be all victory for *śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana!* Let there be all victory to the International Society for Krishna Consciousness!

*tvaṁ naḥ sandarśito dhātrā dustaraṁ nistitīrṣatām
kaliṁ sattva-haraṁ puṁsām kaṇa-dhāra ivārṇavam*

“We think that we have met Your Goodness by the will of providence, just so that we may accept you as captain of the ship for those who desire to cross the difficult ocean of Kali, which deteriorates all the good qualities of a human being.” (*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.1.22)

Oh Śrīla Prabhupāda, how often have devotees chanted this *śloka* and thought of you? It has been fifty years since you first brought this verse to the attention of the world. Half a century! Could the young boys and girls who joined you forty or fifty years ago, now senior and exalted leaders of your movement, ever have predicted where your movement would be in 2016? We praise you for the thousands of disciples you initiated during your manifest pastimes, but what of the tens and hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions, of initiated devotees, followers, aspirant disciples, and well-wishers who now inhabit all the corners of the globe? With each fresh new devotee pulled out of the deep dark well of Kali-yuga, Caitanya Mahāprabhu’s prediction of His name resounding “in every town and village” comes closer and closer to fulfillment. It is you who we have to thank and praise for this, Śrīla Prabhupāda. It is you whose transcendental books are planting seeds of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti* in the hearts of the millions of *jīvas* who receive them each year.

And what of all the *prasādam* being distributed? How many plates of spiritual nourishment are being consumed by the fortunate souls at festivals, Ratha-yātrās, concerts, restaurants, and so on, year after year after year? Who taught us how to prepare and offer that food? Who patiently taught us the proper standards of cleanliness and punctuality and devotion so Kṛṣṇa would accept those offerings? It is you who we thank; it is you who we glorify!

What of the *harināma* parties? How often have the Lord’s sweet names been sung? How can we begin to estimate just how many have heard those names? With each name chanted, the *saṅkīrtana* movement pushes back the tide of Kali-yuga more and more. With each name chanted, the illusion of the fallen souls

becomes less and less. Who do we thank for this? Who came to bring this Holy Name? Whose chanting went on to inspire and empower millions more to take and to give the Holy Name? It is you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, who sat down beneath a tree in New York City, whose pure chanting of the Holy Name penetrated deep into the hearts of those who heard it, who inspired and encouraged your fledgling disciples to take and share your message and your gift of the Holy Name all over the world!

What of the beautiful Deities being worshiped around the world? What of the breathtaking *darśana* of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, of Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā Devī? What of the most merciful Lords, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, whose glances are now blessing the whole world? To whom do we offer our gratitude for this most wonderful opportunity? Who taught us how to approach and serve the Lord? Who taught us the proper mood in which to worship the Lord? It is you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, who brought us to the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord Himself, who showed us how to approach Him, who taught us what pleases and what displeases Him. It is you who we thank.

Every year, for the last fifty years, millions upon millions of fortunate souls have benefited unlimitedly by coming into contact with the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Knowingly or unknowingly, they are being touched by your mercy. You single-handedly began a transcendental revolution of spiritual consciousness, of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are and will always be the captain of the ISKCON ship. Your books will continue to be the basis. Preaching according to the principles you have given will continue to be the essence. Purity achieved by following your standards and practices will continue to be the force. And seeing everything as the property of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and thus utilizing it in His service will continue to be the principle.

You have built a house in which the whole world can live. That house is ISKCON. One of the rooms in that house is a temple in Scotland called Karuna Bhavan. In that temple we are striving to follow your instructions. We are worshiping the merciful forms of Śrī Śrī Khoda-Nitāi–Māyāpura-śaśi and are endeavoring to worship Them according to your desire. We are continuing to chant in the streets and distribute your books. We are looking for new ways to present Kṛṣṇa consciousness and reach out to more and more people. By your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are having some success. We pray now that you please bless us so that this success can increase more and more. Please bless us with the intelligence to see how to best utilize the opportunity we have here. Please show us how to touch more and more people with your mercy, with the gifts we have received from you. Please empower us so we may become instruments to spread the Holy Names and the mercy of Gaura-Nitāi to all whom we meet.

We, the aspirant devotees of Karuna Bhavan and the Scottish *yātrā*, offer our obeisances at your lotus feet and continue to beg for your mercy.

Fifty years is just the beginning.

Your devotees in ISKCON Scotland.

(written by Rāmānanda Dāsa)

London (Kings Cross)

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our worthless obeisances at your lotus feet.

To celebrate fifty magnificent years since you left India to spread the glories of Lord Caitanya's

saṅkīrtana movement and to establish ISKCON, we are trying to increase our devotional service by distributing 50,000 books, organizing 20 Ratha-yātrās, distributing 300,000 plates of *prasādam*, and once again do *padayātrā*.

This year, although not the grand offerings of the *padayātrās* we did in the 1990s, we will be able to take the oxen with us to pull the Deity cart. We will be walking from the popular seaside town of Brighton to Hastings, the site of the famous battle where the English were defeated by the Normans in 1066. We mention the historical significance because we remember a story a British devotee told of how you tested him to see if he knew the dates of the famous battles in British history—knowledge you acquired during your studies at Scottish Churches’ College, no doubt. Your profound knowledge of seemingly everything always amazes us.

We look forward to the coming year and pray that the services we will attempt to offer you will in some small way please you.

Your servants at ISKCON Kings Cross, London, UK.

London (South)

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

“I was born in the darkest ignorance, and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torch of knowledge. I offer my respectful obeisances unto him.”

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace! And all glories to Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, the principal Deities here in ISKCON South London!

The devotees at South London would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the extraordinary task you undertook at the age of 69, so that we can now reap the rewards of your hard and tireless work.

*ācāryam mām vijānīyān nāvamanyeta karhicit
na martya-buddhyāsūyeta sarva-deva-mayo guruḥ*

“One should know the *ācārya* as Myself and never disrespect him in any way. One should not envy him, thinking him an ordinary man, for he is the representative of all the demigods.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this *Bhāgavatam* verse is quoted in the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* (Ādi 1.46), and Your Divine Grace has commented on it as follows:

This is a verse from *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (11.17.27) spoken by Lord Kṛṣṇa when He was questioned by Uddhava regarding the four social and spiritual orders of society. The Lord was specifically instructing how a *brahmacārī* should behave under the care of a spiritual master. A spiritual

master is not an enjoyer of facilities offered by his disciples. He is like a parent. Without the attentive service of his parents, a child cannot grow to manhood; similarly, without the care of the spiritual master one cannot rise to the plane of transcendental service.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, only because you love us all, your fallen children, are we able to practice any devotional service. If it weren't for your unlimited compassion for the fallen souls of this world, we would all be wandering life after life in this material world, repeatedly suffering birth, old age, disease, and death and the threefold miseries. Your Divine Grace has illuminated this mortal world with the shining rays of Vedic wisdom. You made the hidden treasures of Vedic wisdom accessible to the whole world by tirelessly translating the scriptures, day and night. You have built for us all the wonderful house of ISKCON, where the whole world can reside peacefully, united in rendering loving service to Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

We had an amazing devotional year in 2015, the best so far, and hope that this year, being the fiftieth year of ISKCON, will be equally amazing if not better. Our preaching activities have multiplied, our *kīrtanas* have grown from strength to strength due to an amazing group of young devotees, our home *sat-saṅgas* have increased, and most importantly the congregational members' commitment to ISKCON has increased.

By your blessings, we have made many infrastructural improvements at ISKCON South London over the past year. We have made these improvements so that we can nicely worship Their Lordships and also serve the devotees. We continue our outreach programs, visiting many schools in the area, giving thousands of pupils the opportunity to chant the *mahā-mantra*. Our *nagara-saṅkīrtana* parties have attracted new devotees to the temple, and we beg for your mercy so that we can send out *nagara-saṅkīrtana* parties more regularly. You would be proud to note that many children in our congregation are showing great interest in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and even leading *kīrtanas*! These promising developments among the children are the result of tireless service by many devotees over the past few years, especially their starting and maintaining a weekly children's *saṅga* program.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, how can anyone adequately describe your unlimited glories with limited words! We beg for your continued mercy so that we can serve your mission with all our hearts and please you with our sincere efforts.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON South London, UK.

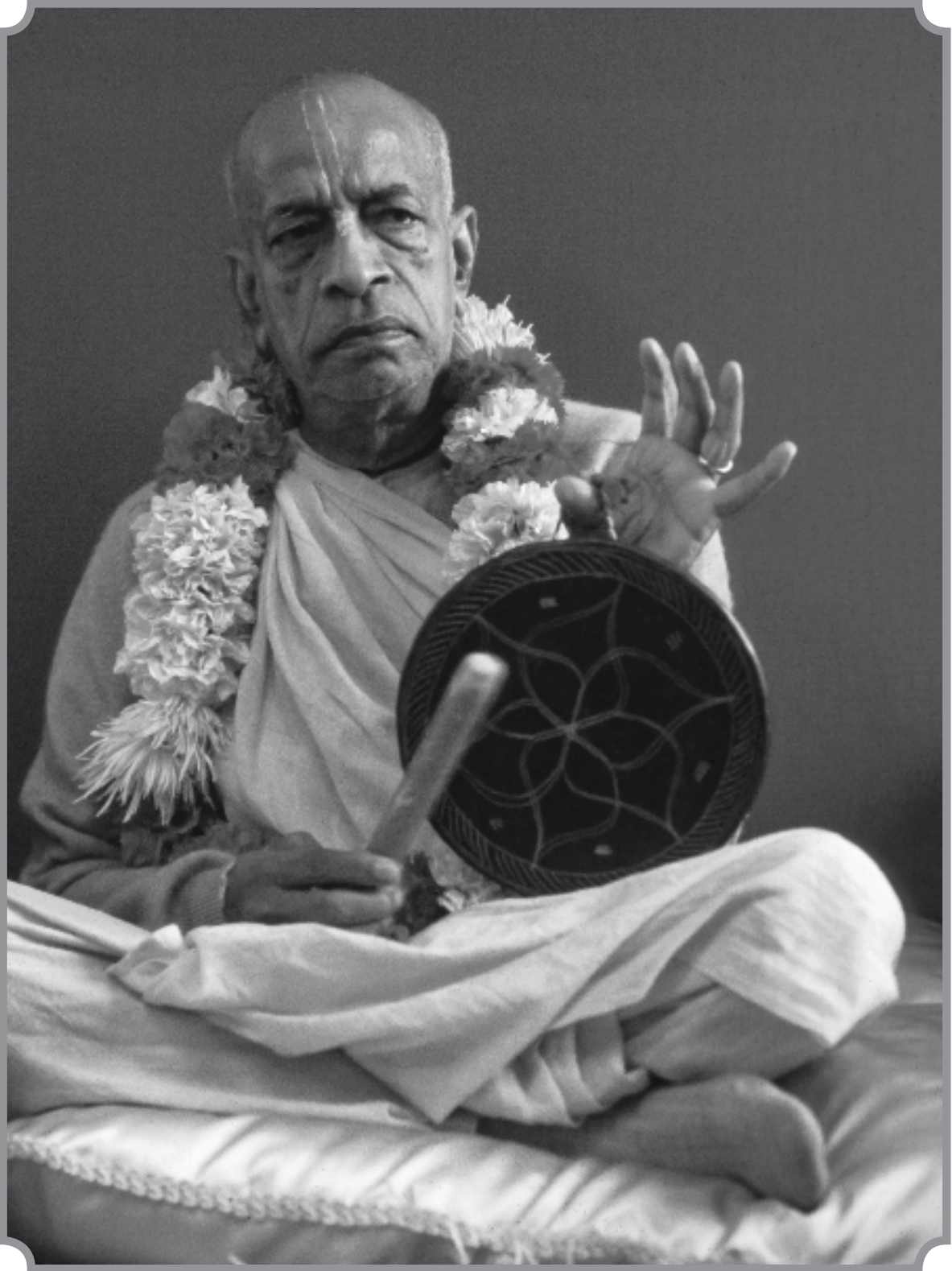
Manchester

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most sincere humble obeisances. All glories unto you, our dear lord and master.

It is our highest good fortune to be engaged in your service. You are an unparalleled *paramahansa*, a pure devotee of the Supreme Lord, and you are *patita-pāvana*, the savior of the most fallen. You have been chosen by Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu to bring the whole of humanity, all over the world, to its original pure consciousness.

As the founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, you have manifested ISKCON, an eternal branch of pure loving devotional service that is part of the tree of supreme matchless love for Kṛṣṇa planted by Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu. This *saṅkīrtana* movement of congregational



chanting of the Holy Names of God is the topmost activity, as confirmed by great saints and the Vedic scriptures, such as the *Ādi Purāṇa*:

There is no vow like chanting the holy name, no knowledge superior to it, and no meditation that comes anywhere near it, and it gives the highest result. No penance is equal to it, and nothing is as potent as the holy name. Chanting is the greatest act of piety and the supreme refuge. Even the words of the *Vedas* do not possess sufficient power to describe its magnitude. Chanting is the highest path to liberation, peace, and eternal life. It is the pinnacle of devotion, the heart's joyous proclivity and attraction, and the best form of remembrance of the Supreme Lord. The holy name has appeared solely for the benefit of the living entities as their Lord and master, their supreme worshipable object, and their spiritual guide and mentor." [*The Nectarean Ocean of the Holy Name*]

In this year of the fiftieth anniversary of ISKCON, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, we are reflecting on your magnanimous achievements. While we are unable to understand your full glory due to its ever-increasing nature, we are in awe of your extraordinary accomplishments—in particular how you have scientifically explained the inseparable nature of pure loving devotion to Kṛṣṇa and personalism.

The dark nature of materialistic ideals are steeped in voidistic impersonalism, a self-centered principle of living. We can clearly see throughout the world the results of such doctrines being played out in disunity. Impersonalism is in every home, family, community, society, nation, and continent, and the popularity of such thinking has polluted millions of hearts with divisive, separatist ideologies and conflict. The confusion this has caused due to ignorance has torn the fabric of civilized human society. Thus the desperate need for true personalism cannot be overestimated.

The fiftieth-anniversary celebration of ISKCON could not have come at a better time, when so much disunity, terrorism, and war abound on every continent, all over the world. As we take stock of your gift of *bhakti*, pure devotional service performed within the context of a unified society, we can clearly realize that unity is our greatest strength, due to its coming from the spiritual realm, which is filled with personalism. Indeed, our unity is itself our greatest weapon with which to destroy the ignorance of voidism and impersonalism. Loving devotional service, you have explained, is within every spirit soul, and our mission is to awaken that dormant love for God, Kṛṣṇa. Loving God includes loving His children and removing the disease of self-centeredness or impersonalism that appears in the heart due to deep-rooted discontentment in many varieties of relationships. Personalism in pure devotional service is the science that can liberate all people from the darkness of unrewarding relationships and open the door to peace, unity, and unlimited love and devotion. The people of the world are crying out for love and peace, and you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, came just to give the essential formula for achieving them: Kṛṣṇa consciousness. We are trying to shift the mentality of “using the people to love the things” to “using the things to love the people” and actually bring to life the spirit of “the joy of devotion,” our theme for the fiftieth anniversary.

Thank you very much, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your revolutionary books, for being the most exemplary embodiment of your teachings, for your staunch dedication, and for your loving guidance. We pray that you may empower us to touch the lives of everyone we meet with “the joy of devotion.”

Unity in devotional service has been our central aim at ISKCON Manchester, and we are working with our congregation to humbly try to establish a *varṇāśrama* community based upon farming land that can become self-sufficient over the next decade. Our desire is to create a place of worship that integrates farming, cow protection, health, community, and education, and that creates sustainable working opportunities for devotees. In this way we hope to attract a variety of devotees with a wide range of skills to work in cooperation. We aim to bring together the young, the adults, and the elders to share wisdom, growth, and enthusiasm across many diverse cultures and to deeply root the practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, pure devotional service, in unity.

We especially beg at your lotus feet that you may deeply inspire us with great intelligence, organization, cooperation, and devotional service so we may execute this vision and strategy for your pleasure.

We pray wholeheartedly to eternally remain tightly attached to your lotus feet in loving devotion.

The opportunity to serve your mission, ISKCON, is our only real wealth, for which we are deeply grateful. A very happy ISKCON-50th-anniversary to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, Jagad Guru and our founder-*ācārya*.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Manchester, UK.

Maple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of ISKCON,
We must recognize the explosion of *saṅkīrtana*.

Because, you boldly boarded the *Jaladuta*,
You transformed the world, from Africa to America.

Because you heeded your Guru Mahārāja's instruction,
So many temples, including the TOVP, are under construction.

Because you left your beloved Vṛndāvan,
You provided our souls a chance at true freedom.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the most perfect devotee,
Following the instructions of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī.

"O Lord, make me dance as You like" was your humble request,
And with that for Lord Kṛṣṇa your heart and soul you would invest.

You were resolute in your mission,
But your efforts were not for your personal ambition.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have given us everything we need,
Planting in us the *bhakti-latā* seed.

You are forever our well-wisher;
You are the perfect spiritual master.

You plucked us from the clutches of Māyā;
You are ISKCON's founder-*ācārya*.

Through your teachings of Vedic philosophy,
You changed the course of history.

You desired to rescue all without giving heed
To a person's caste, color, or creed.

You were successful in spreading the holy name to every town and village;
Your Vedic teachings will be the foundation age after age.

You are the most perfect preacher—
With logic and *śāstra* you would defeat the dissenter.

You, Śrīla Prabhupāda, are an ocean of compassion;
You saw everyone equally with your spiritual vision.

You are as merciful as Lord Nityānanda,
As filled with devotion as Lord Caitanya.

You have saved our fallen souls;
Otherwise we would be under Māyā's control.

You gave us the Absolute Truth;
You dispelled the concoctions of our wayward youth.

With false conceptions we were being misled;
You clearly defined the path to the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

You engaged everyone in the service of Kṛṣṇa based on their ability;
All that we needed was some sincerity.

You possess all the Vaiṣṇava qualities,
As described in the *Nectar of Devotion* by Rūpa Gosvāmī.

You were constantly absorbed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness—
Your thoughts, actions, and words were replete with blissfulness.

You taught us to understand that we are not the doer,
That everything belongs to Lord Kṛṣṇa—He is the owner.

You asked us all to cooperate;
On individual ego and pride we must not fixate.

You emphasized that one must be careful not to offend,
For offenses to a Vaiṣṇava result in ruining devotion to no end.

You revealed to us Vṛndāvan Dhām and Māyāpur Dhām,
Gave us the topmost philosophy in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the meaning of life you would confide;
16 rounds and four principles you stressed to abide.

From your instructions we must not deviate;
Spreading this knowledge through your books was your mandate.

You revealed to us our true identity,
Using the logic that we are souls, not this body.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, to you we are forever indebted;
To describe what you mean to us, billions of words would need to be said.

Please continue to keep us under your shelter and protection;
May we always remain in devotees' association.

Please keep us forever in you service;
Thank you, thank you, thank you, Your Divine Grace!

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your humble servants in Maple, Canada.

(written by Mīnākṣī Devī Dāsī)

Melbourne

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

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

Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Please accept our humble obeisances.

On your final visit to Melbourne, in April 1976, you asked the temple president, Balarāma Dāsa, two

questions: “Will you be able to maintain the three-man *āratis*? Will you be able to maintain the Sunday Love Feast?”

You could have asked about maintaining the *harināma* parties or increasing book distribution, but instead you voiced your concern for these two items: maintaining the standard of Deity worship and *prasādam* distribution.

On your previous visit, in May 1975, you strongly spoke to the Director of Research in the State Ministry for Social Welfare: “All hungry men of Melbourne city, come here, you take your eating sumptuously. We invite, ‘Come on.’ Why you should remain hungry?” He quizzed you regarding our attitude toward those who might come to take advantage of us, specifically if they came to steal from us because of hunger. You responded emphatically: “We say [to] everyone, ‘Come and eat.’ Why he should remain hungry? We invite everyone, ‘Come here, eat—no charge.’ We don’t charge. Why he should remain hungry? Let us increase this program.” If the government assisted, you added, then we could feed Melbourne’s hungry unlimitedly.

Prasādam distribution was dear to your heart and is the mainstay of this temple. You named it Melbourne Mahāprabhu Mandira, but some call it Melbourne Mahāprasādam Mandira because of the great quantities of *prasādam* distributed daily. It was your stated desire that anyone who visited an ISKCON temple should receive sumptuous free *prasādam*.

Those who eat food offered to the Lord in sacrifice are released from all kinds of sins and are able to develop their consciousness toward understanding higher topics of a spiritual nature. As you say in your purport to *Bhagavad-gītā* 3.11:

By performance of *yajña* one’s eatables become sanctified, and by eating sanctified foodstuffs one’s very existence becomes purified; by the purification of existence finer tissues in the memory become sanctified, and when memory is sanctified one can think of the path of liberation, and all these combined together lead to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the great necessity of present-day society.

By your mercy we have kept as a top priority the free provision of plentiful sumptuous *prasādam* to whoever visits the temple.

Five hundred to six hundred guests honor the Sunday Feast every week, and three hundred to four hundred honor *prasādam* on Saturdays. All meals are free, as you envisaged. Another thousand meals are distributed daily at our restaurants—Gopal’s and Crossways, in the urban center of Melbourne. Both have been running successfully for over thirty-five years.

Your vision of *prasādam* distribution was expansive and consistent. When you first arrived in America you stayed in Butler, Pennsylvania, where you encouraged your host’s wife, Sally Agarwal, to open a restaurant. You promised her that you would provide the recipes and menus for a very successful enterprise. Opening temples with accompanying restaurants was part of your preaching strategy.

From more than one angle, the distribution of *prasādam* benefits ISKCON and its members. Besides the purifying aspect, there are the benefits of employment for devotees, economic support for the temple, and outreach to newcomers. Those who partake of *prasādam* become friends. Indeed, *prasādam* distribution is the best proof of the slogan “the way to a man’s heart is through his stomach.”

Our lawyer, one of the founding members of the Melbourne University Vegetarian Club in the early eighties, is a recipient of our famous annual Christmas Cakes. One year I forgot to deliver his cake. I met him later, in January, and he bemoaned his fate. He came home before Christmas empty-handed. His wife didn’t believe his story. She couldn’t forgive him. She thought he had eaten the whole cake all by himself!

In this fiftieth year of ISKCON we are witnessing a *prasādam* renaissance. Our restaurants are feeding the hungry of Melbourne and our clientele is increasing, along with the benefits and profits. We are looking at a new location for a new outlet as I type.

On the fiftieth anniversary of your founding ISKCON, our offering to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is a new kitchen from which more and more *prasādam* can be delivered to the fortunate souls of Melbourne. We are dedicating our 50th-anniversary celebrations to the construction of a modern, energy-efficient, time-saving, user-friendly, work-safe, state-of-the-art kitchen from which we can deliver four times as much

prasādam as we currently manage. It will be a year in construction and will cost 2.2 million dollars. We are about to sign the contract with the builder and secure a \$500,000 grant from the state government, which is enthusiastically providing support. It will include a new building with an extra 250 square meters of dedicated kitchen space, refurbishment of our existing kitchen (which will then be used exclusively for the Deities), and a new guest kitchen.

We pray for your blessings and protection as we embark on the largest capital project in ISKCON Melbourne's history. We seek your blessings so that we may fulfill your desire that every hungry man of Melbourne can come and eat sumptuously.

The chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa is our medicine; *kṛṣṇa-prasādam* is our diet. You gave us the benefits of both.

Might I also take the opportunity to mention that the main morning and evening *āratis* are now all conducted by three men, as you requested.

*mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-guruṁ dīna-tāraṇam*

“I offer my respectful obeisances at the lotus feet of my spiritual master, the deliverer of the fallen, by whose mercy a dumb man can speak and a lame man can cross over a mountain.”

Your servants at the Melbourne Mahāprabhu Mandira, Australia.

(written by Aniruddha Dāsa)

Miami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

Every year on the anniversary of your divine appearance, we become more enlivened to meditate on your wonderful transcendental qualities and selfless gifts to the world. This year brings with it our increased appreciation of your deep insight into the debilitating influences of impersonalism and voidism on the victims of Kali-yuga, and of how you have saved us by your expertly preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness. As we acknowledge in our second prayer to you:

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

“Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.”

In the early days of ISKCON we were often puzzled as to why you so heavily preached against impersonalism and voidism. To us, impersonalism and voidism sounded like some archaic philosophy in India. Yet your prayer specified that you were “delivering the *Western* countries, which are filled with

impersonalism and voidism.” We gradually started to realize that we also needed to be saved from such influences.

Impersonalism comes in many forms, but their common characteristic is that there is no acceptance of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. The main modern-day purveyor of atheistic, impersonal philosophy is material science. You preached very heavily against the material scientists because they try to explain the universal cause of all causes in terms of the combination and interaction of material elements. Since the scientists cannot put God under a microscope and study Him, they deny His existence. They often support the deterministic speculation that everything in the universe is caused by another material cause, not a spiritual one. The problem is that they often take this erroneous speculation so far as to seriously claim that what we do, what we think, what we desire, and even our sense of having free will are all controlled by the impersonal workings of the universe. The great danger of this way of thinking is that it rejects any concept of a personal relationship with God. The philosophy of determinism implies that if we have no free will we are not responsible for our actions, no matter how seemingly good or bad they may be. Without responsibility, morality has no meaning. If our very existence can be reduced to a complex series of predestined actions and reactions that we have no control over, why even practice religion? Why even contemplate the purpose of human life? Why even try to live a moral life? Why try to do anything positive or negative at all if everything is predestined? In this way, just by rejecting the soul and God, those who propagate such a philosophy have caused so many problems in society.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for picking us up out of this illusion that we had no idea we were even in. Thank you for giving us the process of *bhakti-yoga* so that we can revive our eternal personal relationship with the Lord. Thank you for giving us the process of Deity worship so that we can engage in regulated, personal service to the Lord. Thank you for giving us ISKCON so that we can remain in the association of devotees and thus encourage one another on the personal spiritual path. Thank you for teaching us the highest philosophy, which explains that the cause of all causes is Lord Kṛṣṇa and that the perfection of human life is to choose to use our free will to engage in His devotional service. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we fervently pray that we become fully absorbed in devotional service and in this way avoid the pitfall of impersonal thought and its consequences. Śrīla Prabhupāda, thank you for everything.

Your humble servants at ISKCON Miami, Florida, USA.

Montreal

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

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

Part 1 — Homages

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

This year we celebrate ISKCON’s golden jubilee, the fiftieth anniversary of your founding the movement in New York City. Devotees around the world have already started to celebrate the event in extraordinary

ways. ISKCON Montreal is also preparing a special cultural event in early September at the well-frequented downtown Complexe Desjardins. Your presence at this event in your *mūrti* form will in itself be a great blessing for all passersby, as will the numerous displays showcasing your amazing life and achievements.

Homage to You as the Founder-Ācārya of ISKCON

Spiritually speaking, this jubilee gives us an opportunity to focus more than ever before on your unique, irreplaceable position as the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON. As devotees may have various realizations, we propose a common one as follows: with humility, in very simple terms, we understand that if illusion means to see things separate from Kṛṣṇa, then seeing anything in ISKCON's purview as being separate from devotional service to you is also illusion. Because service to Kṛṣṇa is inseparable from service rendered to and through guru, service in ISKCON must be performed with heartfelt respect and devotion for you as ISKCON's founder-*ācārya*, according to the transcendental system of disciplic succession. As it was when you were present among us, it remains so today and will remain so as long as ISKCON carries on its mission in this world.

You are that empowered pure devotee who has established all over the world 1) the bona fide understanding of *bhakti-tattva* and 2) the bona fide practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, *sādhana*. This is a unique feat, never before achieved by anyone else, something that could not have been possible without your being empowered by the grace of the previous *ācāryas*, going back to Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the most magnanimous incarnation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

As the special, unique person to whom we owe our deepest respect and adoration, you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, truly deserve our deepest allegiance in regards to your one-of-a-kind position as ISKCON's founder-*ācārya*. Although you had all the qualifications for this position, in your profound humility you would not have claimed it on your own behalf, yet out of a sense of duty to your spiritual master and Lord Kṛṣṇa, you insisted on being recognized as the founder-*ācārya* to insure the unity of ISKCON devotees all over the world, for all time. In this way, ISKCON would remain united at your lotus feet for the purpose of full-strength preaching worldwide. Knowing that "united they stand, and divided they fall," you wisely, dutifully did the needful in this regard for the well-being of ISKCON as a united institution.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we strive to see everything in relation to you and Kṛṣṇa, not only within ISKCON but outside as well. By seeing everything according to your pure vision of devotional service, we become transformed internally due to your transcendental association, as we strongly desire to follow in your footsteps. We can thus become enlivened to be nothing but a pure servant of God and all others. Such is the influence of your transcendental Kṛṣṇa consciousness, your pure original energy. And we are thus blessed with ever-fresh transcendental enthusiasm, allowing us to engage with fullest satisfaction in the service of your mission without limitation. Under your expert guidance we can become fearless and happy in your service. Propagating your mission is thus our life and soul and our greatest happiness.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for your transcendental association, the sure source of all our spiritual drive and real happiness.

Homage to the Mahā-Mantra

As a result of your heroic preaching efforts, the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* has been spreading throughout the world for the last fifty years. Because it is no ordinary sound vibration, it has remained fresh for half a century.

Those fortunate souls who have taken up the daily chanting of the *mahā-mantra* have greatly benefited, becoming spiritualized and desirous of helping those they interact with according to their capacity. This transcendental individual transformation is the basis of a tangible diminution in the sinful habits of society. Beginning on a one-to-one basis, it has a snow-balling effect to benefit society on a larger scale. Although there is no support from any government to promote a sinless lifestyle through the chanting of the names of God, through the widespread propagation of the chanting the Names society could be

spared so many calamities, which continue to increase day by day as society keeps being misled down the path of materialism and atheism. The chanting is costless and effective. All that is needed is a little goodwill and faith in the process of chanting the Holy Name.

Therefore, we have taken it as our sacred duty, especially this year, to emphasize that the purpose of ISKCON, the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement, is to promote the sublime chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* as widely as possible. As practicing members, we know that the transcendental sound vibration of the *mahā-mantra* has changed the world and continues to change it. People all over the world are gaining pious credits through chanting and gradually coming to understand the higher values of life. They are progressing step by step, being guided from within (by the Supersoul) and without (by the spiritual master). The “without” is your eternal extended transcendental mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, still acting nowadays beyond the bounds of time and space, as your divine words of wisdom remain accessible through your books and other media.

Part 2 — “Back to the future,” Fifty Years Back

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, I wish I could have had fifty years of maturity in Kṛṣṇa consciousness before I ever met you. Since I was hardly free from the bodily concept of life when we met, I was barely fit for anything spiritual. Still, by your mercy I became intelligent enough to let you save me from the whirlpool of material life simply by my giving submissive aural reception to your message.

Similarly, all of us who joined you in the 60s and 70s were unqualified neophytes—in my case I should say that I still am—but still we somehow had faith in you, Śrīla Prabhupāda; and, for the sake of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s mission, it was reciprocal on your part toward us. You were the first person who stepped forward to show us what “love and trust” is all about. You loved us more than we could ever love you. Due to your constant unconditional love for us, you shaped our spiritual life from A to Z. Under your loving, trustworthy, expert guidance, we learned to nourish all spiritual relationships among us and, as an extension, also toward all living entities. That loving attitude that we strive to develop is nothing but a reflection of the love we have constantly received from you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. It is what you were all about: that we awaken our dormant love of God in the first place, which would also make us develop all godly qualities. That love of God can make us love not only you and Kṛṣṇa, but all living entities as well. Such is the vision of the spiritual world, and it is the sublime result of faithfully chanting the Holy Names. And that is what you have always encouraged us to do from the beginning. We received the pure Holy Names from you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and the rest is history. The world has changed, and you have changed our lives for the better.

As we aspire only for your perpetual shelter, guidance, and association, very slowly, after fifty years of attempts at devotional service, we are learning what it means to love someone. How can we express love toward anyone nonstop—love you deserve so well—when we are still attached to worthless sense gratification? However, by surrendering to the process of the nine devotional activities under your expert guidance, increasing engagement in any one of the nine devotional activities of *bhakti*, we gain the strength to reject sense gratification. That pure path of *bhakti* alone will set us on the threshold of life’s perfection. And the only way to achieve that is by making you the very focus of our lives, with the help of knowledge and detachment. We need that same mood we had when we were in your personal presence: no nonsense, a clear, submissive attitude, ready to do anything for you at the snap of a finger. That attitude and consciousness are essential. Time and space do not affect them, because they are fixed in transcendence.

You have said, “You do not know what love is. . . . Love is only applicable to Kṛṣṇa.” In comparison to your lifetime of true love, we have good reason to feel absolutely insignificant and foolish in our tiny attempts at pure devotional service. Actually, pure devotional service is dependent on your mercy as our spiritual master and as the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON. If you are pleased with our service and attitude, that is our success. The rest is insignificant. Without you as the pure medium to the Lord, we remain empty-handed, empty-hearted, aimless beggars. We need you so much, Śrīla Prabhupāda. This is the least we can

say on this matter. We need you, and we love you for blessing us despite our numerous disqualifications.

Although in your presence we remained internally somewhat stunned in front of your prominent personality, today we understand that our low stature also qualifies us to seek the shelter of your lotus feet. In this way we ever-increasingly relish your sublime position as the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON, the universal *śikṣā-guru* for all generations of your ISKCON followers across the globe. Although you did not need such a title as a matter of personal recognition, you accepted it as a matter of duty to more clearly establish the worship of your divinely-empowered personality in disciplic succession.

We undoubtedly have so many flaws, but we definitely remain stubborn beggars for the immensely auspicious dust at your lotus feet. We pray to always remain firm and faithful in our allegiance to you, knowing that no one else could ever guide us any better than Your Divine Grace does. Out of love for you and your ISKCON, let us remain biased and happy at heart, with our eyes anointed with whatever drops of love we have carefully received from you over the years.

Part 3 — Learning from Śrīla Prabhupāda

Time has certainly affected our bodies but not our devotion for you in our hearts. In our hearts we cherish even more your transcendental association. Your direct disciples may share their fond memories of you while they were in your transcendental presence. And today, fifty years after you founded ISKCON, even though we are bereft of your *vapu*, we always have your *vāṇī* to cling to. It is a great blessing that we can have your association in this way. It actually obliges us to come closer to you in mind and heart. All it takes is continued interest and faith in your transcendental instructions; even though given many years ago, from material calculation, they remain transcendently relevant today, and forever.

One of the many spiritual gems of truth you gave to the world is your enlightening translation of the *Śrī Īśopaniṣad*. In your succinct and illuminating purports you address and answer all the basic existential questions: 1) Who are we? 2) What is God? 3) Where did we come from? 4) What is happening to us as conditioned souls? And 5) Not only where *are* we going after this life, but where *should* we be heading after this life?

Your books provide clear, explicit answers to these crucial, common, legitimate enquiries. However, intellectual assimilation of knowledge alone, even if it relates to reading your books, is not quite enough to grasp the very truth in regards to these basic questions. The mercy of the author is needed. It is the invisible ingredient that may be obtained through being engaged in service to you, an exalted *mahā-bhāgavata*. The principle is to serve you somehow or other through the disciplic succession available in the very ISKCON you created for this purpose. By this connection, the process of self-realization as explained by you will become fruitful. The secret is *bhakti* originating and deposited at your lotus feet. Then your books open up to all sincere souls, bringing delight and full understanding to the heart of the serious reader, thus accelerating one's progress back to home, back to Godhead.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, every single word emanating from your lotus mouth has the potency to awaken Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the heart of every living entity. We are immensely thankful to you for this. Once, in Stockholm, during a university engagement, a stubborn student challenged your sitting on an elevated seat, the *vyāsāsana*, while you were explaining the four classes of men in society and especially the importance of first-class men, the *brāhmaṇas*. You brilliantly defeated him by your profound humility and realization: "I am simply a fifth-class man. I am the servant of everyone." He was at once speechless—he couldn't fathom the depth of your simple answer. Humility such as yours is a mode of life; it is not meant for blind intellectual understanding. How brilliant that answer was, Śrīla Prabhupāda! How honest! How Vaiṣṇava that was!

Because devotees cherish remembrances of the pure devotee of the Lord, and because we received the science of Kṛṣṇa consciousness from you, we can thus appreciate the genuine person that a devotee should be, and judge any person's behavior by the standard we have learnt from you. Through your teachings and perfect example, we can know what is praiseworthy or not.

Today we can relish your association by recollecting many such events while you were preaching

around the world. Although we may have been too neophyte to truly perceive the length and breadth of all your words, nonetheless, by your mercy we are being given the opportunity to more deeply grasp many of your teachings that we have cherished at heart for a long time. And since they are completely spiritual, ever sweet and satisfying to our ears and hearts, it is as if we were in your very presence. And we are beginning to realize that the sound and the person are nondifferent on the spiritual platform.

We will never be able to repay you for all the mercy you have poured upon us, your fortunate followers, nor for the mercy you have shown the world, to make it a better place in so many ways. Therefore, we remain satisfied only with being eternal beggars for the dust of your lotus feet. Having accepted you as our eternal master, we want to take our eternal place in the shelter of your lotus feet. We beg to remain always under your sure protection and hopefully see the world from the transcendental perspective. By diligently, enthusiastically, wholeheartedly engaging in the service of your great mission, ever cautious to follow in your footsteps, we remain assured that in your shelter we can rid ourselves of all *anarthas* while doing so.

We forever long for your association through your *vāñī*, and we pray that, by the sweet will of the Lord, we are again allowed to join you at any time the Lord may see fit. Even fifty years of engagement in your service is merely a steppingstone toward grasping what eternity is all about. You are always situated on the spiritual plane; you are there in eternity, knowledge, and bliss. We beg to be able to do our part and join you once again in that timeless realm of perfect love.

All glories to you forever, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda! May we embrace your service as our life and soul. Śrīla Prabhupāda-*kī jaya!*"

Your servants at ISKCON Montreal, Canada.

(written by Prābhava Vīgraha Dāsa)

Moscow

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

I am begging for your mercy to make an attempt to glorify Your Divine Grace!

You took a big risk to bring Lord Caitanya's message to the Soviet Union forty-five years ago. Only one person became a recipient of your mercy at that time. But that event changed the direction of the whole country, and you predicted that soon communism would come to an end—a prediction that came true fourteen years after your departure. With your blessings, Kṛṣṇa consciousness is now blooming in Russia and the rest of the CIS.

This year Russian devotees want to double last year's book distribution totals by engaging the huge

congregation we now have in Russia. It will require a lot of organization and cooperation. Please give us the strength to glorify you on this auspicious occasion!

Your servants in Moscow, Russia.

(written by Bhakti Ratnākara Ambarīṣa Swami)

Mumbai (Chowpatty)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

During my discussions with you, I observed that you had very logical and scientific explanations for questions that have baffled the scientists for hundreds of years. All your explanations were based on the Vedic *sanātana-dharma* books, known as *sāstras*, which you meticulously provided with your own purports so that we could understand these ancient Sanskrit *ślokas*, which were, up till then, not clear to anyone in a modern scientific way.

For instance, your explanation about consciousness being the property of the soul that leaves the dead body has now awakened the scientific community in the USA and other countries to study the consciousness of the soul. You often explained that Charles Darwin's theory was bogus. Your statements were a great challenge to many scientists who were adherents of Darwinism, and they became uncomfortable when you spoke, as they had been brainwashed with years of Darwinism. You explained that it is the consciousness that develops, and hence the soul migrates from one body to another based on the state of consciousness at the end of each body, which is like an apartment occupied by the soul. It is only now that many scientists have come to a similar conclusion. You set up the Bhaktivedanta Institute for propagating this scientific knowledge, which has now become acceptable as the final world standard.

The establishment of Kṛṣṇa consciousness for the first time in human history by anyone using clear, scientific explanations is a unique feature of your preaching. The ten-thousand-year golden period of this earth will now start because the scientists who are leading most of the world's population are slowly becoming aware of a much higher authority who really controls all the activities and achievements of human beings. This understanding defeats the Māyāvādīs and others. You came down from your spiritual home and proved that you are a *śaktyāveśa-avatāra*, i.e., an empowered "scientist" of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Some of the scientists and engineers who developed weapons of mass destruction such as the atom bomb were horrified by the results of their work and started to feel great remorse. They now feel that the entire human race is in great danger and that people must turn to spiritual consciousness, which leads to surrender to the Lord and the salvation of the soul.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for bringing the profound concepts of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to us on this earth, helping me and other scientists and engineers, who were falsely proud of our vast knowledge, realize that our pride was a false pride and that we have to accept the Absolute Truth, which was personally carried by you "as it is" from the spiritual world.

You explained that the Absolute Truth is the Supreme Person, who controls mother nature and everything else, and who takes the basic material ingredients and makes the infinite variety of material

objects. When we use these material objects in Lord Kṛṣṇa's service, they become transcendental. This explanation was never given by anyone else before, anywhere in the English-speaking world.

We are eternally indebted to you for transforming the consciousness of the scientists and engineers of this world. Many, putting aside their false ego, have opened their minds and hearts to receive the absolute truth, and they have greatly benefited.

Your servants in ISKCON Chowpatty, Mumbai, India.

(written by Śrī Nāthjī Dāsa)

Mumbai (Juhu)

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

In celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of ISKCON, all four Mumbai temples—namely Juhu, Chowpatty, Mira Road, and Kharghar—came together to organize Lord Jagannātha's Ratha-yātrā last February 5th, followed by a Hare Kṛṣṇa festival on the 6th and 7th. The grand festival was well attended, with donors, congregational members, and guests from all four *yātrās* participating enthusiastically in the event.

Sri Padmanabha Acarya, a tenant of Hare Krishna Land in whose house you once stayed, is now the governor of Assam and Nagaland. He participated in the 50th Anniversary celebrations and spoke highly of ISKCON and Your Divine Grace.

On Śiva-rātri, last March 8th, we installed a *śiva-liṅga* on our Talasari farm, very close to the crematorium located on the adjacent plot. May Lord Śiva protect our farm.

There are several developments concerning the guesthouse plot on the Talasari farm: the swimming pool cum ground-level-water storage tank is being constructed with concrete; solar panels are being placed on the first floor terrace; and additional guest rooms are being constructed on the first floor. Kindly guide us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so we may successfully complete all these projects as part of our 50th-anniversary offering to you.

We have also acquired about three acres of agricultural land adjacent to our guesthouse plot on the Talasari farm. Kindly bless us so we may use this land for showcasing your teaching of "simple living and high thinking."

The Deity room in Lord Jagannātha's *mandira* on our school premises has been renovated, giving the *pūjārīs* more space to render regular service to Their Lordships. The Deity kitchen was also renovated. We sincerely hope that this gives pleasure to Lord Jagannātha and Your Divine Grace.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are continuing with the renovation work on the old *gurukula* building. The work on the top four floors is completed, and that on the second floor and ground floor is in progress. Kindly give us the intelligence to nicely renovate the building and offer it to Your Divine Grace during this 50th-Anniversary year of ISKCON.

For your pleasure, we are also reporting renovation work done in the BHISMA department, the gift shop, and the kitchen of the Bhaktivedanta Swami Mission School.

During last December’s book distribution marathon, we scored 419,768.75 book points, which included the distribution of 197,113 *mahā*-big books. Our book score for 2015 was 660,045.75. We stood in third place in the world for both the marathon and annual score. By your divine mercy, may we distribute even more books for your pleasure during this 50th-anniversary year.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for engaging us in the service of your dear Lordships, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Rāsabihārījī.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Juhu, Mumbai, India.

Mumbai (Mira Road)

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances unto your lotus feet.
Śrīla Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura writes:

*gaurāṅgera duṭi pāda, jār dhana sampāda,
se jāne bhakati-rasa-sār*

“Anyone who has accepted the two lotus feet of Lord Caitanya as their only asset knows the true essence of devotional service.”

*nitāi-pāda-kamala, koṭi-candra-suṣītala
je chāyāy jagata jurāy*

“The lotus feet of Lord Nityānanda are a shelter where one will get the soothing moonlight not only of one but of millions of moons. If the world wants to have real peace, it should take shelter of Lord Nityānanda.”

Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, by accepting your divine lotus feet as one’s only asset, one can know the true essence of devotional service. And there can be peace in this world only by taking shelter of your divine lotus feet. As His Grace Draviḍa Prabhu puts it in his *Śrīla Prabhupāda-kṛpāṣṭaka*:

O Prabhupāda, your mercy is my only treasure now;
Unto your soothing lotus feet I bow.

Today is the most auspicious 120th anniversary of your most merciful divine appearance in this unhappy place known as the material world. By taking the trouble to come to this earth, and eventually to boldly leave India and sail to the West, you provided the people of this world with your direct personal

presence and association for eighty-one years, the last twelve of which revealed your mission of spreading the philosophy and practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness worldwide.

Eight years ago Jayādvaita Swami nicely described your transcendental position in his Vyāsa-pūjā offering:

Sākṣād-dharitvena samasta-sāstraiḥ: Because Śrīla Prabhupāda, always thinking of Kṛṣṇa, lived by the principles of *sāstra*, the principles of *bhāgavata-dharma* spoken by the Lord Himself, and because he taught those same principles to others, all the *sāstras* confirm that he was as good as the Lord Himself. Hearing from Śrīla Prabhupāda is as good as hearing from Kṛṣṇa, and following Śrīla Prabhupāda is as good as following Kṛṣṇa, because Śrīla Prabhupāda, representing Kṛṣṇa, was a dearest servant of Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please allow us now to glorify you by remembering Śrī Śrī Pañca-tattva:

*jaya śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu nityānanda
śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda*

“All glories to Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, Prabhu Nityānanda, Śrī Advaita, Gadādhara, Śrīvāsa, and all the devotees of Lord Caitanya!”

Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu is the source of energy for all His devotees. He is *mahā-vadāny avatāra*, the most magnanimous incarnation of the Lord, for He does not consider the offenses of the fallen souls. To get the full benefit of chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*, we must first take shelter of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Similarly, Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the source of energy for all your disciples and granddisciples. You are most magnanimous, for you overlook all the offenses we make and are always showering your mercy on us to help us advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Lord Nityānanda is even more merciful than Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, because after Nitāi was struck on the head with an earthen pot by the sinful Jagāi and Mādhāi, He stopped Lord Caitanya from killing the two criminals. He begged the Lord to spare their lives because, after all, Lord Caitanya’s mission was to make devotees by killing the demoniac tendencies within, not by slaying wrong-doers. On Nitāi’s request Caitanya Mahāprabhu spared the sinful brothers and agreed to deliver them if they would give up their sinful activities and change their bad habits into Kṛṣṇa conscious ones. The brothers fell at the feet of Caitanya Mahāprabhu and immediately surrendered their lives in devotion to Him.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, like Nityānanda Prabhu you overlooked all our disqualifications and mercifully tailored our *sādhana* to our abilities, reducing, for instance, the required daily rounds of *japa* from sixty-four to a minimum of sixteen. Also, whenever you offered *bhoga* to Lord Kṛṣṇa you begged Him to shower His causeless mercy so that those who honored the *prasādam* from your lotus hands would become stalwart devotees filled with *kṛṣṇa-prema*.

It was Advaita Gosāni who prayed to the Lord by offering Ganges water and Tulasi leaves to His *sālagrāma-śilā* while loudly roaring His request for the Lord to appear. Because of your sincere prayers, their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and Śrī Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadra Devī have manifested in more than 600 centers around the world

In Her incarnation as Śrī Gadādhara, Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī was able to spend time with Her Lord as an intimate associate who helped spread the pastimes and glories of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Similarly, you used every second of your time with us to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Even cats and dogs in the household of Śrīvāsa Ṭhākura were liberated. Cats and dogs and other animals are not expected to become devotees, but, in the association of a pure devotee, they are also delivered.

Similarly, we fallen, souls who have the mentality of cats and dogs, are by your mercy not only getting liberation but also becoming eligible for the highest benediction—*kṛṣṇa-prema*, which is higher than liberation.

As an offering in honor of fifty golden years of ISKCON, by your mercy we . . .

- Have built a marble palace for Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Giridhārijī, for which we are very grateful to you from the bottom of our hearts.
- Have opened a Govinda's restaurant for providing a divine dining experience.
- Will be conducting *Gītā* crash courses every week for couples and youth, to introduce newcomers to the divine teachings of the *Bhagavad-gītā*.
- Will increase to fifty the number of counselors, who will cultivate new families to become Kṛṣṇa conscious.
- Will have fifty summer camps for children.
- Will organize Ratha-yātrās at many places in and around Mira Road.

Since the inauguration of the new temple we have entered into a new life of responsibilities. Śrīla Prabhupāda, whatever responsibilities you want to give us, please also give us the power to execute them. We depend solely on your mercy

Everyone who sees and enters the new temple appreciates its beauty. This beautiful temple is an external manifestation of the internal beauty of devotion in you. This beautiful devotion has manifested in the hearts of every devotee associated with constructing the temple.

We fully understand that the main challenge ahead is to fill this beautiful temple with beautiful devotees. The real beauty of any temple is its devotees. We pray to you to empower each of us to make more devotees.

On your appearance day we beg from you the blessing that we may be steady in our vows at your lotus feet, especially the chanting of Kṛṣṇa's holy names.

We pray to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we can eternally dedicate our existence to your mission. Please give us the intelligence to understand how to present Kṛṣṇa consciousness according to time, place, and circumstance. Please let us imbibe your mood of compassion and dedication to the spiritual master.

Your servants at ISKCON Mira Road, Mumbai, India.

Nagpur

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet

During this 50th-anniversary year of your ISKCON, we are trying our best to spread the mission farther and wider than ever before.

For the first time in the history of ISKCON Nagpur, we have fifteen enthusiastic and effulgent *brahmacārīs* in our *āśrama*, and the VOICE youth preaching team is doing very well. We have several flats filled with

young students chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa and are planning to expand even further during this 50th-anniversary year.

The congregation is working to establish more than fifty Bhakti Vriksha groups in Nagpur before the year is over. We are also expanding our congregational preaching to the towns and villages surrounding Nagpur and are at the moment systematically propagating the *saṅkīrtana* mission in several district towns in our area.

As a *yātrā*, we have taken a vow to distribute more than 50,000 copies of your *Bhagavad-gītā* during ISKCON's 50th-anniversary year, and it is also our strong desire to begin the construction of "The Glory of Central India" project this year, since it was your express desire that a big temple should be built here. It will be a most beautiful and powerful temple and will bring many new souls into contact with Kṛṣṇa.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are so thankful and happy to be in your ISKCON. We pray that you will protect us and inspire us to stay united and give us the intelligence to make the right decisions in this important year.

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your grandsons and granddaughters at ISKCON Nagpur, India.

Nakhodka

Our dear teacher, father, and founder-*ācārya*, Your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Please accept our respectful obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to you!

Materially, this year is no different from the thousands of years that have already passed in the material world. The vast majority of the people celebrated the New Year and will celebrate birthdays and many other meaningless events, and they genuinely expect that next year will be happier and better. But history shows that every year is the same as the last, if not worse. But the world continues to stubbornly believe that a day will come in a special year when all the problems will go away and happiness will reign. But in the end, only death comes.

Then there is that part of the population who have given up any attempt to become happy, having miserably and repeatedly failed in their attempts to achieve even material joy. Such people usually take shelter of alcohol or drugs, or even commit suicide. Those who have not yet reached such an extreme degree of desperation often try to find ways to express their dissatisfaction, but such efforts only exacerbate their difficult situation. And ultimately their efforts also end in death.

In this mad material world the Kali-yuga atmosphere has completely deprived human civilization of its ability live peacefully, in harmony with nature. Though in previous eras there was still a chance to live harmoniously, in accord with natural laws, now everyone lives however they can, not adhering to any Vedic principles.

The only ray of hope in this ocean of vice was the arrival of the Supreme Lord Gaurāṅga, who out of His inconceivable mercy gave the most powerful and confidential means of purification—a means that not only liberates one from this world but enables one to achieve one's original, pure state of *prema-bhakti*, pure loving devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa. The means? *Harināma-saṅkīrtana*.

Lord Gaurāṅga brought His confidential treasure of *prema-bhakti* and distributed it throughout Bhārata-bhūmi via the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*. And he predicted that soon the whole world would be flooded with this mantra.

After the time of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, many exalted *ācāryas* preserved His great treasure and spread it throughout India, preparing the way for you to undertake the inconceivable task of taking Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the West, and then around the world. You became an empowered instrument in the hands of Śrī Pañca-tattva, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year has a special meaning for your followers, for it marks the 50th anniversary of your founding ISKCON in New York City. This year we, your followers in the International Society for Krishna Consciousness all over the world, are holding the flag of *saṅkīrtana* higher than ever. It is no easy task to successfully develop your mission; it requires purity of body and mind, purity of motive and of devotion, and dedication to and faith in the uncompromising philosophy of *bhakti*. It is not easy to keep fighting the battle in Kali-yuga, when you have to withstand the onslaught of the temptation to become “a traditional religion,” and when you have to go toe to toe with the atheistic leaders of the modern world amidst the lack of principles in modern society.

But when we remember how much you struggled to fulfill the desire of your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, that Kṛṣṇa consciousness be spread all over the world, we take heart and become inspired to continue the great struggle.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have a special position as the *jagat-guru*, the spiritual master of the whole world, and specifically as the founder-*ācārya* and eternal *śikṣā-guru* for all members of ISKCON. Your instructions saved me, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and your mood of humbly serving Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī and the other members of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava *paramparā* made it possible for even us *mlecchas* and *yavanas* to make spiritual progress and aspire to reach the level of a pure devotee, whose position is higher than the highest levels of *varṇāśrama*.

It is important for us to always remember that you have given us everything we need—the Holy Name, your books, your lectures, your personal example, your ISKCON—to achieve perfection. There are other teachers out there—pure devotees, *sādhus*, Vaiṣṇavas—but there is only one founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON: His Divine Grace Oṃ Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī Śrīmad Abhaya Charanaravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda.

I hesitate to ask you for some kind of blessing, since you have already given the world the greatest blessing imaginable: the genuine, transcendental method of *bhakti-yoga*, leading to the perfection of *prema*, pure love for Śrī Kṛṣṇa. One can only try to repay you for your inestimable gift by trying to distribute it as widely as possible. Please help me stay in this mission; let me take a seat in the shade of your lotus feet.

Your servants at the ISKCON yātrā in Nakhodka, Russia.

(written by Adri-dhāraṇa Dāsa)

New Badarikāśrama

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to the *sankīrtana* mission of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu!

This year is very special, as it marks the 50th anniversary of your establishing ISKCON. Even though the instructions of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa in the *Bhagavad-gītā* are eternal, one cannot grasp the import of His teachings on the strength of one's mundane knowledge, academic education, cultural background, etc. They can be understood in truth only by the mercy of a bona fide spiritual master coming in an authorized disciplic succession. Before you published your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, there were many English commentated translations of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, but every single one failed the test of authenticity. In fact, they only created confusion in the minds and hearts of their readers. But your divine appearance in this world has eliminated this darkness and removed the fog of illusion created by such commentaries.

By your mercy, today your ISKCON mission continues to expand, propagating the same message you taught, and people are becoming firmly convinced about the true message of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. In that context, this 50th anniversary is very special to all of us, and it is also auspicious for all the conditioned souls in this world. Due to your causeless mercy, we have all been given the greatest fortune: the chance to re-establish our forgotten loving relationship with Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

On this 50th anniversary we also remember with a grateful heart your deep compassion toward all of us and the innumerable sacrifices you undertook in establishing this great mission of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. There were many challenging situations and setbacks, what to speak of a lack of culture and respect traditionally offered to a great spiritual master. But you persisted, continuing with great enthusiasm to show us what it means to be resolute in purpose in carrying out the orders of Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga. You were the perfect instrument of compassion that Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu chose to establish the *bhakti* movement all over the world. You established numerous temples and centers and gave us the confidential knowledge of *bhakti* in the form of your books, lectures, instructions, and your own spotless example.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 3.32.42, you kindly explained to us what it means to be a devotee:

In order to become a devotee of the Lord, one has to accept a spiritual master and inquire from him about how to progress in devotional service. To serve a devotee, to chant the holy name according to a certain counting method, to worship the Deity, to hear *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* or *Bhagavad-gītā* from a realized person, and to live in a sacred place where devotional service is not disturbed are the first out of sixty-four devotional activities for making progress in devotional service. One who has accepted these five chief activities is called a devotee.

We are able to see that your teachings are not theoretical; rather, they are imbued with an action-oriented lifestyle wherein one is able to purify oneself and experience step-by-step progress toward transcendental life. You have given us the opportunity to serve devotees by establishing your centers and temples, wherein we can associate with devotees and serve them, chant the holy names, worship and serve the Deities, and daily hear *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. These centers, expansions of the sacred holy places, provide us with an opportunity to make tangible progress in our devotional service.

You have also kindly warned us not to be neglectful in our discharge of devotional service. An important element of our gratitude toward you is to constantly remember the sacrifices you made for us, and to understand and follow your instructions. In one of your *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* lectures you remind us of this important principle:

So we should not take anything neglectfully. Neither we should be careless to take care of Kṛṣṇa's property, . . . Kṛṣṇa's house, Kṛṣṇa's temple, Kṛṣṇa's business, Kṛṣṇa's . . . Everything Kṛṣṇa's. *Īśāvāsyaṃ idaṃ sarvaṃ yat kiñca jagatyāṃ jagat*. If we think like that, then that is perfect Kṛṣṇa consciousness. [Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.5.22, Vṛndāvana, 3 August 1974]

Your personal example also reminds us that this gratitude is not a theoretical concept. You taught us that one must readily accept all inconveniences to satisfy the spiritual master and the Supreme Lord. By developing such an attitude and trying to act on that platform, we advance in our own devotional life and more readily cooperate with other devotees to serve one another and propagate the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. This is the true principle of oneness—wherein we all have one desire, which is to please and satisfy you. You have kindly enlightened us about this principle in your Bhaktivedanta purports:

On this platform there is nothing but the service of the Lord. When a person has no ulterior motive, there is certainly oneness and agreement of principles. Since everyone has a different body and mind, different types of religions are needed. But when one is situated on the spiritual platform, there are no bodily and mental differences. Consequently on the absolute platform there is oneness in religion. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya 17.184, purport*]

“If there is no ulterior motive, devotional service cannot be checked by any material condition.”
[*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya 1.161, purport*]

This is our prayer to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda—to bless us to develop this quality of purity in our devotional service. We know rendering devotional service with such purity will satisfy you and please Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda, our worshipable Deities. Please continue to shower your mercy and blessings upon us so that our service can grow both in quantity and quality, and so that we can always remember your lotus feet and remain eternally in their service.

Your aspiring servants at New Badarikāśrama, ISKCON Denver, Colorado, USA.

(written by Tulasī Vallabha Dāsa)

New Biharvan

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Bāṅkebihārī, the presiding Deities of Boise.

Last year we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of your coming to America, and this year we mark the Golden Jubilee of your establishing ISKCON in New York. You outlined ISKCON’s purpose in your *Nectar of Instruction*:

One should always engage in the service of the Lord in the association of the Lord's devotees. Association with those engaged in a similar line of business is very conducive to advancement in that business. Consequently materialistic persons form various associations and clubs to enhance their endeavors. For example, in the business world we find such institutions as the stock exchange and chamber of commerce. Similarly, we have established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness to give people an opportunity to associate with those who have not forgotten Kṛṣṇa. This spiritual association offered by our ISKCON movement is increasing day by day. Many people from different parts of the world are joining this Society to awaken their dormant Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Indeed, the ISKCON Society is blessed by the Golden Avatāra and the golden *paramparā* and by you. It is increasing day by day, year by year, because you predicted it. From 108 temples and preaching centers in 1977 to 650 now; from 5,000 initiates then to close to 100,000 now. Half a billion books and more than 3 billion plates of *prasādam* distributed—these are just some of the more amazing statistics. Through your ISKCON Society you are re-spiritualizing the whole world, Śrīla Prabhupāda! In the dark landscape of Kali-yuga, ISKCON centers emit golden rays of moonlight for mankind, lighting their path back to Godhead.

Fifty years may seem like a long time, but in the journey of ten thousand years comprising the Golden Age of Lord Caitanya, this is just the beginning—this is just the start of the moonrise. And if we stick with you and your books, the moon will not set.

Worldwide, devotees are celebrating the golden jubilee with various offerings to you. We in Boise are trying to do the same. By your mercy, in May of this 50th year of the era of ISKCON we inaugurated our new Krishna Cultural Center, thus doubling the size of ISKCON Boise.

Please bless us so that we can double the preaching also.

Your devotees in Boise, Idaho, USA.

(written by Anantarūpa Dāsa)

New Dvārakā

*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*

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

The devotees in New Dvārakā fall prostrate at your lotus feet again and again. We wish to express our deepest heartfelt love and gratitude to you on this glorious day of your appearance.

We marvel at how you have brought us into the *harināma-saṅkīrtana* movement of Lord Caitanya. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are situating us, who have no qualification, in meaningful service to the Supreme Lord, thus connecting us to our eternal natures and positions. How can we ever properly express our gratitude? More importantly, how can we repay you?

From your instructions we understand that we will show our love for you by cooperating to push on this mission. With great determination we practice humility, tolerance, and patience. We understand that by following your instructions in this way we maintain a personal connection with you. Here in New Dvārakā, which you once named ISKCON's World Headquarters, we continue to maintain and strive to increase what you lovingly gave us.

Your quarters are valued like a precious gem. They are accessible now to everyone through the Internet. Your garden is looking very lush, with many flowers, plants, and creepers. There are even bananas growing there. The temple was just painted, inside and out. All the apartments on both sides of the street are looking clean and bright with improved landscaping.

You gave us so many instructions here when you introduced Deity worship. We honor those instructions and strive to improve constantly. Śrī Śrī Rukmiṇī-Dvārakādhīśa are recognized all around the world. We now offer six new elaborate outfits and five fresh flower outfits every year. The Lords receive *ahimsā* milk products in Their daily offerings. Every festival day is celebrated with parades, a fire *yajña*, a twelve-hour *kīrtana*, and a sumptuous feast, bringing bliss to guests and devotees alike.

Book distribution is very, very dear to you and to us. Here in New Dvārakā fifteen devotees go out daily to distribute books. In addition, some books are distributed on our *harināma* parties, which go out several times a week. As you said, the youth are very important, and so 90% of the book distribution is done on college campuses. The prestigious University of Southern California certified one of our devotees as a minister. During the December book distribution marathon, seventy-five devotees participated in book distribution to gain your blessings. Our patron-member program is flourishing, along with Govinda's Buffet, Govinda's Gifts, and the BBT.

The glorious Ratha-yātrā festival you brought to the West has become quite a grand affair in Los Angeles. The city officials are grateful for the colorful, peaceful parade that attracts tens of thousands ever year. This year, in celebration of your founding ISKCON fifty years ago, it's been expanded to a three-day event full of *kṛṣṇa-kathā*!

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we humbly beg you to accept our feeble attempts to please you. As many of us age, we can better appreciate the austerities you underwent to serve your spiritual master. You could have stayed quite comfortably in the Rādhā-Dāmodara Temple in Vṛndāvana, but you understood that pleasing him was a higher principle. This total surrender to your guru's desire to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the West made your life perfect, no matter what the result of your preaching efforts would have been. We are those results, and we pray for just a drop of your courage and determination in executing our service to you. All glories to you! All glories to you! All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your ever-loving servants in New Dvārakā, Los Angeles, California, USA.

(written by Nāgapatnī Devī Dāsī)

New Gokula (Vancouver)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Guru and Gaurāṅga!

Even though we did not have your association and guidance in your *vapu* form, you are always with us in the form of your *vāṇī*. And by following your *vāṇī* we are able to enjoy life even in this miserable Kali-yuga. Thank you for bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness out of India and spreading the Holy Names around

the world. We are all indebted to you and ready to give our lives to your (and our) mission. We are all committed to do whatever we can to see that ISKCON spreads by leaps and bounds around the world.

We know that you love us more than your own disciples, as we are your grandchildren. That brings us closer to you. Please kindly keep pouring your kindness and guidance upon us so that we can march straight back to Godhead and also guide others on the right path.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have created a home in which the entire world can live together peacefully. As you rightly said, “[ISKCON] is the real United Nations,” not a building with ever-increasing flags.

You established ISKCON as a transcendental university teaching about the real self, the soul, the presence of which distinguishes a living body from a dead body. No mundane school, college, or university is teaching this science of self-realization. Your simple message was: “We are not this body. We are pure spirit souls, and we belonging to the Supreme Soul, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. As such, we have a duty to serve Him, and this will make us eternally happy.” Our devotee scientists are in the field, enlightening and educating the “educated scientists.” You have trained us and given us lots of *brahmāstras* to win this battle against Māyā. Thank you so much, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

You taught us that the greatest humanitarian service is to connect the lost souls with the Supersoul, Kṛṣṇa. You gave the example of a multimillionaire’s estranged son begging in the streets. Should we give him \$100 or show him how to return to his father? Better send him to his father. Our centers are visitors’ information centers telling people the right way to reach their ultimate destination and complete their journey.

You said that human society is suffering from a disease called greed and that this disease can be cured by taking the medicine of the *mahā-mantra* and eating a diet of only *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we all got cured by this treatment, and all over the world this treatment is being freely and openly distributed. Here in Vancouver we are happy to widely distribute *prasādam* under the banner of “Hare Kṛṣṇa Food for Life.”

We always enjoy remembering the answer you gave to a journalist who asked you whether you have any mystic powers like other gurus. You replied, “Yes, I have converted all these hippies into happies.”

We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of your founding ISKCON with *harināma* picnics, twelve-hour *kīrtanas*, a float in the July 1st Canada Day parade, and our Ratha-yātrā, a festival you gave to the whole world.

We continue to promote and raise funds for the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, carrying out the wishes of our *sampradāya*.

We are so grateful for all you have given us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thanks to you, we are daily getting a little closer to Kṛṣṇa and to realizing our eternal truth.

Your humble and grateful servants at New Gokula Dhāma, ISKCON’s temple in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

(written by Manu Dāsa)

New Goloka

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances! All glories to your lotus feet!

This year, 2016, marks the auspicious 50th anniversary of the founding of your International Society for

Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). When nobody else in this world could even imagine how the sublime teachings of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu could be taught on every continent, you had the vision and you had the plan. We members of ISKCON are now living in the devotional world you created on July 13, 1966.

All of us here at New Goloka Dhāma are feeling so much gratitude for your matchless gifts. This gratitude enters our hearts and becomes a desire to serve your glorious mission, to teach every person on the planet to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.

So today, on the 120th anniversary of your appearance in this world, we want to thank you for all of the wonderful gifts you have bestowed upon us.

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for the opportunity to . . .

- Chant at least sixteen rounds of *japa* each day
- See the Deities every morning at *maṅgala-ārati*
- Worship you daily at *guru-pūjā*
- Worship Śrīmatī Tulasī Devī and ask her for pure devotional service
- Greet the Deities each morning as They give us *darśana* of Their beautiful forms dressed in gorgeous outfits

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for the opportunity to . . .

- Read your transcendental books each day, thus enlivening ourselves with your words
- Preach the message of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu as you have presented it in your books
- Go out on *harināma-saṅkīrtana* and thus give the holy name to so many conditioned souls
- Reach out to college students at programs on university campuses
- Engage so many people in our community at weekly Bhakti Vriksha home programs

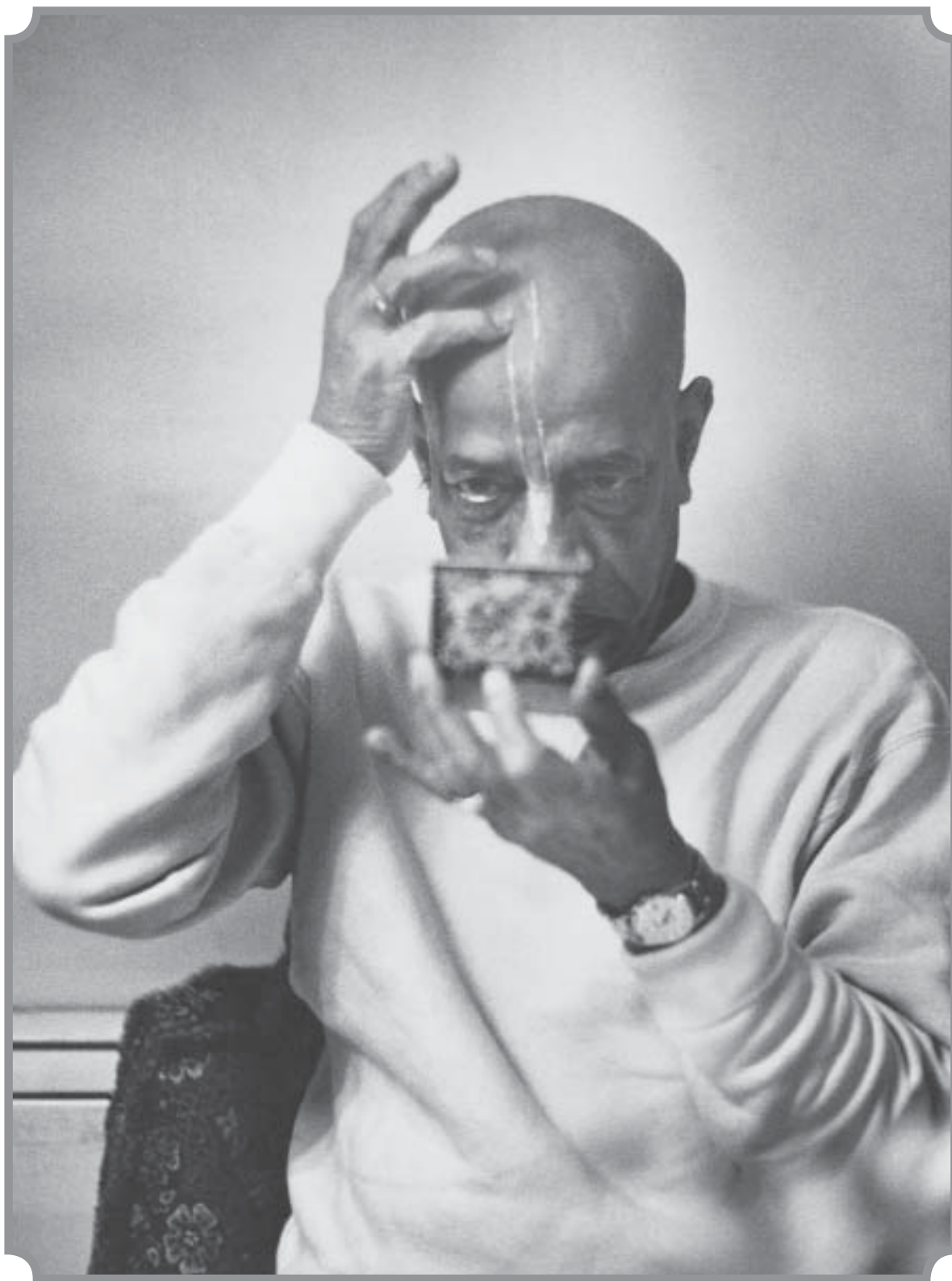
Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for creating a worldwide movement where . . .

- We are at home in every city on every continent while we visit your temples
- We can visit the holy places in Māyāpur and Vṛndāvana at beautiful temples you envisioned and then built
- We can go to a Govinda's Restaurant in cities all over the world and take sumptuous *kṛṣṇa-prasādam*
- Our children can grow up in Kṛṣṇa conscious communities and be educated by devotee teachers in both spiritual and material subjects
- Farm communities protect cows and provide the world with examples of simple living and high thinking

Thank you most of all, Śrīla Prabhupāda, for changing our lives and introducing us to the eternal spiritual culture of Vaiṣṇavism taught by Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda and then passed on through Rūpa and Sanātana Gosvāmīs and the other great *ācāryas* in our line. Without your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would still be (as you often said) “rotting in this material world.” Therefore, let us rededicate our lives today to serving you by taking Kṛṣṇa consciousness into our hearts and giving it to others.

Your humble servants at New Goloka Dhama, Hillsborough, North Carolina, USA.

(written by Dṛṣṭa Dāsa)



New Govardhana (San Diego)

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

It has been my good fortune to be placed in a position of leadership in your glorious movement, and it allows me to see how your mercy is flowing through all the devotees at the temple. You are a source of inspiration for young and old devotees alike, the neophytes and the stalwarts. As I read your books, I feel your sense of urgency that we all must become Kṛṣṇa conscious. Not only that, but we must strive to deliver the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to others, despite all difficulty. Although you are physically no longer with us, through your instructions, your disciples, and your granddisciples you are still very much present to guide us on the path.

What can we do to repay the debt we owe you? You said many times that it can never actually be repaid. So the only thing we can do is try to serve you with body, mind, and words and all our hearts. What more can we do but offer you our service and eternal gratitude?

You may be pleased to know that the *saṅkīrtana* program is going on nicely here and that new *brahmacārīs*, *grhasthas*, and *sannyāsīs* are advancing on the path back to Godhead. By your mercy we hope to increase and increase. In one sense, a devotee is always satisfied, but we can see by your example that you always remained eager for your devotees to bring others to Kṛṣṇa, and this brought you the greatest happiness. Let us pray that we can be humble instruments in your service.

Your servants in New Govardhana Dhāma, San Diego, California, USA.

(written by Hāsyagrāmī Dāsa)

New Jersey (Towaco)

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Just as someone living at the foothill of an enormous mountain cannot see the summit, we, your humble servants, although living under your shelter, cannot to see your full greatness. So what words can we offer you on this most blessed day of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā?

You are the mountain that is the source of our very existence. All our most vital needs are provided by this mountain of your compassion. The pure waters of your brilliant purports, the valuable gems of your exemplary personal pastimes, and your sweet fruits in the form of your loyal disciples who push on this movement—these are all indispensable gifts emanating from the mountain of your divine mercy.

Although we may think that it is we who are serving you, the reality is that you have always been serving us throughout these decades by being our father and provider in every way. Even the very building in which stand and worship Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi is the direct fruit of your extraordinary preaching efforts.

On this fiftieth anniversary of your founding ISKCON, the most important organization in the history of this planet, we humbly stand before you to once again ask you for strength, guidance, and blessings to embark upon the construction of a new temple of Lord Gaurāṅga—ISKCON Parsippany, New Jersey. We pray for the courage to push to completion this monumental house of the Lord that will bring forth a new era of expanded preaching and distribution of your gifts to the fallen souls in this part of the world. Inspired by your personal sacrifices, hundreds of generous devotees have come forward with their hard-earned resources to make this initiative possible.

On the preaching front, more and more members of the New Jersey community are participating in the vibrantly expanding Bhakti-Vriksha program, and many are eventually joining the ranks of the initiated devotees, offering their lives at your lotus feet.

Your transcendental books are being distributed regularly, illuminating even the remote corners of the state of New Jersey.

The festivals celebrating the appearance of the Lord in our lives are growing year by year.

The New Jersey youth have recognized the vital importance of the *saṅkīrtana-yajña* and enthusiastically singing the Holy Names for hours on end, inspiring the next generation of even younger devotees.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, when you walked this earth it was as if the effulgent sun had risen to dissipate the darkness of the universe. Today we pray that we, your small grandchildren, can at least be little lamps that shine forth your light and illuminate the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness over this little tract of land.

Aspiring to remain always at your lotus feet, we remain

Your devotees at ISKCON Towaco, New Jersey, USA.

(written by Nīlamaṇi Dāsa)

New Māyāpur

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful, humble, and attentive obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

In your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 5.5.2 you state, “There are two types of *mahātmās*—the impersonalist and the devotee.” Śrīla Prabhupāda, your lotus feet are the life and soul of the greatest transcendentalists in both the impersonal and personal spheres.

To substantiate this statement, I wish to offer you two beautiful accounts related by your beloved disciple Bhakti Bhṛṅga Govinda Swami. The first account relates the appreciation of a transcendentalist in the sphere of the impersonalists.

In 1989 there was a Mahā-kumbha-melā in Allahabad. Bhakti Bhṛṅga Govinda Mahārāja was the manager of the ISKCON camp for this occasion. There was huge *prasādam* distribution and a huge facilities where devotees lived. Each day there was *harināma* and book distribution everywhere in the Kumbha-melā camp, with a minimum of two hundred devotees on the *harināma* party. Every morning Govinda Mahārāja

would run everywhere in the ISKCON camp to make sure every department head was doing what he was supposed to do, so that by 10 o'clock books and *harināma* were going out and cooking was happening.

One morning as Mahārāja was running around, a sādhu started walking through the ISKCON camp. He had very long matted hair and no clothes on. He was very severe-looking. He walked straight up to Govinda Mahārāja and spoke to him in perfect English: “Mahārājī, I want Prabhupāda’s book.” On a piece of paper Mahārāja wrote “Give this man a *Perfection of Yoga*” and signed it. Govinda Mahārāja told the sādhu: “Mahārājī, please take this paper to the book squad and they will give you a book.”

Five minutes later, the sādhu came back, walking through the crowd, and said, “No Mahārājī, I want Prabhupāda’s *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*.” Govinda Mahārāja gave him 51 rupees, telling him to go to a book table and purchase it.

The sādhu purchased your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and came back to speak to Govinda Mahārāja. He said, “Mahārājī, you cannot understand how many Kumbha-melās I have seen, and you cannot understand how many saints I have heard. But there is one thing I want you to understand: no saint has ever presented Kṛṣṇa as purely and as perfectly as Śrīla Prabhupāda.”

Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda!

The second account relates the appreciation of you by a transcendentalist in the sphere of the *paramahansa* devotees. Bhakti Bhṛṅga Govinda Swami relates:

When I first met him, I looked at him and I didn’t know what to say, so I said, “Śrīla Akiñcana Kṛṣṇadāsa Bābājī Mahārāja.”

And then he saw that I had a tape player in my hands, and so without my having to say anything he just closed his eyes and started clapping his hands together, and he sang his *maṅgalācaraṇa* before singing “Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya.” And then he started singing the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra, and it was like going into another world. He was chanting so beautifully, and it was like each syllable was drenched in *bhāva* and *prema*.

After about twenty minutes he stopped, and then he looked at me and said, “I would like to tell you something.”

“What is that?” I asked.

And he said, “I am an old man, and I’ve had a lot of experience in this world. From my experience I can honestly tell you that there has never been a greater *ācārya* than your spiritual master.”

And when he said that, I became stunned because he was a disciple of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.

Then he looked up and said, “There has never been an *ācārya* in history who has performed miracles like your spiritual master.” And then he paused and looked at me. And then he said, “Do you know why?” I was so stunned, I couldn’t say anything. And he said, “Because in history there was never a greater servant of Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s Holy Name than your spiritual master, because your spiritual master had so much absolute understanding of Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s Holy Name and so much absolute faith in Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s Holy Name that he personally carried Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s Holy Name through the length and the breadth of the world. Therefore, he is the greatest *ācārya* who has ever existed.”

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, what extraordinary good fortune we have received that we have met you in this lifetime! It is truly inconceivably amazing! Of course, most of us have met you through your instructions, this being a very real palpable transcendental reality confirmed by Your Divine Grace.

You can associate with me by reading my books. [Morning walk, Toronto, 7 August 1975]

If you want to know me, read my books. [Vṛndāvana, 9 June 1977]

I have spoken in my books; now try to understand. [Vṛndāvana, 17 May 1977]

You emphasize the power and importance of this transcendental association with Your Divine Grace in your *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*:

All the devotees connected with the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement must read all the books that have been translated (the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Bhagavad-gītā* and others); otherwise, after some time, they will simply eat, sleep and fall down from their position. Thus they will miss the opportunity to attain an eternal, blissful life of transcendental pleasure. [*Madhya* 25.278, purport]

Another glimpse into one of your transcendental purports in Śrī *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* reveals to us your wonderful conviction and compassion:

We can follow [Haridāsa Ṭhākura's] example, however, by chanting sixteen rounds of the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* on beads every day and offering respect to the *tulasī* plant. This is not at all difficult for anyone, and the process of chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* with a vow before the *tulasī* plant has such great spiritual potency that simply by doing this one can become spiritually strong. Therefore we request the members of the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement to follow Haridāsa Ṭhākura's example rigidly. Chanting sixteen rounds does not take much time, nor is offering respects to the *tulasī* plant difficult. The process has immense spiritual potency. One should not miss this opportunity. [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Antya* 3.100, purport]

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

The success of our existence, both individually and collectively, depends on our ability to please Your Divine Grace:

If we cannot please such representative, bona fide representative of Kṛṣṇa, then there is no hope. There is no hope of our spiritual advancement. Therefore the first duty in the morning is that *dhyāyan stuvāns tasya yaśas tri-sandhyam*. [Lecture on *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.14–16, San Francisco, 24 March 1967]

How may we please you? You are our foremost *śikṣā-guru*, our founder-*ācārya*. Pleasing you is our only hope for spiritual advancement and for the development of New Māyāpur, for you are the representative of Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Controller and the Cause of all Causes!

At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.30.8, both the Lord in His words to the Pracetās and you in your purport express what is very much pleasing to you:

[Translation:] The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: "My dear sons of the king, I am very much pleased by the friendly relationships among you. All of you are engaged in one occupation—devotional service. I am so pleased with your mutual friendship that I wish you all good fortune. Now you may ask a benediction of Me.

[Purport:] Disunity between individual souls is so strong within this material world that even in a society of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, members sometimes appear disunited due to their having different opinions and leaning toward material things. Actually, in Kṛṣṇa consciousness there cannot be two opinions. There is only one goal: to serve Kṛṣṇa to one's best ability. If there is some disagreement over service, such disagreement is to be taken as spiritual. Those who are actually engaged in the service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead cannot be disunited in any circumstance. This makes the Supreme Personality of Godhead very happy and willing to award all kinds of benediction to His devotees, as indicated in this verse. We can see that the Lord is immediately prepared to award all benedictions to the sons of King Prācīnabarhiṣat.

We pray that New Māyāpur may wonderfully flourish in a way that will not only please you very much but also make you proud of us, in line with your response to a letter from Tulasī Dāsa reporting about a farm community in South Africa: “This letter makes my chest swell, that I have such disciples performing such activities.”

Kindly consider our humble plea at your lotus feet.
Aspiring to be as you wish us to be, we remain

The servants of your servants in New Māyāpur, France.

(written by Citralekhā Devī Dāsī)

New Ramaṇa Reti

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

The following is an offering of love at your soft and nourishing lotus feet.

You walked up the gangplank of the *Jaladuta* ship;
In you heart, guru’s order on a throne did sit.
You radiated purity to all those around,
With books of Vedic knowledge and transcendental sound.

The ship was bound for a far foreign shore.
To deliver a message, to open the door
To the spiritual world you’d been asked to bring
A revolution in consciousness, to dance and sing.

The journey was long, no luxury ride.
You landed and set up quarters on the Lower East Side.
Young seekers appeared through fogs of illusion.
You fed them, taught them, gave an infusion

Of Caitanya’s mercy, of Nitāi’s good will,
Tirelessly giving and giving to fill
The hole in our hearts that is yearning for love,
Love everlasting, from within and above.

Kṛṣṇa’s name, form, and pastimes appeared from your teaching.
You brought us all close and to us were beseeching,

“Give this treasure of *bhakti* to all that will hear;
Take up this practice, your karma will clear.

Create temples and villages for all those to come.”
In North Central Florida, that’s what we have done.

I came to the New Ramaṇa Reti community fourteen years ago and have watched it grow and prosper. Our outreach, our schools, our farming, our eco-village, our festivals, our classes, our gatherings, our young and older devotees—all are expansions of what you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, dreamed and started fifty years ago. Your seeds of love have grown into a beautiful garden of *bhakti*.

Our Lordships—Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, and Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi—are worshiped with great enthusiasm every day. Rādhā-Śyāmasundara attracted me on my first visit here and continue to bless all the devotees with Their beauty and mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we knew nothing of this culture of grace before you came; we couldn’t have even imagined the philosophy, the festivals, the food, and the fun of spiritual life that you have allowed us to experience. The memories of Ratha-yātrās, *harināmas*, plays, dances, cows, and *japa* walks through our gardens are gifts that you have bestowed upon us, and they create a fabric of connection among the devotees here.

We can only thank you by continuing to serve you. We pray for your infusions of enthusiasm that will clarify our desires to dive deeper into this ocean of devotion that you have inspired here at New Ramaṇa Reti Dhāma.

Your humble servants at New Ramaṇa Reti, Alachua, Florida, USA.

(written by Ādideva Dāsa)

New Remuṇā (Toronto)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

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

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

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we often hear about the amazing fact that, by your mercy, devotees are worshipping Lord Kṛṣṇa all around the world. Here in Toronto we are very blessed to have very fertile spiritual soil. It seems that there are countless people who are ready for Kṛṣṇa consciousness. However, what if we traveled far from Toronto? In fact, what if we traveled so far that we found ourselves in Amman, Jordan, in the Middle East? Śrīla Prabhupāda, we have an amazing story about how your mercy has manifested in an extraordinary way!

A few years back, a very nice lady was regularly attending our monthly yoga-outreach programs at the temple called “An Evening of Bhakti.” This nice lady’s name is Rulah. Originally from Amman, Jordan, she had been living in Canada for a few years. She would regularly attend the monthly *kīrtanas* and loved chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa. Then she had to move back to Jordan. She stayed in touch with the devotees in Toronto, began teaching yoga classes in the Middle East, and developed a desire to start holding *kīrtanas* as well. The Toronto devotees gave her a few pointers, but we were unable to do much more than that. However, she came across devotees in Dubai. After explaining her spiritual path, an amazing devotee from Dubai invited her to stay with him and his family and offered to continue to train her in the process of *kīrtana*! Rulah is now holding regular *kīrtanas*, chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa on beads, and sharing the Holy Names in the heart of the Middle East!

How is this possible, Śrīla Prabhupāda? We didn’t contact or coordinate with the devotees in Dubai, and they didn’t contact us. Yet the shared vision of executing your desire to give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to anyone and everyone inspired devotees who were oceans apart to cooperate, even unknowingly.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, the community of devotees at New Remuṇā Dhāma would like to collectively offer all of our devotion and efforts this year to your lotuslike feet. This past year has been filled with opportunities seized, challenges faced, struggles experienced, and celebrations shared.

This year being the one in which we observe the 50th anniversary of your incorporating ISKCON, we have a momentous opportunity to celebrate the growth and development of your international movement. Celebrations are taking place in every corner of the globe, and right here in Canada as well.

As an offering to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we submit all the hard work rendered by devotees doing incredible outreach at ISKCON Toronto. Devotees are sharing your message of peace and goodwill through university outreach, a fledgling restaurant, dynamic food fairs, interfaith initiatives, our Ratha-yātrā festival, school visits, Food for Life, talks at temples, yoga programs, and more.

The Toronto Saṅkīrtana Team continues to set wonderfully ambitious goals for distributing your books throughout the greater Toronto area and beyond. Like a transcendental snowball, the enthusiasm exponentially grows among devotees as they continually inspire one another with *saṅkīrtana* efforts and stories that result in an avalanche of increasing book scores!

The ongoing cultivation and growth of our devotee community can be seen through home programs, Bhakti-Vrikshas, Sunday Feasts, mentorship, grand festivals, Vaiṣṇava Care, guidance from visiting and local senior devotees, and of course the loving, strong bonds that are forming among the members of the Toronto devotee community.

Like feeble toddlers just learning to walk, we humbly present all these initiatives as a small offering to you on the occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā. We thank you for all you have given us here in Toronto and around the world. It is by your divine mercy that the chanting of Hare Kṛṣṇa resounds from Toronto, Canada, to Amman, Jordan, and beyond

We remain eternally indebted to you and humbly fall at your lotus feet. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your insignificant servants at New Remuṇā Dhāma, ISKCON Toronto, Canada.

New Tālavana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your devotional service, O most powerful disciple of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī.

The spiritual master opens the eyes of his disciple with the torchlight of knowledge. This is your greatness. Despite the darkness within me, your words have eradicated the nescience I was drowning in.

I owe my life—both spiritual and material—to you. I can never repay my debt to you for graciously crossing the ocean to save fools and rascals like myself. You really are our ever well-wisher. The least we can do is maintain your society, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, and push on your mission to print and distribute your books.

The numerous important instructions you gave us are most valuable. We are most fortunate to have them. Our welfare is achieved by following those directions. We are so lucky to have these instructions and to have witnessed your ideal example. Please remain forever within our vision and do not let us ignore you. O *gurudeva*, you are the torchlight of knowledge.

Thank you for the *mahā-mantra*. It is nondifferent from Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. Who were we to deserve such a gift? We were not qualified, yet you gave us the mantra and the science of devotional service. Your kindness and mercy know no bounds. Please let me serve you birth after birth, without expecting anything in return.

O holy one, you are truly most dear to Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. You engaged us in serving Their *arcā-vigraha* although we were unfit, but you stressed that we would become fit by sincerely following your orders and practicing the science of devotional service to heal our spiritual disease. How lucky we are!

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thank you for everything about yourself, your mission, and your teachings. May we forever grasp them with love and devotion.

Your humble servants at New Tālavana Dhāma, ISKCON Mississippi, USA.

(written by Yogīndra-vandana Dāsa)

New Vraja maṇḍala

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

We offer our respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

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

Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswati Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our eternal appreciation and gratitude on this auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, which is occurring during this special year in which we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of your great, immortal spiritual society, ISKCON.

In many ways, it has fittingly been a progressive, developmental year here at New Vrajaṁḍala, Spain, under the auspices of the intelligent, competent leadership of both His Holiness Bhakti Gauravāṇī Goswami and His Grace Bhakti-jñāna Prabhu.

With the arrival of several new community members, naturally we are benefiting from the much-needed boost of enthusiasm that such positive immigration ushers in. And, as we know from reading your *Nectar Of Instruction*, *utsāha*, enthusiasm, is an essential ingredient for any successful endeavor, and devotional service is no different. In fact, in the purport to text three you explain that “endeavor executed with intelligence in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is called . . . enthusiasm.”

This combination of determined action executed with intelligence is a winning one, constituting the correct means by which everything can be utilized in the service of the Lord—*yuktya-vairāgya*. And this is the skill or art of the expert spiritualist.

You further enlighten us by adding that “The execution of devotional service is not a matter of idle meditation but is practical application in the foreground of spiritual life.” What an amazing, game-changing principle of spiritual life this is! You have opened the floodgates to unlimited nuances of spiritual opportunity by introducing us to such an all-inclusive and progressive transcendental paradigm.

No longer do we need to falsely renounce possessions, thoughts, and actions in order to transcend the mundane. You have taught us that since everything, absolutely everything, is the property of Lord Kṛṣṇa, we have, in fact, nothing to renounce in the first place, other than attachment to and enjoyment of the fruits of action. All we have to do is accept and recognize this simple truth and then proceed to put it into practical application.

Personally, and I know I’m not alone, I can tangibly feel that here at New Vrajaṁḍala great things are slowly taking shape. This is not to minimize, discredit, or belittle the sweat, blood, and tears shed by all the past servitors of this great community, who have literally kept it “alive and kicking” over the years despite many serious challenges, set-backs, and reversals. No, those who have come before us also share in all its glory, having played their indispensable role in the thirty-seven-year development that has brought us to where we are today.

But what I am referring to now is a very tangible, palpable promise of something substantial in the making, perhaps the beginning of a golden age in the ongoing, unfolding drama that is New Vrajaṁḍala. It seems Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself is showering extra mercy to especially glorify His pure devotee at this monumental milestone.

A nautical analogy might be appropriate here: As the yielding, surrendered sails of wisdom catch hold of soothing, vitalizing currents, replete with your divine mercy and grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda, mature, experienced sailors cautiously steer the ship’s course according to charts expertly drawn and prescribed by the Master. Meanwhile, fresh, enthusiastic, youthful devotees man the decks to complement a dedicated crew, united as one in their desire to strive for excellence.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we offer the following at New Vrajaṁḍala, as an ongoing commitment to you:

- A determined, sustained undertaking for improving standards of *arcana*, temple Deity worship;
- Investment in and commitment to a new *gurukula* project for the education of present and future generations;
- Ideas and plans afoot to move us ever closer toward self-sufficiency, utilizing nature’s vast, free, and abundant sources of power and sustenance;
- A series of European government-funded training programs and courses to educate and enlighten;
- Ongoing upgrades and improvements to our Rādhā-Govinda guesthouse;
- Property renovation and development to appropriately accommodate a variety of community members’ needs

In short, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the devotees here at New Vrajaṁḍala are giving our humble all in an attempt to fulfil your mission and at least make some small headway in the repayment of our great debt to

you—a debt that officially began fifty years ago with the inauguration of your world-changing international institution and global society, ISKCON, an event we celebrate this calendar year.

Of course, so rare, precious, and beautiful is this eternal gift you have given us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that we should be celebrating it at every moment. But as with any special landmark anniversary celebration, we also want to take this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to shout from the highest rooftops: “This is the divine legacy and spiritually emancipating message of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, savior of the whole world!”

We beg to remain your eternal servants, Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your humble servitors in New Vrajamaṇḍala, Spain.

(written by Jaya Gopāla Dāsa)

New York (Brooklyn)

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

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

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

Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Mystical light, nescience at noon,
eternity, peace, magnificent Moon.
Gaurāṅga’s mercy, *harinām*, all hearts swoon,
Prabhupāda delivers the greatest of boons.

Nityānanda smiles bright, *jīvātmā* no dream,
Golden Volcano, knower Supreme,
Elevation self-evident, beyond Māyā’s scheme,
Prabhupāda empowered, please join his team.

Bṛhat mṛdaṅga, greater, sublime,
Captured by truth, absolute, divine,
Unflinching faith, wisdom betwixt lines,
Awaken sweet bliss, Kṛṣṇa blesses, most fine.

Light of the *Bhāgavat*, on all souls shall shine,
Bhāgavatam, *Gītā*, ambrosia divine,
 Hare Kṛṣṇa chant, white lotus, teach all,
 Caitanya the gardener, beckon Mahāprabhu's call.

On the field of distress, a street named despair,
 Succumbed to a death, alive in the air,
 Seek Kṛṣṇa's shelter, fly Eastern sky,
 Faster than Light, to a realm beyond Time.

Field of truth, awesome, sublime,
 Chariot approaches, dismount, Father of Time,
 Sat mighty hero, steel gaze fixed on mine,
 Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Arjuna, friends, servants, entwined.

Awestruck and silent, Govinda directs wise the way,
 Hare Kṛṣṇa movement, go happily play,
 Rādhā-Govinda, splendorous, Henry Street in May,
 Pure devotion abundant, taste *bhāva* today.

Hare Kṛṣṇa 50, every village and town,
 Nitāi-Gaurāṅga, *mahā-mantra* resound,
 50 years future, peace, happiness, transcendent sound,
 Śrīla Prabhupāda's mercy, limit no bounds.

Chant these names of God and your life will be sublime!
 Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare
 Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare

Words from our ever well-wisher, Śrīla Prabhupāda, in a letter to Viśāla Dāsa, 16 June 1969:

Your final question is how can you become a pure devotee, and the answer to this is given in Bhagavad-gita. Krishna instructs Arjuna that the mahatma, the pure devotee, is he who has fully surrendered himself unto the spiritual nature. And how can we tell if one is completely surrendered unto the spiritual nature? He is always fully engaged in devotional service to Krishna. So this is the process of becoming a pure devotee.

We have to engage all of our words, thoughts, and activities in Krishna Consciousness under the direction of the Spiritual Master. Therefore, at every moment you should be busy in some way in serving Krishna and His pure devotees, and automatically you will become purified in Krishna Consciousness. Krishna is always willing to shower His mercy upon His devotees, so we have simply to become receptive to this mercy by devotional service, and then the path is very easy. I hope this will sufficiently answer your questions.

Please convey my blessings to the others. I hope this will meet you in good health.

Your ever well-wisher,
 A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Fifty *daṇḍavats* at your divine lotus feet from the front, from behind, and from all sides, again and yet again, fifty times on this, your special Vyāsa-pūjā celebration day during the great ISKCON 50th

Golden Anniversary, in the Golden Age of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the Golden Avatāra, commemorating the Golden establishment of the Golden International Society for Krishna Conscious, the best Golden opportunity to return back home, back to Godhead at the lotus feet of the Golden-hearted Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi and the Molten Gold Śrīmatī-Rādhārāṇī and Śrīla Govindadeva.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have trained aspiring Hare Kṛṣṇa devotees on the path of pure devotion to Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet for the past fifty years, and have you guided students how to avoid being miserly (*kṛpana*) selfish persons, and how not to be narrow-minded (*durātmās*), limited in the vision of giving Kṛṣṇa consciousness to other unfortunate and less fortunate persons. You taught us to not become polluted by the poisonous qualities of the lower self born of false ego, and the materially motivated mundane consciousness infected with lust, anger, greed, wrath, envy, jealousy, hatred, sinful desire, etc.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, Your Divine Grace is most kind and merciful, as you taught thousands and millions of persons how to avoid this most dangerous path leading to a miserable and wasted life, a miserable death, and possibly more misery in hell. Birth after birth, disease after disease, and death after death, again, and again.

When oh when will that day be ours, Śrīla Prabhupāda, when we finally learn how to surrender properly at all times, with a loving devotional mood in all our devotional activities offered to Your Divine Grace wholeheartedly, with body, mind, heart, and soul? With sincere love and devotion at your transcendental lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda? Please help us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We are drowning in an ocean of misery and sorrow for want of uninterrupted Kṛṣṇa consciousness, devotional service without deviation. Save us, please, Śrīla Prabhupāda. There is no one who can deliver the treasure of divine love for Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Lord Śrī Nityānanda Rāma as effectively as Your Divine Grace. Please do not kick us away. Save us, save us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. We beg for your mercy, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Shamelessly and with greed we beg for your special mercy to uplift us to the perfection of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Your Divine Grace enabled a miraculous transformation in the untrained consciousness of unfortunate persons, even some of the lowest caliber, who sometimes resembled hogs, dogs, camels, and asses. Your Divine Grace was able to perform such a miracle, as you are always the perfect devotee exemplifying the perfection of an enlightened Kṛṣṇa conscious person. The best, most ideal, real, and true leader, yes, the topmost swanlike *paramahansa*, the Vaiṣṇava Ācārya Ṭhākura, actually the one and only founder-*ācārya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Your Divine Grace is indeed the greatest *mahātmā* we have ever seen and heard from.

*mahātmānas tu mām pārtha daivīm prakṛtim āśritāḥ
bhajanty ananya-manaso jñātvā bhūtādim avyayam*

“O son of Pṛthā, those who are not deluded, the great souls, are under the protection of the divine nature. They are fully engaged in devotional service because they know Me as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, original and inexhaustible.” (*Bhagavad-gītā* 9.13)

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this great *Bhagavad-gītā śloka* defines your great character and the great perfect example you lead us with on the path of perfection of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the wonderful illuminated path of pure devotion to Śrī Kṛṣṇa. *Mahātmā* refers to persons like Your Divine Grace, who are broad-minded, not cripple-minded, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your teaching, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is by the highest and greatest personal example, the perfect example of an enlightened and perfectly Kṛṣṇa conscious supergreat Vaiṣṇava *ācārya*.

Your Divine Grace taught from the spiritual higher-self platform, the enlightened Kṛṣṇa consciousness of a self-effulgent *ācāryadeva*, the spiritual self-realized platform of *bhakti-yoga*, showing the perfect example of *sādhana* in practice, the real entrance door to pure *raga-mārga bhakti*. Your Divine Grace established early in your mission the surefire path of adopting the most positive transcendental activities based upon the mission principles of your great brainchild, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

Therefore any person, from the lowest to the so-called highest in the society of unfortunate mankind, who sincerely attempts to fulfill any or all of the mission principles you established in 1966

when incorporating the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, can be elevated to the topmost platform of Kṛṣṇa consciousness in this very lifetime, develop the topmost divine character qualities as described in *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, and be happy in this life and be happy eternally in the association of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu and all of His wonderful divine eternal associates.

Your Divine Grace brainstormed perfect ISKCON development ideas according to the direct desire of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Prabhupāda, Śrīla Nityānanda Rāma, Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, and Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa—your supreme executive committee.

First: The name of the corporation shall be International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Inc.

Second: The purposes for which the corporation is organized are:

- (1) To systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to society at large and to educate all peoples in the techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world.
- (2) To propagate a consciousness of Krishna as it is revealed in the Bhagawat Gita and Srimad Bhagawatam.
- (3) To bring the members of the Society together with each other and nearer to Krishna, the prime entity, and thus to develop the idea, within the members, and humanity at large, that each soul is part and parcel of the quality of Godhead (Krishna).
- (4) To teach and encourage the Samkirtan movement, congregational chanting of the holy name of God, as revealed in the teachings of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.
- (5) To erect for the members, and for society at large, a holy place of transcendental pastimes dedicated to the personality of Krishna.
- (6) To bring the members closer together for the purpose of teaching a simpler and more natural way of life.
- (7) With a view towards achieving the aforementioned purposes, to publish and distribute periodicals, magazines, books and other writings.

Chanting the *mahā-mantra*, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare; study of the most essential Vedic teachings—*Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, *Nectar of Devotion (Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu)*, *Upadesāmṛta (Nectar of Instruction)*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Kṛṣṇa Book*, *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, and *Brahma-saṁhitā*.

Your Divine Grace established a wonderful, gorgeous, and absolutely beautiful, ISKCON standard of Deity worship in temples throughout the world. Especially worship of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you indeed are the most prolific *ācāryadeva* who established and inspired so many worldwide ISKCON Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa temples with such blissful Deity worship to attract and capture the loving hearts of the general masses of aspiring devotees and conditioned souls.

Transcendental, divinely delicious Kṛṣṇa-Deity *prasādam*, blessing and making so many millions of persons purified of sinful reaction, blissful, happy, very pleased and satisfied, providing a taste of nectar from Govinda's lips, abundantly available from the hundreds of ISKCON communities where such gorgeous and opulent Deity *sevā* is established. Kṛṣṇa-*prasādam*: supremely delicious and good to the very last drop.

Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa reveals what wonderful achievements your great, pure, and empowered transcendental guidance can lead us to, Śrīla Prabhupāda. At *Bhagavad-gītā* 16.1–3, Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa states:

*abhayaṁ sattva-saṁśuddhir jñāna-yoga-vyavasthitiḥ
dānaṁ damaś ca yajñaś ca svādhyāyas tapa ājvam*

*ahimsā satyam akrodhas tyāgaḥ śāntir apaiśunam
dayā bhūteṣv aloluptvaṁ mādavaṁ hrīr acāpalam*

*tejaḥ kṣamā dhṛtiḥ śaucam adroho nāti-mānitā
bhavanti sampadam daivīm abhijātasya bhārata*

“Fearlessness; purification of one’s existence; cultivation of spiritual knowledge; charity; self-control; performance of sacrifice; study of the Vedas; austerity; simplicity; nonviolence; truthfulness; freedom from anger; renunciation; tranquillity; aversion to faultfinding; compassion for all living entities; freedom from covetousness; gentleness; modesty; steady determination; vigor; forgiveness; fortitude; cleanliness; and freedom from envy and from the passion for honor—these transcendental qualities, O son of Bharata, belong to godly men endowed with divine nature.”

Such great qualities as established in these great *Bhagavad-gītā ślokas* have been attained by some devotees because of surrender at your divine lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda. These great qualities are now shining a light of transcendental knowledge from the hearts and minds of some great souls who sincerely applied themselves and surrendered significantly, offering and surrendering their priceless time with love and devotion, some fortunate souls who sacrificed with love and devotion even their entire adult lives for Your Divine Grace. Many devotees have been serving your transcendental lotus feet now for 40 to 50 years.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, now there is a second generation who have an even greater opportunity to surrender even more precious time, practically their entire lives from their earliest years, to assist in fulfilling this great mission of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, which you so kindly delivered to us for maintenance and, perhaps even more important, for the ever-increasing expansion of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness network of distributing the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* and transcendental knowledge to lead mankind to the matchless blessing of love of God, Kṛṣṇa-*prema*. Now many of those wonderful young devotees have a golden opportunity to serve Your Divine Grace up to the 100th Anniversary of ISKCON, Śrīla Prabhupāda. The great good fortune of Kṛṣṇa consciousness continually passes from generation to generation during this Golden age of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the Kali-yuga Golden Avatāra of pure *bhakti-yoga*.

Your Divine Grace delivered your great ISKCON legacy to all dedicated and sincere persons serving with love and devotion at your divine lotus feet. We serve ISKCON as our field of determined devotional activity on this absolute highest path of *bhakti-yoga*, this great broad vision path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness perfection, the path of the *mahātmās*, originally chalked out by the supremely magnanimous Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi and Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindadeva—yes, the same divine path of *bhakti-yoga* Your Divine Grace delivered to these dangerous unforgiving Western shores of sin and sorrow, birth, death, and misery fifty years ago.

We can simply attempt to appreciate the greatness and simplicity with which you taught us, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Our legacy is nonexistent: all credit goes to Your Divine Grace, the empowered ISKCON founder-*ācārya*. We remain insignificant and poor yet at the same time rich with a wealth of divine transcendental qualities established in our hearts and character by the wise transformational empowered potencies possessed by Your Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your Divine Grace has such a wonderful and simple way of leading us on the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, a straightforward teaching method, a simple yet easy-to-understand transcendental voice for preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness, which even very simple and humble persons can thereby retain, comprehend, and understand easily and apply in their daily activities. We are all your aspiring dedicated students.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are always eager and feel greatly blessed, happy, and rewarded when we hear your divine words of guidance:

*samāṣṛitā ye pada-pallava-plavam
mahat-padam puṇya-yaśo murāreḥ
bhavāmbudhir vatsa-padam param padam
padam padam yad vipadām na teṣām*

This is *bhagavata-darśana*. *Padam padam yad vipadām*. This material world, *padam padam* means

step by step there is danger. So one who takes shelter of the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa, *mahat-padam puṇya-yaśo murāreḥ samāśritā*, for him there is no more danger. *Abhaya-caraṇāravinda re.*

How it is possible to take complete shelter of Kṛṣṇa, which is fearlessness, no anxiety, *vaikuṇṭha? Durlabha mānava-janama sat-saṅge. Sat-saṅge. Satām prasaṅgān mama vīrya-saṁvido.* If you remain with the devotees, then by their association, by talking with them, you'll get real understanding of God consciousness. This is very practical to understand. [Lecture on *Bhajahū Re Mana*, Los Angeles, 27 May 1972]

Śrīla Prabhupāda, congratulations on fifty years of ISKCON's progressive spiritual development and expansion, delivering Kṛṣṇa consciousness to hundreds of millions and possibly multiple billions of conditioned souls, who are all drowning in an ocean of nescience and are deeply in need of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Many of us, your initiated disciples, shall continue to dedicate our remaining years (perhaps a few more decades in this life until the end) as a sacrifice offered with love and devotion at your transcendental lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, to assist you until our last breath in fulfilling your mission, the most important transcendental mission of fulfilling the desire of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the Golden Volcano of pure love and devotion to Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindadeva.

However, it is highly unlikely any of us who are your *dikṣā* disciples will live to see the wonderful and awesome ISKCON Centennial, the 100th- anniversary celebration. But we want Your Divine Grace to be assured of our commitment. Śrīla Prabhupāda, we will leave our entire beings—body, mind, and spirit—on the battlefield of sacrifice, on the field of Kṛṣṇa consciousness truth, the field of devotional service, dedicated with love and devotion to fulfilling your desire at your transcendental lotus feet.

We beg you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, please never kick us away. We have no other shelter but your divine lotus feet. Therefore we humbly beg to be engaged in pure Kṛṣṇa conscious *sevā* offered at your divine transcendental lotus feet forever, Śrīla Prabhupāda, forever.

We beg to remain your servants forever.

ISKCON 50-*kī jaya!*

Your unfortunate, insignificant servants at Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindadeva Mandira, Brooklyn, New York City, New York, USA.

(written by Rāmabhadra Dāsa)

Osaka

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to you! All glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga!

We devotees of the Osaka Center are so fortunate to receive your instructions though your direct disciples who are always serving you by preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness. They are always glorious and shining because they are always absorbed in fulfilling your mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Their minds are fixed on Kṛṣṇa, and their Kṛṣṇa consciousness is never disturbed by the modes of material nature.

By your mercy your teachings have been spreading step by step here in Osaka. We are regularly welcoming new devotees at the Osaka Center. We organized Ratha-yātrā in 2014 and 2015. We organized

a six-hour *kīrtana* in 2014, and many new people have become interested in chanting the *mahā-mantra* since then. The number of initiated devotees is also increasing. And the Sunday Feast is also continuing.

You said that Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Japan would spread after it spread to many other countries, but that there would then be many Japanese devotees of good quality. We have strong hope and faith in your words. To fulfill your prediction we are trying our best to serve our *guru* and the devotees. It is said that devotees are even more merciful than the Lord himself because they help us by conveying the mercy of the Lord.

We are cooperating to fulfill your divine purpose. Please bestow your mercy on the Osaka Center and the Osaka devotees so that we can be more and more serious to distribute your teachings, which are essential for all mankind. We are translating your books into Japanese now. Please bestow your mercy on us so that we can become qualified to perform this important service in a way that will please you.

All our endeavors are just for serving you and your beloved disciples.

All glories to your *saṅkīrtana* movement!

Your humble servants in Osaka, Kobe, and Kyoto, Japan.

(written by Ānanda-mūrti Devī Dāśī)

Ottawa

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories unto you and your ISKCON.

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

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

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

Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanya and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, this year, 2016, your followers throughout the whole world will join together to celebrate your Vyāsa-pūjā and the 50th anniversary of your incorporation of ISKCON.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on the order of your beloved spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, you left the holy *dhāma* and risked your life to come to the West to teach us the true purpose of human life, which is to accept Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, to realize our position as His eternal servants, and to engage in His service with love.

Determined to follow the order of your Guru Mahārāja to take the message of Kṛṣṇa consciousness

abroad and teach it to the English-speaking world, you journeyed to the West at an advanced age and founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in July of 1966 in New York City. Your Society has flourished for the last fifty years, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and today it continues to bring about a positive and significant change in the present misguided civilization.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you came as an ambassador from the spiritual world, bringing with you the message of pure love of God and the simple but sublime means by which the whole world can achieve this pure love: by sincerely and submissively chanting the Holy Names of the Lord, specifically the *mahā-mantra*—Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare—which you personally and single-handedly started doing at Tompkins Square Park in New York.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, to convince us and world to accept this process and to execute another order of your Guru Maharaja—“If you ever get money, print books”—you dedicated your life to translating, commenting on, and publishing the most important and relevant scriptures, headed by *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta*. These and your other books will be the lawbooks for the next 10,000 years.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you also personally started cooking and serving the Lord’s *prasādam* (mercy) to everyone.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you also gave us beautiful Deities to worship for our purification.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you give us your ISKCON as a vehicle in which we can associate and co-operate on the basis of love and trust, individually and collectively advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and perform the highest welfare work by spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the entire world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā and the 50th anniversary of your incorporation of ISKCON, we thank you for all your transcendental gifts and humbly and sincerely pray to be eternally situated in the dust of your lotus feet. We pray for your causeless mercy so that we may seriously take up your mission and become worthy to represent you, serve you, and share your mercy and spread your glories in any capacity you desire and allow us to.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Ottawa, Canada.

Paris

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine*

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

My dear beloved spiritual master,

Since I’ve been asked to write this offering in the name of all the devotees of the Paris temple, I’ve been wondering constantly: “How can I write something worthy enough to glorify my spiritual father? How will I find the right words?”

After a few days I started to think, “The few words I will write can just be simple words, just coming from my heart, from my daily chanting of my rounds with you, dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda, always with the same video I like so much!

“It will not be an homage full of Sanskrit quotes, because I’m not learned enough. But it will be full of

the emotions I feel when I look at the amazing picture of you handing me my *japa* beads at my initiation. Every time I look at you in that picture, I can hear you say, ‘You are now my dear daughter. I will never abandon you. Just chant Hare Kṛṣṇa!’”

In that spirit of the eternal protection and love you give me, I recently heard a very sweet pastime of the Lord in Vṛndāvana.

Kṛṣṇa wanted pearls in order to decorate His cows. Meanwhile, the *gopīs* were secretly stringing a lot of pearls to decorate their beloved Kṛṣṇa for some special occasion. Kṛṣṇa, of course, knowing that the *gopīs* had so many pearls at their disposal, approached them, thinking they’d be happy to help Him. But the *gopīs* refused, and we know why!

Then Kṛṣṇa, the Almighty, took some pearls from His dear mother and simply planted them. Pearl trees immediately started to grow from the ground of Vraja! An incredible amount of pearls were quickly produced! Kṛṣṇa picked so many that not only could He decorate His cows but also the monkeys!

This wonderful pastime brought an image to my mind: I imagined that each pearl was a bead of your *japa-mālā*. Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are planting your pearls, representing us all, your assembled disciples, your dear sons and daughters, as Kṛṣṇa planted His mother’s pearls. And from each pearl, or each Vaiṣṇava, so many grew under the loving chanting of you, dearest father.

As you finger the pearl beads of your *japa-mālā*, you chant so purely and with so much love and mercy, praying to the Lord to help you in your immense service: to bring each of us back home, back to Godhead!

My beloved eternal father, how can I find the most sincere and loving words to place around your neck, like numberless garlands, the garlands with the most spiritual fragrance of the service happily and sincerely offered by your sons and daughters at your lotus feet. What a sweet fragrance!

Fifty years ago you came to the West on the *Jaladuta* to save as many souls as possible. We can never repay you for your courageous and compassionate act, Śrīla Prabhupāda. All we can do is take shelter at your lotus feet and always keep our promise and chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare.

My heart is crushed by feelings of separation each time I listen to you speak words of perfect wisdom, whenever I read your words of perfect wisdom, whenever I hear the sounds of your voice singing to the Lord with so much intimacy. Each time you boldly chant the name “Kṛṣṇa,” I know you are simply speaking with the Lord!

Moment after moment, at each step of my life, despite all my defects I can only beg for your protection from illusion, beg for your causeless mercy, and beg for your immense love. I’m so happy to share this love with all your beloved and dedicated disciples.

All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to the assembled devotees!

Your servants in Paris, France.

(written by Rāgiṇī Devī Dāsī)

Perth

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

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

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

This year marks the 50th anniversary of your registering the International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness in New York. So it is a very special year, one in which we are planning several projects to commemorate this glorious anniversary. Your society is flourishing, Śrīla Prabhupāda, with thousands of devotees around the world dedicating their lives in various areas of transcendental service to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

If not for you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we would be immersed in the modes of passion and ignorance, trying to enjoy sense gratification. Your love and compassion for all sentient beings inspired you to leave Vṛndāvana and embark on the perilous journey to the America on the ship *Jaladuta*. Within a short time, many lost youths had become bright-faced and were helping you spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world.

We know we can never repay the debt we owe Your Divine Grace for giving us the transcendental knowledge of the Supreme Lord, Kṛṣṇa. But we can try to do something in Perth, a place where you placed your lotus feet during one of your world preaching tours.

This year we have a group of young, dynamic devotees helping to organize big events to celebrate ISKCON's 50th anniversary. We have already had a few big *harināmas* in the city, which attracted and purified the hearts of many onlookers and passersby. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have fulfilled Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's prophecy that the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra* would be sung in every town and every village.

We are also trying to increase book distribution by involving more congregational members. Millions of your books are printed in various languages and distributed profusely in many parts of the world, and many people are joining ISKCON just by reading Your Divine Grace's nectarean, transcendental books.

In Perth we are looking for a piece of land to build a bigger temple, with better facilities for our growing congregation. Hopefully, by your mercy, in three or four years we will have a new temple.

Preaching has increased with new Bhakti Vriksha programs in several suburbs, and university programs are attracting lots of students. We pray for your mercy so we will have the strength to sincerely preach to the conditioned souls.

On this auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we beg Your Divine Grace for your mercy so we can carry on your work with love and devotion.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Perth, Australia.

Philadelphia

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the birth of your offspring, the International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. It is a time for reflection and celebration. Once you told us that before disembarking from the *Jaladuta* you had mused, “When I tell them not to eat meat, have illicit sex, take intoxication, or gamble, they will say, ‘Sir, please go home.’” Despite that apprehension, you did not water down the message of Godhead. Like Vasudeva carrying Lord Kṛṣṇa across troubled waters, you brought the Supreme Personality of Godhead, in His complete glory, to America. And with unwavering faith in the order of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura to preach the message of Lord Caitanya in the West, you presented the unadulterated teachings of pure *bhakti* for the first time outside India. A dynamic and vital intercontinental movement then wonderfully blossomed from that absolute wisdom bolstered by your personal charm and practical example.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, reviewing ISKCON’s initial incorporation papers, we find it interesting that among the nine original trustees a few were dedicated followers but most were not. Your name is not even present among the list of trustees, although you signed the document as a witness. You had such deep faith that Kṛṣṇa could and would act through your instructions to your disciples that you encouraged us to take full responsibility for the movement from the very beginning.

In your Introduction to *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, throughout your Bhaktivedanta purports, and frequently in your discourses, you repeatedly emphasized that you were presenting the ancient and unmodified teachings of Lord Kṛṣṇa as received in disciplic succession. Again and again you warned us not to tamper with or manufacture “improvements” to this wisdom with our fertile imaginations. You astutely observed that changing things was our “American disease.” During your manifest presence, your words, like a protective father’s admonitions to his child, protected us from not only external but internal threats as well. You chastened and corrected us numerous times when we naively or intentionally minimized your guidance by trying to change things. And you observed that Lord Kṛṣṇa had taken birth within the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

Some have attributed your success to the social conditions of the 60s. Others have intimated that your comfort in mixing with Westerners was the key. These views miss the essential point: your success was based on your preaching the unalloyed, twenty-four-carat message of Godhead.

As Lord Kṛṣṇa continued to be assailed throughout his *līlā* by the likes of Śiśupāla and Pauṇḍraka, ISKCON has also continued to face threats from within and without after your physical departure. Truly, only by fidelity to your instructions and guidance, without adulteration, has ISKCON survived, grown, and matured. Thus your progeny, ISKCON, proudly remains a powerful and living testament to your spiritual stature as a perfect conduit for Lord Caitanya’s mercy. We, your servants at ISKCON of Philadelphia, humbly pray at your lotus feet to be able to deeply imbibe this truth, and to be able to faithfully practice and present the undiluted teachings of Lord Caitanya, following your example for fifty and more years to come.

Your servants at ISKCON Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

Phoenix (Arizona)

Our dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most respectful and humble obeisances unto your lotus feet and allow us to take on our heads the dust left by your footprints so that we may treasure it and share it as we share the

precious gift you brought to us, the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the movement you started, we like to pause and meditate upon your trip across the sea, upon the gigantic task entrusted to you by your Guru Mahārāja, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura. We meditate upon your enormous love for and faith in Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, and upon your vision of bringing the movement of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu to the West and making it available to everyone.

While an ordinary 69-year-old man would be preparing to retire and delegate his responsibilities, you did just the opposite: you embarked on the biggest journey and the biggest endeavor of your life. At an advanced age and with no money or assistants, you decided to come to a totally strange country, a place that was and still is very much attracted by Māyā. When your holy feet touched Boston Harbor and saw the influence of Kali, your faith in Kṛṣṇa and the teachings of Lord Caitanya gave you the strength to continue. And then you performed the greatest act of kindness: you delivered the mercy of the Lord by undertaking all kinds of austerities needed to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness in such place—a place bereft of spiritual knowledge, a place where universal values were rapidly fading and where youngsters had lost respect for their elders, for discipline, and sometimes even for life itself.

By your example, you turned many youngsters who were lost in Māyā into devotees; as you said, you “turned hippies into happies.” You took them under your wing, like a bird giving shelter to her chicks. You shared your love for God and your love and respect for your spiritual master, and you did not deviate from your objective. With your spiritual vision you saw wonderful things in the future, and they steadily became manifest because of your determination, purity, and guidance. But you also saw warned us of the pitfalls.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, times are not getting any easier. The effects of this dark age are ever more noticeable, and sometimes we fall victim to our false ego, become bewildered, and start to believe that bad things are good and good things are bad. In other words, at times our ability to discriminate becomes hampered and eliminating our *anarthas* becomes even more difficult.

But then once again your example, your kindness, and your clear instructions give us hope—hope that if we persevere, if we follow your example, if we accept and acknowledge your guidance, then, as you yourself said, there is no reason why we can’t stay on the boat you are captaining and one day go back home, back to Godhead.

Thank you for coming to the west 51 years ago! Thank you for incorporating this society 50 years ago! Thank you for introducing Kṛṣṇa into our lives! Thank you for giving yourself cent percent, for teaching us by your example!

May we never forget you and what you have done for us. May we always remember Kṛṣṇa, and may we never forget Kṛṣṇa.

Begging to remain in service,

Your servants at ISKCON Phoenix, Arizona.

Phoenix (Mauritius)

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your divine appearance! All glories to your ISKCON!

Fifty-one years since you left India for the West. Fifty years since you incorporated ISKCON. Time has passed by so fast that we've been unable to consider or realize the endless problems you went through in establishing ISKCON.

You were able to manage the worldwide ISKCON society because your humility, purity, and compassion enabled you to command respect from all, be they disciples, professors, journalists, or people from countless other walks of life.

Although you never took any credit for your achievements, it is understood that you were successful because you were empowered by the Supreme Personality of Godhead to carry out the task of bringing Kṛṣṇa consciousness to the whole world.

Out of your humility and your compassion upon the whole world, you brought the message of Lord Caitanya to people of different races, religions, cultures. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you were able to plant the seed of *bhakti* in the hearts of thousands. Despite all sorts of calamities, those seeds you so mercifully planted are fructifying. Your ISKCON is growing, with a constant increase in the number of ISKCON devotees, centers, and book and *prasādam* distribution. People are joining, and temple congregations are growing.

As time passes, one by one your faithful disciples are rejoining you to personally serve your lotus feet and engage in the eternal pastimes of the Lord. Many of those who remain are leading your society. Here in Mauritius, your representatives are working hard to implement the instructions you gave us here in 1975, when you predicted that Mauritius would become the first Kṛṣṇa conscious country. Land is being acquired, and we strongly believe that through your mercy ISKCON Mauritius—and ISKCON worldwide—will continue to grow.

Your eternal servants at Hare Krishna Land, Phoenix, Mauritius.

(written by Ajaya Caitanya Dāsa)

Phuket

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, savior of the fallen souls,

Kindly accept our most respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet.

On this occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā during the auspicious year in which we celebrate the 50th anniversary of your founding ISKCON, we devotees here in Phuket pledge ourselves to work cooperatively in your service to develop our Kṛṣṇa consciousness center and more widely introduce your movement to the public. Phuket is internationally famous as a holiday resort, with golden beaches and tropical skies. Tourists come here from all corners of the world hoping to enjoy, and we pray that we can fulfill their heartfelt desires by giving them Kṛṣṇa consciousness. As George Harrison wrote in his introductory words to your *Kṛṣṇa* book: “Everyone is looking for Kṛṣṇa. Some don't realize that they are, but they are.”

Please bless us so that we may dedicate ourselves to your service through ISKCON by engaging in Deity worship and book distribution and organizing *saṅkīrtana* festivals. We want to make the people happy, and we are convinced that this can be done only through the propagation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

May we continue to serve you in this mood, eternally.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, with all the humility at our command we prostrate ourselves at your lotus feet.

Your servants at ISKCON Phuket.

Radhadesh

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

We, the Radhadesh-vāsīs, beg to offer you our prostrated obeisances on your Vyāsa-pūjā day in this fiftieth year since you founded your International Society for Krishna Consciousness. We pray that our humble attempt to glorify Your Divine Grace will find favor with you, because without your merciful acceptance we cannot hope to advance in assimilating and carrying out your instructions.

This year we reflect even more deeply on your arrival in America after an excruciatingly trying sea-voyage. You told us that upon your arrival you drew courage from a billboard advertising “Unalloyed Steel” because it reminded you that you had come to share unalloyed *bhakti* with those who were so desperately in need of it. This was one of the “small” incidents that indicated your profound Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The more we study your *līlā* and teachings and attempt to serve the servants of your servants, the more we are blessed with some of your mystic devotional capacity of seeing Kṛṣṇa conscious principles and truths embodied in apparently insignificant, mundane items. More often, Śrīla Prabhupāda, such items simply remind us of you.

One example is a delivery truck that comes regularly to Radhadesh bearing a simple slogan: “Excellence: Simply Delivered.” When we see this truck, how can we not recall your *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and your transparency in distributing Kṛṣṇa consciousness? Sometimes the delivery man who drives this particular truck becomes flustered, likely because there are so many buildings on the Radhadesh campus that he has difficulty figuring out exactly where he needs to deliver a particular parcel. Evidently, simply delivering excellence is not so easy.

Thus we reflect on how you labored selflessly, tirelessly, to simply deliver supreme excellence! In India, although you endeavored for decades, you found a paucity of interest, and on directing your vision toward the West, you faced so many obstacles before you were finally able to board that cargo ship with only two trunks of your invaluable books. With what enthusiasm, patience, and confidence you carried on against all odds in New York City, until you finally established ISKCON, while your “motley crew” of followers could scarcely comprehend what you could possibly mean by an “international society.” Then once your society began to rapidly expand, or as one of your first disciples said, “explode,” you continued to simply distribute excellence: Kṛṣṇa consciousness—nothing more, nothing less.

When your leading “warriors” would quarrel and sometimes fall, you would become distressed and disappointed, but you carried on, always forgiving, always encouraging. And throughout the decades since your disappearance, your encouragement and forgiveness are still flowing. Otherwise, how can so many who have struggled, offended, or even fallen away still somehow take shelter of your instructions? They just go on vigorously and successfully practicing and preaching because of their love for you and the excellence of what you have simply delivered.

This reminds us of how, early on in the development of your worldwide community, you insisted on establishing the GBC, despite the practically unavoidable pitfalls and falldowns your disciples and descendants would face, and more specifically, because of them.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you have provided and continue to provide us with practically unlimited facility for becoming pure devotees. Oh Śrīla Prabhupāda! Why do we not all fully embrace the excellence that you have so simply delivered? If anything we are doing gives you satisfaction, kindly bless us so that we may become one-pointed in your service, cooperating in a mood of love and trust until everyone in our community joyfully accepts the supreme excellence of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and simply delivers it, attempting to follow your divine footsteps.

Your hopeful servants in Radhadesh, Belgium.

Rome

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble and respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, on your sublime appearance day and always.

Your books, detonators of lucidity, represent the finishing blow inflicted upon Māyā and her agents, marking the true revolution, the biggest the world has ever seen: the revolution in consciousness. Everybody in the world wants to be happy, and you disclosed the way to be truly happy eternally. You loved the poor conditioned souls so much! In *The Nectar of Devotion* you explain that a compassionate person is one who cannot tolerate anybody's suffering. How much pain there is in this world, Śrīla Prabhupāda! What a struggle, being forced to live until death in this miserable condition, unaware that for one who dies, birth is certain. You did not tolerate the perpetuation of this useless, endless torment.

To us, eternity will never be long enough to repay what you have done: you granted each one of us the opportunity to become dear to Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Person, by strictly obeying the instructions that emanated from your lotus mouth, which you everlastingly fixed in your books, and by earnestly and enthusiastically sharing those words with others. You reinstated us to life, pushing us into the range of the absolute objectivity by the power of your unparalleled love. Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda.

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of your ISKCON, our real family, within which it is possible to find at last the answers to one's deepest queries and fulfill the universal need for genuine knowledge, guidance, love, and friendship.

We devotees of ISKCON's Rome *yātrā* beg you to grant us your blessings, knowing them to be crucial for us to continue serving your extraordinary movement and your heroic disciples and followers in this important city of Rome.

Your insignificant and aspiring servants at ISKCON Rome, Italy.

San Antonio

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet.

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

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

It has been so exciting and exhilarating to see how your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement has been

accelerating, with more and more devotees joining and centers opening around the world. Your movement is becoming more and more relevant in this increasingly disturbed world, which is presently at the brink of oblivion due to a variety of global threats. Only the steadily increasing influence of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement can alter the current trajectory of doom.

Your Divine Grace and the Pañca-tattva are the joy of our lives, with each member of that divine quintet inspiring us in his own way:

Caitanya Mahāprabhu: transformational power of humility
 Nityānanda Prabhu: fearless love for all
 Advaita Ācārya: the power of prayer
 Gadādhara Paṇḍita: a heart on fire for God
 Śrīvāsa Ṭhākura: community of faith

Caitanya Mahāprabhu's master plan is unfolding and gradually implanting in people's hearts the type of transcendental attachments that will take them across the ocean of material existence, attachments for taking on various roles in your glorious movement and consequently experiencing the purification that goes along with those new identities as loving servants of Kṛṣṇa.

Your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement destroys everyone's anxieties in the most unusual way, by engaging people in a variety of voluntary services to Kṛṣṇa.

The *saṅkīrtana* movement is always under very strict supervision by Your Divine Grace and Śrīmān Mahāprabhu. Both of you are leading us to most uplifting conclusions in our services of glorifying others, while we purge our tendencies to control and enjoy in our own landfills of self-righteousness, malice, and unbrahminical qualities. The process of *saṅkīrtana* you gifted us with is imperceptibly transforming all involved, turning *kṛpanas* into *brāhmaṇas*, the envious into loving servants of the Lord.

As we are being watched and reciprocated with, we remember by your divine grace that transcendence is our real home and that our temporary karmic drama should propel us toward that goal, not confuse us.

God created us to be happy, but we are not accepting the way of true happiness: surrender to the Supreme. Instead we are trying to *be* the Supreme. Therefore we are undergoing all kinds of suffering and conflict. *Aviśuddha-buddhayaḥ*: dirty minds won't help. Rather, we aspire to embrace wholeheartedly the brilliant-like-the-sun *Śikṣāṣṭaka* requirements.

With the increased dynamics in the San Antonio *yātrā*, we are very happy to see people taking more and more responsibility, regardless of the personal cost.

Yena tena prakāreṇa—somehow or other we have to attach ourselves to your mission and make serving you our only aspiration.

We hope you will kindly be pleased with our steady contribution to your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement in the form of university programs, home programs, and other collaborative programs accompanied by *kīrtana* and book distribution.

Another initiation was performed last spring, with a few more members becoming part of your worldwide family. Some of our students were sent for further training to your bigger centers, since our facilities and support system are still quite undeveloped.

However, we continue our pioneering work here in San Antonio, depending on your and Kṛṣṇa's divine grace, fully aware that being transcendental doesn't take away from being human but rather enhances one's humanity as one progressively raises one's consciousness. As we witness this in your glorious international movement, we pray that we won't succumb to quick judgments of aspiring devotees before properly understanding them.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your loving glance sustains us.

Your servants in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

(written by Advaita Ācārya Dāsa)

Seattle

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our heartfelt obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you on the glorious occasion of your divine appearance anniversary! All glories to ISKCON's 50th anniversary!

WHILE I CAN SPEAK

O my dear souls, while I can speak,
I must approach you, most humble and meek . . .

With straw pressed in between my teeth,
I beg to Śrīla Prabhupāda
to kindly make me speak . . .

Please hear, my friends, my final request,
when it comes the time for so-called death . . .

Please just cry out *Jaya Prabhupāda!*
with all of your hearts,
right now and as my soul departs.

Tears of love now fill my eyes
as in my soul I realize
Śrīla Prabhupāda is with us;
he shall answer our soulful cries
to please him with our meager lives.

So please cry out *Jaya Prabhupāda!*
There is no need to lament or sob.
All I can remember now is Kṛṣṇa, God,
as I cry out to you all, chant *Jaya Prabhupāda!*

It feels like soon my soul shall leave,
but I swear to you, no need to grieve,
for in Prabhupāda I deeply believe,
who sits right near to answer my need . . .

Jaya Prabhupāda! please cry out,
and feel his most ecstatic love
for his surrendered crowd,
and let there be no doubt . . .

Please believe me, I'm being sincere,
I think pretty soon I'm leaving here.
And so, my friends, all I want to hear
is *Jaya Prabhupāda!* loud and clear!

This fallen soul is foolish as can be,
yet he cries out *Jaya Prabhupāda!*
feeling Prabhupāda's victory . . .

. . . of coming to us who were praying for a guide.
So just throw up your hands
and release your foolish pride . . .

There is nothing left to do
but cry out our Lord Kṛṣṇa's Names
when all wisdom makes Them reign . . .

Lost we are without Prabhupāda's mercy,
so let us just accept it
and stop this useless cursing.
Not knowing is the worst thing . . .

I now fall down at Prabhupāda's feet,
who made me speak what he wanted to speak,
always feeling most humble and meek.
Just cry out *Jaya Prabhupāda!*
knowing he is all we need!

Prabhupāda is our life and soul.
That is all we need to know.
And cry out *Jaya Prabhupāda!*
with all of your hearts,
to fully bless this fallen soul
as he blissfully departs,
back to Kṛṣṇa's supreme abode . . .

No—don't you have any doubt!
These most dear cries please loudly shout:
Jaya Prabhupāda!
Jaya Prabhupāda!
Jaya Prabhupāda!
everywhere, all about!

I just pray to Prabhupāda's servants most sweet,
just give me your association,
which alone makes life complete,
feeling near Prabhupāda's blissful lotus feet.

When we just trust in Lord Kṛṣṇa's
and Prabhupāda's lotus feet,
all shall be revealed in our time of need.
This faith alone makes life succeed . . .

This poem was written
because death feels so near,
and forgetting Prabhupāda and Kṛṣṇa
is all that I fear.
So this final request
I just want you to hear—

When crying out *Jaya Prabhupāda!*
we get Prabhupāda's presence, SYNONYMS
who is always connected with Kṛṣṇa, God,
bestowing life's highest blessings . . .

We get the greatest mercy
when praising Kṛṣṇa's servants.
They are the only means
to get Lord Kṛṣṇa's mercy.

This is the scripture's conclusion;
it is not a concocted illusion.
It is only Kṛṣṇa's pure servants
who deliver every solution.

They alone know Kṛṣṇa in truth,
as the Supreme Personality
who plays the sweetest flute,
and by Kṛṣṇa's will alone
everything does move . . .

But not knowing Prabhupāda
and his most exalted position,
where would we all be?
Would we know of Lord Śrī Hari?
Would we know just why we're existing?

What do we really have to grasp
that we know shall always last?
It is Prabhupāda alone,
who gave us Kṛṣṇa's hand
to carry us across this dead wasteland.

But forgetful we are,
this is our plight,
so let us cry out for Śrīla Prabhupāda
with all of our might,
for the rest of our life,

Knowing his mercy won't fail us,
knowing his mercy is forever,

living in his books, pictures, and servants,
 only getting better and better and better . . .
 So please just cry out *Jaya Prabhupāda!*
 who gave us Kṛṣṇa’s Names to chant
 so we may deliver all around us
 to pure love’s ecstatic trance,
 to eternally feast and sing and dance . . .

Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa,
 Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare
 Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma,
 Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare

Your fallen and insignificant servants at ISKCON Seattle, Washington, USA.

(written by Anubhāvānanda Dāsa)

Silicon Valley

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

At ISKCON of Silicon Valley (ISV), we feel intimately connected to you because we are attempting to follow in your footsteps. In the scriptures, following in the footsteps of a Vaiṣṇava *ācārya* is the most highly recommended process for progressing in devotional service.

For example, at *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.25 Sūta Gosvāmī tells the sages at Naimiṣāraṇya that those who follow in the footsteps of great souls become eligible to achieve the same results as those achieved by the great souls themselves:

Previously all the great sages rendered service unto the Personality of Godhead due to His existence above the three modes of material nature. They worshiped Him to become free from material conditions and thus derive the ultimate benefit. Whoever follows such great authorities is also eligible for liberation from the material world.

Similarly, in the *Bhagavad-gītā* (13.8–12), as well as in other Vedic literatures, *ācāryopāsana*, following Kṛṣṇa’s representative, is recommended for success in devotional service. And in a 1973 *Back to Godhead* article you describe this process with the very apt phrase “following in the footsteps,” a phrase you often repeat: “We are following in the footsteps of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu in order to understand Kṛṣṇa consciousness.”

What exactly does “following in the footsteps” mean? You answer this question in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.8.72, a verse that describes the unprecedented austerities Dhruva Mahārāja performed while practicing yoga. In your purport you give an explanation of what it means in practice to follow in his exalted footsteps, a seemingly daunting prospect:

It is our duty to remember always that in comparison to Dhruva Mahārāja we are insignificant.

We cannot do anything like what Dhruva Mahārāja did for self-realization because we are absolutely incompetent to execute such service. But by Lord Caitanya's mercy we have been given all concessions possible for this age, so at least we should always remember that neglect of our prescribed duties in devotional service will not make us successful in the mission we have undertaken. It is our duty to follow in the footsteps of Dhruva Mahārāja, for he was very determined. We should also be determined to finish our duties in executing devotional service in this life; we should not wait for another life to finish our job.

In summary, although we may not be able to practice austerities on the level of such an illustrious devotee as Dhruva, if we are diligent in completing the devotional duties prescribed for us by our immediate spiritual masters, who give us what we can handle according to our individual capacities, we will be properly situated and make progress.

In your purport to the fifth verse of *The Nectar of Instruction*, you give a specific example of how devotees in ISKCON may practically follow Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's demanding instruction about the necessity of daily chanting sixty-four rounds of *japa*. As our *ācārya*, you've made an adjustment to his order. By following your fine-tuned prescription for chanting at least sixteen rounds daily while working hard to spread Lord Caitanya's *saṅkīrtana* movement, one can still expect to receive the full mercy of Lord Caitanya.

The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement prescribes sixteen rounds daily because people in the Western countries cannot concentrate for long periods while chanting on beads. Therefore the minimum number of rounds is prescribed. However, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura used to say that unless one chants at least sixty-four rounds of *japa* (one hundred thousand names), he is considered fallen (*patita*). According to his calculation, practically every one of us is fallen, but because we are trying to serve the Supreme Lord with all seriousness and without duplicity, we can expect the mercy of Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, who is famous as *patita-pāvana*, the deliverer of the fallen.

Your adjustment to accommodate your followers' capabilities, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is your special mercy as well as your prerogative as an *ācārya*. But this is not a case of your promoting laxity or inattentiveness to scriptural details. On the contrary, you also frequently remind us that although Lord Caitanya and His authorized representatives give dispensations (i.e., exemptions from rules or usual requirements), to be successful one must firmly stick to the tenets they have set before us. For example, the morning program that you set for your ISKCON temples keeps the attendees steeped in the most essential practices of devotional service, which were recommended by Lord Caitanya Himself. For one who rigorously follows your prescription, therefore, success is sure and certain.

This marks an important aspect of your mission and of your being an *ācārya*. You established practical ways in which people all over the world can follow Lord Caitanya's teachings by way of following the disciplic succession. In fact, Lord Caitanya went out of His way to make His teachings clear, accessible, and easy to follow. For example, in the *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Madhya-līlā* 22.128, 129, and 133, in His teachings to Sanātana Gosvāmī, Lord Caitanya gives a list of the most important practices of devotional service. Out of the sixty-four limbs of devotional practice, He highlights five that are so potent that those who maintain even a little connection with them are sure to soon awaken their dormant love for Kṛṣṇa:

One should associate with devotees, chant the holy name of the Lord, hear *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, reside at Mathurā, and worship the Deity with faith and veneration. These five limbs of devotional service are the best of all. Even a slight performance of these five awakens love for Kṛṣṇa. The power of these five principles is very wonderful and difficult to understand. Even without faith in them, a person who is offenseless can awaken his dormant love of Kṛṣṇa simply by being a little connected with them.

What's more, those who apply these essential instructions given by Caitanya Mahāprabhu taste

nectar, and seeing their enjoyment, Lord Caitanya becomes pleased. In *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Ādi-līlā* 9.50, the author writes, “When Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the great gardener, sees that people are chanting, dancing, and laughing and that some of them are rolling on the floor and some are making loud humming sounds, He smiles with great pleasure.”

At ISV, because we follow, to the best of our ability, the practices of devotional service recommended by Lord Caitanya, which are perfectly packaged for us by you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, we are getting such results. People who attend programs at ISV chant, dance, laugh, and express their deep satisfaction. After festivals, classes, and especially during the honoring of *prasādam*, stalwarts and newcomers alike sometimes make the humming sounds mentioned in *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, out of sheer happiness.

Elsewhere, in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.18.5, you reveal another benefit of following spiritual authorities:

This Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement directly receives instructions from the Supreme personality of Godhead via persons who are strictly following His instructions. Although a follower may not be a liberated person, if he follows the supreme, liberated Personality of Godhead, his actions are naturally liberated from the contamination of the material nature. Lord Caitanya therefore says, “By My order you may become a spiritual master.” One can immediately become a spiritual master by having full faith in the transcendental words of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and by following His instructions. Because the entire world is now following the imperfect directions of conditioned souls, humanity is completely bewildered.

Again, in your purport to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 2.4.11 you confirm this liberation-by-following-the-authority principle:

No one is free to act freely and independently, and as such, one should always seek the permission of the Lord to act or eat or speak, and by the blessing of the Lord everything done by a devotee is beyond the principles of the four defects typical of the conditioned soul.

Repeatedly you explain that your own qualification as an *ācārya* is that you strictly follow in the footsteps of your spiritual master, who is following in the footsteps of his. For example, you write:

I am successful in my teaching work because I have not deviated one inch from my spiritual master’s instruction, this is my only qualification. [Letter to Bṛhaspati, 17 November 1971]

So my mission has come out a success by the mercy of my Guru Maharaja, who sent me on this mission. That was my only qualification in coming to your country, that I had the blessings of my Guru Maharaja. [Letter to Dānavīr, 17 October 1974]

Clearly, the participants at ISV are naturally becoming liberated and are developing sense control, spiritual knowledge, and compassion for all living beings—qualities that emerge only in those who are in direct contact with Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet. This is confirmed at *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 1.2.7: “By rendering devotional service unto the Personality of Godhead, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, one immediately acquires causeless knowledge and detachment from the world.” In other words, simply by participating in the activities that you have prescribed, the ISV devotees, as well as devotees all over the world, are advancing in spiritual life.

In your purport to *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, *Antya-līlā* 1.32, you write:

It is therefore requested that all our devotees in the ISKCON community become pure Vaiṣṇavas, so that by their mercy all the people of the world will be transferred to Vaikuṅṭhaloka, even without their knowledge.

Interestingly, because the devotees in our ISV community are so spontaneously absorbed in the divine process you have given us, they hardly even notice that they are becoming the abodes of good qualities and that they are becoming progressively more and more attached to hearing and chanting about Kṛṣṇa. As decades fly by, as our devotees develop careers and then retire from them, as our babies at ISV grow into adults, and as some of us leave our bodies, the members of the community simply go on following the course you have given: celebrating divine appearance days, distributing books, doing strict daily *sādhana*, and teaching the scriptures. In this way, they are using their allotted life spans for the highest purpose. And “even without their knowledge, they are being transferred to Vaikuṅṭhaloka.”

At *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 10.2.30 the demigods offer the following famous prayer to Lord Kṛṣṇa, which absolutely settles the principle that by following in the footsteps of the saints one is sure to achieve success:

O lotus-eyed Lord, by concentrating one’s meditation on Your lotus feet, which are the reservoir of all existence, and by accepting those lotus feet as the boat by which to cross the ocean of nescience, one follows in the footsteps of *mahājānas* [great saints, sages and devotees]. By this simple process, one can cross the ocean of nescience as easily as one steps over the hoofprint of a calf.

In your purport to this verse, you write:

In regard to the word *mahat-kṛtena*, it is also significant that the process shown by great devotees is not only for them but also for others. If things are made easy, this affords facility for the person who has made them easy and also for others who follow the same principles. The process recommended in this verse for crossing the ocean of nescience is easy not only for the devotee but also for common persons who follow the devotee (*mahājano yena gataḥ sa panthāḥ*).

Śrīla Prabhupāda, all glories to you, the great *ācārya* who not only taught the world that by becoming a humble follower of the great souls one can attain the perfection of life, but who also gave the exact details of *how* to practically follow them. We feel that we are the most fortunate because we are following you!

As the devotees at ISV follow in your footsteps and thus gradually advance in devotional service, your potency is also increasingly revealed. We see more clearly each day how by following your instructions we have boarded the boat that can safely take us across the ocean of material existence and back to Godhead. What’s more, the ocean of nescience shrinks proportionately as we increasingly take shelter of you.

In your introduction to *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* you write:

The only thing one has to do is to hear from a self-realized soul with a routine program. The teacher may also deliver lectures from the Vedic literatures, following in the footsteps of the bygone *ācāryas* who realized the Absolute Truth. Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu recommended this simple method of self-realization, generally known as *Bhāgavata-dharma*. *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is the perfect guide for this purpose.

On this day of your divine appearance, we members of ISV pray to remain forever fixed in keeping to your routine program. By embracing your routine program, not only do we follow the most authorized process for spiritual perfection, but we also make rapid advancement in spiritual life. Making such progress for all to see is the best way to glorify you because it practically demonstrates the results one attains by following the truly great *ācārya*.

Your servants at ISKCON of Silicon Valley, California, USA.

(written by Vaiṣeṣika Dāsa)

Simhācalam

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble obeisances.

Lord Kṛṣṇa asked you to come to this planet to bring us fallen living entities back to Him. At that time you left your home, Goloka Vṛndāvana, and appeared in this material world. After your birth, an astrologer predicted that you would cross the ocean and open 108 temples.

When you met your spiritual master, he gave you your life’s mission—to preach in the West. After a lifetime of preparation, at the advanced age of 69, you again left your home, Vṛndāvana, “that sacred place,” to try to fulfill your Guru Mahārāja’s order by preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the most materialistic part of this planet, New York City.

You struggled for nine months without success. Then your movement started to blossom; your first disciples joined you, followed by many more.

Caitanya Mahāprabhu predicted, *prthivīte āche yata nagarādi grāma/ sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*: “In every town and village of the world, the chanting of My name will be heard.” He also predicted the appearance of His *senāpati-bhakta*, the leader of an army of devotees, who would flood the whole world with the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra. You have brought the Holy Name to every town and village, Śrīla Prabhupāda, and so it is clear that you are that empowered devotee.

In the *Brahma-vaivarta Purāṇa* Lord Kṛṣṇa also made a prediction—that after five thousand years of Kali-yuga, His *mantra-upāsaka*, a great sage and worshiper of His holy names, would appear and spread the chanting of His names throughout the world.

You yourself predicted that your books will be the lawbooks for the next ten thousand years. The Six Gosvāmīs could hardly sleep because of their eagerness to serve Kṛṣṇa. Similarly, every night barely slept as you wrote your books to save the poor conditioned souls. You found inspiration in the words of Nārada Muni recorded in the First Canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (1.5.40):

*tvam apy adabhra-śruta viśrutam vibhoḥ
samāpyate yena vidān bubhutsitam
prākhyāhi duḥkhair muhur arditātmanām
saṅkleśa-nirvāṇam uśanti nānyathā*

“Please, therefore, describe the Almighty Lord’s activities which you have learned by your vast knowledge of the *Vedas*, for that will satisfy the hankering of great learned men and at the same time mitigate the miseries of the masses of common people, who are always suffering from material pangs. Indeed, there is no other way to get out of such miseries.”

You are that historic person who changed the direction of mankind from hell-bound to “back to Godhead” and yet remained the most humble person. When we read your letters, again and again we encounter your humble appeals to us to help you:

I am just an ordinary human being. So I need your help. [Letter to Yogeśvara, 12 June 1971]

You are all my limbs of my body. Unless you cooperate, my life will be useless. [Letter to Brahmānanda, 17 July 1968]

And after almost every class, and on many other occasions, you heartily thanked your disciples, although it was you who saved our lives.

On this most auspicious day we thank you, dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, for giving us a happy, meaningful

life and a bright future. We pray to become your useful instruments.

Your servants at Sinhācalam, Śrī Śrī Prahlāda-Nṛsiṃhadeva's farm in Germany.

Taiwan

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

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

Fifty Years, Fifty Ways to Please You

Dearest Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Kindly accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

This year is a very special one, since it was fifty years ago that you founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness to spread the message of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu throughout the world.

Today we see your grand vision being manifested with the great success of ISKCON. You had so much compassion for the fallen souls of this world, and therefore you founded ISKCON to deliver them.

This year all the devotees in Taiwan are working hard to let the people here know about the great achievements of your ISKCON Society over the past fifty years. Thus, we have dedicated various activities in our center to glorifying these achievements.

This past February we held a nonstop eight-hour *kīrtana* on the occasion of Advaita Ācārya's appearance day. By your mercy and with your blessings, the festival was a success. Slowly but surely people are becoming interested in this process, as *kīrtana* is becoming accepted in this country. We hope to continue holding these programs in the future.

We have also started *mṛdaṅga* classes. A few devotees are eagerly learning how to lead and accompany a *kīrtana*, and a small local *kīrtana* group is developing.

In observance of the ISKCON50 campaign, we have devised plans to do fifty *harināmas* this year as an offering at your lotus feet. Additionally, we are encouraging each congregational devotee to distribute at least fifty books this year. Many devotees have taken up this task very enthusiastically. You always emphasized book distribution, describing it as the activity that pleased you most. We sincerely hope to distribute a large number of books by the end of the year.

Another event celebrating fifty years of ISKCON is our planned three-day retreat. His Holiness Giridhārī Mahārāja and His Grace Kṛṣṇa-Baladeva Prabhu will be leading this celebration, highlighting your journey from India.

On this occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, we sincerely beg for your blessings so that our endeavors may be pleasing to you and thus successful. Without your blessings and mercy, we cannot proceed.

Your servants at ISKCON Taipei, Taiwan.

(written by Nitāi-pada-kamalam Dāsa)

Tokyo

Dear beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances again and again. All glories to your lotus feet!

In this very special year of the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of ISKCON, we beg you for the ability to glorify your divine and magnanimous character.

By your grace we are trying to serve your mission by spreading the holy name in the land of the rising sun. We have heard from senior devotees that Japan was your first choice to start the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. This makes us feel very fortunate that you have given us the opportunity of serving in Japan.

At times we find it very difficult to preach in Japan, where the population is covered by material opulence. The people are working very hard to earn their livelihood. We have seen people working in offices for 13+ hours daily. So Kṛṣṇa consciousness is most important for the general mass of people, who are engrossed in material life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your blessings are our only shelter and are helping us to spread the holy name. Last year a few new Japanese joined the big ISKCON family. They are serving in the temple and engaging in preaching activities. Many congregational devotees visit the temple to get inspired for preaching and *harināma*.

We have formed a team to give a proper and wider vision for the Japanese *yātrā*. We seek your blessings for this team, so that they may sincerely work together for the higher purpose of spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. With the help of this team, we shall try to attract more new devotees.

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of ISKCON's incorporation, we have organized a "friend-raiser" program in the prestigious Funabori Tower Hall. We have been trying to rent this hall for a couple of years but could not do so. But this year we were lucky to get it. Providence wanted that ISKCON's Golden Jubilee and the new Tokyo temple's fifth anniversary be celebrated in a big way. This program shall help us connect to prospective devotees.

We face many challenges and obstacles to our efforts to maintain the temple. It seems an impossible task to run it. When we look back, we realize that it was only by your grace that we have been able to do it. Otherwise, such an achievement would have been beyond our capacity.

Our temple is well known in Tokyo and around Japan. Many local people visit us to see Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindajī. Please shower your mercy on us so that more people can get the benefit of our temple. We regularly have twelve-hour *kīrtanas*, where local devotees and guests chant the holy names.

Some local devotees are preparing to reprint the Japanese *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. The devotees are trying to complete this huge task as fast as possible. Other devotees are translating the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* and some of your small books. We hope that soon many more Japanese books will be available for study and distribution.

Since the opening of our new temple and the arrival of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govindajī in 2011, we have stabilized. Now things are going on steadily, and the conditions are ready for us to go to the next level. We beg for your mercy and for the spiritual intelligence to achieve excellence in Kṛṣṇa's service and to connect more and more people to Kṛṣṇa consciousness, thus providing them with an opportunity for sustained and organic spiritual growth, both individually and collectively.

It is painful to see conflicts among us. But that is the way things work on this planet. We pray at your lotus feet for the tolerance and deep insight to weather the reversals and challenges.

Please help us understand and implement the real essence of your purpose in establishing ISKCON all over the world, and please forgive us when we commit mistakes and offenses while implementing your vision.

Begging to remain in your service life after life,

Your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren at ISKCON Tokyo, Japan.

Trivandrum

*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*

When you got on that boat,
the ocean of miseries started
to dry,
and you caused the sun to rise
on the horizon dark side,
as the mission of your life.

The step that you moved into that boat
had the gait of the empowered saint
descending from mystical stairs,
loving and resolute with faith,
captain of the Lord's grace,
of a legendary travel
beyond boundaries
of time and place.

When you got on that boat,
myriads of souls,
slapped against shores
deserted of hopes,
started to dance,
for the ghee of the Holy Names
fell in the dormant flames
of hearts living in vain,
ending faithless restrictions
of birth, caste—any mundane chain.

Your feet on that boat
challenged the arid infertile void,
filling its vows of silence
with sound reverberating joy.
A renaissance started
around the world,
on every continent arose;
a land of prophecies
was finally disclosed.

The magic of your step
on that boat

was the desire
of the Golden Lord
to carry loving devotion
to the entire world,
and you want us still
to keep bestowing
to people your gift
as it was received.
And by bringing your feet
to step—again and again—
on that ship,
as intelligently as you did,
in this way love and compassion
will reach many hearts
by your ever-flowing mercy.

Your servants in Trivandrum, India.

(written by Mādhava-latā Devī Dāsī)

Tucson

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

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

Fifty Years and Growing

From '66 to 2016,
At times our influence was somewhat lean.
Lots of purification, as we had to come clean,
And from unsavory practices we had to be weaned.

Although you were the first to bring *bhakti* alive,
We slipped to the back without much stride.
While yoga, mantras, and healthy diets thrive,
Our time as the forerunner was yet to arrive.

We've come so far, yet so much remains,
As we struggle to become free from Māyā's grip and chains.
You implored us to spread the mission and use our brains,
Sacrifice everything and endure the pains.

First fear, then jeers, then appreciation,
Our chanting is now viewed not as mere recreation
But as a gift from the Lord that leads to salvation—
The holy name on our lips, that glorious vibration.

Now it's about time you gain your proper place
As the savior and well-wisher of the whole human race.
While the total Vaiṣṇava lifestyle they have yet to embrace,
In the next fifty years, we must pick up the pace.

What a sacrifice you made by coming to the West
By your guru's order, long before the rest!
Global prophecies fulfilled, you passed every test,
Leaving a legacy: the most fallen become blessed.

Heart attacks and high seas you endured,
So the *bhakti* message could be secured.
Your achievements in the West were assured;
By your mercy, our material disease is being cured.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we owe our lives and more to you.
Though we were bewildered souls without a clue,
You gave us the eyes to see anew,
Opening the spiritual world for a sneak preview.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please allow us to assist you for the next fifty years, to further establish this movement. Help us purify our desires, till all we want is to please you and carry out your instructions. Once in Germany a disciple asked you how we can really rise above the bodily platform, and you decisively answered, "Simply think of how to push on this movement. Have that desire and no other desire." So kindly bestow upon us that sole desire, so that our lives, and the lives of all who come in contact with us, will become perfect.

Your servants at the ISKCON center in Tucson, Arizona, USA.

(written by Sandāminī Devī Dāsī)

Udhampur

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda, the savior of the whole world, who are spreading *sanātana-dharma*, the *saṅkīrtana* movement, all over the world. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

This special day provides us with an ideal opportunity to reflect on how you have transformed so many lives, including ours, and how our debt to you is indeed limitless.

There are no words sufficient to describe your personality because what you did was inconceivable. You gave the world Kṛṣṇa's love. There has never been anyone like you, nor is there anyone like you now, nor in the future can anyone ever be like you. In the whole *paramparā*, you alone fulfilled the prediction of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu that *sanātana-dharma* would be spread to every town and village.

I would like to thank you for giving us Udhampur-*dhāma*, where the *gurukula* and *gośālā* are operating smoothly, book distribution is in full swing, and our vegetable-and-flower garden is taking shape. Though Your Divine Grace did not set foot in Jammu & Kashmir, still you fulfilled Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura's prediction that a big temple would one day be constructed here. The fulfillment of his prediction is all due to the mercy Your Divine Grace is showering upon the fallen conditioned souls.

What you did was inconceivable: you gave the world Kṛṣṇa's love. You painstakingly translated books day and night, not caring for your personal health, at a very advanced age. In front of you we are zero, nothing. You turned foreigners who kept girlfriends into *brahmacārīs* and *sannyāsīs*.

Except for your father, till the age of seventy no one recognize what a pure devotee you were. You made those who were attracted to you into Vaiṣṇavas. You are so great that you made the impossible possible. Starting from nothing—no money, no followers, weak health, and advanced age—you built a worldwide Vaiṣṇava society in a mere twelve years that is now a household name. Single-handedly you changed the whole world, transforming Christians and even Muslims into Vaiṣṇavas.

All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Your humble servants at ISKCON Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir, India.

Ujjain

*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*

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you!

It is a matter of great fortune for us to have this opportunity to meditate on Your Divine Grace as we write these words for your pleasure.

During your last days on this planet, your anxiety for the maintenance and growth of your movement, for the deliverance of the fallen souls, made it very clear to us that only by spreading this movement by leaps and bounds can we please you.

In our hearts we carry an intense desire to please Your Divine Grace, but our conditioning has kept us from fully giving shape to our desire. But we have great hope that, just as Lord Rāmacandra was pleased even by the insignificant contribution of a tiny squirrel, you, being our compassionate grandfather, will forgive our shortcomings and bless us with all the strength required to serve you till the end of our lives.

The year 2016 is doubly momentous for us, for not only is all of ISKCON celebrating its fiftieth year but on Nityānanda-trayodaśī we devotees in Ujjain celebrated the tenth anniversary of our temple's inauguration. We continue to serve Deities on five altars—Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Madana-mohana, Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, Śrī Śrī Prahladeśa Nṛsiṅhadeva, and Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā Mahārāṇī.

For your pleasure, we present some updates on our recent activities:

Youth Preaching

As you always liked to see the youth contributing to the movement, so we have tried to give preaching to the youth the utmost attention, and for the same we have made the following efforts:

We are conducting regular programs for engineering, medical, and chartered accountancy students.

We conducted ISKCON Youth Retreat–2016, which was presided over by your dear disciple Bhakti Chāru Swami. About 250 Youngsters participated and enjoyed the same.

We conducted devotional trips to Māyāpur, Vṛndāvana, and Jagannātha Purī for our IYF members.

Our IYF students in Bhopal have started Transcendental Coaching Classes, educating the society and creating good job opportunities for the devotees.

We now have fifteen IYF Centers in Ujjain, Indore, and Bhopal.

We wish to intensify our youth preaching by venturing to new areas and at the same time solidifying our presence in existing areas.

By your causeless mercy we have been successful in inspiring a number of youths to join the movement as full-time devotees. Recently six devotees joined our movement, and many others are planning to do so in the near future.

Book Distribution and Harināma

As you were most pleased to see the distribution of your books, so we have made the following attempts:

For the distribution of your transcendental books, we have two *saṅkīrtana* buses and fifteen devotees who distribute books throughout the year in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan.

In 2015 our book distribution score doubled that of previous year, and our position in the ISKCON world improved from 36th to 18th.

We distributed 30,000 *Bhagavad-gītās* in one month during the Kumbha-melā in Ujjain.

We have also started doing local *nagara-saṅkīrtana* and book distribution every evening.

Our correspondence course on your glorious *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*—the Gītā Study Course—is gaining popularity. We are trying to further cultivate the course attendees by organizing spiritual outings and camps for them.

Kumbha-melā

This year, during the months of April and May, we got a wonderful opportunity to preach during the Kumbha-melā in Ujjain, which was attended by 50,000,000 and is described as world's largest gathering of humanity. This occasion coincided with the 50th anniversary of ISKCON.

The following comprised our main activities during the *melā*: *prasādam* distribution, *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, book distribution, lectures/*kathā*, exhibitions, dramas, and *yajñas*.

The main feature of ISKCON's site was the full-dome projection system expertly arranged by your dear disciple Bhakti Chāru Swami. The dome showed films that depicted the glories of Ujjain and your astounding contribution to the world in the form of ISKCON.



Bhakti Vriksha

Our Bhakti Vriksha congregational preaching is growing day by day. The devotees are getting more mature and are preaching vigorously by conducting various activities, including Sunday feast programs, home programs, book distribution, *nagara-saṅkīrtana*, spiritual outings, trips to holy places, etc.

By your divine grace our Bhakti Vriksha programs now engage more than 200 members.

New Developments

New Gośālā: We recently built a more spacious *gośālā* with proper shading, where more cows can easily be accommodated.

New Gates: This year we installed new metal gates at the entrance, making the temple more attractive for visitors.

Shops: So as to serve the visitors better, we have relocated our *prasādam* and gift shops

Govinda's Prasādālaya: We have re-opened our restaurant.

Full-Dome Animation Theater: After the Kumbha-melā, the Full-Dome Animation Theater has been installed on the temple grounds. This state-of-the-art theater is attracting thousands of guests.

The commissioner of Ujjain visited us and was greatly impressed to see the high standards of management in the temple. As a result, he called senior officers (including IAS officers) and officials responsible for management of various nearby temples and arranged for a seminar in our temple, wherein they would learn management from us.

* * *

Śrīla Prabhupāda, we heartily apologize for not living up to your expectations, but we earnestly desire to sincerely try to do all that is required to grow devotionally. Most importantly, we fully understand that it is only the causeless mercy of Your Divine Grace that will make our endeavors fruitful. Please shower your blessings upon us, Śrīla Prabhupāda, so that we can purify ourselves while serving your glorious mission.

Your servants at ISKCON Ujjain, India.

Villaggio Hare Krishna

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

For twenty-eight years, every morning at the Hare Krishna Village we have been singing at *guru-pūjā* the wonderful song by Narottama Dāsa Ṭhākura that you taught us, O Your Divine Grace!

ebe jaśa ghuṣuk tribhūvana

How nice to celebrate the anniversary of the transcendental appearance of the spiritual master and the deliverer of three worlds! We are always glad to glorify Your Divine Grace while offering our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

hā hā prabhū kara dayā, deha mora pada-chāyā

We are endeavoring to become worthy to be placed at your lotus feet, following strictly to the best of our ability your precious instructions, O Your Divine Grace!

lokanātha lokera jīvana

We know that you can deliver us because you are the very heart and soul of everyone in this world, being the intimate representative of Kṛṣṇa, O Your Divine Grace!

śrī-guru karuṇā-sindhu, adhama janāra bandhu

O spiritual master, ocean of mercy and friend of all fallen souls, so many devotees here in the Hare Krishna Village are flooded with your causeless mercy, O Your Divine Grace!

vede gāy jāhāra carito

Bhagavad-gītā, Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Caitanya-caritāmṛta—when we read and study your books every day, you allow us to celebrate and appreciate your wonderful qualities, O Your Divine Grace!

prema-bhakti jāhā hoite, avidyā vināśa jāte

Every morning we invoke it here—*kṛṣṇa-prema*! While performing various services for your pleasure, we gradually destroy the ignorance that entangles us, O Your Divine Grace!

divya-jñān hṛde prokāśito

Inspired by you, we serve the Deities, distribute your books, and broadcast the Holy Names, O Your Divine Grace!

cakhu-dān dilo jei, janme janme prabhu sei

Because of your mercy, every day we are able to have the transcendental *darśana* of the Deities—Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurāṅga, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadra, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Ramaṇa, and Śrī Gīri-Govardhana. We are already in the spiritual world and wish to remain here life after life, O Your Divine Grace!

je prasāde pūre sarva āśā

You are fulfilling the desires of everyone here by giving us the opportunity to perform devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa. The individual soul can only desire, and you taught us how to spiritualize this desire, O Your Divine Grace!

śrī-guru-carāṇe rati, ei se uttama-gati

We are at your lotus feet. Please don't forget us as we strive to obtain the highest goal in life—the supreme abode of Lord Kṛṣṇa, O Your Divine Grace!

ār nā koriho mane āśā

Our only desire is that our intelligence be one with your instructions, O Your Divine Grace!

guru-mukha-padma-vākya, cittete koriyā aikya

We know that you are an inhabitant of the spiritual world and that your words are therefore absolute, even though because you may tailor them to the *deśa*, *kāla*, and *pātra* of the material world, they sometimes seem contradictory to our blunt brains. We hanker to hear your words again and again, constantly vibrating within our hearts, O Your Divine Grace!

kṛṣṇa-prāpti hoy jāhā ha'te

For this reason every devotee here is always trying to fulfill your desires, endeavoring to the best of his or her ability, O Your Divine Grace!

jāhāra prasāde bhāi, e bhava toriyā jāi

You gave us this wonderful temple, an embassy of the spiritual world. For everyone who follows your instructions, the ocean of material existence shrinks, becoming like the water contained in a calf's hoofprint, O Your Divine Grace!

bando mui sāvadhāna mate

If we do not bow with care and attention at your lotus feet, our life becomes useless, O Your Divine Grace!

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

It is only your lotus feet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, that are the residence of pure devotional service. May Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Ramaṇa, Śrī Śrī Nitāi-Gaurāṅga, Śrī Śrī Jagannātha, Baladeva, and Subhadrā, and Śrī Gīri-Govardhana inspire and strengthen us so that many other persons will understand this.

Your insignificant servants at Villaggio Hare Krishna, Bergamo, Italy.

Vladivostok

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances!

And please accept this humble offering to Your Divine Grace on the occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā, fifty

years after you established ISKCON in the Western world.

This year, by Kṛṣṇa's will, I managed to visit the USA for the first time, and I even had the honor and privilege of giving a few lectures in the temple at 26 Second Avenue in New York, sitting next to your *vyāsāsana*. This is the place where you started your worldwide mission, which was predicted by Lord Caitanya Himself. I was trying to visualize the atmosphere there fifty years ago, when you began preaching to the young people of America. I also visited Tompkins Square Park, where there is a memorial at the "Hare Krishna Tree," under which you led the first public *kīrtana* in the West.

After visiting those places, which have become holy *tīrthas* for all ISKCON devotees, I started to much more deeply appreciate your greatness, purity, and devotion. What you have accomplished is simply a miracle, because you have managed to change the course of life of so many people, turning them toward genuine spiritual life in an atmosphere that is totally materialistic. Now I have full faith in the divinity of your mission and your special position as a confidential servant of Lord Kṛṣṇa. By Kṛṣṇa's grace I also met some of your staunch early disciples in Los Angeles and San Francisco, who consider you their eternal spiritual master. In spite of their advancing years, they still participate in your mission out of love for you.

Thanks to your enthusiasm and tireless preaching, the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement has spread around the world, and people from every country and culture are taking an interest in your message, since your teachings address the eternal issues of life and give one concrete instructions on how to resolve life's problems once and forever. Your books and your chanting are awakening sleeping souls, giving them Kṛṣṇa consciousness, the highest value in life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please accept our deepest gratitude for giving us a chance to serve you in this great spiritual mission. And please bless us so we may go on spreading your teachings for the benefit of all living entities.

Your devotees in Vladivostok and throughout the Russian Far East.

(written by Vrajendra Kumāra Dāsa)

Vṛndāvana

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to your most magnanimous and glorious service to your Guru Mahārāja, which has given such great delight to Kṛṣṇa and His confidential associates.

Being a pure devotee of the Supreme Lord, you attracted the whole world, where people are simply thirsting for Kṛṣṇa consciousness, and to quench their thirst you gave them shelter in your temples. There is no one like you in this whole universe. You are everyone's ever well-wishing friend.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) has reached its fiftieth year, and devotees in all parts of the world are celebrating this momentous occasion with great joy.

On behalf of ISKCON Vṛndāvana, we would like to take the opportunity to extend our heartfelt hospitality to the whole world, so that people will feel Śrī Vṛndāvana *dhāma* as their actual home and come here to stay eternally with Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Śyāmasundara, Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitāi, and Your Divine Grace.

In the early days, if only forty or fifty devotees visited the temple, the resident devotees would think, “Oh! So many devotees have come!” But now thousands and thousands of devotees are visiting every single day, especially during the month of Kārtika, because your glories have spread to each and every corner of the globe, and you have engaged so many ISKCON devotees in preaching activities in different parts of the world.

Last year we celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the grand opening of Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira in April of 1975, and it was really enlivening to see the many very sweet personal exchanges that took place among the devotees. We were simply floating in the nectarean ocean of blissful Kṛṣṇa consciousness just by associating with your loving sons and daughters. So many of your disciples attended the program and shared their remembrances of you.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, your transcendental glories have no limitations, and you have given us all we need for going back to Godhead. We don’t have to manufacture anything, concocting our own material ideas. You always instructed us to share with others what you have given us. Śrīla Prabhupāda, as you said, we will always stay “packed up together” simply by following your instructions.

The real meaning of the word “Prabhupāda” is “he at whose feet all the *prabhus* sit.” Many *prabhus*, spiritual leaders, may perform many wonderful activities, but they will always remain subservient to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. One thing will hold the ISKCON institution together: every member’s honoring your position as the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON and your concept of collective management by the GBC.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, you are the pre-eminent *śikṣā-guru* for all of us for all time. You have given us such rare gifts to share with the whole world. What to speak of chanting, dancing, and feasting, here in Vṛndāvana we have many times witnessed devotees leaving their bodies in such a glorious way, in full Kṛṣṇa consciousness. This past year you called for three of your stalwart devotees— Brahmānanda Prabhu, Surabhi Prabhu, and Kūmarūpa Prabhu. They departed so graciously, teaching us how to leave this world, which is the final test for every one of us.

Your transcendental rooms at the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple and your quarters here in Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira are like spiritual oases, and you declared the former to be “the hub of the wheel of the spiritual world.” You said that you eternally reside in those two rooms in the Rādhā-Dāmodara temple. Simply by maintaining your rooms there, we are helping devotees from all over the world to come and pray, gather your blessings to their heart’s content, and then return to their respective places and preach to the whole world with renewed enthusiasm.

All glories to your Guru Mahārāja for sending you to save us! All glories to that noble and foremost teacher of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and his most worthy disciple, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, our eternal lord and master and ever well-wishing friend.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, you taught and embodied the highest standard of devotional service. You sacrificed every drop of your blood to give the gift of Kṛṣṇa consciousness to every conditioned soul in this world. Up to your last breath you glorified the Supreme Lord, right here in your personal room in Śrī Vṛndāvana *dhāma*. No one could possibly ask anything more from you. All glories to you again and again, O venerable savior! We beg to remain like particles of dust at your lotus feet, the most secure place in this fearful material world.

Your humble servants at Śrī Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandira, ISKCON Vṛndāvana, India.

(written by Dharmātmā Dāsa)

Washington, D.C.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

*nāma-śreṣṭham manum api śacī-putram atra svarūpaṁ
rūpaṁ tasyāgrajam uru-purīm māthurīm goṣṭhavāṭīm
rādhā-kuṇḍam giri-varam aho rādhikā-mādhavāsāṁ
prāpto yasya prathita-kṛpayā śrī-gururṁ taṁ nato 'smi*

I bow down to the beautiful lotus feet of my spiritual master, by whose causeless mercy I have obtained the supreme holy name, the divine mantra, the service of the son of Śacī-mātā, the association of Śrīla Svarūpa Dāmodara, Rūpa Gosvāmī, and his older brother Sanātana Gosvāmī, the supreme abode of Mathurā, the blissful abode of Vṛndāvana, the divine Rādhā-kuṇḍa and Govardhana Hill, and the desire within my heart for the loving service of Śrī Rādhikā and Mādhava in Vṛndāvana. (Raghunātha Dāsa Gosvāmī)

Part I: Fifty years ago . . .

. . . you began your new Society in a tiny storefront at 26 2nd Avenue, on the Lower East Side of New York City. Your use of the word *international* to describe this one room to your handful of new, ragtag followers prompted sarcastic comments among them. They thought they knew you and that you were theirs alone—these New York bohemians conjuring up the latest outrageous statement against the establishment.

But you were the emissary of Kṛṣṇa. You belonged to His place always and never to New York or any other place in this mortal world. Still, you so patiently gave yourself to those New Yorkers—lived with them, cooked for them, washed the pots after they had feasted on what you had offered to your Kṛṣṇa and in turn to them. You even stood in line to use the shower after them.

Once, a drug-addicted young man who shared a loft space with you chased you out with a knife. Some days later, when he came to the storefront temple and sat in the *kīrtana*, you commented to the others, “He’s making some advancement, don’t you think?”

Your reality and vision were always of Kṛṣṇa’s world. Your intimate, familial identity was always of that ultimate world, the *summum bonum* world, yet you showed unprecedented compassion, bending down to the depths to lift us up. Embracing lower-than-tenth-class people as your very own, you raised us up without discrimination by the power of your grace. You gave us access, although we had no right. You offered us as flower petals to the feet of your Śrī Guru and Gaurāṅga, on whose orders you had risked everything to come to us.

Today, fifty years later, that tiny storefront is still there, now dwarfed by the tall, shiny buildings in the expensive, gentrified new neighborhood that surrounds it. We can scarcely imagine the rat-infested, drunken-bum-infested skid row that this place was when you came there from your beloved Śrī Vṛndāvanadhāma.

This tiny storefront is the holy *janmāsthāna*, the *yogapīṭha* of your Kṛṣṇa consciousness Society. Sometimes I walk this holy *parikramā* along with you, remembering you, from 26 2nd Avenue, to 61 2nd

Avenue, your second temple. This is where you told us that you did not pray to Kṛṣṇa to send you so many stars—you asked Him to send you one moon. You said that Kṛṣṇa had sent you so many moonlike boys and girls. This is where I sat next to you, unbathed, after hitchhiking to New York from Montreal, and received the Gāyatrī mantra from you. You gave us access, although we had no right.

Then we walk together to Tompkins Square Park, to circumambulate the Hare Krishna Tree, under which you held the first public outdoor *kīrtana* outside India. This tree is the *yogapīṭha* and *janmasthanā* of the *harināma-saṅkīrtana* movement. Sometimes you fondly remembered those days, recalling who were the first to dance.

Then we circle around to 25 1st Avenue, to The Bhakti Center, where some of the children of your children are ingeniously sharing, in many innovative ways, what you gave us. It is “the oldest of all in a new dress,” as you wrote in your poem to your Guru Mahārāja in 1935. I am grateful to sometimes be able to assist those young people, sharing your Kṛṣṇa consciousness in your old neighborhood.

Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Muralīdhara preside there, with you gazing at Them and transforming the Lower East Side of New York into Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma. We are grateful to honor all others who serve you in New York in different ways, grateful to honor all those who serve you throughout the world, according to their own realizations of your instructions.

This *parikramā* of past, present, and future is a garland strung on what you have given us and what we are now trying to offer back to you.

Part II: And forty years ago . . .

. . . in 1976, the year of the American Bicentennial, you came to Washington, D.C., to bless our nation’s capital. You sat and watched the greatest-ever display of fireworks on the famous National Mall. As it finished, you said, “Is that all?” You were seeing Kṛṣṇa at every moment. Certainly, it was only but a spark of His splendor.

In this international city of foreign embassies, one can see, taste, hear, and smell the cultural offerings of every country in the world. You are an emissary from a much higher realm. You came to plant in our hearts the desire for Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma and for the loving service of Śrī Śrī Rādhikā and Mādhava. As each embassy celebrates its country’s freedoms, you came to free us from the cycle of repeated birth and death and give us the freedom to revive our true identity as Kṛṣṇa’s part-and-parcel *jīva* souls. You gave us access, although we had no right: to dance for the pleasure of the King and Queen of your country, Braja-rāja Kṛṣṇa and His Braja-rāṇī, Śrī Rādhā. These gifts are all your mercy, the mercy of Their chosen emissary.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, today I am remembering how you gave us access, although we had no right. After forty years, after fifty years, I can only pray that one day you will be pleased to call me your own servant.

I pray to offer you this garland of past, present, and future in your service, strung on the line of your instructions.

Your servants at ISKCON of Washington, D.C., USA.

(written by Rukmiṇī Devī Dāsī)

Wiesbaden

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories unto you, the founder-*ācārya* of ISKCON!

We can't wait to wake up in the morning to serve you. Every day is very auspicious because we are doing our best to execute your orders, given to us by you in your books, as well as by your dear disciples and granddisciples. Sometimes you appear in our dreams. Associating with you in dreams, associating with your disciples, executing your orders, and visiting the holy places are all very auspicious and encouraging. By all these activities we are able to associate with Kṛṣṇa. Thus our hearts and lives are completely fulfilled! We feel especially blessed this year, as we celebrate fifty years of ISKCON. By your mercy, this movement is beginning to take the shape you always desired.

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, please empower us to take the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mahā-mantra*—Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare—to every town and village in Germany. Thank you very much.

Your insignificant servants at Harināma Deśa, ISKCON Wiesbaden, Germany.

Zambia

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

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Please accept our most humble Vyāsa-pūjā offering on the 120th anniversary of your auspicious appearance, which coincides with the celebration of your founding ISKCON fifty years ago.

We are a very young center here in Zambia, being officially established for only one year, but by your mercy devotees following your instructions preached here in the mid-70s and early-80s. Śrīla Prabhupāda, you worked so hard to fulfill the desire of your spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, and also Caitanya Mahāprabhu's prediction that His holy name would be chanted in every town and village in the world. Therefore Zambia could not be left out.

By your mercy the land of Zambia has been blessed with visits by very elevated disciples of yours, including Brahmānanda Prabhu (in the mid-70s), and His Holiness Lokanāth Swami and His Holiness Rādhānātha Swami more recently. Many other disciples of yours regularly visit Zambia, which clearly illustrates how your mercy has manifested. Several Mahārājas and other devotees have guided us in moving the center forward and spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

With regular guidelines from the GBC, we are successfully conducting Sunday Feast programs, regular book distribution, Food for Life, university preaching programs, festivals, street *harināmas*, Bhakti Vriksha

programs, congregational development, and so much more. These activities are going on not only in Lusaka, where the center is, but also in other Zambian towns.

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

[Lord Caitanya said:] “In every town and village, the chanting of My name will be heard.” (*Caitanya-bhāgavata, Antya 4.126*)

Many new devotees have started chanting regularly and following the Kṛṣṇa consciousness principles. We put on a small Ratha-yātrā last year, and in honor of ISKCON50, with the help and support of the South African devotees, we are planning a bigger Ratha-yātrā this year. With the mercy and inspiration of His Holiness Lokanāth Swami, we shall also be embarking on a *padayātrā* in Zambia, a project we discussed with Mahārāja in Māyāpur during the ILS meetings and Gaura-pūrṇimā festival.

Śrīla Prabhupāda, please continue showering your mercy on the Zambian *yātrā* so that the *jīvas* here may be benefited and go back to Godhead. For your pleasure, please let us assist you in fulfilling this mission of ISKCON.

Your insignificant servants at ISKCON Zambia.

