

Vyāsa-pūjā

ŚRĪ VYĀSA-PŪJĀ



The illustration is used with friendly permission by
Toralaksi Devi Dasi & Visvambhara Dasa
www.syamart.com



The most blessed event

ŚRĪ VYĀSA-PŪJĀ



The appearance day
of our beloved spiritual master

His Grace Mahatma Dasa

May 2021





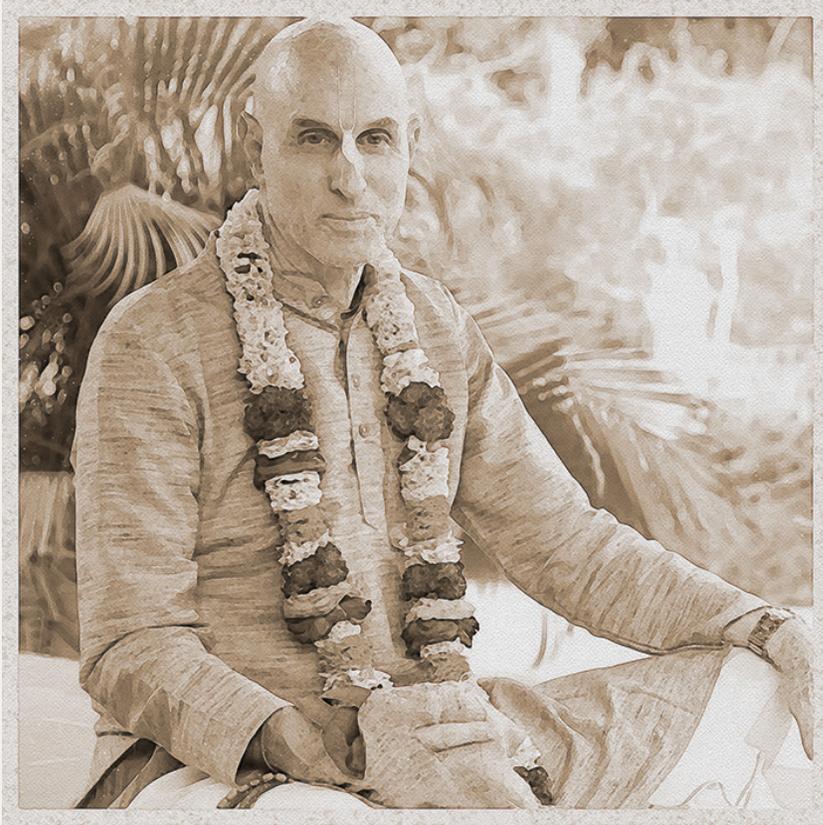
Contents

Prayers.....	vii
Introduction.....	ix
The Meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā.....	xi
“Adore, Adore Ye All The happy day”	xv
The Universal Teacher.....	xvii
His Grace Mahatma Prabhu’s Vyāsa-pūjā Offering to Śrīla Prabhupāda.....	xxix
Offerings from	
Argentina	35
Australia	39
Chile	53
China	58
Colombia	79
Ecuador	84
France	88
Germany	91
India	100
Ireland	126
Italy	128
Lithuania	133
Mauritius	140
México	147
Netherland	162



Perú	169
Poland	172
Russia	174
Scotland	196
South Africa	198
Taiwan	206
Thailand	208
United Kingdom	210
United States of America	237
Śrī Gurv-aṣṭaka	259





Prayers

to our beloved spiritual master



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhave sadā*

Obeisances to His Grace Mahātma Prabhu, who is dearest to Kṛṣṇa,
and who teaches both through his realizations and his actions.

*tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

Obeisance to him who is the embodiment of the mood of his
Master Prabhupāda, who awards the joy of kīrtana, who reveals the
truth of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, and who is affectionately concerned
for the devotees.

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

I offer my respectful obeisances unto my spiritual master, who has opened
my eyes, blinded by the darkness of ignorance, with the torchlight of knowledge.



Introduction

In September 1977, Śrīla Prabhupāda was quietly listening to Vyasa Puja offerings. During one such offering by His Holiness Tamala Krishna Goswami, Goswami Maharaj faltered when he couldn't recall the date of his spiritual master's first roof-top meeting with his own spiritual master, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī. Even though Śrīla Prabhupāda had said nothing until this point, and was in some obvious physical discomfort, he smiled and said "1922" drawing a cheery "Jāya!" from all of his disciples. Because of what transpired on that Kolkata roof-top that one auspicious day, we are now the recipients of such incredible amounts of mercy from His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda. The connection of guru and śiṣya comes after much searching on the part of the disciple and much compassion on the part of God. Śrīla Prabhupāda explained that for the meeting of the disciple with his guru, God Himself makes the arrangements. He said:

"So guru is also incarnation of God, mercy incarnation of God. Guru means that... God is within you, caitya-guru, the guru, or the spiritual master, within your heart. Īśvaraḥ sarva-bhūtānām ḥṛd-deśe 'rjuna tiṣṭhati. So, this Paramātmā is also incarnation of God. And the same Paramātmā, when He comes before you, being very much merciful upon you, to teach you from outside, that is guru." (*Lecture on SB 1.3.26 October 1, 1976*)

"Therefore, God is called caitya-guru, the spiritual master within the heart. And the physical spiritual master is God's mercy. If God sees that you are sincere, He will give you a spiritual master who can give you protection. He will help you from within and without. Without in the physical form of spiritual master, and within as the spiritual master within the heart." (*Conversation on May 23, 1974*)



On Vyāsa-pūjā day, we worship Guru as the manifested compassion of the Supreme Lord, and we give thanks for the day he appeared in this world, as well as the blessed day we met him and heard his words for the first time. The spiritual master teaches everything we need to know about the Lord who dwells within us, that one supreme person who is unseen by our eyes. As the external manifestation of the Paramātmā, the guru teaches the Vedas, the sound manifestation of God. He teaches the Vedas, the Vedānta, the Purānas, and he does it as a messenger of the Lord's incarnation, Śrīla Kṛṣṇa Dvaipāyana Vyāsa. Śrīla Vyāsadeva is the original spiritual preceptor for all men. And all other preceptors are to be considered his representative.

With these offerings, we would like to honour such a representative, who is such a stalwart preacher and example for others to follow. We want to appreciate our beloved spiritual master who always extends himself out of genuine care for his disciples and well-wishers alike, in a world which is in dire need of love and compassion. With this humble attempt, we want to show our gratitude to our spiritual master who continues to shine the light on the path we should follow, and pray that he always remains under the shelter of his spiritual master.



Meaning of Vyasa-puja

by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

“Actually there is no difference between hearing directly from Kṛṣṇa and hearing directly from Kṛṣṇa via a bona fide spiritual master like Vyāsa. The spiritual master is the representative of Vyāsadeva also. Therefore, according to the Vedic system, on the birthday of the spiritual master the disciples conduct the ceremony called Vyāsa-pūjā.

(Bhagavad-gīta As It Is 18.75, Purport)

“We have got debts to so many people. First debt is to the demigods. Just like the sun-god, moon-god, they are supplying heat, light. The Varuṇa. In this material world we have got so many debts. But people do not care for it. Just like we are receiving light from sun, but what we are paying to the sun? Therefore we remain debtor. This is Vedic idea. You are getting this electricity. If you don’t pay the bill, how long you will be able to use it? After some days the connection will be cut off. But although we do not pay any bill to the sunlight, because it is the order of Kṛṣṇa, it is giving us light. But how long it will go on? This is sinful. If you take something from a person and if you do not repay, that is sinful. Ṛṇa. It is called ṛṇa.



So there are so many debts. First to the demigod, then to the *ṛṣis*, saintly persons. Because we get knowledge, Vedic knowledge, from the *ṛṣi*, we must be debtor. *Guru-ṛṇa*: debtor to the spiritual master, to the sages, to the saintly persons, because we are getting knowledge from them. Therefore the Vyāsa-pūjā is there. Once in a year the disciples are worshipping the spiritual master and trying to repay that he has received from the spiritual master.

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, July 11, 1974)

“Kṛṣṇa instructed Brahmā. Brahmā instructed Nārada. Nārada instructed Vyāsadeva. Vyāsadeva instructed Śukadeva. In this way our *guru-paramparā* system. Therefore we worship the guru as Vyāsa-pūjā because representative of Vyāsa. And who is Vyāsa? Representative of Nārada. What is Nārada? Representative of Brahmā. What is Brahmā? Representative of Kṛṣṇa. This is called *paramparā* system.

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, March 13, 1976)

“So this Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony means to offer our thanks to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, because He is the original *guru*. As we receive this message through *paramparā* system from Kṛṣṇa to Brahmā, Brahmā to Nārada, Nārada to Vyāsadeva, Vyāsadeva to Madhvācārya, in this way, Mādhavendra Purī, then Īśvara Purī, then Caitanya Mahāprabhu, then six Gosvāmīs, then others, Bhaktivinoda Ṭhakura, Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī, Gaura Kīśora dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī. Then we have taken.



So this..., as we come to this Kṛṣṇa Consciousness understanding through this long *paramparā*, similarly, in the Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony, whatever respect, honor and presentation you give, that goes to Kṛṣṇa through that *paramparā* system, from down. As it is received through the *paramparā* system, so similarly, your offerings also goes through this *paramparā* system to the Supreme. The connection.

Our system is *gopī-bhartuḥ pada-kamalayor dāsa-dāsānudāsaḥ* (CC Madhya 13.80). It is sometimes called bureaucracy. If you apply something, at least in India, to the President, you'll have to submit to the local collector. The collector will submit to somebody else, somebody else, then secretary, you go; then to the President. So our system is that. So it is not that I am training my disciples to worship me, man-worship, I'm getting some honor from them for nothing. No. It is not that. Whatever honor, whatever respect, whatever presentation you are giving to your spiritual master, it will go to Kṛṣṇa by *paramparā* system. This is Vyāsa-pūjā. Therefore, it is called Vyāsapūjā.

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, August 22, 1973)

“So try to receive Kṛṣṇa’s grace through the disciplic succession, Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Then you will understand everything. *Yasya deve parā bhaktir yathā deve tathā gurau* (ŚU 6.23). This is the process, Vedic process. One should have unflinching faith in God and spiritual master. Don’t jump over God, crossing the spiritual master. Then it will be failure. You must go through. We are observing Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony, the birth anniversary of our Guru Mahārāja. Why? We cannot understand Kṛṣṇa without spiritual master. That is bogus. If anyone wants to understand



Kṛṣṇa, jumping over the spiritual master, then immediately he becomes a bogus. Therefore Caitanya Mahāprabhu says, *guru-kṛṣṇa-kṛpāya pāya bhakti-latā-bīja* (CC Madhya 19.151). That is Vedic injunction. *Tad viddhi praṇipātena paripraśnena sevayā* (BG 4.34). Nobody can understand Kṛṣṇa without going through His most confidential servant. This is the meaning of this Vyāsa-pūjā. You cannot surpass. If you think that you have become very learned and very advanced, now you can avoid the spiritual master and you understand Kṛṣṇa, that is the bogus. That is the meaning of this Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony. We should always pray, *yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādaḥ* (Gurv-aṣṭaka 8). *Yasya prasādād*: only by the grace of spiritual master we can achieve the grace or mercy of Kṛṣṇa. This is the meaning of this Vyāsa-pūjā, offering obeisances by *paramparā* system.

*(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture on Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Thākura's appearance day,
March 2, 1975)*



"Adore, Adore Ye All The happy day"

Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote the following poem in February 1935, on the occasion of the Vyāsa-pūjā celebration of his spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Thākura. It delighted Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta, especially the sixth stanza, which he felt captured the essence of his preaching against the māyāvādīs. After reading this poem, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī was especially keen that Śrīla Prabhupāda preach and write in English.

(1)

Adore, adore ye all The happy day
Blessed than heaven Sweeter than May.
When he appeared at Puri The holy place,
My Lord and Master His Divine Grace.

(2)

Oh! my Master The evangelic angel.
Give us Thy light Light up Thy candle.
Struggle for existence A human race.
The only hope His Divine Grace.

(3)

Misled we are All going astray,
Save us Lord Our fervent pray.
Wonder thy ways To turn our face
Adore Thy feet Your Divine Grace.



(4)

Forgotten Kṛṣṇa We fallen souls,
Paying most heavy The illusion's toll.
Darkness around All untrace.
The only hope His Divine Grace.

(5)

Message of service Thou hast brought,
A healthful life As Caitanya wrought.
Unknown to all It's full of brace.
That's your gift Your Divine Grace.

(6)

Absolute is sentient Thou hast proved
Impersonal calamity Thou hast moved.
This gives us a life Anew and fresh.
Worship Thy feet Your Divine Grace.

(7)

Had you not come Who had told
The message of Kṛṣṇa Forceful and bold.
That's your right You have the mace
Save me a fallen Your Divine Grace.

(8)

The line of service As drawn by you
Is pleasing and healthy Like morning dew.
The oldest of all But in new dress
Miracle done Your Divine Grace.



The Universal Teacher

The following speech was given by Abhay Charan Das (His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda) before the members of the Śrī Gauḍīya Maṭha in Bombay, in February 1936, on the occasion of the appearance anniversary of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.

*sākṣād-dharitvena samasta-śāstrair
uktas tathā bhāvya eva sadbhiḥ
kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

“In the revealed scriptures it is declared that the spiritual master should be worshiped like the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and this injunction is obeyed by pure devotees of the Lord. The spiritual master is the most confidential servant of the Lord. Thus let us offer our respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of our spiritual master.”

Gentlemen, on behalf of the members of the Bombay branch of the Gauḍīya Maṭha, let me welcome you all because you have so kindly joined us tonight in our congregational offerings of homage to the lotus feet of the world teacher, Ācāryadeva, who is the founder of this Gauḍīya Mission and the president-*ācārya* of Śrī Śrī Viśva-vaiṣṇava Rāja-sabhā – I mean my eternal divine master, Paramahaṁsa Parivrājakācārya Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja.

Sixty-two years ago, on this auspicious day, the Ācāryadeva made his appearance by the call of Ṭhākura Bhaktivinoda at Śrī-kṣetra, Jagannātha-dhāma at Purī.



Gentlemen, the offering of such an homage as has been arranged this evening to the Ācāryadeva is not a sectarian concern, for when we speak of the fundamental principle of *gurudeva*, or *ācāryadeva*, we speak of something that is of universal application. There does not arise any question of discriminating my guru from yours or anyone else's. There is only one *guru*, who appears in an infinity of forms to teach you, me and all others.

The *guru*, or *ācāryadeva*, as we learn from the bona fide scriptures, delivers the message of the absolute world, the transcendental abode of the Absolute Personality, where everything nondifferentially serves the Absolute Truth. We have heard so many times: *mahā-jano yena gataḥ sa panthāḥ* ("Traverse the trail which your previous *ācārya* has passed), but we have hardly tried to understand the real purport of this *śloka*. If we scrutinizingly study this proposition, we can understand that the *mahā-jana* is one, and the royal road to the transcendental world is also one. In the Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad [1.2.12] it is said:

*tad-vijñānārthaṁ sa gurum evābhigacchet
samit-pāṇiḥ śrotriyaṁ brahma-niṣṭham*

"In order to learn the transcendental science, one must approach the bona fide spiritual master in disciplic succession, who is fixed in the Absolute Truth."

Thus it has been enjoined herewith that in order to receive that transcendental knowledge, one must approach the *guru*. Therefore, if the Absolute Truth is one, about which we think there is no difference of opinion, the *guru* also cannot be two. The Ācāryadeva to whom we have assembled tonight to offer our humble homage is not the *guru* of a sectarian institution or one out of many differing exponents of the truth. On the contrary, he is the Jagad-guru, the *guru* of all of us; the only difference is that some obey him wholeheartedly, while others do not obey him directly.



In the *Bhāgavatam* [SB 11.17.27] it is said:

*ācāryaṁ māṁ vijānīyān navamanyeta karhicit
na martya-buddhyāsūyeta sarva-deva-mayo guruḥ*

“One should understand the spiritual master to be as good as I am, said the Blessed Lord. “Nobody should be jealous of the spiritual master or think of him as an ordinary man, because the spiritual master is the sum total of all the demigods.”

That is, the *ācārya* has been identified with God Himself. He has nothing to do with the affairs of this mundane world. He does not descend here to meddle with the affairs of temporary necessities, but to deliver the fallen, conditioned souls – the souls, or entities, who have come here to the material world with a motive of enjoyment by the mind and the five organs of sense perception. He appears before us to reveal the light of the *Vedas* and to bestow upon us the blessings of full-fledged freedom, after which we should hanker at every step of our life’s journey.

The transcendental knowledge of the *Vedas* was first uttered by God to Brahmā, the creator of this particular universe. From Brahmā the knowledge descended to Nārada, from Nārada to Vyāsadeva, and from Vyāsadeva to Madhva, and in this process of disciplic succession the transcendental knowledge was transmitted by one disciple to another till it reached Lord Gaurāṅga, Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, who posed as the disciple and successor of Śrī Īśvara Purī. The present Ācāryadeva is the tenth disciplic representative from Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī, the original representative of Lord Caitanya who preached this transcendental tradition in its fullness. The knowledge that we receive from our Gurudeva is not different from that imparted by God Himself and the succession of the *ācāryas* in the preceptorial line of Brahmā. We adore this auspicious day as Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā-tithi because the *ācārya* is the living representative of Vyāsadeva, the divine compiler of the *Vedas*, *Purāṇas*, *Bhagavad-gīta*, *Mahābhārata*, and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.



One who interprets the divine sound, or *śabda-brahma*, by his imperfect sense perception cannot be a real spiritual *guru*, because in the absence of proper disciplinary training under the bona fide *ācārya*, the interpreter is sure to differ from Vyāsadeva (as the Māyāvādīs do). Śrīla Vyāsadeva is the prime authority of Vedic revelation, and therefore such an irrelevant interpreter cannot be accepted as the *guru*, or *ācārya*, howsoever equipped he may be with all the acquirements of material knowledge. As it is said in the *Padma Purāṇa, sampradāya-vihīnā ye mantrās te niṣphalā matāḥ*: “Unless you are initiated by a bona fide spiritual master in the disciplic succession, the *mantra* that you might have received is without any effect.”

On the other hand, one who has received the transcendental knowledge by aural reception from the bona fide preceptor in the disciplic chain, and who has sincere regard for the real *ācārya*, must needs be enlightened with the revealed knowledge of the *Vedas*. But this knowledge is permanently sealed to the cognitive approach of the empiricists. As it is said in *Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad* [6.23]:

*yasya deve parā bhaktir yathā deve tathā gurau
tasyaite kathitā hy arthāḥ prakāṣante mahātmanah*

“Only unto those great souls who simultaneously have implicit faith in both the Lord and the spiritual master are all the imports of Vedic knowledge automatically revealed.”

Gentlemen, our knowledge is so poor, our senses are so imperfect, and our sources are so limited that it is not possible for us to have even the slightest knowledge of the absolute region without surrendering ourselves at the louts feet of Śrī Vyāsadeva or his bona fide representative. Every moment we are being deceived by the knowledge of our direct perception. It is all the creation or concoction of the mind, which is always deceiving, changing, and flickering. We cannot know anything of the transcendental region by our limited, perverted method of observation and experiment. But all of us



can lend our eager ears for the aural reception of the transcendental sound transmitted from that region to this through the unadulterated medium of Śrī Gurudeva or Śrī Vyāsadeva. Therefore, gentlemen, we should surrender ourselves today at the feet of the representative of Śrī Vyāsadeva for the elimination of all our differences bred by our unsubmissive attitude. It is accordingly said in *Śrī Gītā* [Bg. 4.34]:

*tad viddhi praṇipātena paripraśnena sevayā
upadekṣyanti te jñānaṁ jñāninas tattva-darśinaḥ*

“Just approach the wise and bona fide spiritual master. Surrender unto him first and try to understand him by inquiries and service. Such a wise spiritual master will enlighten you with transcendental knowledge, for he has already known the Absolute Truth.”

To receive the transcendental knowledge we must completely surrender ourselves to the real *ācārya* in a spirit of ardent inquiry and service. Actual performance of service to the Absolute under the guidance of the *ācārya* is the only vehicle by which we can assimilate the transcendental knowledge. Today’s meeting for offering our humble services and homage to the feet of the Ācāryadeva will enable us to be favored with the capacity of assimilating the transcendental knowledge so kindly transmitted by him to all persons without distinction.

Gentlemen, we are all more or less proud of our past Indian civilization, but we actually do not know the real nature of that civilization. We cannot be proud of our past material civilization, which is now a thousand times greater than in days gone by. It is said that we are passing through the age of darkness, the Kali-yuga. What is this darkness? The darkness cannot be due to backwardness in material knowledge, because we now have more of it than formerly. If not we ourselves, our neighbors at any rate have plenty of it. Therefore, we must conclude that the darkness of the present age is not due to a lack of material advancement, but that we have lost the

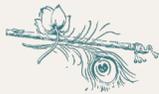


clue to our spiritual advancement, which is the prime necessity of human life and the criterion of the highest type of human civilization. Throwing of bombs from airplanes is no advancement of civilization from the primitive, uncivilized practice of dropping big stones on the heads of enemies from the tops of hills. Improvement in the art of killing our neighbors by means of machine guns and poisonous gases is certainly no advancement from primitive barbarism, which prided itself on its art of killing by bows and arrows. Nor does the development of a sense of pampered selfishness prove anything more than intellectual animalism. True human civilization is very different from all these states, and therefore in the *Kaṭha Upaniṣad* [1.3.14] there is the emphatic call:

*uttiṣṭhata jāgrata prāpya varān nibodhata
kṣurasya dhārā niṣītā duratyayā
durgam pathas tat kavayo vadanti*

“Please wake up and try to understand the boon which you now have in this human form of life. The path of spiritual realization is very difficult; it is sharp like a razor’s edge. That is the opinion of learned, transcendental scholars.”

Thus, while others were yet in the womb of historical oblivion, the sages of India had developed a different kind of civilization, which enabled them to know themselves. They had discovered that we are not at all material entities, but that we are all spiritual, permanent, and indestructible servants of the Absolute. But because we have, against our better judgment, chosen to completely identify ourselves with this present material existence, our sufferings have multiplied according to the inexorable law of birth and death, with its consequent diseases and anxieties. These sufferings cannot be really mitigated by any provision of material happiness, because matter and spirit are completely different elements. It is just as if you took an aquatic animal out of water and put it on the land, supplying all manner of happiness possible on land. The deadly



sufferings of the animal are not capable of being relieved at all until it is taken out of its foreign environment. Spirit and matter are completely contradictory things. All of us are spiritual entities. We cannot have perfect happiness, which is our birthright, however much we may meddle with the affairs of the mundane things. Perfect happiness can be ours only when we are restored to our natural state of spiritual existence. This is the distinctive message of our ancient Indian civilization, this is the message of the *Gītā*, this is the message of the *Vedas* and the *Purāṇas*, and this is the message of all the real *ācāryas*, including our present Ācāryadeva, in the line of Lord Caitanya.

Gentlemen, although it is imperfectly that we have been enabled, by his grace, to understand the sublime messages of our Ācāryadeva, Oṃ Viṣṇupāda Paramahaṃsa Parivrājakācārya Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja, we must admit that we have realized definitely that the divine message from his holy lips is the congenial thing for suffering humanity. All of us should hear him patiently. If we listen to the transcendental sound without unnecessary opposition, he will surely have mercy upon us. The *ācārya's* message is to take us back to our original home, back to God. Let me repeat, therefore, that we should hear him patiently, follow him in the measure of our conviction and bow down at his lotus feet for releasing us from our present causeless unwillingness for serving the Absolute and all souls.

From the *Gītā* we learn that even after the destruction of the body, the *ātmā*, or the soul, is not destroyed; he is always the same, always new and fresh. Fire cannot burn him, water cannot dissolve him, the air cannot dry him up, and the sword cannot kill him. He is everlasting and eternal, and this is also confirmed in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* [SB 10.84.13]:



*yasyātma-buddhiḥ kuṇape tri-dhātuke
 sva-dhiḥ kalatrādiṣu bhauma ijya-dhiḥ
 yat-tīrtha-buddhiḥ salile na karhicij
 janeṣv abhijñeṣu sa eva go-kharaḥ*

“Anyone who accepts this bodily bag of three elements [bile, mucus, and air] as his self, who has an affinity for an intimate relationship with his wife and children, who considers his land as worshipable, who takes bath in the waters of the holy places of pilgrimage but never takes advantage of those persons who are in actual knowledge – he is no better than an ass or a cow.”

Unfortunately, in these days we have all been turned foolish by neglecting our real comfort and identifying the material cage with ourselves. We have concentrated all our energies for the meaningless upkeep of the material cage for its own sake, completely neglecting the captive soul within. The cage is meant for the undoing of the bird; the bird is not meant for the welfare of the cage. Let us, therefore, deeply ponder this. All our activities are now turned toward the upkeep of the cage, and the most we do is try to give some food to the mind by art and literature. But we do not know that this mind is also material in a more subtle form. This is stated in the *Gītā* [Bg. 7.4]:

*bhūmir āpo 'nalo vāyuḥ khaṁ mano buddhir eva ca
 ahankāra itiyam me bhinnā prakṛtir aṣṭadhā*

“Earth, water, fire, air, sky, intelligence, mind, and ego are all My separated energies.”



We have scarcely tried to give any food to the soul, which is distinct from the body and mind; therefore we are all committing suicide in the proper sense of the term. The message of the Ācāryadeva is to give us a warning to halt such wrong activities. Let us therefore bow down at his lotus feet for the unalloyed mercy and kindness he has bestowed upon us.

Gentlemen, do not for a moment think that my Gurudeva wants to put a complete brake on the modern civilization – an impossible feat. But let us learn from him the art of making the best use of a bad bargain, and let us understand the importance of this human life, which is fit for the highest development of true consciousness. The best use of this rare human life should not be neglected. As it is said in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* [SB 11.9.29]:

*labdhvā su-durlabham idaṁ bahu-sambhavānte
mānuṣyam artha-dam anityam apīha dhīraḥ
tūrṇaṁ yateta na pated anu-mṛtyu yāvan
niḥśreyasāya viṣayaḥ khalu sarvataḥ syāt*

“This human life is obtained after many, many births, and although it is not permanent, it can offer the highest benefits. Therefore a sober and intelligent man should immediately try to fulfill his mission and attain the highest profit in life before another death occurs. He should avoid sense gratification, which is available in all circumstances.”

Let us not misuse this human life in the vain pursuit of material enjoyment, or, in other words, for the sake of only eating, sleeping, fearing, and sensuous activities. The Ācāryadeva’s message is conveyed by the words of Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī:



*anāsaktasya viṣayān yathārham upayuñjataḥ
nirbandhaḥ kṛṣṇa-sambandhe yuktaṁ vairāgyam ucyate
prāpañcikatayā buddhyā hari-sambandhi-vastunaḥ
mumukṣubhiḥ parityāgo vairāgyam phalgu kathyate*

“One is said to be situated in the fully renounced order of life if he lives in accordance with Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. He should be without attachment for sense gratification and should accept only what is necessary for the upkeep of the body. On the other hand, one who renounces things which could be used in the service of Kṛṣṇa, under the pretext that such things are material, does not practice complete renunciation.”

The purport of these ślokaś can only be realized by fully developing the rational portion of our life, not the animal portion. Sitting at the feet of the Ācāryadeva, let us try to understand from this transcendental source of knowledge what we are, what is this universe, what is God, and what is our relationship with Him. The message of Lord Caitanya is the message for the living entities and the message of the living world. Lord Caitanya did not bother Himself for the upliftment of this dead world, which is suitably named Martyaloka, the world where everything is destined to die. He appeared before us four hundred fifty years ago to tell us something of the transcendental universe, where everything is permanent and everything is for the service of the Absolute. But recently Lord Caitanya has been misrepresented by some unscrupulous persons, and the highest philosophy of the Lord has been misinterpreted to be the cult of the lowest type of society. We are glad to announce tonight that our Ācāryadeva, with his unusual kindness, saved us from this horrible type of degradation, and therefore we bow down at his lotus feet with all humility. Gentlemen, it has been a mania of the cultured (or uncultured) society of the present day to accredit the Personality of Godhead with merely impersonal features and to stultify Him by claiming that He has no senses, no form, no activity, no head, no legs, and no enjoyment. This has also been the pleasure of the modern scholars due to their sheer lack of proper guidance



and true introspection in the spiritual realm. All these empiricists think alike: all the enjoyable things should be monopolized by the human society, or by a particular class only, and the impersonal God should be a mere order supplier for their whimsical feats. We are happy that we have been relieved of this horrible type of malady by the mercy of His Divine Grace Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Mahārāja. He is our eyeopener, our eternal father, our eternal preceptor and our eternal guide. Let us therefore bow down at his lotus feet on this auspicious day.

Gentlemen, although we are like ignorant children in the knowledge of the Transcendence, still His Divine Grace, my Gurudeva, has kindled a small fire within us to dissipate the invincible darkness of empirical knowledge. We are now so much on the safe side that no amount of philosophical argument by the empiric schools of thought can deviate us an inch from the position of our eternal dependence on the lotus feet of His Divine Grace. Furthermore, we are prepared to challenge the most erudite scholars of the Māyāvāda school and prove that the personality of Godhead and His transcendental sports in Goloka alone constitute the sublime information of the *Vedas*. There are explicit indications of this in the *Chāndogya Upaniṣad* [8.13.1]: *śyāmāc chavalam prapadye śavalāc chyāmaṁ prapadye*. “For receiving the mercy of Kṛṣṇa, I surrender unto His energy [Rādhā], and for receiving the mercy of His energy, I surrender unto Kṛṣṇa. Also, in the *Rg Veda* [1.2.22.20]: *tad viṣṇoḥ paramaṁ padam sadā paśyanti sūrayo divīva cakṣur ātataṁ ... viṣṇor yat paramaṁ padam*. “The lotus feet of Lord Viṣṇu are the supreme objective of all the demigods. These lotus feet of the Lord are as enlightening as the sun in the sky.”

The plain truth so vividly explained in the *Gīta*, which is the central lesson of the *Vedas*, is not understood or even suspected by the most powerful scholars of the empiric schools. Herein lies the secret of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā. When we meditate on the transcendental pastimes of the Absolute Godhead, we are proud to feel that we are His eternal servitors, and we become jubilant and dance with joy. All glory to my divine



master, for it is he who has out of his unceasing flow of mercy stirred up within us such a movement of eternal existence. Let us bow down at his lotus feet. Gentlemen, had he not appeared before us to deliver us from the thralldom of this gross worldly delusion, surely we should have remained for lives and ages in the darkness of helpless captivity. Had he not appeared before us, we would not have been able to understand the eternal truth of the sublime teaching of Lord Caitanya. Had he not appeared before us, we could not have been able to know the significance of the first śloka of *Brahma-saṁhitā*:

*īśvaraḥ paramaḥ kṛṣṇaḥ sac-cid-ānanda-vigrahaḥ
anādir ādir govindaḥ sarva-kāraṇa-kāraṇam*

“Kṛṣṇa, who is known as Govinda, is the Supreme Godhead. He has an eternal, blissful, spiritual body. He is the origin of all, He has no other origin, and He is the prime cause of all causes.”

Personally, I have no hope for any direct service for the coming crores of births of the sojourn of my life, but I am confident that some day or other I shall be delivered from this mire of delusion in which I am at present so deeply sunk. Therefore let me with all my earnestness pray at the lotus feet of my divine master to allow me to suffer the lot for which I am destined due to my past misdoings, but to let me have this power of recollection: that I am nothing but a tiny servant of the Almighty Absolute Godhead, realized through the unflinching mercy of my divine master. Let me therefore bow down at his lotus feet with all the humility at my command.

ABHAY CHARAN DAS

For Members, Śrī Gauḍīya Maṭha, Bombay



Vyasa-puja Offering

to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

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

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

I Was Born to Serve You

I sometimes wonder, “Was I your servant in the past? Is it possible that I and your other disciples were sent by your guru Mahārāja to help you spread Kṛṣṇa Consciousness?” Or was I just a lost and useless soul, a frustrated hippie fortunate enough to meet Your Divine Grace and engage in your service?

The latter is certainly true. Regarding the former, you spoke these encouraging words:

My spiritual master knew it that alone I could not do this great work. Therefore He has very kindly sent you all to help me in this task. I accept you therefore as representatives of my guru Mahārāja playing as my affectionate disciples.



Some may argue that this statement was just an expression of your humility. And no doubt it was. But it's deeply inspiring to think that I took birth to serve you and your Movement.

During my teenage years I sometimes saw devotees in my hometown of Los Angeles. They even started a temple in my neighborhood. In 1967, when I visited Haight Ashbury, I ran into devotees there. Then when I went away to University in 1969, devotees from the local temple were doing kīrtana daily on campus. And I often heard the Hare Kṛṣṇa mantra on the radio. So from the age of seventeen, devotees became part of the landscape of my life. Was this a coincidence or was this part of a divine plan for one who takes birth to serve you? Perhaps we'll never know for sure. Still, for me it feels like meeting you was meant to be.

But maybe I did take birth, like everyone else, to pursue the mission of being God. If so, it would be audacious of me to think that I took birth to help you spread this Movement, especially because I wasn't born in a devotee family; not even a brāhmaṇa or religious family? Plus, my teenage pastimes often centered around breaking the regulative principles. Certainly the path I was traversing was a dark and dangerous one. Still, the thought that I took birth in America to serve you, that maybe in the past I had a connection with devotional service, not only inspires me to no end, but ingratiates me to your eternal service. When I feel, "I was born to serve you," it deepens my connection and commitment to you, and gives me the determination I need to overcome the obstacles on the path of becoming Kṛṣṇa conscious and sharing it with others. The thought that "I was born to serve you" keeps me constantly endeavoring to more deeply understand you, your teachings and your mission, and it impels me to try, day in and day out, to personify your teachings.

But maybe I am proud and foolish to think this way. Maybe I just happened to be in the right place at the right time and by some stroke of luck I took up Kṛṣṇa Consciousness.



Maybe that fortune had nothing to do with me or my past; maybe it was entirely due to your mercy. Yet, if I can dance to your drum and imbibe your thoughts and teachings, don't I have the right to believe that my birth was ultimately meant for your service?

Śrīla Prabhupāda, I have always felt most fortunate to be able to do something, anything, for you. I often think that if I didn't have your service I wouldn't have a good reason to do anything. And even if I were showered with material opportunities, opulences and pleasures, what happiness could it bring if not engaged in your service?

You know me better than I know myself. I never felt qualified to serve you, but I knew that serving a pure devotee is a rare opportunity and should be taken advantage of. It was your mercy to engage me in your service and tolerate my feeble attempts to serve you. You know I am a fallen soul, but somehow I had a desire to serve and thus you gave me responsibilities in your Movement. And even when I didn't serve well, made numerous mistakes or sometimes even gave up my service, you never gave up on me. You continued to engage me, tirelessly supported and instructed me, and continued to pray for my spiritual advancement. Therefore, how can I ever give up your service. How can I ever think of doing anything other than pushing on your Movement, the Movement you risked your life to give birth to and raise?

So, was I Kṛṣṇa conscious in my past life? Were we together before and again reunited in this life? Was I sent by your guru mahārāja to help you? Who knows? But one thing is for sure, no matter how I or anyone looks at it, I was born to serve you!

Your unqualified but fortunate eternal servant,

Mahatma Dasa







Offerings from ...

Argentina | Australia | Chile | China | Colombia
Ecuador | France | Germany | India | Ireland
Italy | Lithuania | Mauritius | Mexico | Netherlands | Peru
Poland | Russia | Scotland South Africa | Taiwan
Thailand | United Kingdom | United States of America



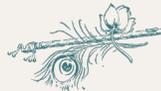


Marcelo

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Hare Kṛṣṇa Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Mahārāj, thank you for everything. You changed my life. You help me a lot every day with your tips and I think you will always be in my heart.

Haribol.

Your servant,

Marcelo





Palika Devi Dasi

Dikṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I would like to wish you that this new year that you receive Kṛṣṇa continue to give you the strength and that push that you show your disciples to want to be closer to the Lord!

Although this virus has brought us setbacks, I also believe that it has given us time to reflect. I remember a class that you once gave. In what did you say that perhaps one does not remember that it is about the subject of the class, but if how one feels at that moment, and I remember that I always felt good when I saw you in Argentina and when I can participate in your classes.

Again, I wish you that Kṛṣṇa is always in your heart and on your way and you continue to teach us and transmit love for Him.

Your humble servant,

Palika Devi Das





Amrita Radhika Devi Dasi

Dikṣā Disciple

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

Dearest Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances and all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and yourself on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.



It is said in the Caitanya-caritamṛta, *Adi-līla* 5.209:

“Lord Nityānanda delivers all those who fall down before Him. Therefore, He has saved such a sinful person as me.”

By this very same mood, you have saved me.

How can I ever repay you for what you have done for me?

Other than that, I always try and do my best to serve You and Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Just like Lord Nityānanda and Śrīla Prabhupāda, you give your mercy to anyone who comes into contact with you. Giving them counsel and helping them in any way you can. Your level of devotee care is so exemplary, always showing so much compassion, towards all.

This example, not only inspires but allows me to see exactly how I must follow in the same mood. To serve not only devotees by helping counsel them, but to all the people I meet who are struggling in life also. To not judge others, but to always be in the mood of selfless servitude.

I recently joked with a devotee friend, how I have naturally just become a relationship counsellor. And her response was, „Because you are imbibing the mood to serve others just as your Guru Maharaja does“ This is only by your causeless mercy that I am able to also help those who need to be helped. I am very grateful for your example, and for all the wonderful classes you are always giving, which teach me how to guide those who Kṛṣṇa brings.



The amount of time and care you give to not only your disciples but to everyone in ISKCON is just another example of how merciful you are. So many devotees are always singing your glories, which just shows how loved by all you are.

I pray that I will always be able to grow and help to continue your mission, long after you leave. To help those who seek shelter from this material world and be able to counsel and care for them just as you do.

I am forever indebted to you.

Your spiritual daughter who is trying her best to serve You,

Amrita Radhika Devi Dasi





Anandamayi Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

Dearest Guru Mahārāj,

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

Please accept my humble obeisance's at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you!
All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!



I pray your Vyāsa-pūjā is a wonderful celebration, and I pray to Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī for many happy returns on this special day. Thank you for your tireless effort spreading Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, I am in constant awe of your faith and selfless service to Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission.

Many things have been unstable since the pandemic, however you have remained a source of steadiness and strength for many. I dream of a time when I will see you again. I feel in my heart this will be very soon. Please know Gurudeva, I appreciate all that you teach me. Wherever you are, I wish to be with you, following your lead and walking in your footsteps. Last year you accepted me formally as your disciple, it was such a joyous occasion for me, and I thank Kṛṣṇa everyday he brought you into my life. I pray to Kṛṣṇa, you continue in good health and happiness.

Thank you Gurudeva, I would be nowhere without you.

Hare Kṛṣṇa and Happy Birthday!!

Your humble servant,

Anandamayī devī dāsi





Clinton

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

It makes me so happy to wish a happy Vyāsa-pūjā. Your talks and classes bring me so much inspiration and shelter to strengthen my service to Kṛṣṇa.

This year I have also been inspired by your teachings to move to the New Govardharna temple and strengthen my practices . I'm also doing lots of Sanga classes and leading many kīrtans, I'm also forming strong associations. I'm forever grateful and blessed for all your knowledge and mercy you offer.

Please accept my obeisances.

Your servant,

Clinton Brennan





David

Aspiring Disciple

Hare Krishna Guru Mahārāj,

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*



Thank you for the opportunity to have your association and inspiring influence on my spiritual journey. Your book *Living the Wisdom of Bhakti*, your daily lectures and Kṛṣṇa's mercy have helped me introspect and cultivate my Bhakti.

Thank you for initiating my wife, Anandamayi Devī Dāsī. It was truly a momentous occasion. I have noticed Anandamayi's commitment to you and Kṛṣṇa which is a blessing to our family and the Sydney community through her kīrtans and service. This has also influenced me to commit to one day getting initiated and finding my service to Kṛṣṇa.

I have been attending Bhakti Sastra classes every Sunday for 2.5 hours and am currently studying *The Nectar of Devotion*. I have been very fortunate to find a good connection of understanding with my śikṣā Guru Abhishek prabhu who resides in Sydney, and other devotees who have been on the spiritual journey longer than me.

I very much look forward to your visit to Australia again soon. I fondly remember the last time you were in Sydney, the wisdom I gained from your brief stay with us at our home and the lessons I learnt which I continue to carry on. I am committed to doing the best I can in everything I do with humour and less attachment.

I am so fortunate as an aspiring devotee to have found you as my dīkṣā Guru, to align my head and heart and understand what it truly means to be the servant of the servant of the servant.

Happy appearance day, may you continue growing strong in your health to spread the wisdom of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness.

Your servant,

David J





Krishna-Priya

Śikṣā Disciple

Dear Mahatma Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

On the auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I want to thank you for helping me through what have been some very difficult years of my life. I started listening to your classes and seminars regularly when I was sixteen and since then have felt that they keep me grounded and remind me of what's important and what should be focused on which is becoming Kṛṣṇa conscious and finding ways to better serve and please Śrīla



Prabhupāda. They also remind me not to take this world so seriously and of how valuable Kṛṣṇa Consciousness is. I tend to get very anxious, and often find myself confused and overwhelmed with uncertainty. I'm trying to figure things out not only in regards to career choice but where I fit in as a devotee and what I have to give and contribute to Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission. I'm trying to figure out my place, purpose and value. In the meantime, your teachings give me strength and the willpower to keep going and keep up with my sadhana. They are always relevant to my issues and I find I can relate to them significantly. Sometimes when listening to a class what you speak on is exactly what I need to hear at that particular time. I believe I would be much less Kṛṣṇa conscious if I hadn't come into contact with your teachings and more bewildered and probably quite discouraged and hopeless. I'm very grateful for the time that you spare to give classes and courses and write your books and emails.

Your servant,

Krishna-Priya





Sundari Radha devi dasi

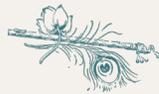
Dīkṣā Disciple

Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances and all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

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

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate mahatma prabhu iti nāmīne*



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

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

My deepest pranams to you Gurudev, you are an ocean of mercy. I'm so fortunate to have you to guide me, support and encourage me and even make me laugh with your epic humour!!

When I studied the values, you wrote for your organization "Sattva", my clearest realisation is that you are the living embodiment of these values, you are the perfect example guiding us.

You have never judged me, only given me understanding, compassion and guidance. You have created the most supreme supportive environment.

You meet all people (including myself) where we are at and are fully accepting, loving and encouraging and never pressuring us to be something we are not helping us step by step to rise up.

Your interest and empathy you demonstrate towards every single person who meets you or even contacts you is so personal and sincere, we feel you are a blanket of love. You nurture, protect and shelter us through your classes, courses, books, kirtan, music, personal guidance and instruction.

You are the perfect example of humility.



Your ability to inspire is incredible. Your never-ending service vision, never playing small or holding back but forever finding radical, fresh and real ways to connect with devotees and the world at large in your service to your Guru Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I believe you touch the heart of every single person that has ever crossed paths with you because you are an ocean of compassion, I wish one day to just have one drop of the endless depths of your compassion you consistently demonstrate.

You are the truth, and we all find a home in you through your guidance and instruction because your life is your message.

When I often contemplate on the support, encouragement, individual/personal care you have given I can't comprehend the level of good fortune and undeniable mercy you have shown me and continue to show me.

I am so grateful to you.

Thank you for never giving up on me and for the level of patience you endlessly give me.

Thank you for accepting me.

You are the only path, our only hope.

Your aspiring servant,

Sundari Radha Devi Das





Gabriela

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you!

Happy Vyāsa-pūjā. It is already a year since I officially asked you for shelter, and I am very happy to have done so. Your service to humanity has allowed me to learn not only knowledge, but values, dedication and the practice of observing the impurities of my heart, and being able to take responsibility for myself and work on them to be a better person.

You have also lovingly supported and guided me in understanding Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, in learning about this path of life, my role in this world, and appreciating more and more the gift that Śrīla Prabhupāda brought us. Thank you so much for everything you have given me, helping me to become a better person, working on my flaws and cultivating good qualities. I hope one day to be a good disciple for you, for Śrīla Prabhupāda and for Kṛṣṇa.

I could not get to express the infinite gratitude that I feel in my heart that I have met about Kṛṣṇa and Śrīla Prabhupāda through your guidance and that a whole new world of changes has opened in my life. The infinite gratitude that I feel for your existence and having the opportunity to have met you, despite the fact that I am not a qualified person and I have many defects. The infinite gratitude that I feel for your care, love and your unconditional advice on my path and that of so many people.

You are an inspiration, an example of a human being and a light of hope in this world, in which I had almost lost faith.

I pray that I can be a person worthy of being your disciple, despite all my imperfections. And I wish one day, to be able to serve you in some way in your service to humanity,



even though I will never be able to fully repay you for all that you have given to my soul. Infinite thanks!

Your aspiring servant,

Gabriela Delgado





Gopinath

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

It's incredible how when I'm around you, my mind gets clear and my consciousness elevates.

I'm always struggling with the attachment to material life, but also, it always reaches a point in which thanks to your association and mercy, I can remember Kṛṣṇa again. It's like you know the precise moment to push my devotion. How is it possible that I have so much joy when I'm around you (physically and digitally), and when I am not near you everything falls apart so easily?

I would like to be always with you and be able to receive Śrīla Prabhupāda's gifts through your instruction. I would love to serve you in the manifested and un-manifested worlds. May I always be next to you, to always have this desire to serve Kṛṣṇa, this desire that swollen my chest and rejoice my smile.

When the world tries to blind me with desires, you DO open my darkened eyes with transcendental knowledge. When I'm with you, my heart melts for Kṛṣṇa like ice in hot water. This emotion that I feel is so intense and real, that I can only ask you to accept the humble obeisances of this unqualified cookie meditator.

Your servant,

Gopinath





Dong Yingui

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dearest Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances and all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and Yourself on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

I have not been able to see you for the past two years because of the epidemic. I want to tell you good news. Now we have a baby, our daughter has already been born, whom by the mercy of Kṛṣṇa, we were able to name her according to her astrological chart and also I have been very fortunate that for the mercy of my husband's Guru, Jayapataka Swami Maharaja, he chose the name of my beloved daughter. Her name is Damayanti Devi Dasi. I want to introduce her to you when we meet next time. At the same time, she also wants to wish you a happy birthday.

In the new year, we wish you good health and all the best.

In addition, I would like to introduce another very important person in my life, who is my mother. She is now living with us. She is 58 years old. I sing Krishna's song to her every day. I hope she can join Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. And hope she is happy. She is also accepting the love I gave her. So my husband and I will work harder and hope that she can continue to live with us so that we have more opportunities to serve her.

I am very grateful to Kṛṣṇa for giving me such a happy family. We Bajans at home every day. Cooking. We make many different dishes to offer Kṛṣṇa every day. Learn to love. In this way, our family can return to Kṛṣṇa.

In addition, we have also prepared a video to send to you, which is our family's best wishes for your birthday.



Oh! My dear Guru Maharaja, please accept my most sincere and respectful obeisances, I ask you for your great mercy and that you allow me to serve you in a sincere way, with my abilities, because I know that I still have to learn a lot from you from your great knowledge, mercy and experience and I wish that I could serve at his lotus feet, and not fail on the way. Please, my dear Guru Maharaja, I apologize if at any time I have acted improperly either with my actions or my thoughts, I will try to be stronger and be able to follow your instructions and thus receive your mercy, from Śrīla Prabhupāda, and Lord Krishna. my most humble and respectful obeisances Guru Maharaja.

Your servant,

Bhaktin Dong Jingui





Kṛṣṇa Jivani Devi Dasi

Dikṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



JAI JAI GURUDEVA!!!!

Hare Krishna Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances,
All glories To Śrīla Prabhupāda

Guru Mahārāj, It is very difficult for me to be able to put in simple sentences and words, how I feel while writing this to you. 2020 was a very unexpected year, perhaps one of the most interesting years I have ever encountered full of surprises and things that despite the situation help me grow and to be more grateful to be able to live a life in Krishna Consciousness.

Dear Gurudeva, May you receive this year the most wonderful of the birthdays, till next year, may next year be even more wonderful than this one. I pray forever to be able to serve you with a sincere heart, to be able to follow your teachings as you and Prabhupāda desire us to. We all your disciples and devotees around the world have been so blessed for having the chance to listen and to learn from your lectures - these lectures address so many topics that we as devotees living in 2021 need.

Your guidance and your classes have helped me and my husband to serve each other better, by serving and putting Kṛṣṇa as the first priority in our lives. We will never forget that class you gave online in May. You mentioned that we are living with a devotee, therefore we have to always have a servant attitude. This is a quality I have been trying to cultivate during this past year. (I haven't succeeded, but by day by day I'm getting more and more opportunities to improve)

Without you guiding us in our lives, this whole material world would be unbearable. It would be like navigating in the darkest of the nights without a light to guide the



path. I will always be eternally grateful to you for giving me a new beginning. Thank you for enlightening my soul with transcendental knowledge. For giving me the gift of serving Kṛṣṇa by the mercy of your lotus feet, for teaching me how to start to be merciful and forgiving. For helping me understand, running away will never solve my problems, for showing me that we have no right to be discouraged and for inspiring me day by day to be a better daughter, devotee, servant and wife.

I still can't believe I was able to see you in January and that I received the chance to travel with you from Hong Kong to Taiwan and be able to try to serve you. I know in many ways that the quality of my service is very lacking, and I'm eternally grateful to you for accepting it, even knowing it came from me (like that time I cook your dinner in Guangzhou). I can promise after cooking for the deities here in Hong Kong, my cooking has slightly improved hehe maybe 0.0009% but I'm trying my best to improve day by day.

I also wanted to apologize one more time for that time in Taipei back in 2017. During your first Japa seminar. I don't know if you remember about this, but this was when I still didn't know who you were, and it was the first time I met you. I arrived at the temple very early and as I entered the temple room I said „Hare Kṛṣṇa Prabhu“ as I closed the door, you were sitting on the floor near Prabhupāda chanting Japa and you being so merciful and with the kindest smile you replied „Hare Kṛṣṇa „. I went directly to the kitchen, and Nitai was there cooking, and after a few minutes he told „Did you say hello to Mahārāj, he is the teacher giving the Japa seminar today“ at that time I was very new to the Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. So I did not know any etiquette and I thought all the Guru Mahārājas needed to wear saffron and carry a dandiya. By the time I realized my awful mistake the seminar was already started and you were asking: what does our Japa mean to us? So I raised my hand and you asked my name and when I replied You said: „So, Karla what is your Japa for you“.



Happy Happy Vyāsa-pūjā Dear Guru Mahārāj, I pray forever to Krishna to be able to have his mercy to be under your lotus feet and for keeping me under your shelter. I pray Guru Mahārāj that I can see you soon. I am still sad this year I couldn't meet you and have your association in Mayapur.

Thank you guru maharaja, and please forgive me if my offering does not meet the guidelines, I'm just trying to speak and type with my heart.

Your forever servant and mercy case from Hong Kong,

Kṛṣṇa Jivani Devi Dasi





Lilarani Devi Dasi

Dikṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my respectful obeisance. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Last year, because of Covid, I had more opportunities to listen to Gurudeva's courses. Gurudeva is providing us with the eternal treasure by speaking. Every lecture is your wisdom sharing. I know that although my listening is limited and my absorption is even less, but just a drop of your lotus words falls into my heart, it is enough to purify me for a long time and bring lasting influence to my life.

Because I have the fortune to translate your course into chinese, after every translation, I feel myself cleaned from inside. I was most impressed by the lectures on Jayananda Prabhu's appearance day and the lecture series on Bhakti Caru Swāmi Mahārāj's departure.

You mentioned that even though Jayananda prabhu was already a very senior devotee, he still did the garbage service, washing pots etc and he was happy to do all these services. Those who came to the temple for the first time could not tell the difference between him and the new devotees, because he never showed himself superior. I always remember this story, which inspired me to think of the example when I didn't want to do certain services.

After Bhakti Caru Swāmi Mahārāj left, Gurudeva gave a series of lectures - each of these courses is about 2 hours, but I think it may take me 20 years or more to actually realize it. You mentioned that śikṣā guru is as important as dīkṣā guru; the position of Śrīla Prabhupāda as our founder ācārya; What is healthy attachment to Guru and what is not ... These teachings have helped me to better understand what kind of movement we are in, what kind of mood we should have.



Every week you give lectures to our Chinese devotees on zoom and You set an example for us. You said that no matter how we feel, we should do what we know we should do. You pass on the profound truth to us through the simple words, You deliver unconditional love and service.

Service means to please Gurudeva and do it as Gurudeva's desire. I don't know if what I'm doing is serving Gurudeva or it is just serving my mind.

I pray that I always align with Gurudeva's instructions. Please let me always remember that I am the dust under your lotus feet.

Your insignificant servant,

Lilavati Devi Das





Lulu

Śikṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇi-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Hare Kṛṣṇa dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you, ever merciful Guru Mahārāj, all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Your birthday is approaching again and it is a glorious day for great souls like you to come here to spread the message of Lord Kṛṣṇa and to carry out the mission of your spiritual master Śrīla Prabhupāda, the ācāryas of the forefathers, and Lord Caitanya.

In the past year, you have kindly arranged special courses for Chinese devotees. I know that it was your night at that time, and you have been tired all day. It is not convenient to arrange courses at this time, but for the sake of our progress, you still spare no pains to set up courses. Often we see you have a cold or physical discomfort, yet still you insist on giving us a class, but we do not cherish this rare opportunity, or be fettered by material things, or wallow in the ignorance of the lie-in. Remember you said that the definition of forgiveness is giving your love to someone who doesn't deserve it. And you are the one who sends love to me who doesn't deserve it. What shall I pay you for your unreasonable kindness? There is nothing I can do but follow your example!

Your lectures, not only impart knowledge, but also interact with us. You care about each disciple's condition. You help each disciple to get out of their limitations through your deep care and patient answers. This is not meeting after meeting, this is your loving greetings and hands-on guidance again and again!

Last year, I also saw you experience the continuing harm of some of your disciples. I saw your tolerance and kindness. You not only taught us the lesson of forgiveness in words, but you taught us what forgiveness is by your own example! I've always found it hard to do, especially when you're dealing with someone who's hurting you, or something that's not good for you, but when I've had the experience of forgiveness,



I've found it sweet. I just found that the power of love is so powerful! Thank you for this gift and I will remember that it is mercy from Mahatma prabhu, Guru Mahārāj, from the devotees, from the Holy Name! I will also continue to try to live up to your teachings and pass them on to anyone who needs them.

In this auspicious day that you appear, I sincerely wish you good health and a happy family! Without you, I would have been lost in the deluge of such unclean qualities as lust and anger! Without you, I could not have learned to forgive! Without you, it is impossible for me to continue to be rooted in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness! Through your kindness, I hope that in the coming year, I can become a better tool for you to serve devotees, Śrīla Prabhupāda and Lord Kṛṣṇa!

Again, please accept my humble obeisances at your Lotus Feet!

Your most insignificant servant,

Bhaktin Lulu





Qiu Mei Hong

Aspiring Disciple

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

Dear Guru Mahārāj,

On your auspicious day of Vyāsa-pūjā, please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you!



In the early days of my Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, I felt lost, suffering and sad, I prayed to Lord Kṛṣṇa, please guide me and give me direction, then Kṛṣṇa made me meet you in my life, Let me this helpless fallen soul have the power to go on.

I listen to your class every week, You clearly point out the mistakes we easily make and give us solutions. You always warn us so kindly, you always help us face the difficulties in our lives. You bless that we can correctly practice Kṛṣṇa Consciousness.

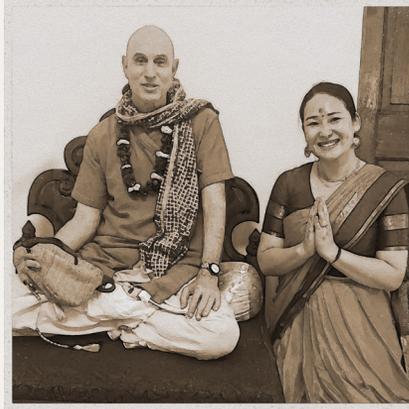
I am so lucky that I met you, my dearest Gurudeva. Your smile is like sunlight shining through the haze into my heart. My heart is full of joy, as if there is nothing but your smile in the world. You are the representative of God. Your humorous and funny words are warm like spring wind, I only want to follow you in this life. I pray that Kṛṣṇa will give me the opportunity to serve your lotus feet, serve your disciples. The goal of my life is to please you. But at present, this fallen soul has not been able to follow your instructions to read the books of Śrīla Prabhupāda sufficiently. For this reason I feel guilty every day and I pray to Lord Kṛṣṇa, to please give me mercy, to give me the opportunity to serve the devotees, and to serve the lotus feet of Gurudeva. I hope that I can be a proper tool of Gurudeva so that I can please you.

Thank Lord Kṛṣṇa's mercy for giving me the best arrangement.

Your servant,

Bhaktin Qin Mei Hong





Sita Devi Devi Dasi

Dikṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dearest Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and your Lotus Feet.

Thank you very much for always lecturing to us. I can't express my gratitude to you. You make me feel how lucky and happy I am to be your disciple! By your mercy, I feel blessed forever!

I bow at your lotus feet and beg for your mercy on the auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Please kindly give me strength and wisdom to spread the Holy Name. Please also kindly give me the opportunity to serve you! Thank you very much! Deep obeisances to you!

Your humble servant,

Sita Devi Devi Dasī





Vivienne

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisance. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

We often cannot see Gurudeva because he is in the United States; but we can often see Gurudeva, because he is in our hearts.

I always feel that no one else in the world loves me as much as he does. Because he is so kind and can accept me as I am, even though I am not perfect, and I often make mistakes. Under his guidance, I learned the true meaning of life; He is like a very kind father, holding my little hand, leading us step by step into the forest. He always tells us the wisest truths through the simplest words. The words of Prabhupāda, Bhagavad Gita, Bhagavatam... He always makes us bathe in the sea of truth and wisdom. He took me out of my ignorance and turned me into the best of me. He gave me the opportunity to serve Kṛṣṇa. He taught me how to serve the devotees better. He leads me to touch the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa. His grace to me is unparalleled and unique.

I do not know how to express my gratitude to him by words, but I pay my humble obeisance at his lotus feet and pray that I can always serve Him.

Dear Gurudeva, the greatest gift that Kṛṣṇa has given me in this world is that I have met you. I will always follow you and be your most humble servant.

Your humble servant,

Vivienne





Zhen Zhen

Śikṣā Disciple

Dear Gurudeva,

Please allow me to salute you sincerely. I am not qualified, but I sincerely wish you a happy birthday! I wish you good health!

Gurudeva, I remember that my first meeting with you was a Japa workshop. In this workshop, you taught us to chant 16 rounds every day. If we can't reach 16 rounds, we will be like a helicopter constantly rocking in the air, unable to fly stably, and unable to make steady progress in spiritual life. I will always remember your teachings. After



taking much effort, this fallen soul finally achieved 16 rounds a day in the past year. Thank you for teaching us in easy to understand language, and taking yourself as an example to convey confidence to me, constantly encouraging me to make efforts to surrender to the Supreme Lord and send a prayer for help to him. Whenever I want to slack off, I always think of your teachings. These words encourage me to keep working hard - thank you. You let me see the glorious image of you as a pure devotee spreading the message of the Supreme Lord with my eyes. I think you must be the most beloved of the Supreme Lord. May the Supreme Lord bless you and give you health, so that you can save more fallen souls and convey more information beneficial to our fundamental interests. Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Your sincerely,

Zhen Zhen





Diana

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Gurudev,

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Dear Gurudev, I thank Kṛṣṇa for one more opportunity to greet you for your vyasa puja. May Kṛṣṇa always have you well and full of blessings.

One of the most special anecdotes that we remember from your visit to Colombia, when we had the mercy of meeting you, were that when we said goodbye at the temple, when we were already leaving for my home, my son Maharishi (Martín) went to say goodbye. From you, they hugged each other and Martin came back smiling and smiling. When I asked "What happened, son?" he told me „He just passed all his happiness to me.“ It was very beautiful and emotional to see him smiling like that, he felt happy in a special way. We always keep it in mind, dear Gurudev, thank you for your instructions and blessings...

Greetings ... Happy Birthday!!!

Your aspiring servant,

Diana Maria Idrobo and Maharishi (Martin)





Jessica

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto ,pi
dhyāyan stuvaṁs tasya yaśas tri-sandhyaṁ vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

Dear Guru Mahārāj,

All the glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.
Please accept my humble obeisances

Gurudev, your presence in my life is priceless. I can only modestly express gratitude and affection towards you, because you are the one who shelters my faith, nourishes my enthusiasm, educates my intelligence, protects my mind and guides me to cultivate a more gentle heart, all of which is invaluable.

The first time I met you, I contemplated the valuable contribution that you make every day to take care of the devotees and that aroused an interest in me that I did not know how to recognize, but that was seeded internally. Thank you for making us feel that among devotees we can live joyfully together if we cultivate friendship, cooperation, affection, forgiveness, gratitude, and authenticity.

I can't forget the loving chiseled I felt when I met you again and heard you chanting the Holy Name on the Polish Tour, Lord Gauranga knew that I was wishing to know who my spiritual master was for months, and that night I felt an overflowing joy, so much bliss! Since then you have fanned my faith and that is why I pray to Caitanya Mahaprabhu that I really succeed in placing your instruction in my heart and honoring it in action, I recognize that I must strengthen my determination, but I trust that gradually I will be able to serve you more actively, I don't want nothing else that sharing with other people about Kṛṣṇa and about your teachings that always guide us towards virtue.



I beg Gaura Nitai to help me cleanse my heart by serving you, the Vaiṣṇavas and the Sankirtan movement of Lord Caitanya.

Thanks for your lovely shelter. Thank you very much for the Japa sessions, for inspiring us to love the Holy Name.

Happy appearance day. My sincere affection and gratitude!

Your aspiring servant,

Bhaktin Jessica Marcela





Analiz

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



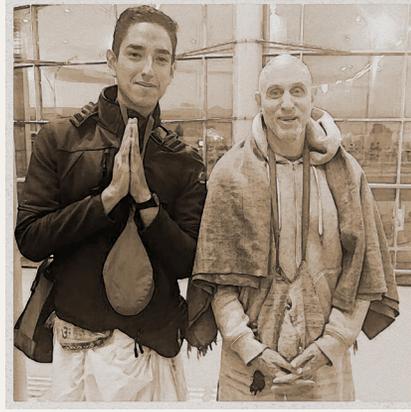
My dear Guru Mahārāj,

Thanks to your mercy, I've discovered a whole new world that I never imagined before that could exist. A world full of love, compassion, purity, colors, friends, service, music and knowledge. I've never been so happy and I would never understand why I am that lucky. You've brought light to my life and I hope one day I can do something big enough to express my gratitude to you.

Your servant,

Analiz





Nitay

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Gurudev,

In this Vyāsa-pūjā, I wish you the best that Krishna continues to bless you with so much health and energy, so that you continue with your preaching service to Śrīla Prabhupāda. You really inspire me as with your example, you take care of so many people around the world, it is admirable. I know that I am not yet your disciple and I am not your best aspirant. However, I appreciate and appreciate each of your ways of preaching. I always keep you present in my heart and my thoughts - your words help me to move forward and I never forget your instructions. I know that in your Vyāsa-pūjā, I must give you a gift or an offering, however at a distance I can only send you my most humble obeisances and my best wishes.

I always carry you in my heart and my thoughts.

With love,

Nitay Gauranga Govinda Sundara





Annapurna Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Hare Kṛṣṇa, my immensely Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto Your lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and all glories to You. Happy appearance day Dear Gurudeva!

Thank You more than infinitely for everything Gurudeva. Thank You so much for having magically appeared in my life last year in Śrī Māyāpur Dhām, for being in my life and accepting me as I am with my conditioning, helping and guiding me so patiently, lovingly and tenderly. Anything I can be able to do is thanks to You. You have changed my life, are making me a better person and I'm sure one day in this life I will become a devotee of Kṛṣṇa. Thank You for being such a beautiful and magical inspiration on all aspects. Thank You for being who You are. Thank You for imbibing so sincerely, deeply and heartedly the teachings of Śrīla Prabhupāda and for helping all of us to do so and to continue transmitting this matchless gift.

You have completely touched and stolen my heart Gurudeva, as my Spiritual Master, as Spiritual Father, as the person You are, so true, extremely inspiring, radiating and enthusiastic for Kṛṣṇa, completely devoted to Kṛṣṇa, full of love, full of compassion, so kind and sweet, so attentive to others, so much personal, infinitely merciful, immensely caring, also very funny, understanding, tolerant, helping us understand and discover Kṛṣṇa, develop our relationship with You, Śrīla Prabhupāda and Kṛṣṇa. Thank You for being a so beautiful and blissful living example of Your Spiritual Master's heart and of the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness.

Thank You tremendously for giving me spiritual birth, for awakening me to spiritual life, real life, for helping me find and be who I am and awakening my true nature. Thank You for bringing me always closer to Your lotus feet, to Śrīla Prabhupāda, to Kṛṣṇa and His Holy Name, and helping me go always deeper and be happy in Kṛṣṇa



Consciousness. Thank You for this beautiful and wonderful family, I am so pleased to have such good and lovely company for siblings. Thank You for all these treasures and so many more and thank You so much for engaging me in Your service for life. I am immensely fortunate, happy and grateful to be Your disciple and truly cherish this deeply in my heart.

Wishing to be always more attached to Your lotus feet, always engaged in Your service and to serve You better and better.

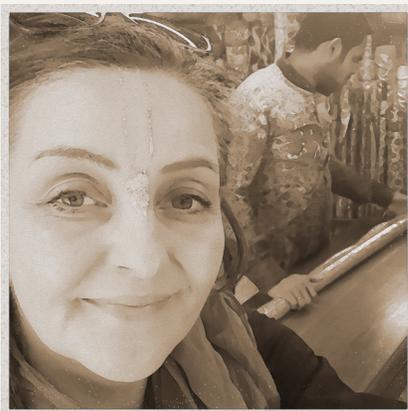
Be my gratitude and love for You ever expanding and without limit. My heart and life are Yours, dedicated to You and Your mission to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Thank You with all my heart and always more. All my love to You my Dearest and Most Precious Gurudeva.

Your forever grateful servant,

Annapurna Devi Dasī





Ashalata

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to your service!

Wishing you a very happy appearance day and Vyāsa-pūjā 2021, dear Gurudeva.

It's been so many years already but compared to a life in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness I am just and still at the very start... I'd like to thank you for engaging me in your service and for accepting me the way and level I am at. Thank you for making me realize so much „stuff „, about myself.

Thank you for your guidance over the years, for the daily example you give, for your compassion to the most fallen like me, for all your mercy so that I somehow even in these odd days, Corona/lockdown situation... And even I am fully unqualified, I am still here practicing and serving you.

This is all possible by your blessings, Guru Mahārāj. Thank you.

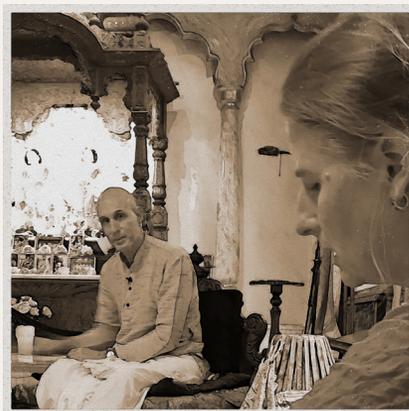
Please always engage me in your service so that I can at least do a little thing to support your mission in the mission of Śrīla Prabhupāda and be a servant of the servants.

All glories to your service! Jaya Prabhupāda!
Jay Śrī Kṛṣṇa!

*With gratitude and love,
Your servant,*

Ashalata





Dhara Devi Dasi

Śikṣā Disciple

Hare Krishna dear Mahātmā Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

I want to use this occasion to say "all glories to You and Your spiritual Master Śrīla Prabhupāda!" - all the best for your auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā, dear Gurudeva.

I'm missing your association a lot, but of course I see you often on Facebook, but it's still not the same.



Thank you for guiding and inspiring me through your classes and zoom meetings, japa sessions and the daily quotes.

As my Śikṣā Guru you are always available and I see how you so mercifully take care of all who are turning towards you, in whatever condition they are.

I'm in a special seva situation right now which seems to be way over my head, but I feel supported by you and some senior devotees and therefore I feel safe. Thank you so much. You are a genius and a true follower of Śrīla Prabhupāda with a good common sense and the ability to save the most fallen like myself.

May the Lord always protect you!

Hare Krishna!

Your servant,

Dhara Devi Dasi





Inna

Well-wisher

Hare Kṛṣṇa dear Mahatma Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I feel very blessed to write to you and to wish you a very happy Vyāsa-pūjā on your auspicious appearance day.

For so many years I constantly had this feeling of missing something important in my life. Having a good loving family, living in a good environment I felt lost and I was



permanently searching for a deeper understanding of the goal of life. I have found it and even more in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness.

I am blessed with so much mercy for your appearance in my life.

Thank you so much for your wonderful books and classes, that have already caused many positive changes in my japa, reading, in my marriage and in interaction with other people. Many thanks to your disciples, who are always ready to help and to support.

I hope so much that one day I will be worthy of meeting you personally.

Aspiring to be your humble servant,

Inna





Nadine

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine
namas tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to your lotus feet on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

We have had a crazy year. Probably nobody expected that something like this could ever happen to us. And yet just this year I realized how valuable Kṛṣṇa Consciousness is and how infinitely grateful I can be for your guidance. I will not be able to pay this debt myself in thousands of years.

In the introduction to the *Bhagavad-gītā* we find the verse:

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya
jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmīlitaṁ 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.

This verse is also written in *The Science of Self-Realization* and Śrīla Prabhupāda writes about it: “The Guru’s business is to bring his disciples from darkness to light.”

There is no better way to describe your leadership. With all your books, seminars, workshops and videos, you always do your best to bring us to light. And especially in the darkness of the past few months, I urgently needed it. Thanks to your support and encouragement, I finally realize who I am and who I want to be. Thanks to your support, I recognize my own strengths, weaknesses and abilities and can work on them. And thanks to your encouragement, I now have the courage to use my abilities more and



more in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. I am deeply grateful to you for that. I know that there is still a long way to go, but with your help, I will be able to walk it.

I pray to the Lord for your health and may Lord Narasimha protect you.

Your aspiring servant,

Bhaktin Nadine





Aditi Devi Dasi

Śikṣā Disciple

My very dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to your wonderful services to Śrīla Prabhupāda.



Gurudeva from Śaraṅgati

*gurudev!
kṛpā-bindu diyā, koro' ei dāse,
tṛṇāpekhā ati hīna
sakala sahane, bala diyā koro',
nija-māne sprhā-hīna (1)*

1) Gurudeva, O spiritual master! Give to this servant just one drop of mercy. I am lower than a blade of grass. Give me all help. Give me strength. Let me be as you are, without desires or aspirations.

*sakale sammāna korite śakati,
deho' nātha! jathājatha
tabe to' gāibo, hari-nāma-sukhe,
aparādha ha ,be hata (2)*

2) I offer you all respects, for thus I may have the energy to know you correctly. Then, by chanting the holy name in great ecstasy, all my offenses will cease.

*kabe heno kṛpā, labhiyā e jana,
kṛtārtha hoibe, nātha!
śakti-buddhi-hīna, āmi ati dīna,
koro' more ātma-sātha (3)*

3) When will such mercy fall to this one who is weak and devoid of intelligence? Allow me to be with you.



*jogyatā-vicāre, kichu nāhi pāi,
tomāra karuṇā-sāra
karuṇā nā hoile, kāndiyā kāndiyā,
prāṇa nā rākhibo āra (4)*

4) If you examine me, you will find no qualities. Your mercy is all that I am made of. If you are not merciful unto me, I can only weep, and I will not be able to maintain my life.

The last year was so different. I said, I am not a separation type of person. Not for Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, not for Lord Caitanya, what to speak of you Śrīla Gurudeva. But now I feel so much separation from you. We or better I took it for granted that you spent at least a few months in Mayapur. What an illusion. But in spite of all difficulties you are so much available in your lectures, kirtans and in personal approaches as well. When there are some questions it does not take much time and we receive your answer. That is most astonishing. And it shows again how much you are caring for us.

In *Japa Affirmations* No. 6 you wrote:

“I receive and feel Kṛṣṇa’s presence, mercy and love in His holy name”

This always reminds me to chant with attention and the longing for Kṛṣṇa’s mercy and love. It helps me to focus and I imagine that Kṛṣṇa is telling me that He is always there with me. My Japa becomes deeper and deeper (sometimes). When I chant and I notice my mind straying, I take your book and read some of the affirmations and the struggle turns into affection for the name.



One of my biggest beliefs was or is: "I cannot sing", coming from my school teacher more than 40 years ago. Now, since a few months I am taking Harmonium classes. Inspired by you to overcome my beliefs. I have ups and downs in the playing and singing. But what I realized is that I missed the music for 20 years in my Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. I also realized, as long as I sing for Kṛṣṇa's pleasure and from my heart, it works fine. But as soon other motives come in, it becomes difficult. I noticed that this applies for everything we do in our devotional practise. We do not need to be perfect; we just need to try to please Kṛṣṇa.

You always teach us to accept us, where we are at and try to improve from there.

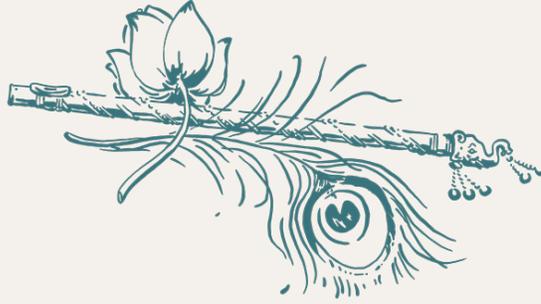
I am so glad that you came into my spiritual life with your practical teachings, with your loving attitude towards everyone, with your lectures, kīrtans and books etc. I cannot thank you enough.

Thanks to your mercy I can go on in my spiritual life, in spite of all difficulties. You always encourage me to continue, at least with my sadhana, even when I cannot do much service. You pacify me, telling me your chanting and your sadhana is now your service.

*With lots of appreciation and affection,
Your struggling daughter,*

Aditi Devi Das





Barsana Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

Hare krishna Guru Maharaj,

My many many obeisances unto your lotus feet. Happy Vyasa-puja.

In this birth since you have accepted me as your disciple I am indebted to you by which my human form has become successful. The knowledge about supreme personality Krishna which you gave me millions of time I am paying obeisances to you.

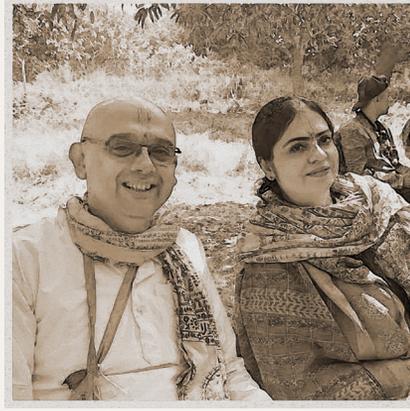


From last 16 months I am not able to serve you because of covid situation. I am praying Lord Krishna that as soon as the situation become okay I am waiting that you visit here so I will be able to serve you.

Your servant,

Bansana Devi Dasi





Dinanatha Dasa & Manjari Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Jai Śrīla Prabhupāda!

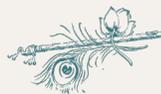
Please accept our humble obeisances at Your Lotus Feet dear Gurudev!

Wish you a very blessed and happy appearance day ! On this auspicious day of Your Vyas Puja, we pray to Lord Kṛṣṇa and Rādhārāṇī for your long and healthy life and that all your projects, retreats, seminars may be extremely successful so that fallen souls like us can benefit from them.

The last one year has in general been a difficult one. The pandemic changed the way of living and working altogether. With lockdowns prevalent for most parts of the year and hardly any physical social contact, it did take a toll on the mental wellbeing of many. However, due to your intense efforts of online sessions, we could tide over the situation without much difficulty.

The Online japa sessions, three days a week, part of the mantra project, is something that we always look forward to. Though we are unable to attend for full two hours and generally attend for around an hour, these sessions have benefitted us in two ways – one, they are extremely rejuvenating after an exhausting day (as its night time in India when the sessions happen) and second, more importantly, they help us to improve and focus on the japa. When we reflect on the quality of our japa, we realize how much offences we are committing. Chanting with other devotees and your words of guidance during the sessions, help us to realize our faults. Reciting the *Bhagavad-gītā* verses, post japa, with your melodious music surely helps in better understanding of the verses and realizations thereof.

Gurudev, You truly lead by example. Your lectures always have references and quotes of Śrīla Prabhupāda, which so wonderfully depict Your love, affection and dedication towards him. Today you explained the values of the guide “Sattva” and the interaction



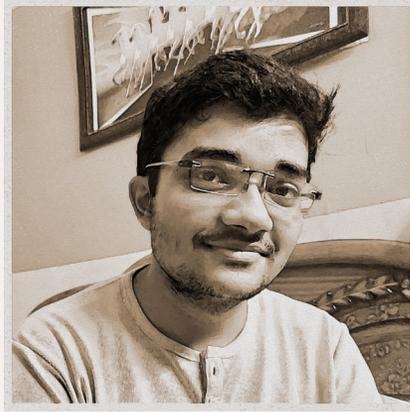
between devotees. These have so nicely been laid down and as per Śrīla Prabhupāda's desire of inculcating good values and behavior. These are not just relevant from an organization perspective but also very relevant in our dealings and behavior with all those whom we interact with.

Gurudev, We are not at all qualified to honour and glorify You. In case we have committed any offenses we beg Your forgiveness. We pray that we may be able to better our services to You and Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission.

*With gratitude,
Your most insignificant servants,*

Dinanatha Dasa & Manjari Devi Dasi





Gaurav

Aspiring Disciple

Hare Krishna Guru Maharaj,

Please accept my humble Obeisances

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyām mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānām tat-parāya ca*



*nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale
 srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine
 namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
 nirvisesha-sunyavadi-pascaty-a-des-a-tarine*

Beloved Gurudev,

The Lord is perfect and so is his creation. I always asked him ,even after introduced to Kṛṣṇa Conscious process ,“Why you created me? World without me would have been a better place.” I was not able to fit myself anywhere...

I was introduced to Kṛṣṇa Conscious process during my 1st year of Engineering (2018 Feb) and then I shifted to one of youth center under ISKCON Kanpur. Everything was good but my heart was always vacant. Somehow or other I failed to develop any relationships with the devotees there. I felt very alone.

One fine day I observed that my chanting was not going good, so I searched for some „Japa retreats“ and I got yours. Just in the beginning of the class you gave an example of how initially Lord Jagannath ji came, looking like a doll, it’s was quite awkward to worship him, but on Śrīla Prabhupāda orders , devotees worshipped him and 6 month later „They got attached to those dolls“.... It clicked to me like nothing before...

From that day onwards I started hearing your classes. Because you often quote Śrīla Prabhupāda’s pastimes, so I started reading his books after a gap of 1 full year.

The more I heard your lectures, the more misconceptions were clarified and the more enthusiastic I became to serve the Lord.



Specially your words - „Kṛṣṇa doesn't see us as we see ourselves“, „see your spouse as a belonging of Kṛṣṇa, not a sense gratifying object“ and „Our eyes can't be satisfied until we see Kṛṣṇa“ won my heart.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for saving my life.

FOR ME YOU ARE LIKE A VENTILATOR - WITHOUT WHICH I WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED.

...And I got my perfect match, who showed me the way to find my real fitting.

Also I love your Kirtans...

Thank you so much Maharaj

Although I am 100% useless, I beg if by your mercy, you can use me to serve you, to please you and all devotees.

Your unqualified servant,

Gaurav





Gurunistha Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

Ever dearest and precious Guru Mahārāj,

Hare Kṛṣṇa. Please accept my humble obeisances, all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and your ever merciful and forgiving grace- Acharya Purusho Veda.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate mahatma prabhu iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



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

Wish you a very, very happy and auspicious birthday, Guru Mahārāj. Thank you for being born in this world to save all of us.

Thank you for teaching us the difference between part of life and life itself.

Your attachment to Prabhupāda is so strong and so evident that it catches on to any one in your association. You spread Prabhupāda's love wherever you go. Thanks to you we know for life that we are protected in Prabhupāda's shelter. Thank you for giving us this attachment to Prabhupāda.

Your life and way of your life is a living testament to your surrender and love for him.

Guru Mahārāj, I wanted to share 2 stories with you for a long time and today I want to take the opportunity to do so. Both stories are related to Guru Nānak and the surrender of his disciples to him. They always stay in my heart and keep reminding me of you.

First Story

Once there was a king named Shivnaabh. He was a sincere devotee to Guru Nānak but never had the good fortune to meet him. He constantly prayed in his mind to someday have the mercy of his darshan. One day the gardener from the royal gardens came running to the king and said that "some sage has entered the garden and as a result it looks like spring everywhere. All flowers blossomed and even the dried up and dead twigs from trees on the ground have become green." This made the king realize that this sage being referred



to must be Guru Nānak himself. No one else could do such a miracle. So he gathers up his guards and trays or precious jewels etc and heads off to the Royal garden and greets Guru Nānak. He offers all the riches he brought with him. But Guru Nānak is unfazed and tells him that all these jewels etc are of no use to him and asks them to be removed. Now the king is a bit taken aback but still approaches Guru Nānak and requests him to honour prasad in the Palace. Guru Nānak agrees but asks what dakshina would the king give in return. The king offers all of his kingdom and everything. But Guru Nānak refuses stating that the so-called kingdom was never the kings to begin with and even in the future he will just pass it on to the descendants. So now the king offers his own body to Guru Nānak but still he refuses to accept it stating that even if the body isn't his to give, it will be returned to the nature. Now the king is distraught on what to offer. So he decides to offer his MIND. But again Guru Nānak refuses that your mind isn't even in your control how can you give it to me. Now the king starts crying and pleads and asks "Then what could I offer to you". Now Guru Nānak smiles and says "Give me this 'I' of yours." Upon hearing this the king completely breaks down and falls down to Guru Nānak's feet saying that doing this isn't up to him... he simply can't and pleads to Guru Nānak to himself take this "I". That's when the sage smiles and says "Yes that's what I came here for" and blesses him with surrender.

Second Story

Once Guru Nānak's trusted servant goes out to run some errands and upon returning to the camp where everyone was staying he sees everyone in total panic mode. Everyone is running for their life outside, there is a big storm and someone from behind who is totally looking rouge is running at them and throwing stones at them. Upon observation the servant realizes that that rogue person is Guru Nānak. Still remaining unfazed, he keeps walking towards Guru Nānak. Now the sage sees him and shouts go away, run away I will kill you I will hurt you. But the servant remains standing and says he is completely surrendered to the sage and doesn't care of any fate that befalls him. Guru Nānak doesn't pay any attention and runs off to the woods. The servant follows into the woods. The sage is shouting at him, throwing stones and asking him to leave but the servant still follows.



Finally the sage stops and turns around and looks at his servant and asks "What is your problem? Why aren't you afraid or running away from me?" The servant again responds saying that even if the sage kills him he won't leave. So now the sage decides to test him further. He points in a distance where a dead body is placed in the woods covered by a cloth. The sage says that "Okay, if you want to prove your surrender you have to eat the corpse." The servant looks at the covered body and starts going around it in circles thinking of something. Now the sage smiles and says "So that's it, right? You can't obey my order". The servant says "NO NO. I can. I am just looking around and trying to figure out from where to start." And when the servant pulls the cloth to start eating he is amazed, beneath the cloth is all Maha Prasad. He is so surprised and turns around to the sage in confusion. By now the sage is smiling, all the storm has stopped, everything is beautiful. He blesses the servant and accepts him for life.

Guru Mahārāj, I beg you to bless me with your mercy. So I may become a worthy servant who always stays surrendered to your divine grace. You have time and again given me so many life lines, whenever I wavered you were there. Please don't give up on me. Let me remain your fool. That is my only qualification.

Thank you for being my life guard, Guru Mahārāj.

Your ever grateful servant,

Gururastha Devi Das





Hemalatha

Śikṣā Disciple

Hare Kṛṣṇa Prabhuji,

Kindly accept my humble obeisances on to your Lotus Feet on this special occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Kindly request your Blessings and Prayers for advancing in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness and engage in serving Guru, Gaurāṅga, Kṛṣṇa.



On your mercy, Hope our sincere prayers for your good health to continue your preaching and enlighten many souls to reach Kṛṣṇa will be attained.

Your humble servant,

Hemalatha





Krsnakanta Gopalini Devi Dasi

Śikṣā Disciple

Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gauranga.

On this special day of Vyāsa-pūjā, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything that you have been doing. Especially during the Covid-19. The classes online have been my daily company. I live by myself, and decided to stay at home most of the time. I truly don't know how my spiritual life would be if I weren't following the



classes. I also want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Doing online services it's something I learned during Covid-19 and I really enjoy it. Keeps me engaged in the service of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness and I can do it at home. Technology may have its pros and cons but one thing is for sure, a smartphone it's a very powerful tool, a person can do so many things to help to spread the mission of Caitanya Mahaprabhu. By your suggestion I also started a reading of the *Bhagavad-gītā* with a friend from my hometown, live on Instagram. I am very happy to be part of the ISKCON family. We have so many nice devotees doing so much service. Your love and dedication for Prabhupāda is truly inspiring.

Your servant,

Kṛṣṇakānta Gopālini Devi Dāsi





Nidhi

Śikṣā Disciple

Dear Mahātmā Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet

It is only possible to deliver a conditioned jiva from Maya,
By divine intervention of Kṛṣṇa.

To a realm that is higher;
Ecstatically deep and broad.
An ocean of liquid love!



In His mercy, to bring us there,
He sent us you, Mahātmā Prabhu.

Writing an offering to you is always a difficult endeavor as you have given us, the conditioned souls so many ways to be joyful, and to love Kṛṣṇa.

Dear Mahātmā Prabhu, I love to hear your powerful voice as you guide us through life with your wonderful talks and enlightening talks. I love to see how you are so compassionate to everyone and you inspire me to be more and more compassionate to everyone around me and seeing Kṛṣṇa in every person. Once, a disciple said to Śrīla Prabhupāda, “But you are the only person saying this!” And Prabhupāda immediately countered, “Then I am the ONLY intelligent person!” Everyone roared with laughter. And then Prabhupāda said, “This is a fact!” Yes, it is a fact, that you, and other Vaiṣṇavas as well, are the only intelligent men in this material world. I only feel safe and secure, only when I’m hearing your transcendental voice on the recording. Whenever I start to feel insecure and fearful of this material existence, then I play your classes, chant the holy name, listen to beautiful and soothing kirtans and then my fear immediately fades away.

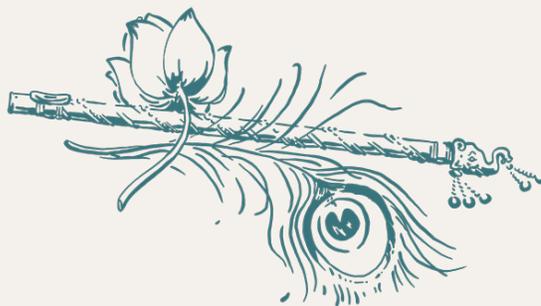
Please take me under your shelter, instruct me to serve Śrīla Prabhupāda, you and the other Vaiṣṇavas to the best of my ability.

My simple prayer, dear Mahātmā Prabhu, is that I always be engaged as an instrument of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s mercy without desire for material benefit.

I beg to remain in your service, eternally,

Indhi Lakhiani





Pooja

Hare Krishna,

All glories to shrila Prabhupada.

All glories to Gurudev.

On your Vyasa-puja, I would love to write few words... Every time I meet you, the instructions you give, makes me little advance in my Bhakti...



Inspite of me being so fallen the timely instructions received from you makes me feel so blessed... Let it be a major issue or little siblings fight, the instructions from you are meet only and only for me is my feeling and so much rightly too.

Please please guide me as always.

At your lotus feet,

Pooja





Raj

Well-wisher

Hare Kṛṣṇa,

Dandavat pranams, Mahātmā Prabhuji,

Dear Prabhuji, you are really great at preaching and I have learned many things from you, especially Vaiṣṇava behaviour and japa and the learning is going on with your inspiring lectures.

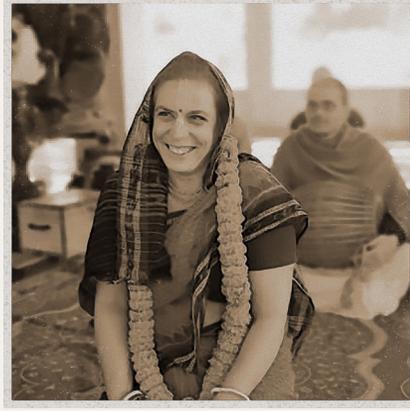


Thank you very much and I also request Guru and Gauranga for your great health and well being.

Yours sincerely,

Raj Sekhar





Ratikeli Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Hare Krishna dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you.

In this auspicious day I am so grateful because of the precious opportunity of being one of your disciples, to receive your guidance and to be part of Prabhupāda's family. By Kṛṣṇa's causeless mercy, I met you, Gurudev, in the darkest period of my life. Being confused, not related to any ISKCON community, not being sure that Bhakti-yoga is the right path for me, you showed up with your torch of wisdom, with your deep love and sweet kirtans and turned on the light in my life. You saved me, Gurudev, and I will never have enough words to thank you for that.

I owe you my spiritual life and only by your mercy I will be able to do some progress in this life.

You are a beautiful, soft hearted soul, always seeing the positive and full of so many good qualities. There is so much to learn from you, Gurudev. You are a wonderful example of all that you teach and you are the shelter and the source of inspiration for many devotees around the world.

Please forgive me for any mistake I've done. I'm just a foolish, lazy conditioned soul trying to improve myself so I can please you and help others.

Your daughter,

Ratikeli Devi Dasī





Satyarupa Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and to yourself.

Happy Vyāsa-pūjā Gurudev :)

Thank you for all your valuable guidance and your wonderful classes. I basically survived on your classes and service, and Prabhupāda's books during lockdown when I was stuck at home. Your service is like my life and soul! Thank you so much for always being there for all of us. Thank you for teaching us by your example how to follow Prabhupāda and connect more with him through his teachings and service. Thank you so much for transforming the japa of so many devotees, including me. Sometimes when devotees in Mayapur used to commend on my japa, I would think I could be a walking advertisement for your Japa book!

Also, two years back I'd asked you if I could stay in Vrindāvan in Kārtik a little longer than just a few days and you said, "Why just a few days, stay there for the entire month!" And Kṛṣṇa made it happen this year.

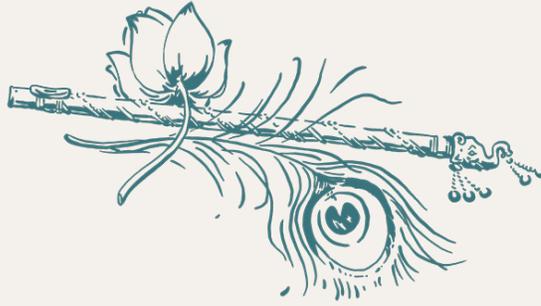
Thank you for encouraging me to stay in Vrindāvan for longer. Rādhārāni has also been very merciful for having allowed me to stay.

As always, praying that your teachings and projects reach more and more people to make them happy and fortunate by Māhāprabhu's mercy.

Your fallen servant,

Satyarupa Devi Dasi





Sureshwar Dasa

Dīkṣā Disciple

Hare Krishna, dandvat pranam, Guru Maharaj,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto you lotus feet. Happy Vyasa-puja, Maharaj.

Even though I am not qualified to glorify you it is like showing light to sun. Gurudev, I have observed many qualities in you. The qualities which Krishna describe in Bhagavad-gita that devotees has who are engaged in Krishna's service. All those qualities are present in you. You always keep engage yourself to fulfill the instructions of Prabhupad.



Gurudev, whenever you come here everyday you give 3/4 classes. You never say no to any one who ask you to give class even if it is very distanced place. Apart from that online classes and replying to questions by mail always you remain busy for preaching.

Maharaj, if any devotee ask 5/6 questions after class you reply them until the devotees are convinced. That shows how much compassion and tolerance you have for each individual souls.

Maharaj, once you told me that people ask for Krishna's mercy but mercy is always there. If we will accept that it will overflow.

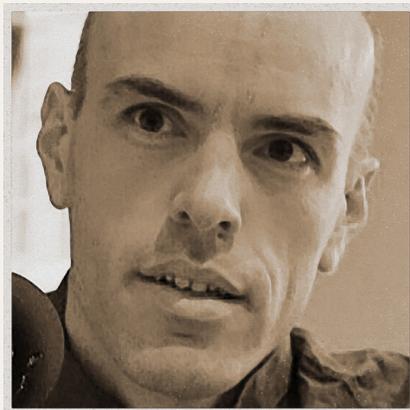
Maharaj, I can see that your mercy is also there upon all the jivas but since I have so many anarthas in my heart I am not able to receive it. So I pray you on this Vyasa-puja that whatever anarthas is I have to be purified and I engage in your services.

I pray lord Jagannath Baladev Subhdra may to keep you in good health and your mercy remain on us.

Your servant,

Sureshwar Dasa





John

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kirtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Hare Krishna Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to your Lotus Feet.

I certainly don't feel qualified to be able to glorify you. How does an insignificant person like me glorify a great personality like you. 'Thank you' does not seem appropriate enough a word to convey the depths of one's appreciation and gratitude for who you are or what you do. For you are an ocean of mercy, come to claim all the unfortunate conditioned souls and bring them back to Kṛṣṇa with you. I can just imagine you standing at the doorway to Goloka Vrndāvan and personally escorting us all through them, a gentle, compassionate smile upon your face, and an effulgence more brilliant than 1000 suns. Everything you do is for the benefit of others. I feel I have no means with which to repay you. So with an infinitesimal amount of humility that I may possess all I can do is offer my obeisances again and again at your lotus feet.

With hope and gratitude.

Your aspiring servant,

Bhakta John





Krishangi Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Hare Kṛṣṇa Gurudeva

Please accept my humble obeisances. All the glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Today is my first spiritual birthday, one years ago your Grace gave me the name of the servant of Radharani. The only good thing I did was saying yes! at the right time. This year I'll be alone in my born city, but my life is full of the love that our spiritual family is giving to me.

Every day I'm discovering how deep is the connection with the Guru, even when I think „no please, I'm not qualified, please Gurudeva can you please take this name back?“ A tiny little miracle shows your mercy to my broken heart. And how much more I'm discovering Śrīla Prabhupāda in your devotion, Gurudeva. He is present in your preaching, in your service, in all your life, such as a cup of hot water becomes tea, fully flavoured with the taste of the leaves! I'm praying PLEASE GAURANGA! MAKE ME BE A CUP OF TEA TASTING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE LIKE MY GURUDEVA AND PRABHUPĀDA!

I know, we are all unique, this is wonderful... So please Nityānanda Prabhu give me tons of your mercy and make my unique flavour being likable for Guru and Gauranga.

This is the most auspicious day for me, in this miserable darkness Gurudeva gave me eyes for seeing the most cherished treasure - the True Love.

Grazie Gurudeva with all my soul! Haribol!

Your servant,

Krishangi Devi Dasi





Marco

Aspiring Disciple

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

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyām mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine
namas tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānām tat-parāya ca*



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
 śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
 namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
 nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Hare Kṛṣṇa beloved Śrīla Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet! Glories to you! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

On the auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, celebrating the importance of this event for the tradition of the Bhakti Gaudiya-Vaiṣṇavism, I offer to you, with a heart full of gratitude and love, these simple lines, hoping that the feeling they contain will make you satisfied of me.

It has been a year since I first wrote to you, when Lord Kṛṣṇa gave me the opportunity to accept you as my spiritual master in my heart.

I remember it was an experience that totally overwhelmed me and melted my heart. Spiritual emotions of love pervaded me and I realized that my life had finally made sense. It was as if my experiences, research and hopes were meant to be to prepare myself for this particular event of my life. As you told me: „It is said that we do not know what love is until we meet our guru“. I can finally understand the depth of that statement, even if my gratitude, my love and my admiration for you will never pay off the debt I owe you.

Everyday you are my strength, my hope, my inspiration...



Whether my heart and my consciousness find themselves flying lightly, whether they are weighed down by material desires and conditioning, you are there! Every day you remind me how important Kṛṣṇa Consciousness is, how important it is to invoke the mercy of Śrīla Prabhupāda and Lord Nityānandā, and that the real purpose of this existence is to become pure devotees in love with God.

Thanks for your tireless preaching; thank you because you are a model of life, because you are pure inspiration, because you encourage and support us. Thank you for being the authentic representative of Śrīla Prabhupāda and for all that you are and do.

Since I accepted you into my heart as my Guru the quality of my Japa has improved tremendously and the desire to increase my transcendental love for you and Kṛṣṇa has become the primary goal of my life. I have a lot to improve, starting from my defective character... My conditionings are like giants that push me down, but your mercy and your love are stronger!

Please accept this letter of mine as the attempt of a useless fool who hopes to understand how to glorify you, how to serve you and how to always make you satisfied, life after life.

*With all my heart and soul,
Your aspiring disciple.*

Bhakta Marco





Gintare

Śikṣā Disciple

Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

I wish you strong health and pray that Lord Narasimha protects you from the difficulties of spreading Kṛṣṇa Consciousness in the world. I pray that due to some magical hand touch of Kṛṣṇa you can come to Lithuania again (and where you are mostly needed).



It is not easy for me to write letters. But due to this auspicious occasion I can try to open up at least a little bit, and to remember how much impact you made in my life. I want to learn to be more personal and honest...

I remember, when you first came to Lithuania, I had a dream of you that you came here to help the devotees. You told someone that as far as you know me from some previous time, you want to help me also. It was a dream full of light. I was amazed how much you were enthusiastic to help us and how much of love you showed us. I remember I was so inspired and drawn to Kṛṣṇa when listening to your lectures and kirtans. It is the best memory in my life.

I can feel that Kṛṣṇa is leading me throughout life through situations, people and realizations. I remember how I went to Mayapur to get your association, all by myself, which was the biggest fear for me before, to travel alone. I know it was by the strength of your blessings I was able to visit Holy Dhāma. You gave me a lot and I am really grateful for everything. I know I haven't accepted all of that due to my ignorance. Somehow Kṛṣṇa sent you in my life even though I always get away with the influence of Māyā...

I remember once you wrote me advising to improve step by step, because I was struggling with my sadhana a lot. I am still struggling, but using this method, I reached a stability in chanting 16 rounds everyday, increasing round by round until I reached 16. I am a very slow person, I had so many ups and downs, when it seemed like Kṛṣṇa was very far away. But then He just gives some internal power to try again. I really wish that I continue to try at least by baby steps and to be more in the mood of service. I know I am not very good at serving you, but at least I can continue also in tiny steps...

Your servant,

Gintare





Kriste

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to You on this auspicious day of Your Vyāsa-pūjā.

I kept trying to peek through the dark veil which seemed too heavy to lift up. Then all of a sudden, by Your mercy, it was lifted and everything started to reveal itself. The glasses of maya got shattered and although I still stumble on the broken glass with the bare feet of my soul but now with Your help I can see where to place my next step.

Through loving service, Prabhupāda captured conditioned spirit souls to deliver them back to Kṛṣṇa. He showed that one should preach with every breath he has. Dear Gurudev, You are a living example of all of His instructions. You always act in a way so that others can follow Your example. You take care of all of us, soul siblings, like Your children and we all vibrate that love outwards while enthusiastically serving in a team, dreaming bigger every single day. You preach by example and all of us reciprocate by coexisting as a big united family, embracing the whole globe with the reflection of Your love.

You have hundreds of souls reaching out to You, seeking guidance and You mercifully give each of them Your undivided attention. Even so, You still took time to get me out of the tangles of my attachments and placed me in a safe place where my Bhakti can spread roots and start to blossom. You never made me feel unworthy, unqualified, foolish, or fallen. These were the things I rather felt about myself. My beloved Guru Mahārāj, You taught me the opposite of that. You softened my heart and planted a creeper of love so powerful that I could have never imagined anything so beautiful could grow in that conditioned and dark place.



This world never again felt like a dangerous place to live in because at every step I feel protected. Protected by the infinitely growing love for Kṛṣṇa, for Prabhupāda, and for You. Every insecure step I take on the path towards Kṛṣṇa is made firm by Your preaching which waters the creeper with endless mercy.

Please forgive me for all of the offenses I have unknowingly committed and if I haven't served you sincerely enough. I am still an ignorant and fallen soul who is just trying to grab onto the helping hand of Yours... Thank You for taking me under Your shelter for which I will never be able to thank enough. My heart melts with love and gratitude for every opportunity of service. I hope to continue serving You with unalloyed devotion until the last day in this material body.

Your aspiring servant,

Kriste





Yasodamayī Devī Dasi

Śikṣā Disciple

Hare Kṛṣṇa Mahātmā Prabhu,

Please accept my obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

I feel so much gratitude and so much love because you gave me a „third life“. One is that my mother gave, then my initiation and then you pulled me out of a totally hopeless situation. When I thought that I would give up my life and everything, you showed me so much love and so much care and support that all my life I will be indebted to you. I am literally continuing this bhakti path because of you. You showed me a totally



different perspective of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness and how I really need to practise it. You showed me what is understanding and how Śrīla Prabhupāda is loving us. Because of that love everyday I am opening my eyes and I am thanking God that he sent me such a nice devotee. I never felt how merciful is Śrīla Prabhupāda or how much power he has. But somehow you are spreading that power all over. I am praying and asking Kṛṣṇa - I think it is selfish.. But still.. I am praying for you to be here and guide me as much as possible till I will be strong on my own if it will be so one day...

Thank you so so much. Hare Kṛṣṇa!!!

Your servant,

Gasodamaiji





Kamagayatri Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



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

Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and all glories to you on this most auspicious day of your appearance.

First of all, I would like to thank you so much for accepting this insignificant soul under your lotus feet. I feel fortunate to be your disciple and to have your most valuable association by listening to your live classes. This inspired me a lot in my spiritual life. You have spent your time and energy to spread Kṛṣṇa Consciousness throughout the world and deal with all kind of problems we face in our life. This material world is full of miseries. You have been always there in my difficult moment you reciprocate in my heart and know what is best for me

I cannot express my gratitude for how much you did for me.

My prayers for your long and healthy life.

Your insignificant servant,

Kamagayatri Devi Dasi





Premavikash Dasa & Karunamayji Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciples

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dearest Gurudeva,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your Lotus Feet.

Every year the Vyāsa-pūjā day is considered as the most auspicious or at least one among so many auspicious days in our Brahma Gaudiya sampradaya for all the devotees who are initiated. There we also wait for your most auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day so that we can present our little offerings. Certainly we don't have any good qualities and obviously we don't have the right words also to praise you who is a very pure soul and firmly fixed in the service of His Divine Grace AC Bhaktivedanta Swāmi Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Our most recent personal exchanges with you was during our second initiation ceremony some few days back and during which we remembered our first initiation ceremony where we developed an eternal bond with you. Now the second one happened and strengthened more this bond which by your mercy will keep on strengthening. We had some personal exchanges with you before but when you gave us the Gayatri Mantra we felt it was something really special and spiritual. It was so encouraging and we feel we are under your protection, actually we don't have words to describe this unforgettable moment of our lives and all due to the compassion you have for fallen souls like us.

As a lovable father, you are so caring and merciful even though we don't have any good qualities. Therefore you always here for us to give us more enthusiasm to perform our sadhana bhakti but we would also like to be chastised by you when we are at fault as too much pampering is not good for the children and we are sure as a responsible father, you will not hesitate to chastise us when you feel it's necessary to correct us.



You have selflessly served Śrīla Prabhupāda for almost fifty years now and strictly followed his instructions which he gave through his lectures and books so we would also like to develop these qualities and be in your service to the end of our days. You have attained Śrīla Prabhupāda's and Kṛṣṇa's Lotus Feet and now we pray to you so that we also can get an opportunity to stay at the dust of your Lotus Feet.

Your insignificant disciples,

Premavikash Dasa & Karunamayī Devī Dasi





Sudevi Devi Dasi

Dikṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Hare Kṛṣṇa Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Dear Gurudev I would like to say I am so grateful to you that you accepted me as your disciple. I had never imagine that I could have you as my Guru and I thought it would never be possible for me to be initiated in this life.

You are so merciful and Kṛṣṇa also at last bestowed His mercy and it was as if a miracle became true. It is also Prabhupāda's blessing that I got the most valuable thing in my life. Thank you a lot Guru Mahārāj.

Your humble servant,

Sudevi Devi Dasī (Subita)





Ananda Moya Dasa

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyaṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*



All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to His Grace Mahatma Dāsa! And all glories to his glorious Vyāsa-pūjā!

Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances. These are my small words of gratitude and appreciation to you.

First of all to your infinite goodness and boundless compassion. You are always teaching us so much about Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, despite the circumstances that today enclose this world, you teach us that no matter what happens one should not stop chanting the holy names, nor stop preaching, that is good to know but to feel it is better, thank you, Gurudeva.

On this glorious day of your appearance I want to thank you, as a faithful practitioner you carry the message of your beloved spiritual master and that has made you into the excellent spiritual master that you are, full of truth and goodness, we are so fortunate to have you and listen to your teachings. For me to be able to glorify you today is a special pleasure and to be able to have done a small service for you in the past makes me feel happy.

I want to share a little poem that was written a long time ago by an addicted person, his name was Francis Thompson. I found it through my passage in AA 12 step groups and although it was written by an addict it sums up the relationship of a man and his spiritual father, the poem has been summarized and modified from the original that I found in AA literature, I found it very beautiful. I hope you enjoy it.



“HEAVENLY OBSESSION „

*I left him in the night and in the day;
 I abandoned him in the arc of years;
 I abandoned him in the blind labyrinth of my own memory;
 and in the midst of tears, and behind the laughter I hid.
 Fleeting hopes, fleeting glimpses from above;
 But quickly I was precipitated to the sinister shadows,
 to the abysmal depths, to flee from those feet that all my journeys pursued.
 But in slow and calm pursuit, with imperturbable, majestic step,
 the feet walked, ever constant.
 And a Voice, even more constant than the serene Feet, repeated to me;
 „Everything betrays you, because you betrayed Me.
 Nothing wants to shelter you, because you do not shelter Me;
 everything evades you, because you do not take Me.“
 In the mad adventure of youthful forces
 I shook the columns of my most beautiful hours
 and among my own life I buried myself;
 Bleeding and sullied I emerge from the ruins of my lost years;
 In the rubble lies my aching youth;
 And my crisp days, in evaporated smoke they scatter and break,
 like the sun in a river.
 Is the earth perhaps fragmented, without stone upon stone, shattered?
 All things flee from thy grasp because thou art gone from Me!
 Vile chimera, useless, vain, pitiful action.
 You will find no one willing to lavish on you a love
 that will mitigate your labors!
 Emptiness will be your reward!
 To achieve love it is necessary something that you have not done:*



*to deserve it Human mud.
 Of all created things the most futile clay.
 Did you not know that you have not earned eternal merits?
 From whom can you expect sincere love?
 Only from Me; I alone give it.
 I took it all from you, not to hurt you,
 but because in My arms you would seek it.
 All that you thought lost among your childish dreams,
 I have in my dwellings.
 Arise. My hand sustains you. Come to my house!
 Is it perhaps my shadow,
 the shadow of your protective hand that extends itself to watch over my journey?
 „Come, you, the most beloved, the weakest, the most sorrowful.
 Seek no more: I am He whom you seek!*

Happy Vyāsa-pūjā, dear Gurudeva!

Your servant,

Ananda Moya Dasā





Anuradha Devi Dasi

Dikṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*



Please accept my humble obeisances dear Guru Mahārāj!!! All Glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!!! All Glories to you, the most amazing spiritual father in all three worlds, His Grace Mahatma Prabhu!!!

Every time I think in writing to you, I am sure tears will come out when I am doing it, but not sad tears, tears of gratitude, tears of happiness, tears of love.

What you represent in my life is absolutely indescribable. You are my eternal spiritual father. You are the lighthouse that lights my life. You are my inspiration in actions. You are my guide in how to treat others. You are the most amazing person I have meet in my life!

Everytime I have some conflict and I don't know how to find a solution I always think in how you would deal with this situation, and just by seeing you, answers come out. You always made my life easier, beloved Gurudev. I am not sure how you manage to deal and help, and love everyone, but you do all the time, that is truly my major inspiration.

When I started my spiritual path, the only thing I wanted to find is LOVE, how to love others purely and truly. And seeing you everyday in action, giving class, answering emails, WhatsApp, etc. I can say I found what I was looking for, how the unconditional, real LOVE is. My beloved Gurudev is an example of REAL LOVE in this world.

Thank you so much for showing me how to act as if we were in the spiritual world but being here.

Beloved Gurudev, sometimes I miss you so much, so much, and don't know how to deal with this, I know you are in classes, in WhatsApp, very close, but I just want to be with you eternally, serving you, washing your clothes, cooking for you, translating you, next to you. I know I am very immature and not able to understand we are together



even far away, but sincerely I just want to be with you all the time. I hope one day Krishna allows me to be with you eternally.

Your aspiring servant,

Anuradha Devi Dasi





Karunika Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇi-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*



Dear Gurudeva,

Now I can realize Krishna's causeless mercy in every aspect of my life. Before knowing you, I wasn't conscious of this. Krishna gave me a wonderful spiritual master who has given me true and transcendental knowledge which is so powerful that can free us from all miseries. And the more I learn little by little I realize more the meaning of this life but more so Krishna's will.

Your influence has transformed my thoughts, my feelings and actions and even though I'm still very basic lessons of this great and deep wisdom I feel very happy and blessed with Krishna and you because this teachings illuminate my life and dissipate the confusions in my mind.

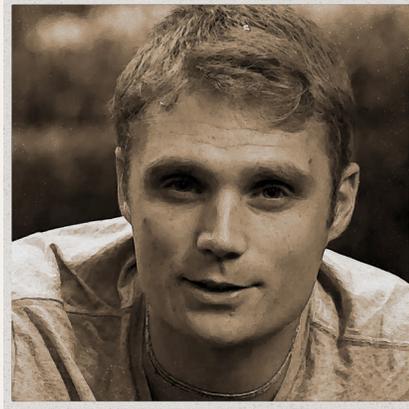
I can't find the words to express my gratitude for all your kindness towards me and everything I can say is very little compare to what you are and what you mean to me. I can only wish you all the blessings and gifts reserve to great souls like yours.

May Krishna always reward you for everything you do to serve.

Your servant in training,

Karunika Devi Dasi





Prem Kishore Dasa

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*



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

Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

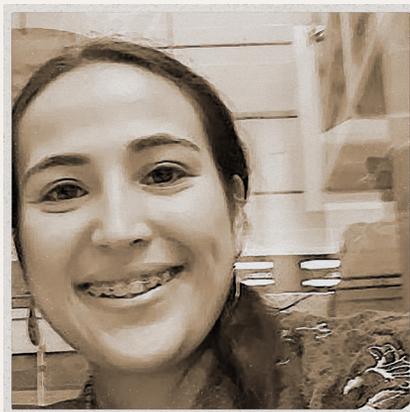
You have given me so much, an endless reservoir of inspiration by your dedication to serving Śrīla Prabhupāda and your courageous vision to expand his mission. I pray that this year I can accomplish something that will help your mission in serving Śrīla Prabhupāda or help someone who will help accomplish something in your service.

I am forever grateful.

Your servant,

Prem Kishore Das





Rasika Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

Obeisances to His Grace Mahātma Prabhu, who is dearest to Kṛṣṇa, and who teaches both through his realizations and his actions. Obeisance to him who is the embodiment of the mood of his master Prabhupāda, who awards the joy of kīrtana, who reveals the truth of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, and who is affectionately concerned for the devotees.



Hare Kṛṣṇa dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances and love.

On this special day of your Vyāsa-pūjā I want to glorify you and everything you are and represent. Thank you for always being there, giving me and all of us your guidance, care and mercy.

I cannot thank you enough for everything you've done and everything you do for me and everything you do in the service of Prabhupāda. Everything you do inspires me at every step and it's a source of strength.

I know I haven't done much for this mission, which is Prabhupāda's mission, but I want to work harder and harder to serve you and make you smile. For me my life has no meaning if I cannot be successful at doing so.

I pray to be aligned with your desires and contribute in any way I can, whether big or small.

Please bless me and continue to guide me so one day my mind is filled with only the desire to serve and constantly look for ways to serve.

Your servant,

Rasika Devi Dasi





Susana

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Mahatma Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisance. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-puja.

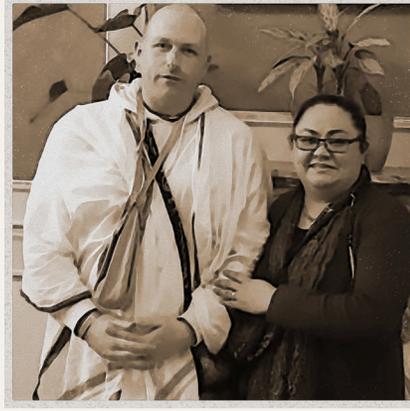
I thank you very much for your teachings and your attention. You have helped me a lot in improving my japa and being a better person. I used to be very anxious and it seemed impossible to concentrate on meditation, thank you very much for your help. Now I feel better and I wish to cultivate Kṛṣṇa Consciousness.

I work as a music teacher with children and I teach them to live with love and respect, as you teach us. Now my students and I have learned to have a harmonious and sweet music class. I have students with behavior problems, but love, compassion and respect help us to live better. I thank Śrī Kṛṣṇa for being able to learn from his teachings.

Your servant,

Susana Trejo





Jayasri Devi Dasi & Tosana Krsna Dasa

Dīkṣā Disciples

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmīn iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇi-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kirtana-hlāda-dāyine
namas tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*



Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and to You.

We wish you a happy Vyāsa-pūjā. We sincerely appreciate your guidance and the care you always give. We feel blessed that we are part of this wonderful family that is working so nicely together to try to spread your knowledge and the amazing lessons that you give around the world. We experience that you are truly representing the teachings of Śrīla Prabhupāda. You are always quoting him, explaining his mood, what he meant with certain quotes/statements, and always making sure that his picture in the background is visible. We sincerely hope that one day we would attain the love in our heart for you just as much as you have for your Guru Mahārāja.

Thank you so much for being there for us and the devotees in Amsterdam!

Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Your servants,

Jayasri Devi Dasī & Tosana Kṛṣṇa Dasā





Vichal

Well-wisher

Dear Mahatma Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I wanted to sent you a message of gratitude for the service you are doing in spreading Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. Even though I am not a member of ISKCON, I did have some association in the past and have pleasant memories. Because of inexperience and the sinful reactions of the past misdeeds, I discontinued association with the devotees and have gone through some harsh lessons in life. Slowly I am realizing that a person must



look inside and not judge/criticize others for one's own mistakes. This thanks to your service on social media as well as other devotees who share their beautiful realizations which makes me think to take a good look in the mirror. I also want to do that, to serve others.

I would not think to do this the past years but now I am starting to think like this. I have some challenges in life, namely to live in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness while also getting a job. I have some ideas about following courses to upgrade my knowledge so that I can apply for more vacancies. I try to spread Śrīla Prabhupāda's message as well and to be a nice person at all times to all living entities. This does not work all the time but I realize that I have to follow the rules and regulations and chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa mahā-mantra. I hope the devotees of ISKCON like you continue to serve Śrīla Prabhupāda in spreading Kṛṣṇa Consciousness and hopefully we can have more association of you even if we are in lockdown. Again, my deepest gratitude.

Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Your humble servant,

Vichal





Vrajarani Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇi-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*



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

*titikṣavaḥ kāruṇikāḥ
suhṛdaḥ sarva-dehinām
ajāta-śatravaḥ śāntā
sādhavaḥ sādhu-bhūṣaṇāḥ*

The symptoms of a sādhu are that he is tolerant, merciful and friendly to all living entities. He has no enemies, he is peaceful, he abides by the scriptures, and all his characteristics are sublime. (SB, Canto 3, Chapter 25, Text 21)

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

‘The Supreme Personality of Godhead has the form of sac-cid-ānanda-vigraha — transcendental bliss, knowledge and eternity. I offer my respectful obeisances unto Him, who turns the dumb into eloquent speakers and enables the lame to cross mountains. Such is the mercy of the Lord.’ (CC Madhya 17.80)



Hare Kṛṣṇa dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to Gaurāṅga and Gurudev.

I am wishing you a happy Kṛṣṇa Consciousness day. On this occasion I pray to the Lord for your well being and good health.

First of all I would thank you so much for accepting this insignificant soul under the shelter of your lotus feet. I feel everyday your presence in my daily life, serving you my heart, doing deities worship at home and in temple, chanting, meditating etc.)

You have always shown kindness and encouragement towards me. You have spend decades relentlessly spreading the glories of Kṛṣṇa to devotees. I can feel how Śrīla Prabhupāda and our ācāryas are happy and proud of you.

My words would never be enough to describe your glories, my dear Gurudeva.

I beg to Kṛṣṇa to keep you always healthy and safe so that you can keep preaching.

Please I ask forgiveness if I mentioned something wrong.

Your humble servant,

Vrajarani Devi Dasī





Esleyter

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*



Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet, dear Mahārāj.
Jaya Śrīla Prabhupāda! Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Well, first of all thank you for reading my monthly reports and for the very loving responses. My story is the following:

A simple university student that I am getting to know; in high school he was diligent and very serious. He was also very passionate, he studied so much, that entering first place in engineering cost him some glasses to wear as eye friends.

In high school I got a taste of readings and read a few self-help books, including Tony Robbins (maybe because I was actually slipping into a black-walled room, with an infinite hole in the floor, with only one very destination. disastrous).

In college I continued to search for a solution to that dark destiny, but math was very addictive and the desire to want to get high marks was like a slide that led faster to that dark room.

In high school I read „The Secret of the 7 Seeds“ by David Fishkman, and although I did not realize the words yoga, meditation and calming the mind, they were injected very deeply. In college I read „The 7 Spiritual Laws of Success“ by Deepak Chopra, the words Yoga and Meditation danced in my mind in very sweet ways again (2016).

One day in October, the morning was cool and it seemed that my doubts and searching had all disappeared completely, Silver and I, we went to a traditional book fair in the Tarapoto square, we left the motorcycle in a place where parking was prohibited, many colored houses shone, some more than others because of the powers of their books, we turned counterclockwise and reached the last presenter, I entered inside: I observed a book „Volver a Nacer“ that until then I had confused it with an Adventist book . My



brother Silver had it before me, but neither he nor I read it until then. I bought only 3 books: „Karma“, „The Science of Self-Realization“ and „Material Problems, Spiritual Solutions“.

I went on a trip to Kuélap and took the books, my dissatisfaction with the reading changed, I got so stuck on the pages of „Material Problems, Spiritual Solutions“ that all the conversations blew up my aspirations, they shattered all my dissatisfactions. I met a Spiritual Warrior, Pavitra Damodar Dasa, he gave me a beautiful Japa account, he taught me to chant, and he sang beautiful melodies in his mridanga, in seconds that room with dark walls was dissolved (2017). It was the first of January and I let go of the cloth of false prestige, I stopped my bad eating habits (2018).

Now 2021 and the realization that sums it all up is: Lord Kṛṣṇa is so compassionate that he tried from the beginning to remind me of the statement I made: When I Come Out I Will Worship You! And in 2020 he introduced me to someone very special, whose home is always surrounded by fresh lotus flowers of various colors (his instructions), Mahatma Dasa. My only wish is to be able to be your servant and to please you. I have so much to learn!

With affection,

Esleyter Tello Fernandez
(Shatru Han Dasa)





Krishna Karshani Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I am not praying for your mercy. I know I have your mercy, and I am very grateful for having it. You give mercy equally to everyone. What I am praying for today is the opportunity to grab this mercy and use it to become a better devotee, as well as to become qualified to share your mercy with others. Guru Mahārāj, you are the personification of Lord Nityananda's mercy in my life.



You give me mercy even though I resist it, even though I am not qualified for it, and even though I do not deserve it.

It is said that in previous ages, the disciple looked for a guru, but that in Kali Yuga, the guru looks for disciples — to save them. I am grateful to you for having found me. I wasn't looking for you, but you unexpectedly appeared in my life by the grace of Śrīla Prabhupāda (who found you). Please never let me go away, because it took you so long to find me. Your mercy is all that I am made of. Indeed, anything that I manage to achieve in my spiritual life is through the agency of your mercy. I am forever indebted to you, and I pray to Kṛṣṇa to make me qualified so that you can use me in giving Kṛṣṇa to others.

Thank you for everything that you are giving me. Actually, you give me more than what I give you. I hope that one day I will repay you for everything you have given me.

Guru Mahārāj, you are not only my spiritual master, but you are also my best friend with whom I can be real, who accepts me the way I am, and who takes the best care of me.

There is not much good about me. Nevertheless, you see whatever little good is in me, and you engage it in Kṛṣṇa's service. Thank you.

I love you very much, and I am very grateful to Kṛṣṇa that you are my spiritual master.

Your disciple who is attempting to be humble,

Krishna Karshani Dasī





Galina

Śikṣā Disciple

Dear Mahātmā Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa Pujā!

Some time ago, you came into my life and filled it with light and love, just as Śrīla Prabhupāda once did. I still don't know you well enough, I just feel. I feel your love for Śrīla Prabhupāda, I feel your love for us, and this love intoxicates me; it makes my heart melt and my eyes cry. I would really like to get to know you better, to see you as you



are. It takes time, I understand; time and a lot of mercy. I'm a new devotee, and I still have many conditionings, but Kṛṣṇa, Prabhupāda, and the devotees are very merciful to me, and everything is going well. And the fact that you have entered my life is the greatest luck and happiness in my life. I feel free, and now there's always a quiet joy in my heart that I want to share. I want to thank you, dear Mahātmā Prabhu, for the faith and hope you bring to my heart; for the taste of love for Śrīla Prabhupāda, who I also love very much and to whom I'm very grateful (He once saved my life). Only by wholeheartedly giving you my whole life will I ever be able to pay you back. I very much want to be of service to you, dear Mahātmā Prabhu, and I pray to Kṛṣṇa to help me become qualified in your service; this will be the greatest happiness for me!

I wish you good health and happiness! Thank you for your priceless experience and the taste of love that you so generously share with us!

Serving your feet,

Bhaktin Gjalina





Lydia

Śikṣā Disciple

Dear Mahātmā Prabhu,

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

Another year passed quickly. It has been an unusual year for all the devotees, which has provided an opportunity to get more of your association on Zoom. You have shown much mercy to Russia this year. Many people got in touch with your personality.



I've been listening to you for two years, and every time I'm surprised by your compassion, patience, and desire to help every devotee. The Daily Wisdom videos are like a guide to Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. In these short videos, you can find answers to a lot of questions. It's food for the mind. Your instructions give a deeper understanding of how to practice Kṛṣṇa Consciousness properly.

I'm always impressed by your vision of the world. You look at the practice of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness from different perspectives. And you always give a complete answer, touching on aspects that one can't always see.

Like many devotees, I also have spiritual crises. And I know that your lectures, instructions, and example give me the strength to overcome all the obstacles and move on. Listening to your lectures gives me the confidence and enthusiasm to practice and stay, against all the odds, in the Śrīla Prabhupāda's movement, the Caitanya Mahārabhu's movement.

Looking back, I see how my spiritual life is changing, and more awareness is coming. Your lectures help me in everything. Another discovery for me is that there is harmony, a balance of material and spiritual life (classes with Russian translation during pandemic 2020). It went very deep into my heart. Even Kṛṣṇa's instructions to Arjuna become clear to me. I can think of Kṛṣṇa with devotion, work for His pleasure, and do my duty.

These instructions are gradually moving from theory to practice and hopefully will soon become a kind of „my way of life.“ „My fanaticism,“ which I didn't really notice in myself, hid the real purpose of life for a long time. Thank you for this priceless experience of practicing Kṛṣṇa Consciousness that you so generously share with us; it helps many devotees.



Thank you very much for your classes, instructions, „Daily Wisdom“ videos, and melodious kirtans. I'll never be able to repay you for the mercy I receive from you.

In the dust of your lotus feet,

Bhaktin Lydia





Marina

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Hare Kṛṣṇa, Guru Mahārāja!

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and His followers!
All glories to this sacred day of your Vyāsa Pujā!

I understand that I have neither the qualities nor the qualifications to glorify you on this day. But your infinite mercy that makes miracles happen is what I have, so I'll try.

My eyes are covered with illusion, my body and mind are covered with filth, and my heart is full of material desires.

What helps me stay in this process, in the practice of Hare Kṛṣṇa? What is this remarkable power that helps me get up again and go forward?

Guru Mahārāja, this is your living example and your noble qualities that you manifest. You are a living example of a person I want to follow, whose qualities I want to adopt. You are always free from false identification, happy in the process of devotional service, always full of enthusiasm, and compassionate towards the fallen conditioned souls. Your preaching is expanding, and your example is energizing more and more devotees who at least once come across your endeavors dedicated to Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission!

We, your spiritual children who want to serve you and your mission, are fortunate to have once had this opportunity to get your association and change the course of our worthless lives.

Thank you very much!

Śrīla Prabhupāda has given us the priceless gift of the Holy Name – Mahāmantra Hare Kṛṣṇa. And even this simple method is still sometimes incredibly difficult for me. But



I try, and your example is very inspiring, and it helps me a lot. Therefore, the only thing I want is that I always remain under the shadow of your feet and that the words emanating from your mouth purify my consciousness.

Please, please, please, Guru Mahārāja, forgive me for my mistakes and stupidities, and always lead me to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

Trying to become your disciple,

Marina Lazareva





Nadiya

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



My dearest and most beloved Spiritual Master,

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

Dearest Gurudeva, on this auspicious day of your divine appearance in this world, let me write you the words I could never tell you before. Although I have no qualification and even no right to address you, I'm asking for your permission and your blessings to express what I feel.

Guru Mahārāja, I met you only one year ago, but that meeting completely changed me and my entire life. That day, when I first met you in the temple of Lord Jagannātha marked the beginning of my new life, the life of coming back home, back to Godhead. I consider that day to be the day of my initiation, although informal, but so real and tangible. You just looked at me once for less than a second – and at that same moment, all my previous life entirely vanished away. Just as weirdly shaped illusory clouds in the sky disappear from one single breath of wind, my whole previous life was blown away by your single glance. I felt that my life hadn't existed before, that I myself hadn't existed before you looked at me. As soon as I met Your Grace, the full splendor of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness was revealed to me from your heart. At that very moment, my real life began – I was born again; not to suffer, but to leave this miserable world and eternally follow this gentle calling of your loving heart.

When I was in Māyāpur, I was unsuccessfully trying to understand who you really were, why I met you, and why I had such a strong voice in my head and heart that was telling me: "Go there, be with him, follow him, surrender unto him, give your life to his service." This voice was so strong from the very first moment I met you, and I was absolutely helpless to ignore it; I didn't even have time to rationalize what was going on because at every single moment, this voice was becoming stronger and stronger



and finally came to the point when it completely filled my whole existence. I asked for your shelter, and you kindly accepted me. And now here I am, trying to serve you, following in your footsteps, and praying to become that kind of disciple who will bring happiness and joy to your heart by fulfilling your most sacred desire – bring the whole world under the shelter of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s beautiful lotus feet.

You love us, and your love has no boundaries. Your heart is a fathomless ocean of mercy, and although I may slip and fall at any moment, I know that your love for me will never end. You treat every living being with so much love and respect, regardless of what they’ve done or continue doing. I have a great experience of that: I have never met a person in my life who would completely close his eyes on my past activities, misdeeds, and shortcomings; who would accept me and give me all love and protection without expecting anything in return. Your boundless love and compassion melted my heart. I submissively bow down unto your beautiful lotus feet, expressing my deepest gratitude for being honored to become your disciple.

Māyāpur, being in and of itself a great Lord’s gift to me, has given me the greatest gift I could ever have – you, my dearest and most beloved Spiritual Master, my highest shelter, my eternal guide, and my Supreme Sovereign. You’re the one who possesses all the auspicious qualities, who eternally carries the Holy Dhām in the heart, and whose one deep and caring glance takes away all the miseries of my life.

Gurudeva, how can I find words to express my infinite gratitude to you and Kṛṣṇa for your constant guidance, love, and protection? You’ve given me so much that no matter how hard I try, I will never be able to pay you back. I can only pray to become eligible for loving you in return, to always remember you and carry this love for you in my heart throughout my whole life, and to dedicate every single moment of my existence to serving you. Please, I’m begging you over and over again, don’t let my existence go in vain, don’t let me leave you, don’t let me abandon this soothing moon-



like sheltering shadow of your beautiful lotus feet. I'm begging for your mercy to be able to continue my service to you as long as it's needed in this world, and forever in the spiritual world. Let me give my life to you, let my every single breath be imbued with my love for you, and let every single moment of my entire existence become the glorification of your great and exalted personality. Please let me become the servant of your servants, let me fulfill your transcendental desires, and let me become and forever remain your insignificant servant.

To that greatest personality who carries all the Holy Dhāms in his heart, to that greatest personality whose heart was chosen to be the supreme abode of Lord Hari, to that greatest personality whose heart reveals all the transcendental beauty of Goloka Vṛndāvana, to you, the Lord of my life, millions and millions of times I offer my most respectful obeisances, covering my head with the dust of your beautiful lotus feet.

Your hopeless and helpless, but believing in your causeless mercy,

Radhaya Das





Rukmini Seva Devi Dasi

Śikṣā Disciple

Dear Mahātmā Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa Pujā!

I've started listening to your lectures and short videos relatively recently, but I'm already very grateful to you. Thank you for taking the time to give classes on zoom, broadcast, and record short videos on various topics.



At the moment, my spiritual life is far from being perfect, now I'm going through one of the crises on the spiritual path, and I can't listen to the classes or read books in general. But with your lectures and short videos, I feel happy and calm. There's a hope that I may someday come to Kṛṣṇa, too. It's very difficult to continue practicing without this hope. And when there are some difficulties, sometimes you can give up, because hope goes away. Everybody writes and talks only about pure devotees and their qualities and behavior, but when you're so far away from all this, it becomes difficult to continue practicing and to believe that you can purify your heart.

But in your videos, you sometimes touch on topics that concern not only the devotees but any person in general. These are the Daily Wisdom videos. When it's difficult for me to turn my mind towards Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, I watch these videos, and after that I can listen to the lecture. For the first time after many years, I've heard from a senior devotee of such a high level as Śrīla Prabhupāda's disciple so much good advice on various situations and occasions in life, on different psychological states. When I write about it, I want to cry. Since my childhood, I've been among devotees, and I grew up mainly on the strict and severe brahmacārī lectures about the levels of humility, the types of anarthas, the reasons for the soul's falling into the material world, etc. Yes, they talked a lot about philosophy and Kṛṣṇa, but they didn't talk about living here and now. Now that I've grown up, I got a dissonance between the knowledge I had gained over the years and real life. Some of my friends, who have also been among devotees since birth or childhood, have similar problems. Unfortunately, some of them even leave the movement.

I'm very grateful for your kind attitude towards the devotees and your desire to help and support them. By your mercy, my spiritual life will be revived.

Also, thank you so much for the wonderful kirtans and bhajans that I grew up with. These beloved melodies bring me back to Kṛṣṇa when I'm once again lost in the



hectic atmosphere of temporal affairs. As a child, when I was scared or couldn't sleep because of various worries, I would turn on a DVD player with your recording of the Brahma-saṁhitā. I listened to it several times, and I felt calm; my worries went away. It's impossible to count how many times I've heard this Brahma-saṁhitā, and I still love to listen to it. When I told my husband that you are that same Mahātmā Prabhu who performs this famous Brahma-saṁhitā and other bhajans, he couldn't even believe it at first. And I myself was previously only familiar with your musical work and didn't even know what you looked like. Now my husband also listens to your classes and watches videos, humming „Rādhe, Shyam Shyam“ at home.

With respect,

Rukmini Seva Devi Das





Sukhada Devi Dasi

Dikṣā Disciple

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to you on this auspicious day of Vyāsa-pūjā!



I congratulate you on the day of your appearance! I very much wish you health and long life! You need it - in order to fulfill the mission that Śrīla Prabhupāda gave you and we really need it - in order to have communication with you as long as possible. Communication with you, your instructions are still needed by very many devotees who are still unfamiliar with you! Live Long!

Your grace is limitless. I have been in ISKCON for 10 years and 8 years of them I could not find a place for myself in ISKCON. There were many problems, many questions, many concerns.

The first darshan with you - February 23, 2019 - completely turned my life around. I saw from my side, my life (on the edge of the abyss), I could not hold back my tears... But you gave me hope with your instructions.

My life and my sadhana are gradually changing for the better. I became calmer and more confident in myself, because I know that there is YOU - the most wonderful spiritual teacher. You can always listen to your lectures, your „Wisdom of the Day“, your kīrtans. You can always write to you and get an answer. This gives support.

Thank you for suggesting the monthly reporting form. If you had not done this, then I would have been afraid to write about my problems.

Thank you so much for your concern, kindness, for the mercy of Śrīla Prabhupāda, which you are giving us so generously.

Your servant,

Gukhada Devi Dasī





Vitaliy

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Hare Kṛṣṇa, dear Guru Mahārāja.

Please accept my obeisances!

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and all glories to you on this wonderful and auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pujā.

I'd like to tell you that once I was praying to our dear Śrīla Prabhupāda, and He graciously revealed to me that you are the one I've been looking for for a long time. Your first reply to my letter gave me a new vision and understanding of how to move forward and make progress in the practice of devotional service.

In each of your messages and instructions, I find answers and solutions to overcome difficulties, and this is something new and wonderful for me. Your messages about deep prayer, emotional and sensual absorption in all the processes of devotional service, about realizing your intentions, not being artificial, etc., give me very deep discoveries and realizations.

Of course, many not very positive things related to my past experiences and, as it would seem, to already overcome obstacles began to appear. They were just hidden, and now they appear, but with your help, difficult moments become gradually resolved.

I bow down to you and thank you for your care and for saving me. I don't know how to express my gratitude and how much I can do for you, but I want to try and do something to distribute books and preach. Whether I will be able to get initiated by you or not, I don't know. Still, I know and feel one thing: every thought about you and every contact with your instructions, with what you do, and with your particular mood are very inspiring, purifying, saving, and moving me towards Kṛṣṇa in Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission.



In my desire to serve you, I saw my lack of qualification in some issues, and perhaps I'm delaying the process of their execution, and therefore I ask you to forgive me. I will try to be more involved in the active service and overcome my doing nothing.

Once again, thank you very much, and I thank the Lord for sending you to me.

Your humble servant,

Bhakta Vitaliy





Yuriy

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Guru Mahārāj!

Please accept my humble obeisances!
All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

I met you 6 months ago when I was flipping through Instagram. I watched the video - Wisdom of the Day and was very inspired. An hour later, I noticed that I had already studied your site, read several articles and subscribed to YouTube.

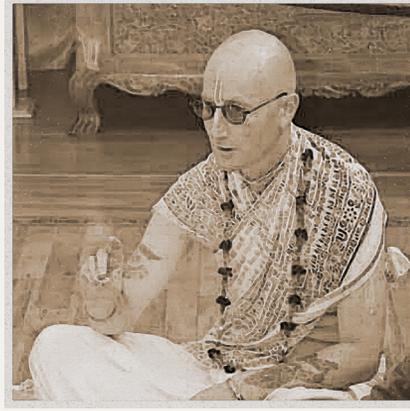
All this time I listen to your lectures, watch videos and read texts. I admire the perfect balance in teaching students about philosophy and its application in the material world. It is amazing and inspiring to walk the path of bhakti.

Thank you for your care and desire to open the teachings of Śrīla Prabhupāda to us!

Your servant,

Yuriy Sokolov





Trilokesa Dasa

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances, all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I cannot emphasise enough how important and refreshing your classes are to me. You help me motivate and energise with the beautiful way you simplify the road forward. My sincere humble obeisances for this direction.

The resilience course was just simply amazing and loads taken on board and trying to put into practice in everyday life. My deepest thanks to you Guru Mahārāj.

I hope you enjoy this special day.

Your humble servant

Tribhukesa Dasa





Ashreeni

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dearest Mahātmā Prabhu

Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā!

Through Kṛṣṇa's, Rādhā's and Śrīla Prabhupāda's mercy, I first met you in 2015 in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. When you started speaking, I remember thinking that you are going to be one of the "strict" Guru Mahārāj's that have come to speak before, but as the lecture went along, it was so light hearted and what struck me the most was that you had such a sense of humour. I spoke to you briefly as I wanted some advice and you told me about your website and also to go and listen to your lectures. The lecture that you gave that day and the lectures that I have listened to almost every day from then onwards have literally transformed my life. Your practicality and sensible ways of dealing with issues/problems have made me look at every situation/circumstance in a different perspective and with a different outlook. Whenever I have any problems/issues, I always ask myself, how would Mahatma Prabhu tell us to deal with these problems/issues? I somehow apply your teachings and my problems/issues, as big as they are, don't seem as big anymore. You have taught me so many "Kṛṣṇa hacks" and how to be "Kṛṣṇa smart" and I am forever grateful to you because if it was not for me listening to your lectures, my life and mind would be in a totally different state and not in a good way. Your great sacrifices you make every day, your enthusiasm you have every day and your compassion you have every day in inspiring others leaves me in awe. THANK YOU for everything that you do for everyone and for this very fallen soul.

Kindly forgive all my offenses in the writing of this letter.

Your humble and aspiring servant,

Ashreeni Ramlogan





Gaura Bhakta Finlays

Śikṣā Disciples

To His Grace Mahātmā prabhu,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda, all glories to your wonderful preaching.

We offer all our services to you Mahārāj, this weekend's food for life distribution in nyanga and book distribution Jason for your Vyāsa-pūjā.



Thank you for everything you are doing to spread Kṛṣṇa Consciousness and your thoughtful and enlightening online classes on YouTube, You have shown us to dovetail for Prabhupāda.

Even though our family is not doing great, we are only here due to your mercy.

To Śrīla Prabhupāda our Guru varga, Śrīla Vyāsadev and to You Mahārāj on your Vyāsa-pūjā, who have continuously shown us what true loving guru seva is.

May we strive to humbly serve those who humbly serve your lotus feet.

It is only because of your mercy we can call ourselves fortunate.

Hare Krishna!

Your servants,

Gaura Bhakta Finlays

Jason Sukla Amrita PSDG & Kim, Tulsi (12), Arjuna (11), Gaura Lila (6)





Lilasakti Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine
namas tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Hare Kṛṣṇa dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All Glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda, who built a house in which the whole world can live!

By some Divine arrangement, I am able to write this letter a few moments after hosting you for a Sunday Morning Inspiration session, hosted by some devotees in South Africa. I call it Divine, because, during that session, everything I felt I needed to say to you, and hear from you came together into more cohesive thoughts in this very busy mind of mine.

I've been lamenting about how life seems to get in the way of me being a good servant, disciple and devotee. Sometimes, I think I've spent more time feeling sorry for myself than doing something about it. Time I could've spent doing service.

Nonetheless, today Kṛṣṇa brought me a message through you, to actively make the decision to commit. To commit to my sadhana and seva, and to commit to engaging in these two processes with the right mood. You have encouraged me to at least make the endeavour, so that one day, the result may be beautiful.

In your own gentle way, you have shown me that it isn't always about me. For so long, I have been selfish, thinking about how everything affects Me, how I have failed, how Kṛṣṇa is not coming to Me...Forgetful of the bigger picture, that I left Kṛṣṇa and that the way back is through working on our relationship and serving His most beloved devotees.

Since you so kindly gave me initiation last year, I am constantly thinking of how merciful you are to everyone, especially me. I remember having this particular thought this past Appearance day of Lord Nityananda, Mercy Himself. As I looked on at the temple



devotees singing of the most merciful, I couldn't help but think of you. You, a servant of Śrīla Prabhupāda, actively showing and giving me mercy by always bringing me back to his instructions in KC. You, who took a chance on someone like me, and gave me mercy by committing to taking me Home with you.

You, who after all my shortcomings, gently remind me to stay on course and remember the goal of my service, sadhana and this life. So much mercy you have, and you so generously give it out to all of us. How fortunate I am to be the unworthy recipient of this Divine gift.

I wrote some words in the beginning of this year, as I was meditating on my gratitude for this lifetime. Being a musician, I may have gone a little more poetic than most, but because you understand my heart, I think you will find the message behind the words:

„May 2016. You came into my life and changed it before I could fully even step into the room. I had just gotten to chanting 16 full rounds 3 days prior, and still didn't know what a sari was or how to put Tilak on.

To be honest, I didn't even know what a temple looked like until that day. I remember nothing about that day but you and Lord Nrsimhadev. Every time I see the One, I remain in gratitude for the Other.

You've been with me through my meltdowns, my failures, my triumphs, my first official job, graduation and now, this inexplicably weird and wonderful life experience I find myself in. All the while holding my hand and heart through it.

And you helped me board the transcendental train Home, knowing fully well that I have not a dime of love, humility and surrenderance in my heart's pockets. But you let me in at your own cost, because somehow I think you've known where my heart has



been heading long before I did. I'm not sure how I navigated this life journey for 18 years without you. I somehow see why Kṛṣṇa kept me here for that long. I needed to meet you to know what it could be like, to love God not for personal gain or fear, but simply because He is lovable and worthy of our love just as She loves us, and the mercy They provide.

Thank you Gurudev, for taking me with you onboard the real Soul Train. Every crazy idea I have now is to try to pay you back for this priceless gift."

I am a simpleton with no spiritual qualification. A neophyte without the elegance of speech in sastra and actions in seva and puma. Today however, I make the commitment to commit. To my service, my spiritual practices. To you. To the world. To pay forward all it is that you have given me, by the mercy of Śrīla Prabhupāda. Please bless me that I may become a worthy servant and devotee in society. I am forever in your debt Gurudev, and I am thankful for it.

Your unworthy servant,

Lilasakti Devi Das





Pe

Aspiring Disciple

Hare Kṛṣṇa Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya Kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*



In the book *Living the Wisdom Bhakti*, Gurudeva, you gave me instructions, „Be Balanced, stable and grounded“.

Over the past year, I have deeply felt the mercy of Nitāi-Gaurāṅga, and Gurudeva’s teachings have helped me face the inner impurity.

Thank you for always being so kind to accept my inadequate service, and the service of devotees.

As your disciple, my only service is to practice what you have taught me and sincerely serve every soul.

By your mercy I pray I’ll be getting more and more stable in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness and offer better service to you and devotees.

Your insignificant servant,

Pc





Ananta Gauranga Dasa

Śikṣā Disciple

Dear Mahatma Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to your grace.

You have the most open, kind and generous heart that I have had the pleasure of associating with. One of my most inspiring and treasured moments was when I got to chant Japa with His Grace in the mornings at the temple room at Radha Radhanath Temple. It was one of my most spiritually awakened experience and most enlivening.



After our sessions I could feel a sense of inner bliss surge through my veins and aura. Thank you for allowing me to be close to you physically and now that I have not seen you in the flesh in years, thank you for blessing me with your shelter and guidance as my siksa-guru via technology. Thank you for teaching me that nobody dies and that everybody is important by your words but more importantly your kind and loving dealings with all people.

You are wisdom walking. You have lived a glorious life — mostly :) —, please don't leave us any time soon, so many depend on you

On this most glorious and holy of days I have nothing of value to offer you and in truth what can one offer an individual who has spiritual wealth. What can one offer a saint who has realised peace cannot be found in this world and so has cultivated love in his heart. On this most holy days, dear Mahatma Prabhu, please accept my gratitude and love. It's not much, but it's all I have.

Your aspiring servant,

Ananta Gauranga Dasa





Davina

Aspiring Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmīnī iti nāmīne
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

This past year has definitely been such a strange one, and although I couldn't see you in person, I have still felt your presence as if you were here, through your emails, books and lectures.

Guru Mahārāj, I am so overwhelmed and grateful for the constant love, guidance, compassion and mercy you are always showering me with, to help me in my devotional life, bringing me closer to Kṛṣṇa. I am forever indebted to you Guru Mahārāj, I have been struggling this year, yet despite my mistakes and lack in services, you still accept me openly with compassion and guide me sweetly with your words of wisdom. This has shown me how fallen I am, how much I really need you and how fortunate I am to have your association.

Your strength in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, and fixed faith in Kṛṣṇa and His plans is something I aspire to develop one day. I have firm faith that by your guidance I can progress in my spiritual life.

Thank you for always guiding and instructing me with your beautiful sweet teachings that always empower me with the strength to keep trying and pushing through. Thank you for giving me your precious time to respond to my emails and shower me with your wisdom.

Thank you for taking me under your soft wings and sheltering me with love.



It is only by your mercy I will be able to serve you with gratitude and offer all I have to you. I deeply and sincerely pray I can dedicate this life to be an instrument in your mission, and always take shelter of your lotus feet.

Your aspiring servant,

Davina





Dhruva Maharaj Dasa

Well-wisher

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.



Thank you so very much for everything you have done for me. You're such a wonderful inspiration and loving friend to me. Everyone one in the UK loves you so much and we all are missing you.

Your servant with love,

Dhruva Maharaj Dasa





Jayaradhe Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

Hare Krishna Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine
namas tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*



Though I have written a few vyasa puja offerings, somehow it always feels that there are no words that sufficiently and accurately describe your glories and express the deep impressions you have left on my heart. Nonetheless, I will make a humble but faulted attempt.

Guru Mahārāj, you once said that the greatest quality we can have is obedience to Prabhupāda's instructions. I see this exemplified whenever I listen to your classes, observe your interactions with others or have been fortunate enough to serve alongside you. I am reminded of this verse from *Śrī Guru Vandana*:

*guru-mukha-padma-vākya, cittete koribo aikya,
ār nā koriho mane āśā
śrī-guru-caraṇe rati, ei se uttama-gati,
je prasāde pūre sarva āśā*

You also told us that to honour Śrīla Prabhupāda and glorify him, we should live by his teachings. This is epitomized by you – it is not a case of lip service, but living and breathing the instructions of the spiritual master; every moment it appears you are looking for opportunities to serve Prabhupāda. Dear Gurudeva, I pray your instructions will become forever embedded in my heart and that I am able to assist you in your mission of serving Prabhupāda.

Guru Mahārāj, you once said that whatever good qualities, success or opulence we see in you is due to Prabhupāda's mercy. You also told us that our behaviour indirectly glorifies the spiritual master and any ill behaviour minimises the glory of the spiritual master. I recall during the vyasa puja celebrations we held in London, whenever you were glorified or presented with an offering, I would observe you silently saying: Jaya Prabhupāda. My heart became deeply moved at the humility I had observed and reminded me of the 3rd verse in the *Śikṣāṣṭakam*: *trnad api sunicena*.



Everything that was being offered to you, you were offering to Prabhupāda. You remind us to remain humble and see everything as the mercy of the spiritual master. Dear Gurudeva, I pray that I am able to see everything in my life through the mercy you have kindly bestowed onto me, despite me being undeserving of this. I also pray that my behaviours will always be reflections of your instructions.

Guru Mahārāj, you once said that Prabhupāda’s heart was for the conditioned souls and that it is your service to help us. When you visit London, I am fortunate enough to be able to serve you and observe your interactions with many people – from devotees to shop assistants. In these interactions, I see: a deep desire to help a fallen conditioned soul, who is suffering at the pangs of material life; a genuine care for someone’s wellbeing, no matter who it is; selflessly giving your time to others, at the sacrifice of your wellbeing/health. As I watch you continue to give selflessly (e.g., giving more classes a week during the pandemic than you would when you travel), I recall the following verse from the *Bhagavad-gītā*:

*labhante brahma-nirvāṇam
ṛṣayaḥ kṣīṇa-kalmaṣāḥ
chinna-dvaidhā yatātmānaḥ
sarva-bhūta-hite ratāḥ*

Those who are beyond the dualities that arise from doubts, whose minds are engaged within, who are always busy working for the welfare of all living beings and who are free from all sins achieve liberation in the Supreme. (5.25)

I remember very clearly how I first met you; in Mayapur, experiencing a difficult period of purification and desperate for help. I ran to you and screamed “Mahātmā prabhu!” Without any obeisances or any form of etiquette, I burst into tears, telling you of my struggles and begging for help. Not only did you not chastise me for my lack of



regard for etiquette, you tried to help me and remained concerned for my wellbeing even after I left Mayapur. Before that moment, I felt like I was in such a dark place, I didn't even know where to begin to try and see the light. That interaction was a glimmer of hope for me. Little did I know that that interaction would lead me to the most important relationship in my life – Guru and disciple. I am eternally grateful that I was fortunate enough to have that moment's association with you and that led me to where I am today. No words can ever truly capture how much you saved me. Thank you Guru Mahārāj for never giving up on me.

Your example serves as a reminder to me that no matter how I feel, I always have some capacity to help others. Dear Gurudeva, I pray that I am able to exhibit this kind of compassion to other conditioned souls; souls who are not as fortunate as I am, as I have been able to receive your mercy. I pray I will always imbibe this mood, remembering that my service is to help others and always remaining grateful for everything I have received.

Guru Mahārāj, you once said that Prabhupāda's love is unconditional and not dependent on whom we are. You also said that Prabhupāda is willing to forgive us, so who are we to not forgive ourselves? You have also reminded us that if we are good enough for Prabhupāda, we are good enough for ourselves. These words resonated so deeply with my heart and the years of self-loathing and lack of self forgiveness. These words provide so much comfort and are a motivation for me to let go of these beliefs that only make it more difficult for me to practice Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. I am so grateful to have been given the service of sending the daily quotes. I have been able to find so much nectar in this and feel a sense of compassion to myself whenever I share them with others. I find when I listen to your classes, I struggle to pay attention because I am often writing down the beautiful and inspirational gems you share! Many devotees have shared with me how much they appreciate and need these daily words of wisdom.



Dearest Guru Mahārāj, what can I really say that really expresses what you mean to me and how much my life has changed because of you? Thank you for believing in me even when I didn't believe in myself. Thank you for never giving up on me even when I didn't see anything to live for. Thank you for accepting me as a disciple. Thank you for tolerating my mistakes every year when you visit. Thank you for always having time for me, despite your busy schedule. Thank you for engaging me in service. Thank you for connecting me to Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thank you for seeing the good in me even when my service attempts are full of faults. Please forgive me for offences I have committed, knowingly and unknowingly. I really cannot express how grateful I am that you came into my life and I pray that I will always be able to serve you and somehow assist you in your service.

Your humble servant,

Jayaradhe Devi Dasī





Kamal

Aspiring Disciple

Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhave sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya Kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
 śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
 namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
 nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

I seriously took to Kṛṣṇa Consciousness in 2015 after meeting you; your words inspired me and made me realise this was the right path to take. In my early days in the movement, like many I was very enthusiastic. But reflecting on those days, I can also see I was very hard-hearted. I saw Kṛṣṇa Consciousness as black and white and was fixated on maintaining a high standard, a standard I was not ready for. But over the years through your merciful guidance, your teachings, your compassion, and your example a change has come about me.

This hard heart of mine which has been closed for so long, has started to soften. I have started to see Kṛṣṇa Consciousness not as just black and white but blue, green, red, yellow and every colour in between. I have started to become more compassionate and more understanding with myself and others. I have started to develop to deeper connection with Kṛṣṇa that goes beyond external practice. And through this change of heart, I have noticed others struggling within their practice have begun to confide in me about their own struggles and have allowed me to assist them.

I can see so many devotees struggling in their practice and bound by the shackles of black and white thinking and a fear of judgement and often think how can I help? But I know any help I can offer anyone is only due to the mercy you have shown me. On this auspicious occasion of your vyasa puja, I wish to offer you my deepest gratitude for warming this cold, hard heart of mine through your teachings, guidance and unlimited compassion.

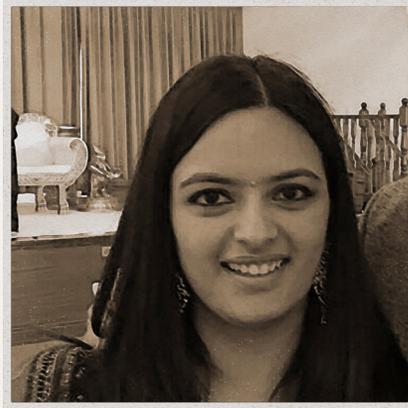


As I immerse myself more and more with your teachings, I feel there is a growing glimmer of hope for me that one day this hard heart of mine might become more like yours Guru Mahārāj; the heart of a Vaiṣṇava.

Your aspiring servant,

Kamal





Nikita

Well-wisher

Dear Mahatma Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

This is my first time attempting to write an offering so please forgive me for any mistakes I may make.

On this auspicious day of your appearance day, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you. I haven't had the good fortune of having much of your physical



association except for attending your Vyāsa-pūjā a few years ago for the first and only time. During that celebration, I came to learn a lot more about you and was able to see first hand how much of an effect you have on your devotees. I could see that you have truly changed their lives but I was yet to experience some of that mercy.

I have recently had the opportunity to attend your course with the School of Bhakti on Discovering Your Resilience and I was left feeling so inspired and touched by the example you have set for us. You truly and humbly imbibe the mood that Śrīla Prabhupāda has set for us all about practising what you preach. I especially resonated with how you focused on transforming our inner consciousness rather than just learning the philosophy and not necessarily applying it. I took away so many gems of wisdom from the course and have been learning to apply it in my daily practice. I am looking forward to attending many more of your courses/seminars.

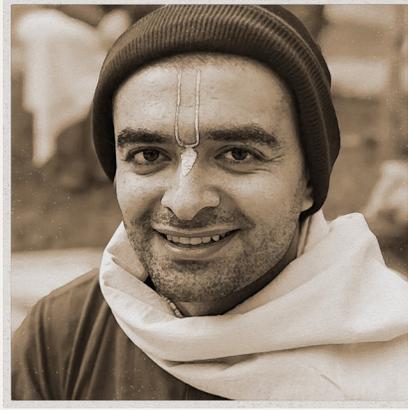
I have also had the fortune of assisting my mum to cook prasadam for you a few times when you have been in London. I sincerely hope to be able to serve you much more in the near future in any way that I can.

I would like to wholeheartedly pray that you always keep inspiring and guiding us lost souls in our journey back to Kṛṣṇa.

Your humble servant,

Nikita Thakran





Prayag

Śikṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your Lotus Feet. All glories to Śrīlā Prabhupāda.

As I write this offering, I reflect on this past year where my contact with you has been quite minimal, judging by previous years. However, the little interaction that I have had with you, I have really treasured. I have felt loved and cared for and this quality really stands out in how you deal with all your disciples and well-wishers. Ultimately, we stay in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness not necessarily for the philosophy but the relationships we make and you exemplify this principle.

More important than the personal association is the instructions you have given – not just in the past year but over the years too. You have given me plenty of instructions, both personal and general. I would be lying if I said I am following them all. However, I am grateful that those that I have tried to implement are serving me really well and can only hope to keep following them. After all, the perfection of a disciple is how well they follow the Guru's instructions. I have noticed in my interactions with others that I am often quoting your words and more significantly, your example. This is only testament to how much you inspire me on a personal level.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you have shared with me. I am grateful for the time you have afforded me to date. I am grateful for the personal care and kindness that you have shown me. I am grateful for the opportunities that you have afforded my family and I to serve you and your family. I pray that I grab this plethora of mercy with both hands fully and I am able to become a better instrument in your hands to serve and please Śrīlā Prabhupāda.

In your service,

Bhakta Prayag





Priya-darsini Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃtat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya
bhūtale śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine.
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dearest Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā, I write these words in an attempt to express how much you mean to me. This sacred relationship that we have is something that I truly cherish and hold dear to my heart. You've given me a new life - a blank canvas to start all over again. I will never be able to repay you for the love, affection and kindness you have shown me throughout the years. I remember you telling us in the disciple's meeting recently, that when you are kind, patient and compassionate to others you are showing us how we should behave and act. I pray that I can follow in this same mood even when difficulties arise. Guru Mahārāj, I have always felt cared for by you, heard and understood by you. You never judge me but always encourage me. Thank you for accepting me, for helping me to understand myself, my nature and the gifts that I have been given.

As I write this offering a number of beautiful memories flash by, of times where I have felt so joyful, so content when serving you or when reading through your responses to my emails. I will always treasure these moments. This past year has been challenging and there have been many changes. This has forced me to confront the deeper wounds that lie within. Your instructions have been particularly difficult for me to hear, however I have found that if I can put my false ego aside, then I can see how in fact you are saving, guiding and protecting me, from myself. Your instructions and replies to my sadhana report have helped me immensely to understand what I need to do in order to develop the right consciousness. Thank you Guru Mahārāj, for helping me to understand how I can improve as a disciple and as a wife.

I have felt a lot of guilt recently for not being consistent in my service to you. However I have realised that once I manage my emotions and just do it, I truly feel uplifted and



I can see that the service you have given me helps me so much. At times I can become complacent but I am realising how this service is so sacred and so special. I pray that I always remember this realisation. I pray I can embody the mood of Priya-darsini. I pray that I can make your vision, my vision and live my life in such a way that reflects that.

Thank you Gurudeva for giving me another life and another chance to start all over again.

Your aspiring servant,

Priya-darsini Devi Dasi





Radharaman Dasa

Dikṣā Disciple

*or̥ṁ ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmīlitam̐ yena tasmai śrī-gurave nama*

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



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine
namas tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dearest Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to the dust of your lotus feet on the auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā celebration.

First of all I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for all that you have done for us. Such a turbulent year with the pandemic, yet still you give numerous online lectures on a daily basis so that we can all benefit from the mercy that you have been giving out.

You have sacrificed so much of your time so we could benefit for eternity from the numerous lectures and books that you have given to us. You have gone through so many austerities over the years to deliver the courses that almost no one else in our society would have even thought about. Some of these courses have saved my spiritual life and I know of many others too.

You waste no time when it comes to preaching. If you are not busy working on another book, then you are writing articles to be published on Dandavats. If not that, then responding to the innumerable emails you get. If not that, then you are helping



devotees to help themselves practically improve their lives. If not that then you are taking care of your household duties. And if not that then you are doing online classes! The list of services just never seems to end. Even though the entire world has come to a standstill, you have not. You continue to march forwards armed with the sword of knowledge to free us from the clutches of this material world. Without the mercy and guidance which you have given me, I can almost guarantee that I would not be where I am today. For keeping me on track with my spiritual life, for reminding me on the importance of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books, for telling me the importance of rising early, for encouraging me to teach, for helping me help others and for many more things, the list is endless, I feel forever indebted to you.

Once again I state that in previous years I have said that '*I promise you that through this coming year I will endeavour to act only as you would want*'. I must confess that I have failed to do that. Over the past year I feel as though I have acted in some ways that most definitely would not have pleased you. However with the guidance that I have, I can assure you that I am moving in the right direction. Not only that, but I am also helping others to move forwards with me.

Despite my many current shortcomings, by your mercy and the mercy of Śrīla Prabhupāda, I feel that I have made some spiritual progress. Although I am not so inclined to state how I have grown over the past year, I only do so for your pleasure. I am really enjoying reading the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, although I do find that my reading patterns are somewhat inconsistent. Over the past few years, our congregation in Crawley is really growing, not just in numbers but also in terms of quality of devotees. Our boys *Bhagavad-gītā* sanga is by far the best sanga I have ever been part of. We are learning of being real in our Krishna Consciousness and how we can face our anarthas head on and overcome them.



I have said this in previous years, and I will say it again, *'I want to be a puppet in your hands so make me dance, make me dance as you like'*, this prayer is not heart deep. It is only lip deep. My dearest Guru Mahārāj, you are the most merciful, and therefore, although I have no qualification, I beg for your mercy more than ever before. Please help me help myself.

On this day please bless me that I am able to surrender and be a puppet in your hands and can actually do something substantial in my life to please you.

Your most fallen servant,

Radharaman Dasa





Timea

Aspiring Disciple

Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances, all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and all glories to You!

*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
 śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
 namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
 nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Dear Gurudeva, I know if I would not have met you, I would be a different person, but I also know that I am a different person, because I have met you. You are the biggest inspiration in my life.

I would like to say thank you, not only for accepting me for who I am, but also for giving me the time and space to become the person I need to be. I think that is what I am most thankful for at this moment.

You have a special way of making me realise the importance of becoming a devotee and at the same time being so patient, understanding and kind with your words and in the way you guide me on my path. You are giving me the tools but you let me figure out things for myself. There is no judgment and I never feel that you are doubting me even when I doubt myself.

Your life is a perfect example of pure devotional service. You dedicated yourself to serving Śrīla Prabhupāda in his mission of spreading Kṛṣṇa Consciousness all over the world, and that is what you do, day and night, that is who you are. This way you bring so much joy and wisdom into our worlds and you shape us in unique ways.

Because of you I am a part of a special family, where we are all connected through you, and where I have found wonderful God-sisters and God-brothers I can look up to, get inspired by and learn from.



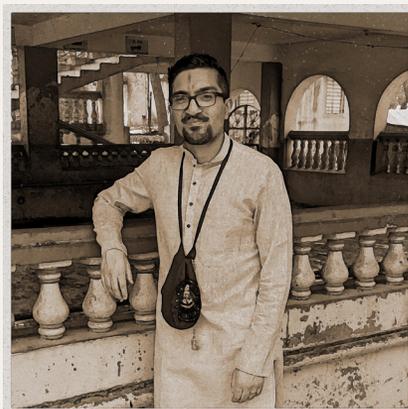
This letter might fade away one day like everything else as time goes by, but you are always going to be that forever beating heart of our family, that forever beating heart of my life that gives me ongoing inspiration, hope, courage and faith that I can become a devotee one day and serve others in a selfless way like you do.

With love and appreciation on this beautiful day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Your aspiring servant,

Timed





Akshay

Well-wisher

Hare Kṛṣṇa Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All Glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

I am writing to you today because I wanted to show you my gratitude and to express how much your lectures have impacted my life. I happened to be put on to your lectures and your daily quotes right around the time that I was coming back to Kṛṣṇa Consciousness in a more tangible way and I really feel it was the way that you explained the science and philosophy in a practical way that allowed me to really go deeper.



More specifically, your lectures on chanting and also your book Japa Affirmations has really changed the way that I approach chanting and have helped me to really have an urgency, eagerness and set an importance to my chanting on a daily basis. In addition, your lectures on relationships were so pivotal to me that I think about all my relationships in a completely different way in the point of view of service, humility and forgiveness, and really can now see that peace in marriage is what facilitates good sadhana and ultimately a deeper faith in Kṛṣṇa.

I really can never ever thank you enough for what you have done for both Kṛṣṇa Jivani and I, and we both eagerly hope to get your darshan soon.

Haribol!

Akshay





Devananda Dasa

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

The past year was hard. I know that many other people experienced far worse than I did but it was still hard. There was a lot of uncertainty from week to week and it tested me. Amid that difficult time I realized that I am far away from loving Kṛṣṇa. The scriptures describe the highest goal of bhakti as spontaneous, unabashed love for Kṛṣṇa without motive or interruption, but I experienced many interruptions and lack of consistency over the last year. I imagine what it would be like to be like a lamp in a windless place as the Gītā describes and my realization is there is a lot of work left for me.

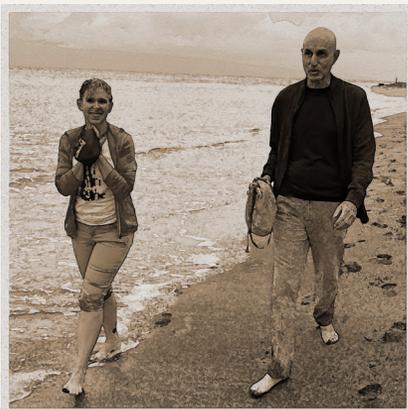
But when I hear you speak, or sing kīrtan, or tell a story about Śrīla Prabhupāda, I can understand something about love for Kṛṣṇa. While the world goes up and down you are there every day teaching us about yoga-māyā, or forgiveness, or the endless mercy of Lord Nityananda. Your constant presence online through this entire year is a direct reflection of your genuine concern that we all have the opportunity to pull ourselves up and strive to be better devotees and better lovers of God. This makes the seemingly impossible goal of bhakti a reality. It becomes real. We can understand it and know it through your words and your example. But most of all we can know it through your love for all of us.

So while I remain far away from loving Kṛṣṇa, I am experiencing His love for me through you, dearest Guru Mahārāj. And for that I remain forever in your debt and in your service.

Your undeserving servant,

Devananda Dasa





Gaura Mani Devi Dasi

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Celebrating your originality and humility!

Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances and all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! I am so grateful and happy to celebrate you on your Vyas Puja day! As I've been reflecting on all of the stories I could share, the one that stands out when thinking about your humility you have demonstrated over the years. The first experience of travelling to India was with you and Jāhnavā Devi, she was leading the Women of Bhakti Tour, and you were humbly assisting her and offering your wisdom.

On the tour, you offered spiritual guidance and direction to the 23 women pilgrims on the trip, many who had not yet started on the official path of Bhakti. On this trip you actually took over leading us around Śrī Jagannātha Purī when Jāhnavā became sick. In the rain, and barefoot, you led us to the holy places in Jagannātha Purī. Even in the chilly rain and puddles you went barefoot because you said "If Lord Caitanya walked barefoot, then I will too". I knew then you were very special.

As I've been blessed to get to know you more over the past 8 years, I've become familiar with how cutting edge you are in Lord Caitanya's movement. With amplifying kīrtan in Washington square with His Holiness Gunagrahi Maharaja and Sarvatma Prabhu, creating Forgiveness and multiple other workshops, creating and serving new flavors of Halva, hosting online classes and composing and recording bhajans and kīrtans with contemporary melodies, you are known as "everfresh Mahatma Dāsa". I am fortunate to have found you, thank you for accepting me and allowing me to serve you. I hope Kṛṣṇa will arrange for you to continue to guide us here for a very long time!

Your servant,

Gaura Mani Devi Dasī





Harivilasa Dasa

Dīkṣā Disciple

Dearest Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my heartfelt obeisances unto you, on this day of your vyasa puja. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



*nama oṃ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhave sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine namas
tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

Life in the material world is fraught with difficulties and tribulations for the conditioned soul. As each year comes to pass, I garner deeper and deeper realization into this truth, and into the truly bewildering state of my conditioned heart. There are ample opportunities that my mind presents for me to feel discouraged. But I take heart knowing that my spiritual battle is never fought alone. If I look to you with sincerity, I know that I will always find you there to uplift me. This is your great compassion. You said recently, „None of you are so special that Lord Nityananda’s mercy won’t work on you“. You are a representative of Lord Nityananda and Śrīla Prabhupāda. The mercy descending to you, and from you, works in the same way. Knowing of, and experiencing the support of this mercy is the single most inspiring thing in my life.

Furthermore, I’m always so happy to hear how you’re affecting the lives of the devotees worldwide. Often, when I mention your name to a devotee, the ones who know of you always give some appreciation. Whether it be your kirtan, classes, workshops, or just your association; I can see that it always leaves an impression of inspiration. Sometimes devotees contact me, to simply share an appreciation from your classes and writings, and to appreciate how your mood is so disarming and approachable. You’re helping so many devotees.

Before my initiation, I heard you say many times that the duty of the spiritual master is to bring their disciple closer to Śrīla Prabhupāda. In the lecture you gave at the time of my initiation, you said, „I’m not really Harivilāsa’s spiritual master, I am just representing Prabhupāda. Prabhupāda is really his spiritual master.“ This was one of those times when a few simple sentences pulled a teaching from my head to my heart,



and with such intensity! I find that I can't glorify you in any without seeing it in relation to Śrīla Prabhupāda. Everything you do is an example for me of how to serve and take shelter of Śrīla Prabhupāda and his mission. You work tirelessly, and endlessly in your pursuit to please Śrīla Prabhupāda. From workshops to videos, to writing emails, giving countless classes, meetings, traveling, etc, etc. You've come to such a deep understanding of Prabhupāda's mood. I must express my gratitude that I have your footsteps to follow in.

The spiritual master is always doing more for the disciple than the disciple can ever do for the spiritual master. With each step I take in devotional service; I am gifted a deepening realization. That, despite all the endeavors on my part, like chanting my rounds, reading, doing service, etc; it is truly the blessings of you and Śrīla Prabhupāda that keep me afloat, and sustain my spiritual life. Figuratively speaking (or maybe even literally), I would be face down in the gutter if not for your blessings, Gurudeva. I can't thank you enough, as you do more for me than my minute self can even comprehend. You even gave me a name by which to remember Kṛṣṇa and my service to him! That is a very powerful gift!

Words of appreciation can prove to be merely sentimental if not paired with loving service. I'm looking and praying to find ways to improve and expand my service to you and Śrīla Prabhupāda this coming year and onward. The connection with the guru is eternal. I pray to never forget this connection, and that you'll continuously drag me closer to Śrīla Prabhupāda's lotus feet.

...āmi to' kāṅgāla, ,kṛṣṇa!' ,kṛṣṇa!' boli', dhāi tava pāche pāche...

Your aspiring servant,

Harivilāsa Dāsa





Jennii

Aspiring Disciple

Hare Kṛṣṇa,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Mahatma Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and all glories to you on the auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja!

Although our time knowing each other has been short, you have had an immense impact on my spiritual life. You have encouraged and inspired me to deepen and steady my devotion through your kindness. And although I am undeserving, you have shown me love anyway. Love that I know is true because it stems from loving and serving Kṛṣṇa and in your hope that I can also love and serve Kṛṣṇa. I often meditate somberly on the last verse during maṅgala-ārati: *yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo / yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto ,pi*. I hear it and pray that I can become a humble servant and make use out of the life I have and that I can become worthy of receiving that special mercy; and I pray that Kṛṣṇa will send me His own dear devotee to illuminate the path and help me get back home. I have not been able to take a single step towards Kṛṣṇa without the mercy of the devotees around me who have nurtured me in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, and without the mercy of a spiritual master, I have very little faith that I could ever be reunited with Kṛṣṇa. I pray that one day, you will accept me as a disciple and I can receive the benediction of Kṛṣṇa. Then, every morning when the last verse of maṅgala-ārati comes, I can instead rejoice at the mercy of my spiritual master.

Thank you. Thank you for being an unending source of love and devotion and for constantly working hard to serve those around you with your preaching and your example. I hope one day I can become a nice devotee and serve you out of the same true love that you have.

Your aspiring servant,

Jennii Miller





Kaeli

Śikṣā Disciple

Hare Kṛṣṇa and sincerest obeisances to my beloved Gurudeva this Vyāsa-pūjā!

I came to you from a place where I have no devotee association, no guidance, and no shelter except for my love of Kṛṣṇa. In His mercy, He heard my desire for a teacher and guided me to you.

My path is full of struggles, naive understanding, and doubt. My sadhana is imperfect but my heart is sincere. Last year my doubt caused me to back away from my sādhanā, from ISKCON, and from your grace. I felt trapped by my practice, and I thought I wanted



freedom. What I found instead was like being adrift on a stormy sea without a rudder. Directionless and bewildered, I returned to you, and without hesitation you accepted me once again. You taught me that my sādhanā is not a cage, it is a scaffold. It does not confine, it stabilizes. Your instruction and inspiration helped me to begin chanting regularly once again, and encouraged me though I struggled.

Though we have never met physically, I very much look forward to spending my mornings with you via your virtual classes. Your instruction and consistent guidance continues to help me to get closer to Kṛṣṇa. My path is still full of struggles, naive understanding, and doubt, but with the light of my Gurudeva's instruction, though the sea is choppy, I have a rudder and a star to steer by. I am so very grateful to have you in my life.

In your guidance, it is clear that above all you wish to please your own spiritual master, and our pre-eminent Guru, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your love for him resonates in every lecture, and you help me to love him even more. I believe that he is very pleased by the work that you are doing.

Thank you so much for your instruction, your grace, your mercy, and your love of Kṛṣṇa. Though I will continue to face struggles, and though I do not know that I will ever feel qualified to seek diksa, I am comforted and heartened to know that you are there to instruct, inspire, and to help me through, keeping Kṛṣṇa at the focus, wherever this journey may lead.

Your stumbling aspiring servant,

Kaeli B. Gardner





Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Dasa

Well-wisher

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇi-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Mahatma Prabhu,

Happy appearance day!

I am most fortunate that you have graced me with so much mercy. The great souls are like the rain clouds which shower rain equally on the thirsty soil and the rocks. Alas, my rocklike heart still refuses to melt due to my many offenses. Your encouragement often takes me by surprise because of my extremely slow progress in Kṛṣṇa bhakti. You are a positive force for change in the world and in my life. For your unlimited gifts I remain ever disqualified, yet ever grateful and nonetheless persistent. I have tried giving up, and that didn't work, so now, despite many obstacles, I am determined to continue hearing, chanting and serving in Śrīla Prabhupāda's line.

Respectfully,

Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Dasa





Radhapriya Devi Dasi

Dikṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine
namas tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Hare Kṛṣṇa Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances, all glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and your existence!

I constantly think about the reasons why I was accepted to be your disciple and the same answer always comes to my mind: Mercy. And that is what I have experienced during these years through service. Your inspiring way of explaining the scriptures is a vision that I have never encountered before, the practicality and above all the importance of Śrīla Prabhupāda's position is highlighted in each talk and hence a great affection for our beloved spiritual grandfather.

Your way of dealing with the difficulties that arise has been a true life lesson, no matter what the situation is, your cold mind and your constant attachment to the teachings of the scriptures have been an excellent example to learn to deal with wisdom and patience with difficult people or who are constant offenders. Your humor and simplicity shows a true realization of what Śrīla Prabhupāda explains, you have made your life consistent, that what you preach is what you really live and that is really important, because it is enough to see what you have achieved to know that the process of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness works.

Thank you for accepting me despite my mistakes, for believing in me and my abilities, for correct me when is necessary, for your invaluable advices, for your dedication to spiritual life, sharing your achievements, for expanding Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission in so many countries and above all thank you for being the pillar of my spiritual life. May Kṛṣṇa give you at least 108 years to be in His service and may He also give me the opportunity to help you in whatever way possible.

Your eternal and crazy disciple,

Radhapriya Devi Dasī





Sri Radha Devi Dasi

Dikṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine
namas tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-sūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa puja.

Being engaged in your service is the most incredible mercy I have in my life. I pray this mercy doesn't ever go away and that I can only increase my capacity for serving you. I look forward to messaging you often because of the service engagements. I also am grateful for when you send me emails and messages of things you think I'd be interested in and that would help my service mindset. For example, the self compassion videos. You seem to always know what to send at the moment I am needing that kind of information to uplift my consciousness.

You have given in a daily video recently the expert example of the Guru being the teacher in one of the many rooms on the large boat and Śrīla Prabhupāda being the captain of the entire boat. Different devotees are in different rooms depending on their mood and needs to match the shelter of the teacher.

I continuously get reminded by your classes and the service you give me that I am in the most fitting teachers room because your guidance is repeatedly spot on for my needs in becoming more Kṛṣṇa conscious and serving Śrīla Prabhupāda better.

Thank you for creating the code of ethics document. It is brilliant. I've been looking for something like this and the ethics you listed are all encompassing of the values I strive to live by when serving. I'd like to use this document in any of the projects I'm on; yours, ISKCON's, our local communities, etc.



I pray that even though I can be ungrateful of service sometimes and not respond as quickly as possibly needed, that I still can hold onto your services and see them as complete mercy and an anchor in my life.

Your indebted servant,

Sri Radha Devi Das





Vanamali Dasa

Dīkṣā Disciple

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhūtale
gurave citti-ceṣṭābhyāṃ mahātma-prabhava sadā
tat-prabhu-bhāva-rūpāya kīrtana-hlāda-dāyine
namas tattva-prakāśaya bhaktānāṃ tat-parāya ca*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*



Dear Guru Mahārāj,

Please accept my humble obeisance. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-puja.

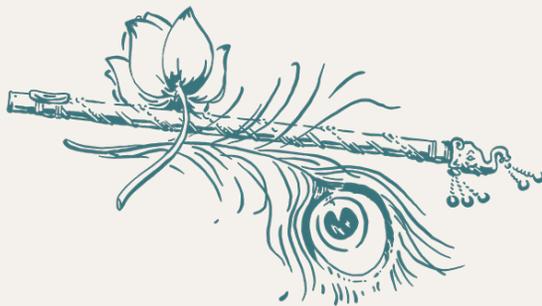
I don't know how to even start to thank you for taking this fallen person as a disciple. As you know, I waited many years to find a diksa-Guru, at the time of first hearing two of your seminars, one on forgiveness, and the other on doing japa, was it was clear to me that I head to follow you. So, I did, and have never regretted the decision. Every time I listen to one of your videos, I feel blessed knowing that each word and realization you offer, comes from being a direct disciple of our beloved Śrīla Prabhupada. Your earnest sincerity and devotion to Śrīla Prabhupada touches my heart, and gives me hope to one day being as sincere.

I remember feeling both stunned and deeply grateful when you mercifully decided to initiate me. I honestly didn't think it was going to happen. But then I received the invitation and ever since my life has changed. That might sound like a cliché, but it's true. Now I feel as if I can make some progress toward becoming a devotee. I deeply thank you for taking me as your disciple, and hope that one day I can serve your mission to serve Śrīla Prabhupada.

Your humble servant,

Vanamali Dasa





Prema Rasa Dasa

Śikṣā Disciple

Dearest Mahatma Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to You & Your services.

It's been a long time now since I have known you and I consider myself very fortunate for this arrangement by the Lord especially for being a recipient of your mercy in terms of your advanced association, guide and care. I must admit that I have been a recipient of your affection as well as chastisement.



I reminisce those days when I was highly influenced by HH Mahanidhi Swami and would speak and share on numerous occasions with you about things beyond my qualification like discussing svarupa siddhi, residing in Radha Kunda, thinking of those devotees as highly advanced & all that typical Radha kunda stuff...One time in my extreme immaturity I asked you if Prabhupada revealed your svarupa and you very aptly & with all humility replied that ,Prabhupada revealed to me that I am a rascal'. I was truly humbled by your answer and on many other occasions you indirectly chastised me whenever I brought questions to you or discussed things beyond my qualification. Later, under your and other senior devotees guidance I began to deeply understand the essential aspects of Krishna consciousness and began to realize that vraja bhakti is not just about discussing higher stuff but to serve and fulfill the desire of Guru in the mood of servant of servant. By your chastisements, you did prove that you care about me and are so personal in your dealings. Prabhupada often said that when the Guru chastises the disciple, that means the Guru is especially favoring and wanting the disciple to advance in bhakti otherwise only praising can spoil the disciple. Sometimes other senior devotees chastise us but it may seem or feel judgemental since they may not know us personally or the reasons for which we acted in a particular circumstance but the unique things I have found in you is that you never judge a devotee, always encourage devotees to grow, respect their views, sometimes even learn from them (which is very amazing and rare amongst senior devotees) and chastise or correct only when needed. This reflects your deep humility and impeccable character even though dealing with an issue,situation or the devotee so pragmatically. I don't wonder then why your followers call you a ,transcendental psychologist'.

You have always given me so much of your time even though you are guiding & training thousands of devotees in finer aspects of bhakti. Your kirtans, lectures, behavior and selfless desire to serve Prabhupada is a source of great inspiration for all of us. May we take inspiration from you for years to come & I pray that the Lord bestows you good health with all the resources and facilities to reach out to as many devotees/people as



possible. Also, your loyalty, dedication and desire to share teachings of Prabhupada to the community of devotees is so commendable. Lastly, I would say that you are such a rare treasure in ISKCON who is above the conditionings of the ego, which is so difficult to give up. Indeed a Mahatma (not just in terms of qualities but more in terms of your fire of enthusiasm to serve and glorify Guru and Krsna.) !!!

Thank you so much for bestowing your mercy on this insignificant and fallen soul. I wish and pray to serve you to the best of my ability and take advantage of your advanced association.

Your insignificant siksa disciple,

Prema Rasa Dasa







EIGHT PRAYERS TO THE GURU

Sri Gurv-astaka

BY ŚRĪLA VIŚVANĀTHA CAKRAVARTĪ ṬHĀKURA



(1)

*saṁsāra-dāvānala-līḍha-lokatrāṇāya
 kārūṇya-ghanāghanatvam
 prāptasya kalyāṇa-guṇārṇavasya
 vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

TRANSLATION

The spiritual master is receiving benediction from the ocean of mercy. Just as a cloud pours water on a forest fire to extinguish it, so the spiritual master delivers the materially afflicted world by extinguishing the blazing fire of material existence. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is an ocean of auspicious qualities.



(2)

*mahāprabhoḥ kīrtana-nṛtya-gīta
vāditra-mādyan-manaso rasena
romāñca-kampāśru-taraṅga-bhājo
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

TRANSLATION

Chanting the holy name, dancing in ecstasy, singing, and playing musical instruments, the spiritual master is always gladdened by the sankirtana movement of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Because he is relishing the mellows of pure devotion within his mind, sometimes his hair stands on end, he feels quivering in his body, and tears flow from his eyes like waves. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.



(3)

*śrī-vigrahārādhana-nitya-nānā
 śṛṅgāra-tan-mandira-mārjanādau
 yuktasya bhaktāṁś ca niyuñjato 'pi
 vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

TRANSLATION

The spiritual master is always engaged in the temple worship of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. He also engages his disciples in such worship. They dress the Deities in beautiful clothes and ornaments, clean Their temple, and perform other similar worship of the Lord. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.



(4)

*catur-vidha-śrī-bhagavat-prasāda
svādv-anna-tṛptān hari-bhakta-saṅghān
kṛtvaiva tṛptim bhajataḥ sadaiva
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

TRANSLATION

The spiritual master is always offering Kṛṣṇa four kinds of delicious food [analyzed as that which is licked, chewed, drunk, and sucked]. When the spiritual master sees that the devotees are satisfied by eating bhagavat-prasāda, he is satisfied. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.



(5)

*śrī-rādhikā-mādhavayor apāramādhurya-
līlā-guṇa-rūpa-nāmnām
prati-kṣaṇasvādana-lolupasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

TRANSLATION

The spiritual master is always eager to hear and chant about the unlimited conjugal pastimes of Rādhika and Mādhava, and Their qualities, names, and forms. The spiritual master aspires to relish these at every moment. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.



(6)

*nikuñja-yūno rati-keli-siddhyai
yā yālibhir yuktir apekṣaṇīyā
tatrāti-dākṣyād ati-vallabhasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

TRANSLATION

The spiritual master is very dear, because he is expert in assisting the gopis, who at different times make different tasteful arrangements for the perfection of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa's conjugal loving affairs within the groves of Vṛndāvana. I offer my most humble obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.



(7)

*sākṣād-dharitvena samasta-śāstrair
uktas tathā bhāvyata eva sadbhiḥ
kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

TRANSLATION

The spiritual master is to be honored as much as the Supreme Lord, because he is the most confidential servitor of the Lord. This is acknowledged in all revealed scriptures and followed by all authorities. Therefore I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is a bona fide representative of Śrī Hari [Kṛṣṇa].



(8)

*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo
 yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi
 dhyāyan stuvāms tasya yaśas tri-sandhyam
 vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

TRANSLATION

By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.





Vancouver 1970



