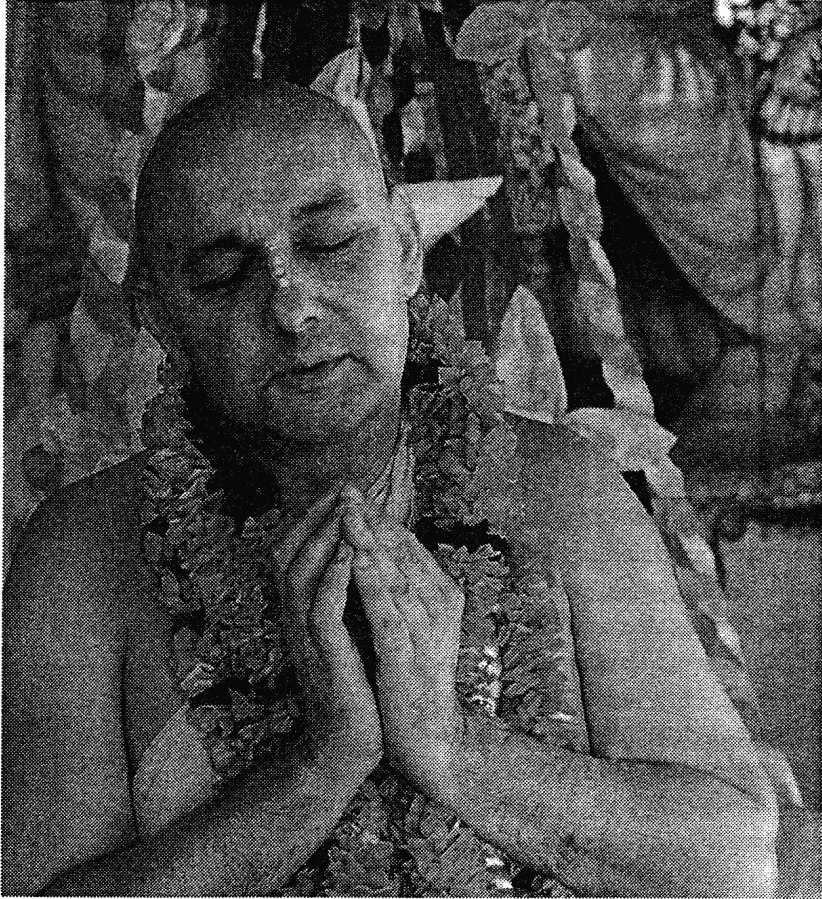


Śrī Vyāsa-Pūja



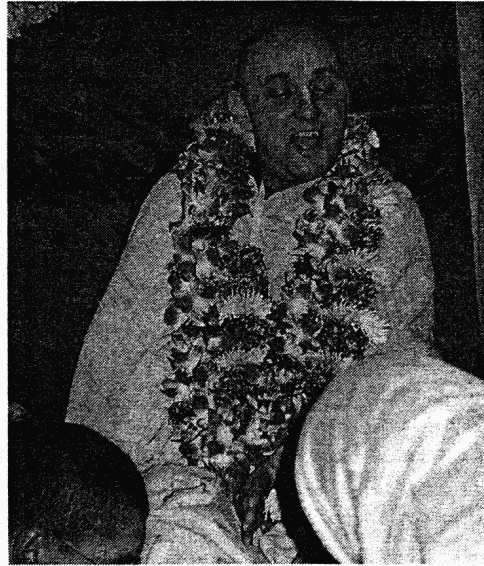
His Divine Grace
Śrīla Suhotra Swami
Mahārāja

Lecture on NJNK 21-11-97.

Purport to Āmāra jīvana AMJIV.CD8

Āmāra jīvana sadā pāpe rata nāhiko puṇyera leṣa. This is a song sung by Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura in Vaiṣṇava humbleness. A Vaiṣṇava is always meek and humble. So he is describing the life of the people in general, taking himself to be one of them. The people in general are like the description given here. He says that "My life is always engaged in sinful activities, and if you try to find out, you will not find even a trace of pious activities. Only full of sinful activities. And I am always inclined to give trouble to other living entities. That is my business. I want to see that others are suffering, and I enjoy." *Niṣa sukha lāgi' pāpe nāhi dori:* "For my personal sense gratification, I do not care for any sinful activities. That means I accept any kind of sinful activity if it is satisfactory to my senses." *Dayā-hīna swārtha-paro:* "I am not at all merciful, and only I see to my personal interest." *Para-sukhe duḥkhī:* "As such, when others are suffering I become very happy, and always talking lies," *sadā mithyā-bhāṣī:* "Even for ordinary things I am accustomed to speak lies." *Para-duḥkha sukha-karo:* "And if one is suffering, that is very pleasant to me." *Aśeṣa kāmanā hṛdi mājhe mora:* "I have got lots of desire within my heart, and I am always angry and falsely prestigious, always puffed up with false pride." *Mada-matta sadā viṣaye mohita:* "I am captivated in subject matters of sense gratification, and almost I am crazy." *Himsā-garva vibhūṣaṇa:* "My ornaments are enviousness and false pride." *Nidralāsyā hata sukārje birata:* "I am subdued, or I am conquered by sleep and laziness." *sukārie birata:* "and I am

always averse to pious activities," *akārje udyogī āmi:* "and I am very enthusiastic to perform impious activities." *Pratiṣṭhā lāgiyā sāṭhya-ācarāṇa:* "I always cheat others for my prestige." *Lobha-hata sadā kāmī:* "I am conquered by greediness and always lusty." *E heno durjana saj-jana-barjita:* "So I am so fallen, and I have no association of devotees." *Aparādhi:* "Offender," *nirantara,* "always." *śubhā-kārya-śūnya:* "In my life, there is not a beat of auspicious activities," *sadānartha manāh:* "and my mind is always attracted by something mischievous." *Nānā duḥkhe jara jara:* "Therefore at the fag end of my life, I am almost invalid by all such sufferings." *Bārdhakyē ekhona upāya-vihīna:* "In my old age I have no other alternative now," *tā'te dīna akiñcana:* "therefore by force, I have now become very humble and meek." *Bhaktivinoda prabhura carāṇe:* "Thus Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura is offering his statement of life's activities at the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord."



So... Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura is our great predecessor, *ācārya*, who established the firm foundation of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness movement, in the modern age. Upon this foundation, his transcendental son, Bhaktisiddhānta Ṭhākura, with the blessing of Śrīla Gaura Kiśora Babaji Mahārāja, expanded the Kṛṣṇa Consciousness movement all over India. And it was Bhaktisiddhānta Ṭhākura's desire be expanded all over the world. And of course that was famously fulfilled by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedānta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda. But however it expands, the foundation is always the same... Just like today, you are making an offering, glorification of your Spiritual Master. So this represents a further expansion of the Kṛṣṇa Consciousness movement, you are the disciples of one of the disciples of Śrīla Prabhupāda... So this Vyāsa-Pūja ceremony, is ordained in the revealed scriptures, it may appear however... Although it is completely authorized! It might appear to someone who doesn't know the tradition, that some ordinary man is being put on a big platform, and in a foolish way people are bowing down, offering words of praise, and various kinds of gifts... And this person on the high seat must think himself to be very important! He must enjoy very much to have such attention, and so many followers, who are giving so many things. But NO! That is... It is not... That is not the truth... The truth we have heard in this song... Śrīla Prabhupāda tells us that humility is the foundation of advancement in devotional service... Unless there is humility, there is no question of any progress. If there is what is called *pratiṣṭha*, or pride in being a devotee... That is the

source of every kind of disqualification, every kind of *anārtha* which ruins Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, which spoils the *bhakti-lāta-bīja*. Chokes it! So... I am obliged... by my great love... for each one of you... to receive, what you have to offer today, and in that love... Which actually doesn't come from me, because... that song describes what I really am... I'm envious... I have no mercy... But like I mentioned this morning, there is something... There's *baddha-sauhrda* – bound to Kṛṣṇa, Śrīla Prabhupāda... He has bound me very strongly... That much I know is true! Because I am so unqualified, exactly as described in this song. I sometimes try to escape... But I can't! So *baddha-sauhrda* – I'm bound up! And I don't even say that it is my credit... I cannot say anything about it, except that it is the mercy of my Spiritual Master... But in that sense... I mean that actually the only reason why I can sit here... Because of that! And because I am bound by his love, therefore... As I said there is this love for each and every one of you. It's there I feel it! It's put there by divine arrangement, transcendental arrangement. So I consider myself only an instrument. I think of a letter of Śrīla Prabhupāda, in which he describes quite clearly the situation that I feel that I've been placed in... Śrīla Prabhupāda said in one letter that actually Kṛṣṇa, He's that person whom we are to give our love and devotion, and He is the one from whom we receive all benedictions, spiritual life, spiritual progress... And Śrīla Prabhupāda said: „And I'm here, just to give indication... Just to point the way, to give you some guidance.” So on this day, Well... every day. But this day it is especially clear to me. that this is

my position. Again not by my credit... My credit is described in that song *Āmāra jīvana*. That's my life! But by higher arrangement, I have been given this service to do. And my joy is seeing you flourish in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, my joy is seeing... Some of you are having big problems, I know... I've seen your letters... If I don't see your letters' then I see your faces. But the fact that you stay in this society, and that you continue on with your devotional service, that is miraculous! And in time, whatever problems that you have will pass away, there's no doubt about it! In our little moment of now, we think that we've fallen into such a deep well, that we'll never get out! But don't worry! If you just stay in this Kṛṣṇa Consciousness movement, and continue to do your service, and continue to take whatever help that I am able to give you... At least I have no doubt that you will be successful. So I am starting here, talking about those of you... Probably all of you think that you have problems... But some have more than others, so I start from the lowest end, I start with those who really find themselves under the moods... If you think, nobody else loves you, or cares about you... Then you can know, that... That at least I do! Because I am forced to! From two directions. By the love of my spiritual master, and also by... my love for all devotees! I consider the seemingly least important one of you here to be a much greater devotee than me. So we can go from that end, and then come up to the top end... Some of you are doing nice service, you're occupying important positions, in your temple. I receive letters from the devotees who work with you, nursing you, so of course that's

very satisfying... But again... It's the same miracle. If I look at... the low end to the top end... Then to me it's all the same wonderful manifestation of the mercy of Kṛṣṇa, and the Vaiṣṇavas, my Spiritual Master Śrīla Prabhupāda. And... Prabhupāda... is forcing me to play this role... I can't say „no“ to him! I think... well I really don't know what to think, about myself being in this position, you will say so many things, on this Vyāsa-Pūja ceremony, and I will listen to it... And I will think, how my Śrīla Prabhupāda, my Spiritual Master... He once said... When someone praised him... Seeing him for the first time that morning, Śrīla Prabhupāda came in among the devotees, and that devotee said: „Śrīla Prabhupāda, you look very beautiful!“ And Śrīla Prabhupāda said: „You're seeing very beautifully!“ And so that's what I'll be thinking, when I will be hearing all these words of praise. This will simply convince me that... You're all very great devotees! Because that's the quality of a Vaiṣṇava, to see the good in... the most fallen. OK! So that's all I have to say... Hare Kṛṣṇa! And thank you very much! So now it's your turn...

