

THE MOST BLESSED EVENT

SRI VYASA-PUJA

DECEMBER 9, 1991



The Appearance Day
Of Our Beloved Spiritual Master
His Divine Grace
• SRI SUKTARA SWAMI MAHARAJA •

Present initiating spiritual master for the
International Society for Krishna Consciousness

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● **SRILA SUHOTRA SWAMI MAHARAJA** ●

Present initiating spiritual master for the
International Society for Krsna Consciousness

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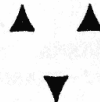
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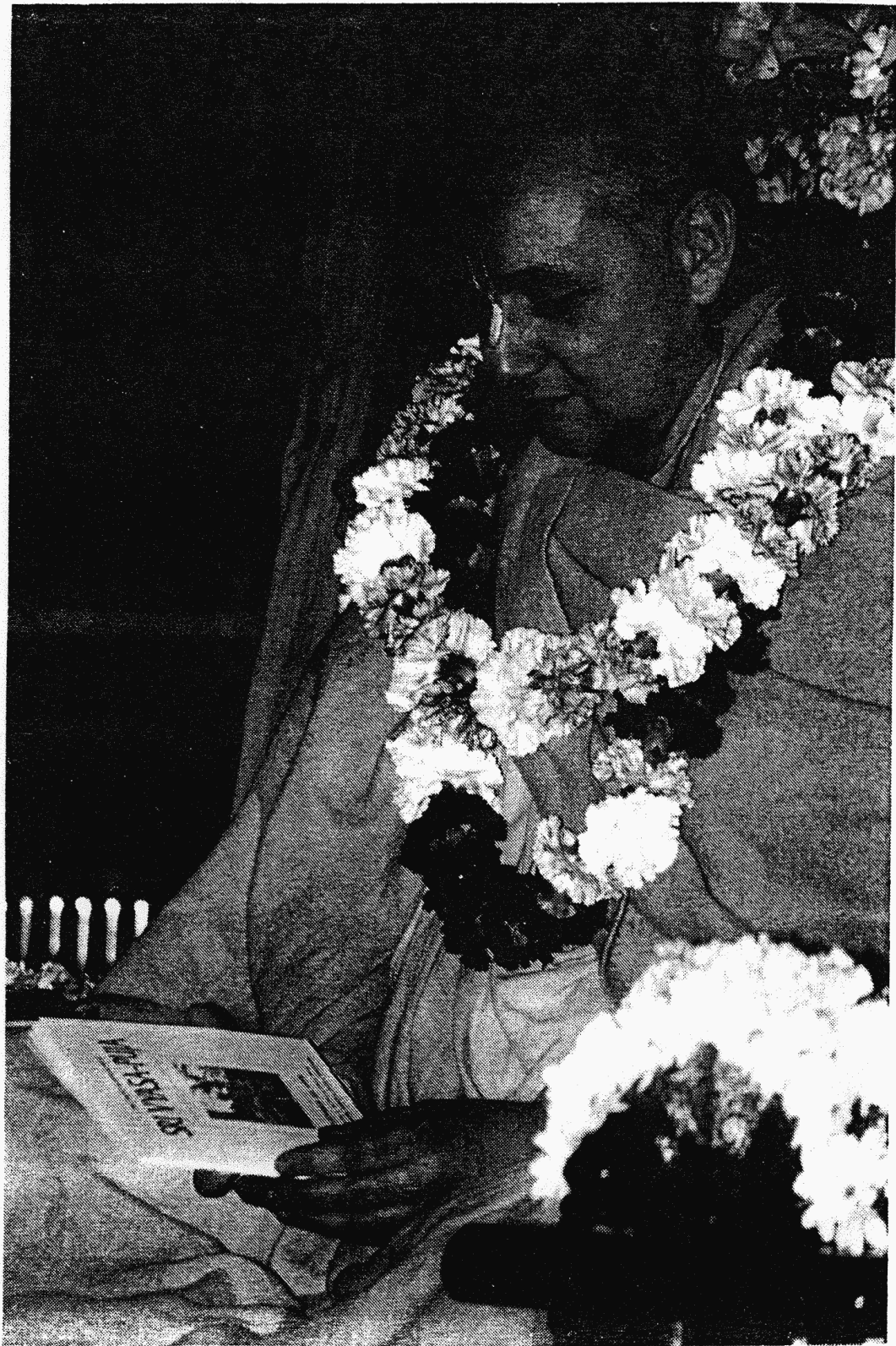
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INTRODUCTION



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INTRODUCTION

The unlimited mercy of our Guru Maharaja, His Divine Grace Srila Suhotra Maharaja is Inconceivable. Through thousands of species of life, we have been wandering from the highest down to the lowest, repeatedly being harassed by birth, death, disease, old age, material nature, other living entities and our own mind.

If Srila Suhotra Maharaja had not come and pointed out to us in a way we could accept, that living in *maya* is a terrible circumstances, and that we just need Krsna, what would have become of us all?

It is Inconceivable how we are so fortunate to come in contact with such a great *sankirtan* general so very rare on the surface of this earth, extinguishing the Intolerable fire of material existence. But due to our tinge of sincerity, Krsna from within our hearts sent us a bona fide spiritual master to give us the chance to surrender unto His transcendental lotus feet. Srila Suhotra Maharaja planted in us the most valuable seed - a *bhakti-latabija* - he also gave us the process by which to water it, as he himself writes in a letter, and I quote:

"Association with full-time ISKCON devotees, devotional service, Srīmad Bhagavatam and Bhagavad-gītā reading and preaching and distributing Krsna's holy name, and live in His temple - which is non different from Vrindavana."

And on the process of how to clean out the unwanted weeds, he writes:

"We are usually very enthusiastic during our first few years because we still clearly remember how much we suffered in *karmi* life. But later on, we may get lazy and bad habits can creep in again. Thus we make offences against the holy name, and lose our enthusiasm for pure devotional service. Then philosophical justifications for *maya* (we call it *mayavada*) may appear in our minds to help us re-engage in sense gratification. Thus we fall down. So we must always keep ourselves clean of weeds and water the *bhakti* *labija* very nicely".

Srila Suhotra Maharaja further writes about the process:

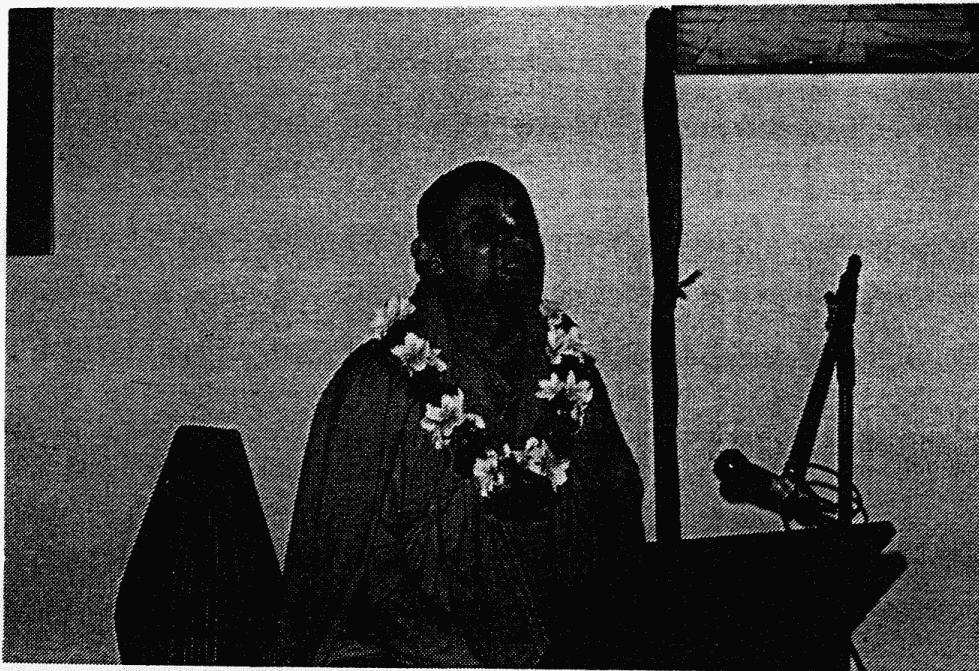
"So as much as I appreciated your letter, you should know that offerings of words are very easy to make. I am more interested in offerings of years - year after year of solid service to Krsna, until the bag drops dead. Prabhupada always promised us that if we simply stick to Krsna consciousness throughout this whole life time, we will surely go back home, back to Godhead. This is all by the inconceivable mercy conveyed to us by the spiritual master, who himself is a beneficiary of this mercy. So when we have received this inconceivable mercy of the spiritual master, then the greatest offence to him is to leave devotional service, the association of devotees, and again take up association of non-devotees, and re-engage in non-devotional activities. This is the mad elephant offence that destroys everything that has so nicely grown in the devotional garden."

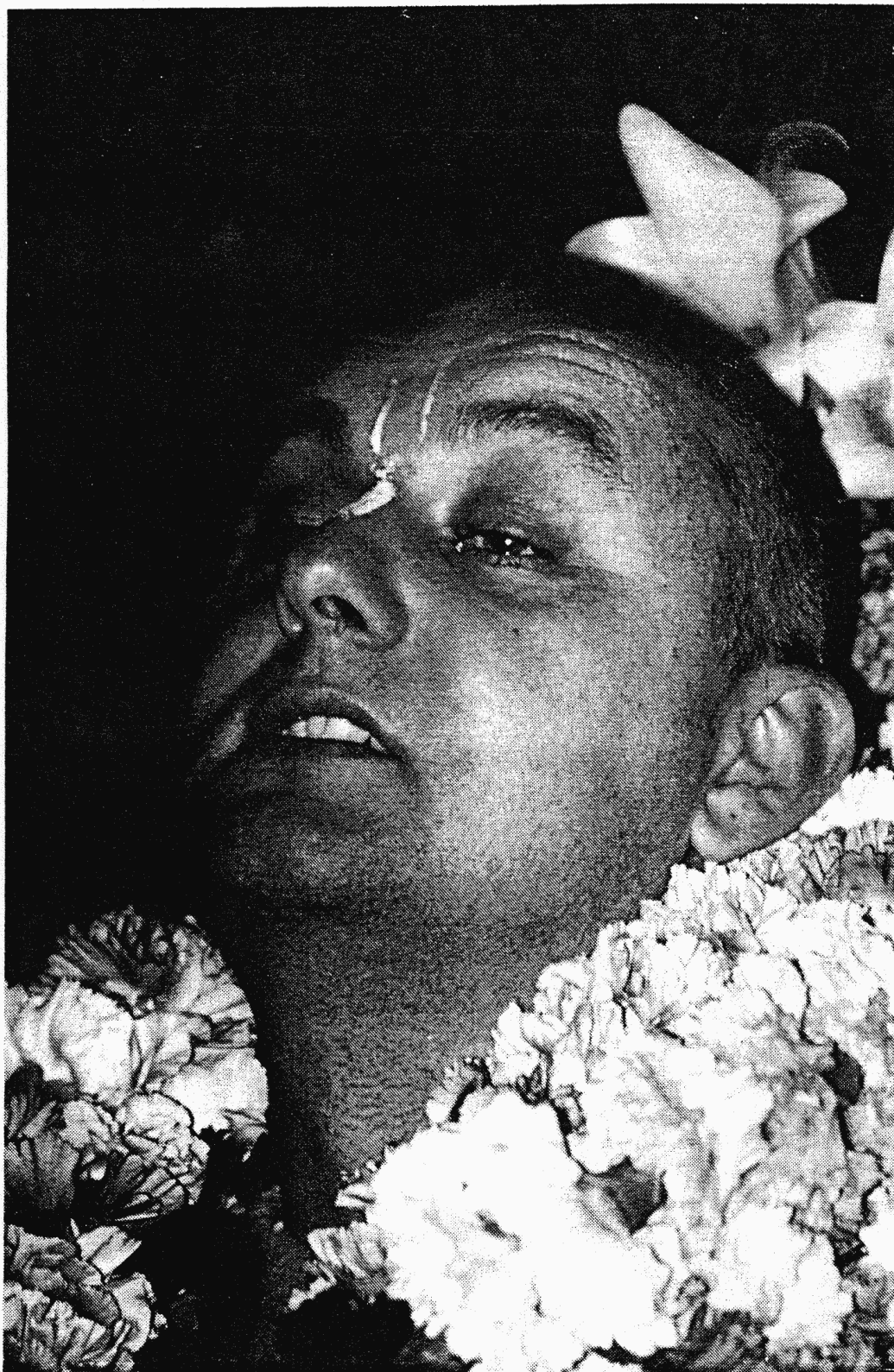
So we should be praying to Srila Suhotra Maharaja.

"Please instruct me. Please purify me so that I will be able to assist you better and better, fulfilling the mission you received from Srila Prabhupada. Your wish is to see the society advance in Krsna consciousness and that more and more people join the Hare Krsna movement. You want millions and millions of Srila Prabhupada's books to be distributed everywhere, so please let us assist you in whatever way you want. We are simply your surrendered servants."

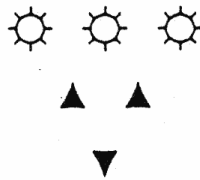
Our Guru Maharaja is so powerful that he can easily take us across the ocean of nescience and instructs us about how to adjust the sails to catch the favourable wind sent by Krsna. But in order to bring the boat back home, back to Godhead, we must pull out the anchor of attachment to this world, surrender unto him as our only captain, and take his instructions to our heart as our very life and soul.

Varadaraaja dasa





THE MEANING
of
SRI VYASA-PUJA



THE MEANING OF VYASA-PUJA

Vyasa-puja is the Vedic tradition which goes back many thousands of years and has a deep spiritual meaning.

This day reminds us that the relationship between the disciple and the spiritual master, who is in the bona fide chain of disciplic succession coming from Vyasadeva, the literary incarnation of Sri Krsna, plays the most important part in our lives.

This reminds us that human life without accepting the pure knowledge of God via the transparent medium of the spiritual master has no value. *Vyasa-puja* literally means worshipping the spiritual master who is the perfect representative of the original spiritual master, Srila Vyasadeva.

Vyasa-puja is a great day of learning because as Srila Prabhupada described it: Its sum and substance is "honour and homage to the spiritual master are needed just to teach the student how to offer them to God." In this way, we can understand that accepting and glorifying a bona fide guru is the secret and the key which opens the door for the conditioned souls to the eternal life full of bliss and knowledge.

An ordinary human being cannot give us perfect knowledge because he is imperfect with four defects - imperfect senses, makes mistakes, subject to illusion and the propensity to cheat others. The spiritual master is above the four defects of a conditioned soul because he has realisation, knowledge, compassion and mercy which is derived from Krsna. The bona fide spiritual master transmits knowledge in a perfect way, exactly as he received it from his spiritual master, without any changes.

As Srila Prabhupada says in Bhagavad-Gita:

"Actually there is no difference between hearing directly from Krsna and hearing directly from Krsna via a bona fide spiritual master like Vyasa. The spiritual master is the representative of Vyasadeva also." And this is the perfect process of getting knowledge. It is similar to the way in which a postman delivers a letter. The postman does not write anything personally but he delivers what has been written by one person to another".

According to the *sastras*, spiritual master is the external manifestation of the Supersoul, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. By Krsna's causeless mercy, the bona fide spiritual master appears before us in a form which we are able to perceive by our material senses. But his form, words and activities are not material. He appears before us, simply to spiritualise our senses and give us understanding of our position as the eternal servant of Krsna. Therefore on this particular day, we should take advantage of this occasion and with open heart and mind pray to him to be able to completely plunge ourselves into the nectar of the transcendental instructions flowing from his lotus mouth and at the same time please the Supreme Person, Sri Krsna.

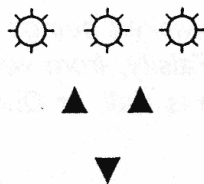
If we understand our eternal relationship with our guru, then not only will we be saved but we will be able to save others and this is the purpose of *parampara* – the disciplic succession in which Srila Suhotra Maharaja is the twelfth representative since Srila Rupa Goswami. Srila Vyasadeva has given us knowledge about *bhakti-yoga* and has established the principles of *Bhagavat-dharma*. Five hundred years ago, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself, gave us the chance to execute *sri harinam sankirtan yajna* and relish the transcendental ecstasy of chanting the Holy Name.

His mission was continued by great acaryas who followed after Him such as Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura and Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur, who have given us the methods of purifying the path of devotional service from all sorts of deviation and hypocrisy. Then Srila Prabhupada showed us how to fight with *śūnyavad* and *nirvśesa* philosophy. Srila Suhotra Maharaja in his preaching has masterfully united all this pure knowledge and methods, in order to expose and annihilate all symptoms of atheism or religious hypocrisy in modern society and establish pure devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Kṛṣṇa.

Purnaprajna dasa



**GURU MAHARAJA'S
HOMAGE
TO
SRILA PRABHUPADA
1990**



DELIVERANCE FROM A DARK UNIVERSE

*In the beginning of time, on a lotus of gold,
Brahma, creator, did the darkness behold.
But hearing the Lord, he reflected within,
And received knowledge sublime, the destroyer of sin.*

*Brahma then spoke, four Vedas to teach,
The form of the cosmos now within easy reach.
A universe new-born, full of hope and quite pure,
Did displace the darkness, as if it would ever endure.*

*In those days of yore, magnificence prevailed,
Vedic truth the foundation that all beings hailed.
But now the world's filled with error; what is truth we must guess -
It seems that men who are evil are the ones who know best.*

*Over a hundred trillion years have past since day one;
The second half of Brahma's life span has already begun.
In this very moment of his time, which is an age to us,
Darkness has returned, like a blinding cloud of dust.*

*For Brahma is the father of wicked beings too,
Like Irreligion and Falsity, from whom descended a brood.
One rules us now; his name is Kali, or Quarrel.*

*Souls we are, eternal, but spun life after life
Around the wheel of samsara, in torment and strife.
Human birth is the one chance by which to get free,
But human life's just like hell in the Age of Kali.*

*Maddened with lust, seeking relief in the sewer
Of nasty sense pleasures till we feel death's sharp skewer.
Which lifts us squirming, dripping the filth of our sins,
And drops us in the abyss to wear furs, feathers, and fins.*

*Yet those who are learned worship this age,
In which the Lord has appeared, our cruel fate to assuage
By giving His name, both the end and the means
Of knowing Krsna's within us as our dear most friend.*

*But I was born far from India, and had not Prabhupada come
To the brutal Western world and this movement begun,
How would I, who was dumb, have ever spoken the name?
How see and walk, since I was blind and lame?*

*How wondrous this miracle: to be delivered by you
From ignorance profound, and to have brought in my view
My spiritual home, where all souls belong,
Far beyond this aging universe, where everything's gone
wrong.*

*You are the pure servant of Krsna, and you never fear
To preach boldly forth, for He's your charioteer.
You mix with the fallen, but your motive is pure:
To give them Mahaprabhu-kṛpā, their offences you
endure.*

*O most perfect of sages, you teach sambandha-jnana,
Reversing the tide of a civilization so damned,
By technology gone mad. But now we can use it for God,
To print books and expand preaching and expose the whole
fraud.*

*This revolution you've inspired has only just begun;
We're only seeing the first rays of the mighty Krsna sun,
Which will rise streaming glory, giving us sight,
To get free of the confusion of Kali's dark night.*

*To fully know your greatness is beyond my small brain.
If I could just look in my heart, it all would be so plain:
Beyond the anarthas, the residue of sin,
Where the pure soul shines forever, never separate from
Him.*

*For your greatness is the reality, so simple and true,
Of the soul's eternal bond to Sri Krsna, the youth
Who so loves His devotee who can do naught else but serve,
That He gives him all help as only the pure soul deserves.*

*You've come to us, Prabhupada, just to prove that He's there,
Within all of our hearts. And the test is quite fair:
In this dark age of Kali, let us preach as you've shown,
That Krsna will help us, and in the end take us home.*

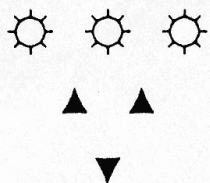
Your servant,

Suhotra Swami

HOMAGES

from

AUSTRALIA





Australia

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet on this auspicious day of your Vyasa-puja.

During your recent visit to New Zealand, I was lucky enough to take *darshan* of you in an informal way. This is all due to your causeless mercy upon a mental-wreck like me! and I must say, it was the best (no doubt the last too!) association I ever had. You were just brilliant! and I was (and still am) a fool. Every opportunity I get, I would try to take to your personal shelter and association. I remember during our first *darshan*, I expected you to chastise me heavily for not being able to follow *saddhana-bhakti* strictly and steadily, but instead, you laughed and smiled at me. I felt stupid for crying in front of you but I couldn't help it but felt relieved within of the heavy burden that's always haunting me. When I saw your laughing face, your mood was relaxed and your face was glowing like the brilliant sun and I realised at that moment when I looked at you that you are my actual eternal father. Always caring for his children despite their foolishness and rebellious attitude.

Guru Maharaja, due to my ignorance of your exalted position and personality, I am not able to offer you flowery words and verses from the scriptures - let alone steady devotional service - like my other godbrothers and godsisters in Europe, but all I can sincerely say is thank you for giving me a glimpse of the importance of serving a spiritual master in the disciplic

succession with heart and soul in order to go back home back to Godhead. No doubt you are empowered - with your purity and potency - to lead conditioned souls like me back to Godhead but its only a matter of time before I can fully realised this great opportunity.

I still haven't forgotten what you wanted out of me when I asked you, "Is there anything I can do for you?" towards the end of my *darshan*. Your reply was, "I want you to become a better devotee". My answer was, "A few years down the line". Yes, only time is separating me from serving you with my body, mind, and words Guru Maharaja, but I am working on it slowly but surely.....!

In the translation to Sri Guru-vandana, Srila Narottama dasa Thakura has said that the lotus feet of the spiritual master are the abode of pure devotional service. Only by bowing down to those lotus feet with great care and attention can the conditioned souls cross over this material existence and obtain Krsna. So on this very auspicious day of your *Vyasa-puja*, I humbly request you to please allow this most fallen of the fallen conditioned soul to remain in the dust of your lotus feet and to please engage and personally guide her in devotional service to Guru and Gauranga.

Your insignificant servant,

Daya Dharma (go)dasi

Australia

om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah

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

Dear Suhotra Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories unto you, O Guru Maharaja, on this auspicious day of appearance.

To be successful in spiritual life, one must please the guru, then Krsna is pleased and our path back home, back to Godhead is ensured. Therefore on this most auspicious day, I beg that you will accept any menial service I am able to offer you and pray for the dust of your lotus feet, which will enable me to always be engaged in your devotional service.

Your fallen servant,

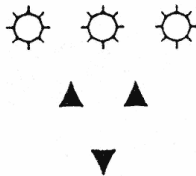
Vijaya-devi dasi



HOMAGES

from

BULGARIA



Bulgaria

My dear Suhotra Swami,

Please accept my humble and sincere obeisances unto your lotus feet. I found you so soon and I felt an inexplicable excitement. If you had not appeared before me, I would have remained in illusion many lives without understanding the eternal truth.

I feel unworthy and I dare to pray only for forgiveness when I forget you and to give me the strength to overcome all the difficulties. Please help me to remember my duty and my position as an insignificant servant of yours.

I cannot pray for your mercy because you are already pouring it unceasingly on me. I can only thank you with all my devotion for this causeless mercy, for all the anxiety and affection which I find in your lotus-like eyes. I thank you for reviving in me the aspiration for eternal existence and for giving me the chance to taste the sweetness of devotional service.

You are like a rose – white fragrant lotus-like and I am a timid bee, drinking its nectar of devotion.

I will be happy if I can satisfy you. I will never be worthy of even one drop of your mercy which is like the unlimited ocean which you are distributing to everyone. I thank you for all.

I offer my respectful obeisances thousands of times at your shining lotus feet.

Your servant,

Bhaktin Adelina

Bulgaria

My dear Spiritual Master,

Please accept my humble obeisances which I am able to offer.

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

You who possess inestimable value - knowledge, mercy, humility, tolerance and so on, you who are predestinated to bear our foolishness, please forgive my naivety as I begin this letter.

Indeed what can I say now when I begin to touch the truth with fingers of my condition because of your mercy, I found the way to eternal happiness, but now I have so many doubts that I don't know if I will reach the end. By your mercy, I touch the highest intelligence, but this is only theoretical knowledge for me.

Maybe I have to say that I am the most fallen but this is a very high position which is not for me. What can I say for humility because for humility, I only have heard and read. I haven't got the eyes to see and estimate your instructions because my eyes are covered with ignorance.

You are a representative of Krsna and you present the most bona fide knowledge. You who are an ocean of mercy, tolerance, humility, austerity and attractiveness, please help me.

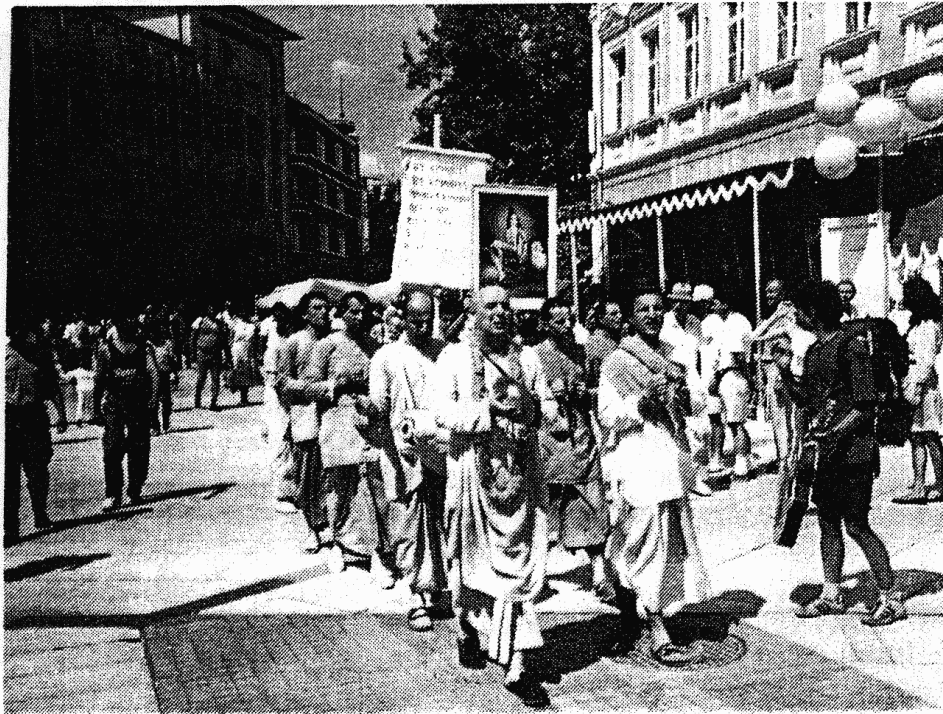
*Please give me your enthusiasm.
Please give me your knowledge.*

*Please give me your humility and tolerance.
Please give me the intelligence by which I can get your mercy.*

Please, please, please, please be merciful to me.
Please accept my humble obeisances.

Your eternal servant,

Bhakta Dimitar



Bulgaria

Dear Suhotra Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

After I was initiated by you I really felt proper connection with you of which I had only heard and read before.

Thanks to your mercy, I felt that much more enthusiasm appeared in my service to Krsna. I began to realise that pure devotional service can be achieved only through your lotus feet. I am eager to purify my consciousness and I want to serve you in such devotion as far as I realise this.

I humbly beg you to help me in overcoming my ignorance and I promise to serve you with devotion and love.

Your eternal servant,

Satyabhama devi dasi

Bulgaria

My dear Suhotra Swami,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet.

I am thankful and happy because of the mercy of Lord Krsna who sent you to Bulgaria.

I pray to you to please give me your mercy and benediction so that they can enlighten me.

My dear master, you are the ocean of devotion. You know all my problems which are disturbing me. Therefore I pray that you will lead me to the path of going back home, and help me to overcome all hindrances.

All glories to Sri Krsna!

All glories to His Divine Grace A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada!

Your servant,

Bhaktin Bistra

Bulgaria

My dear Suhotra Swami,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet.

I cannot express my feelings. I cannot find the proper words to describe my mood. When I offer my obeisances to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, my heart becomes joyful. Now I feel the same joy when I utter your name.

I understand that spiritual life and Hare Krsna *maha mantra* is the path to my liberation. I pray to Krsna that I will never forget this *maha mantra* even for a moment. Not long ago, I came to the decision to accept a spiritual master. When I saw you for the first time, I could understand that you were my spiritual master. My mind however was very strong and took me away. But now I am sure and my heart is overwhelmed with joy. Whenever I utter your name, I feel ecstasy.

Therefore I pray to you to please accept me at your lotus feet.

Your ever servant,

Bhakta Peter

Bulgaria

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

Dear Suhotra Swami,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. I know I do not deserve to become your disciple but I am humbly begging you to give me shelter at your lotus feet.

I am the most fallen of the fallen souls and I know I am not able to satisfy you but nevertheless you are so incredibly merciful and you are giving me a chance to serve you.

I offer my deepest obeisances unto you because it is only by your mercy that I can surrender to Krsna.

You are very dear to God because you are always thinking of Him, glorifying Him, offering Him obeisances and you are staying in this world of awful distress to get us back to Krsna. When you come here, you liberate us from our ignorance as the rising sun dissipates the darkness. Your words are more precious than the greatest treasure because they give us enthusiasm to serve Krsna and destroy our doubts.

I cannot do anything for Krsna without your causeless mercy. I am asking the Lord to please help me to always remember your instructions and serve you.

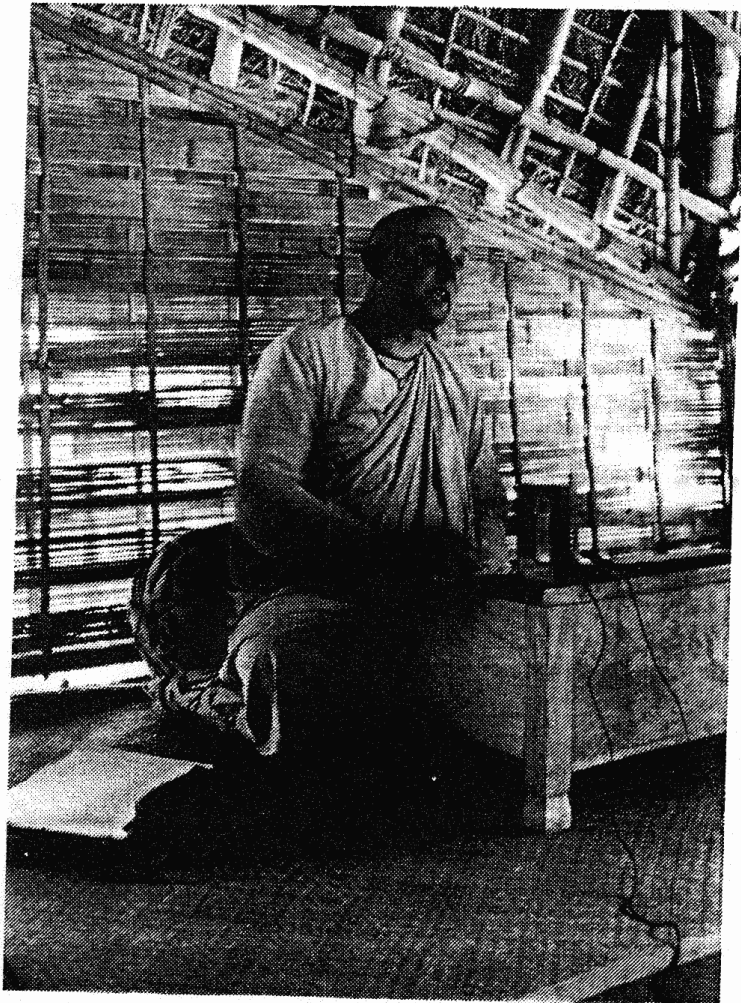
I offer my respectful obeisances unto you because you

are an intimate servant of Krsna and you always know how to please Him.

I am asking you again and again to give me shelter at your lotus feet.

Your eternal servant,

Bhakta Bobby



Bulgaria

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

Dear Suhotra Swami,

Taking birth in the material world means being conditioned in a particular material body. As soon as we get a body, we are subjected to different varieties of miseries, disturbances and problems. Therefore the material body is a bad bargain so to say.

However, there are personalities whose auspicious birth makes thousands of conditioned living entities happy. This is the appearance of the spiritual master, the personification of Lord Krsna's mercy. The spiritual master is generously distributing this causeless mercy. He alone can give us knowledge, higher taste and help us to develop Krsna-prema which all of us are hankering after.

Every time Your Holiness comes to us, my blind eyes are illuminated with the torch of knowledge, and each time you are so kindly accepting our attempt to render some devotional service.

Each time I can taste a little drop of the nectar of pure love for Krsna despite my blocked senses. And this feeling is shaking me like the ringing of the great bell of your Hare Krsna.

Every time when Your Holiness comes to us, all my desires and thoughts in the mind are satisfied one by one as if being fulfilled by a *kalpa-vrksa* tree. Your presence itself makes

me feel protected and embarrassed, my eternal associate, disappears.

Only the pure devotee has such a reservoir of mercy, prowess and glory, because he is very dear to Lord Krsna.

Therefore, today I am one of the thousands of conditioned living beings which feel endlessly happy and I am bowing down with all my submissiveness in the dust of your lotus feet, offering my deepest obeisances.

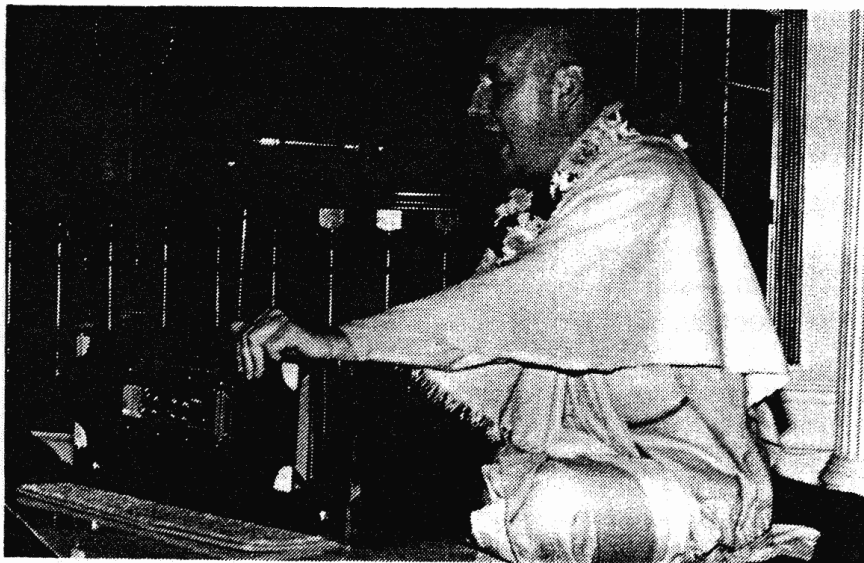
On this auspicious day, I want to join with my offering and all the others who are crying out like mad:

All glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga!

All glories to Srila Suhotra Maharaja!

Seeking shelter in the dust of your lotus feet, the least determined and weak brahmacari,

Bhakta Bozidar



Bulgaria

Dear Suhotra Swami,

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

The day of your appearance is the most blessed one because you came into this miserable world to guide, with the torch of knowledge, the most fallen souls out of the darkest regions of their ignorance.

All glories to Lord Sri Krsna who sent you among us to narrate in such an exciting and wonderful way about His glorious transcendental feats and His prowess, fame, wisdom and opulence.

I, the most fallen of the fallen, want to offer my deepest respectful obeisances unto you, O Spiritual Master. I had the wonderful chance to see you and hear from you about Lord Sri Krsna.

When I heard these beautiful narrations of the transcendental pastimes of the Lord and when I heard your clear and proper answers to all our questions, my faith and desire to serve God became firm.

I will never forget the ecstasy and the happy tears during the glorious *kirtanas* in the temple and the *harinams* in the streets of Sofia with you.

Dear Suhotra Swami, from our conversation, I understood there are no other paths for me except that which

you showed me - to engage with my heart and soul in the devotional service to Lord Sri Krsna.

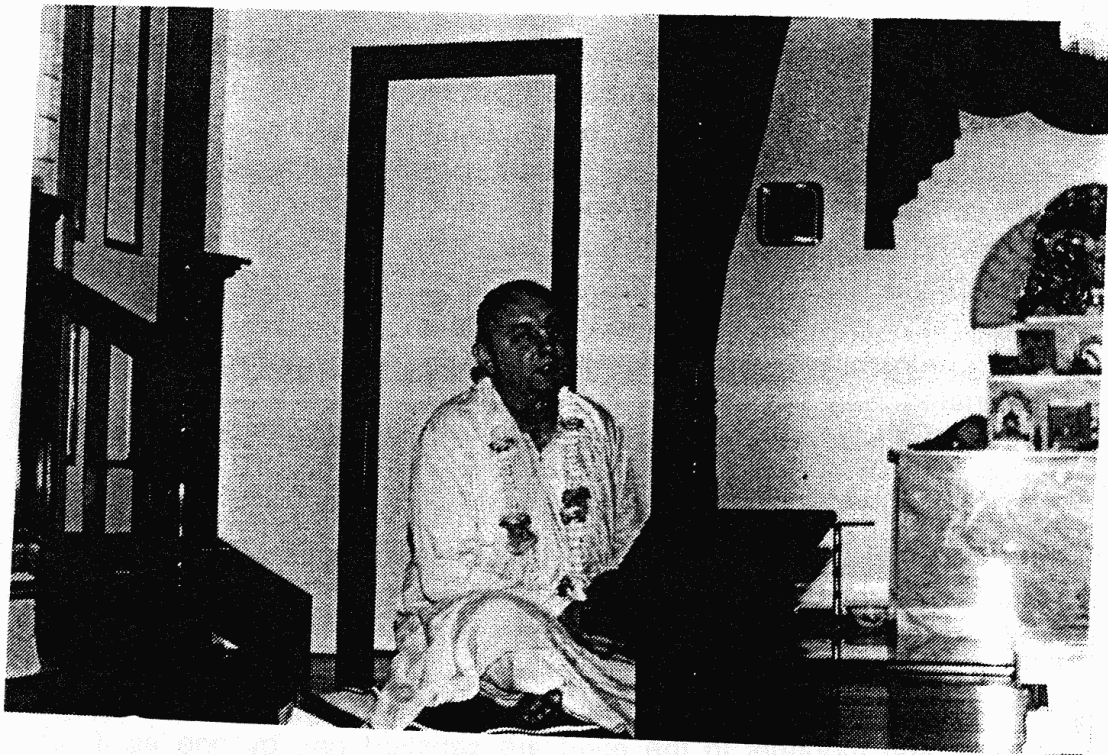
I bow down and offer my most respectful obeisances at your lotus feet, O Spiritual Master!

All glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga!

All glories to Srila Suhotra Maharaja!

Your eternal servant,

Bhakta Georgi



Bulgaria

Dear Srila Suhotra Maharaja,

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

You showered your causeless mercy upon me like torrents of rain and I am trying to respond with my insignificant endeavours for devotional service. Without your help I would have still been lost in the nightmarish darkness of ignorance. While writing my offering, I am fully aware that I am like a small child trying to learn to walk but it will be very difficult for him to succeed without the help of his father's strong arms.

My dear spiritual master, my desire to satisfy you is unlimited. I am sure that with your help and assistance all the problems in Sofia ISKCON will be gradually solved. I will do my best to carry out your innermost desire - to convert this run-down dark and demoniac city of Sofia into a brilliant spiritual centre.

I am bowing down in your lotus feet and am begging for the mercy of all pure devotees who follow in the footsteps of Sri Krsna Caitanya Mahaprabhu and especially for your mercy because I am lost without it.

All glories to you and your mission!

Your eternal servant,

Krsnananda dasa

Bulgaria

Dear Srila Suhotra Swami,

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

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

I want to salute your appearance here in this material world with my deepest respects. You are made entirely of the mercy of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

It is only by your causeless mercy and the mercy of Srila Prabhupada that I, the most fallen, have the rare chance to make my life perfect by engaging myself in the service of your lotus feet and by taking shelter in them.

Dear Master, I am fully aware that I do not deserve at all this ocean of mercy you are pouring upon me and that you are giving it to me in advance, but I am so fallen and engrossed in ignorance that I do not even know how to reciprocate in return - due to my deep ignorance, I am always making mistakes. I am bowing down at your lotus feet and I am begging you to forgive all my offences.

I am utterly devoid of the knowledge on how to become worthy for even an insignificant drop of the mercy which you are so generously bestowing upon me.

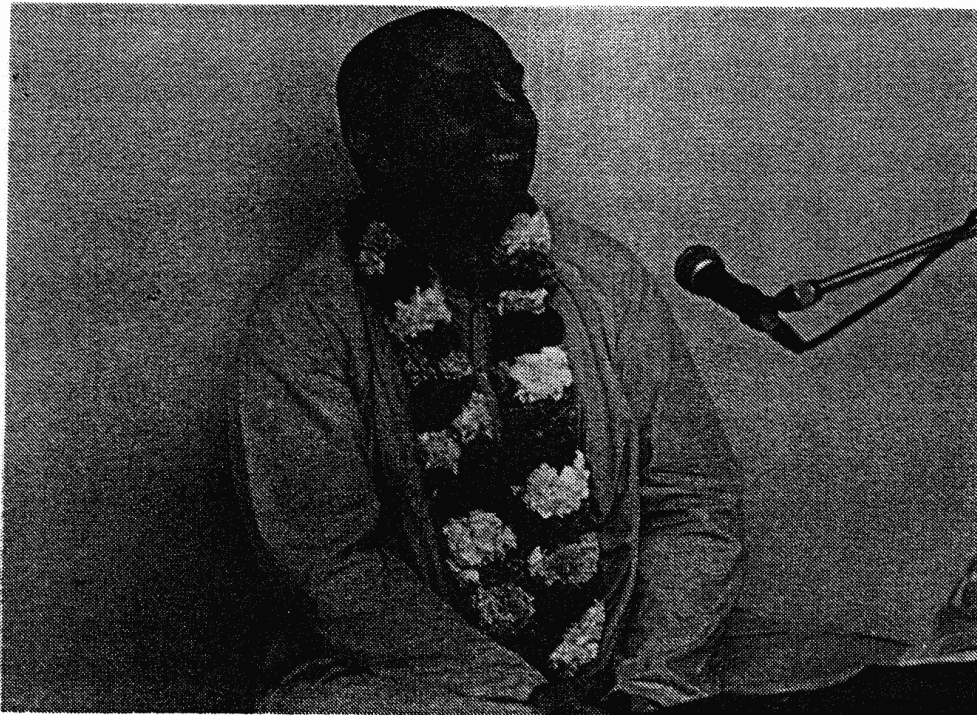
Dear Srila Gurudeva, I am entirely dependent on your

blessings and although I am an absolute neophyte, I assure you
 that I would spare no effort to follow your orders without
 reservation to achieve the perfection of life - the eternal
 occupational duties of the living entity.

vande ham sri-guroh sri-yuta-pada-kamalam
 sri-gurun vaisnavams ca

All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Gurudeva Suhotra
 Swami!

Your most fallen eternal servant,



Bulgaria

All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada!

All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Suhotra Swami!

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

I want to celebrate your appearance with all my heart and soul because the only purpose of your descent is to liberate all sincere conditioned souls from the clutches of ignorance and to elevate them back to the eternal life-giving and wonderful spiritual existence. All glories to your mission !

Soon after I joined the Krsna consciousness movement, I was most fortunate to attend your first lecture in Bulgaria. This wonderful association changed my life in a most miraculous way and made me realise two points: On one hand I was very happy to know that there is perfection and that it can be achieved (you are the perfect example) but on the other, I could see that I am very far from any kind of perfection and knowledge. Confused by material desires that were mixed with the desire to develop Krsna consciousness, I asked you questions and you mercifully answered them. Each one of your answers dissipated hundreds of doubts and anxieties in my mind. Out of your unlimited compassion towards all the fallen souls, you picked me up from the animalistic existence (full of abominable relations and meagre

purposes) and revealed before my eyes a portion of the reality of the most wonderful existence. Your association, knowledge, pure goodness and support helped me to take to the path leading to the highest goal – the pure, unalloyed devotional service unto the spiritual master and Krsna – with determination.

Your lotus-like heart is emanating so much mercy that it reached even me, the most fallen disciple. I do not possess even a drop of submissiveness and I am constantly committing offences. I am devoid of almost all good qualities. I am misusing, in a most foolish way, even my little enthusiasm which you gave me. Due to the causeless mercy of the *Vaisnavas* only, I am still engaged in devotional service. I would have been totally discouraged without your kind and sincere instructions that inspire me to go on with my imperfect service.

Feeling unlimitedly grateful, I think very often now about your attitude towards me. I do not deserve such an attitude at all and it is a never failing source of inspiration for me to render service unto your lotus feet (I do not dare to call my service devotional). There is no hope that I can somehow assist you in your perfect and sublime mission but I will be very happy if I am not an obstacle to it.

My dear master, despite all, my desire to please you with all my thoughts, words and actions is very strong and sincere. I realise that this desire is impossible to fulfill without your selfless assistance and I am humbly begging your mercy. Once you said that if the relationship between the spiritual master and the disciple is genuine, then it is eternal. I desire with all my heart such a relationship with you. I will do my best to achieve this.

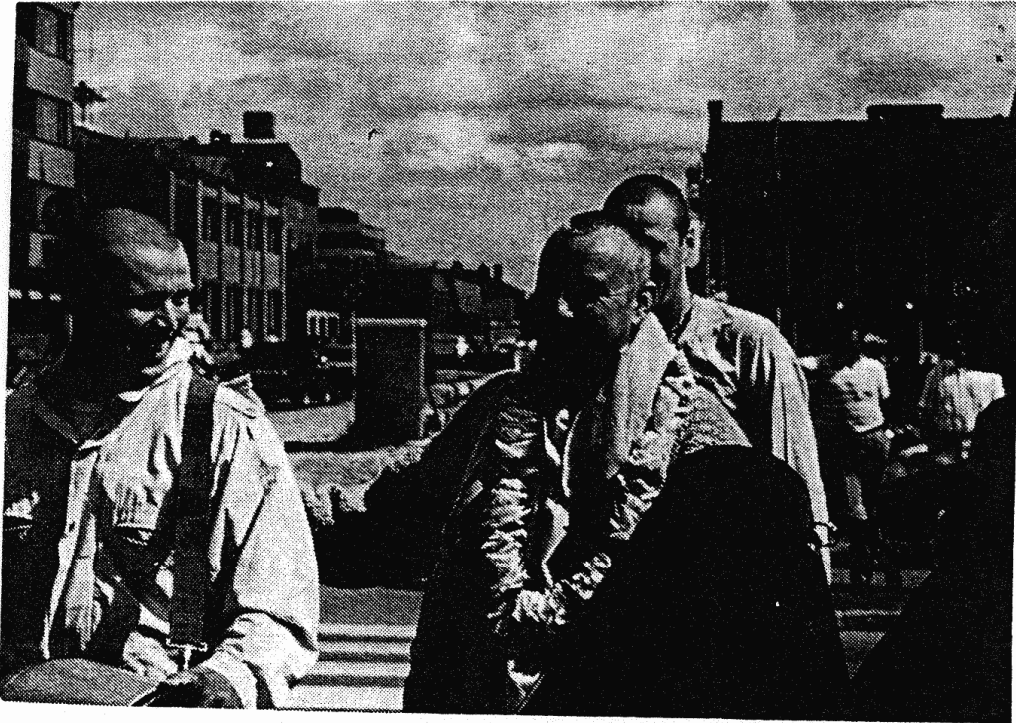
On this most auspicious day of your appearance, I am bowing down at your lotus feet and I am begging you to forgive all the offences I have committed against you due to my deep ignorance.

*yasya prasada bhagavat-prasado
yasyaprasadan na gatih kuto 'pi
dhyayan stuvams tasya yasas tri-sandhyam
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

All glories to Srila Gurudeva, who is so generously
distributing Srila Prabhupada's mercy!

Hankering to satisfy you with her service, the most fallen
of all conditioned souls,

Mahabhava-svarupa devi dasi



Bulgaria

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

My dear Spiritual Master,

You awakened my soul, soundly sleeping in ignorance.
In the small world of my grey days, the light suddenly penetrate.
Since the day I saw you for the first time, I feel the bliss to hear
and repeat after you the great Hare Krsna *mantra*.

O, You my master! Please inspire me in my difficulties.
The *sankirtana* mission bears the highest satisfaction, your
physical presence and your instructions are the only medicine for
failure and disappointments that comes upon me so often when I
awkwardly - like a child - search the path for Krsna.

I humbly fall down at your lotus feet and beg you for a
drop of your mercy.

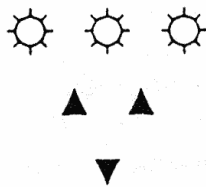
Your fallen servant,

Bhakta Mitko

HOMAGES

from

COPENHAGEN





Copenhagen

My dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace Srila Suhotra Swami, who is very dear to Lord Krsna, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

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

*mukam karoti vacalam pangum langhuyate girim
yat-krpa tam aham vande sri gurum dina tarinam*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto my spiritual master, the deliverer of all fallen souls, whose mercy turns the dumb into eloquent speakers and enables the lame to cross mountains.

I am totally dependent on your mercy, just like a little child is dependent on the father, for his speech, knowledge, behaviour and everything else. I am similarly dependent on you for everything. When I first came to the temple, I was like an ignorant child, not knowing anything. But then one day, by Krsna's mercy, I met you, and you opened my eyes and showed me what material life is really about – everyone living just like cats and dogs, destroying themselves and the whole planet.

Realising this, and seeing Krsna consciousness as the only alternative to this hellish lifestyle, you made me made up my mind.

I had been a foolish child for too long and was tired of being burned by the fire of *maya*. You showed me by your lectures, letters and personal examples how to take shelter under Krsna's lotus feet. It is a great inspiration for me to see you travelling to so many countries and making big preaching programmes all over, inspiring others to take up Krsna consciousness. Indeed you have with great faith and power taken up the mission of Srila Prabhupada, and the order of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to get everyone to take up this Krsna consciousness movement, and distribute it to all the fallen conditioned souls everywhere.

I am unable to express the deep gratitude I feel towards you for all that you have done for me. You have surely saved me from a hellish condition of life, and I hope that I will be able to please you by personally going out into the pit of *maya* and give out Srila Prabhupada's books to whoever I meet – thus these souls will also come to the temple and if fortunate enough, get the opportunity to meet you, become enlightened and also bring others to the temple. In this way, the mercy will be forever expanding, bringing more and more souls back home, back to Godhead.

So on this most auspicious day of your *Vyasa-puja* day, I will pray to you that I will be able to stay under the cooling shelter of your lotus feet, always be able to associate with the devotees, increase my service unto you, and always remember Krsna and never forget Him. And if you think one day, I have become matured enough, please lift me over this mountain of illusory energy never to return again.

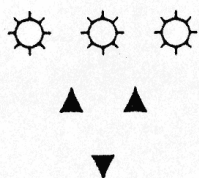
Your foolish childish servant,

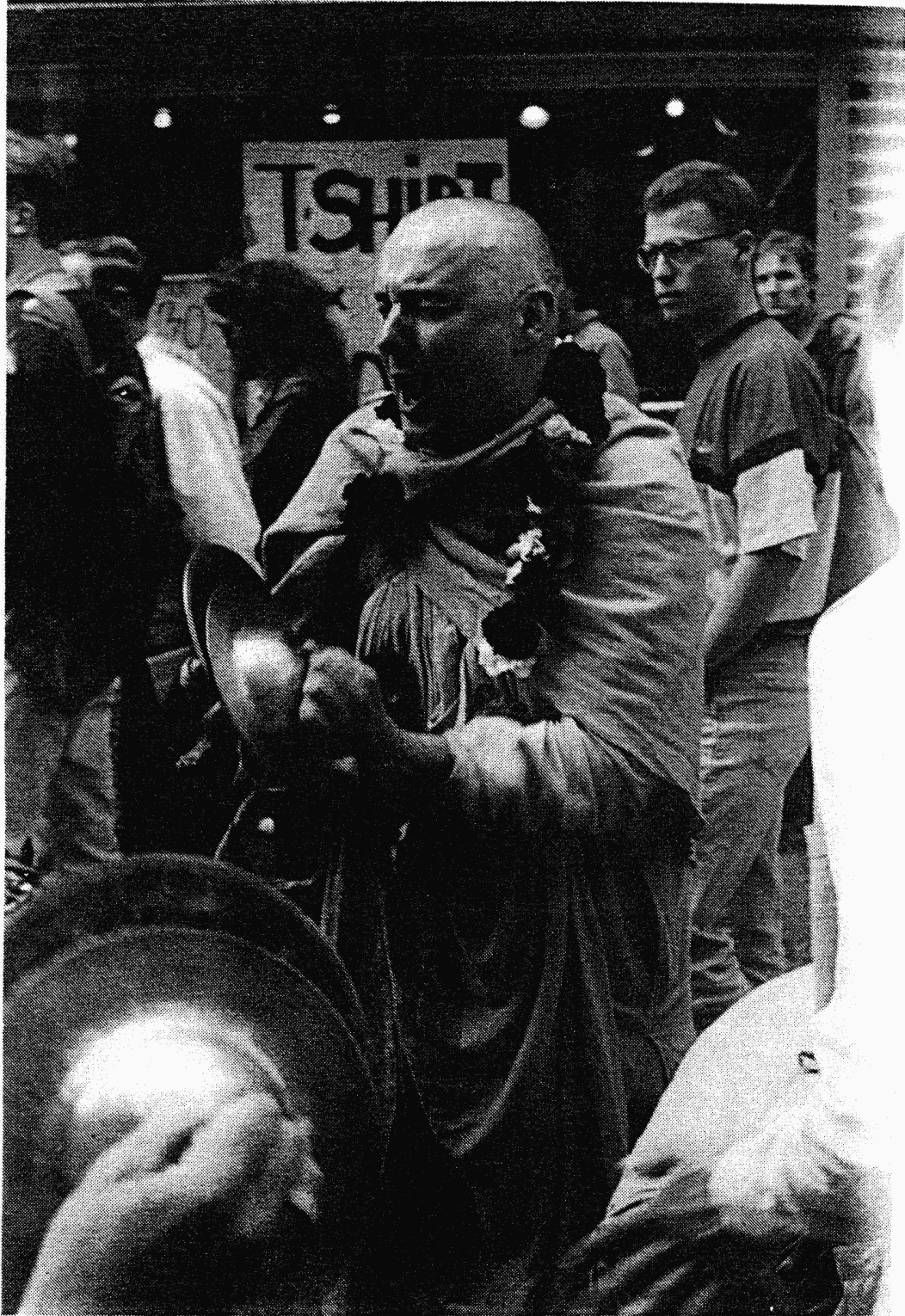
Varadaraja dasa

HOMAGES

from

CZESKOLOVAKIA





Czechoslovakia

Dear Suhotra Maharaja,

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

I am just a beginner and I perceive this process of *bhakti-yoga* to be very difficult. Without your causeless mercy, it will be impossible for me to make any progress. Therefore I want to serve you.

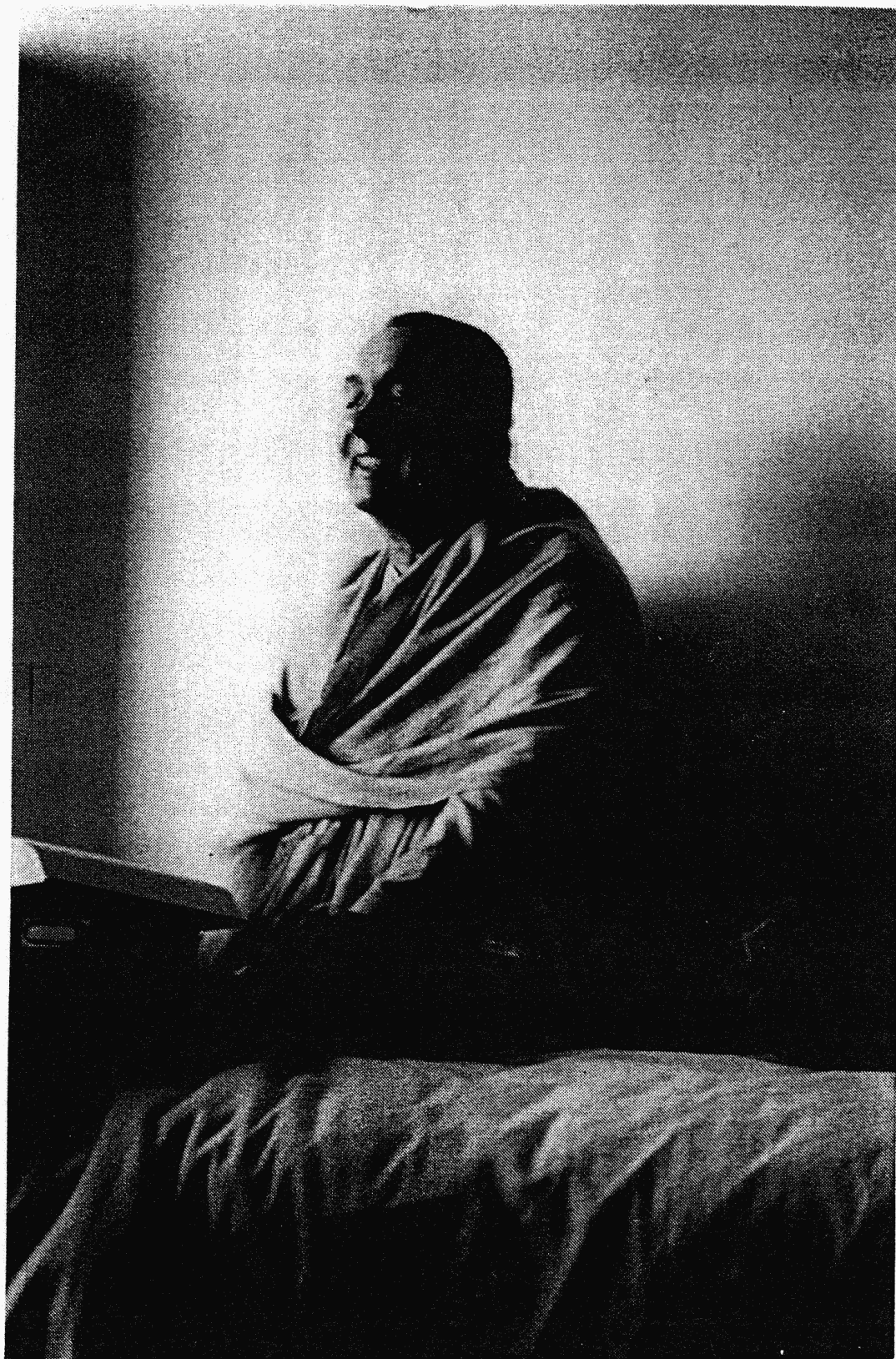
I know you don't need us as servants, but out of kindness, you allow us to become purified by serving and glorifying you.

Your lectures are the best and through your instructions, we receive your real mercy. When I listen to your instructions, I feel very happy. Although your lectures are very philosophical, they are full of humour and in this way you make it easy for everyone to understand.

If you will allow me to hear from you and serve your lotus-feet, that will be the perfection of my life. Please help me on this path back to Krsna.

Your servant,

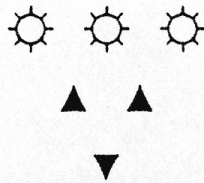
Bhakta Libor

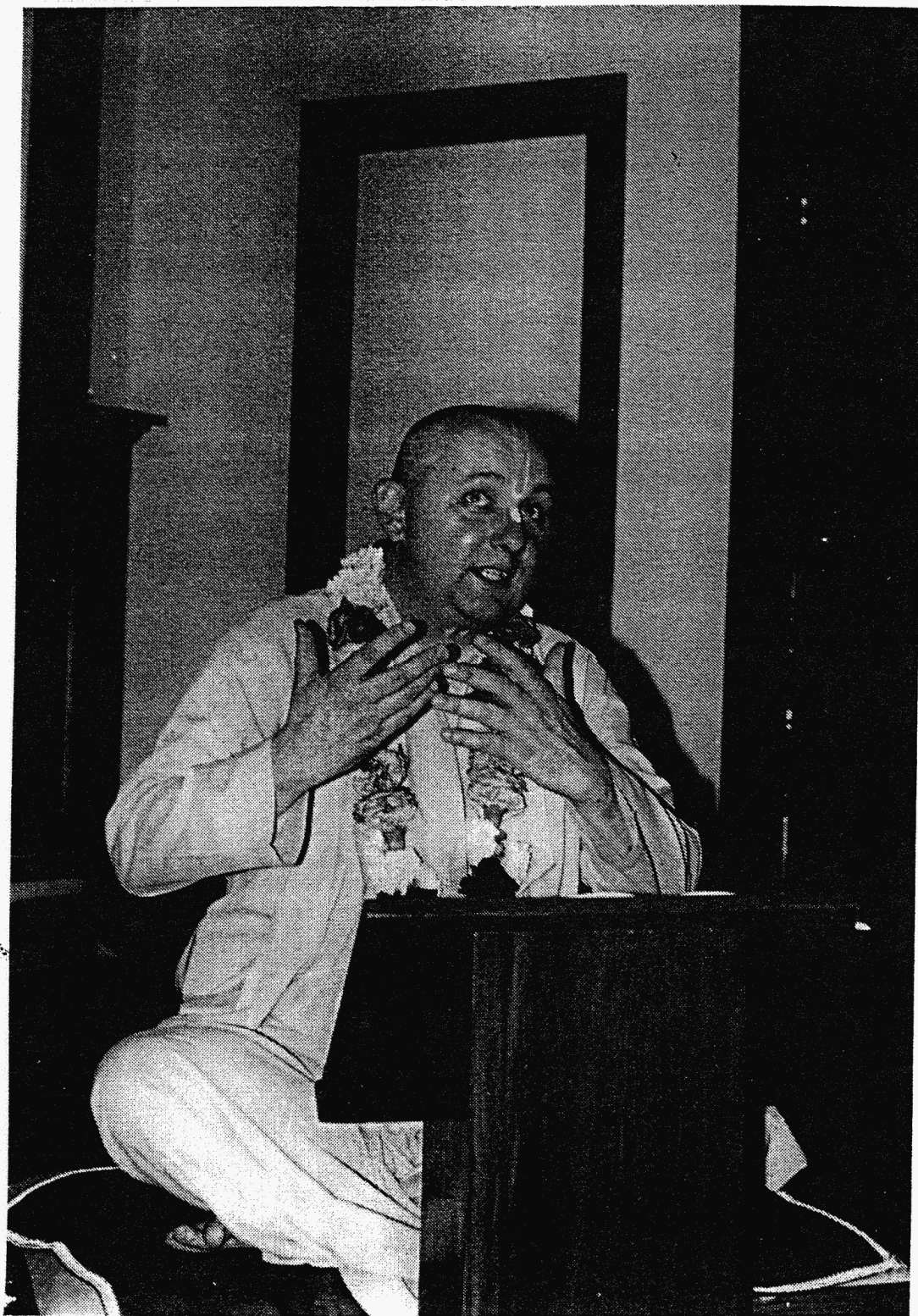


HOMAGES

from

FINLAND





Finland

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your Divine Grace, who has awakened my real responsibility in life.

Our first meeting some years ago left me with an ever lasting impression. The only thing I could understand was your wonderful sense of humour.

Some weeks ago, you saved my life by giving me your causeless mercy. Now I understand only that I have to follow you and your orders in Krsna's service. I hope that one day it is possible to understand what this all really means.

My eternal master, the real commander-in-chief, I want to give the rest of my live for distributing and preaching Krsna consciousness as much as possible. It is a low price for what you and Krsna has given me.

I pray that I will get strength to serve you and Krsna forever.

Your humble servant,

Bhakta Timo

Finland

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

A shame is shattering these words and I feel unable to enter the vast *Vaisnava* heart of yours now that I finally have seen the brilliance of those who are so sincerely serving you. Because at first I foolishly thought this is just another garden of a humble wind to turn everything like towards; but then, suddenly this vision was born that there are others - so much more.

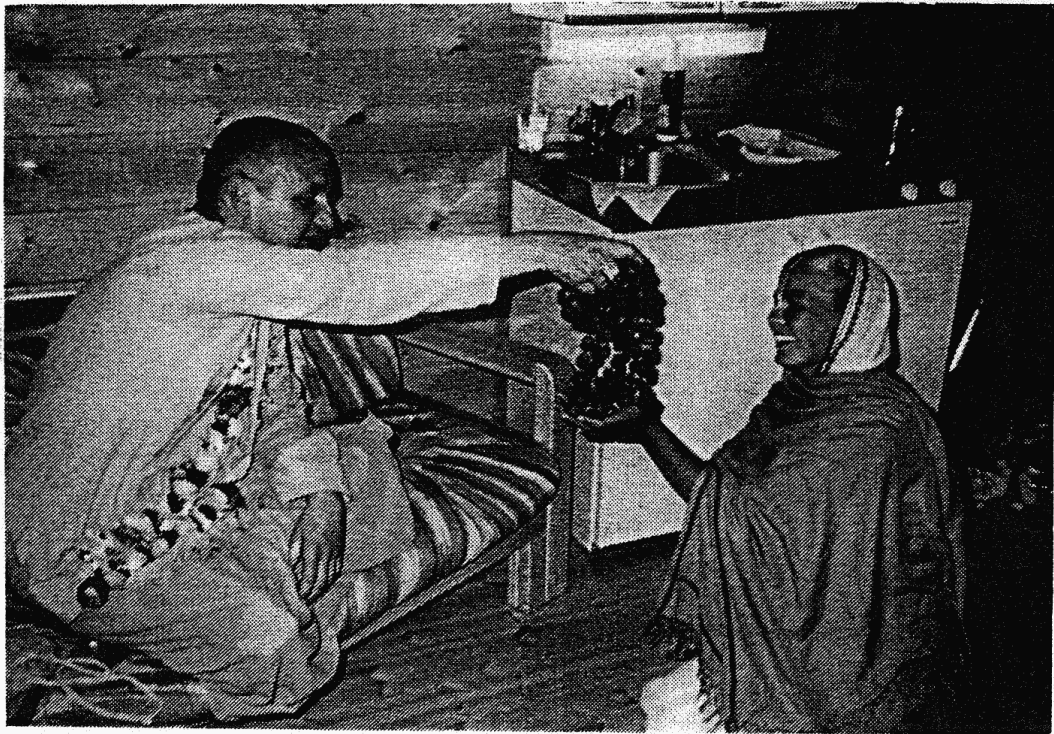
This is a feeling similar to the four-headed Brahma when hearing Krsna inquiring which one of them is he. He always thought Krsna only exists in his tiny universe and He alone in his heart. But now, everything I have said is completely insane! Others may think they know you well, but for me, you will always remain away.

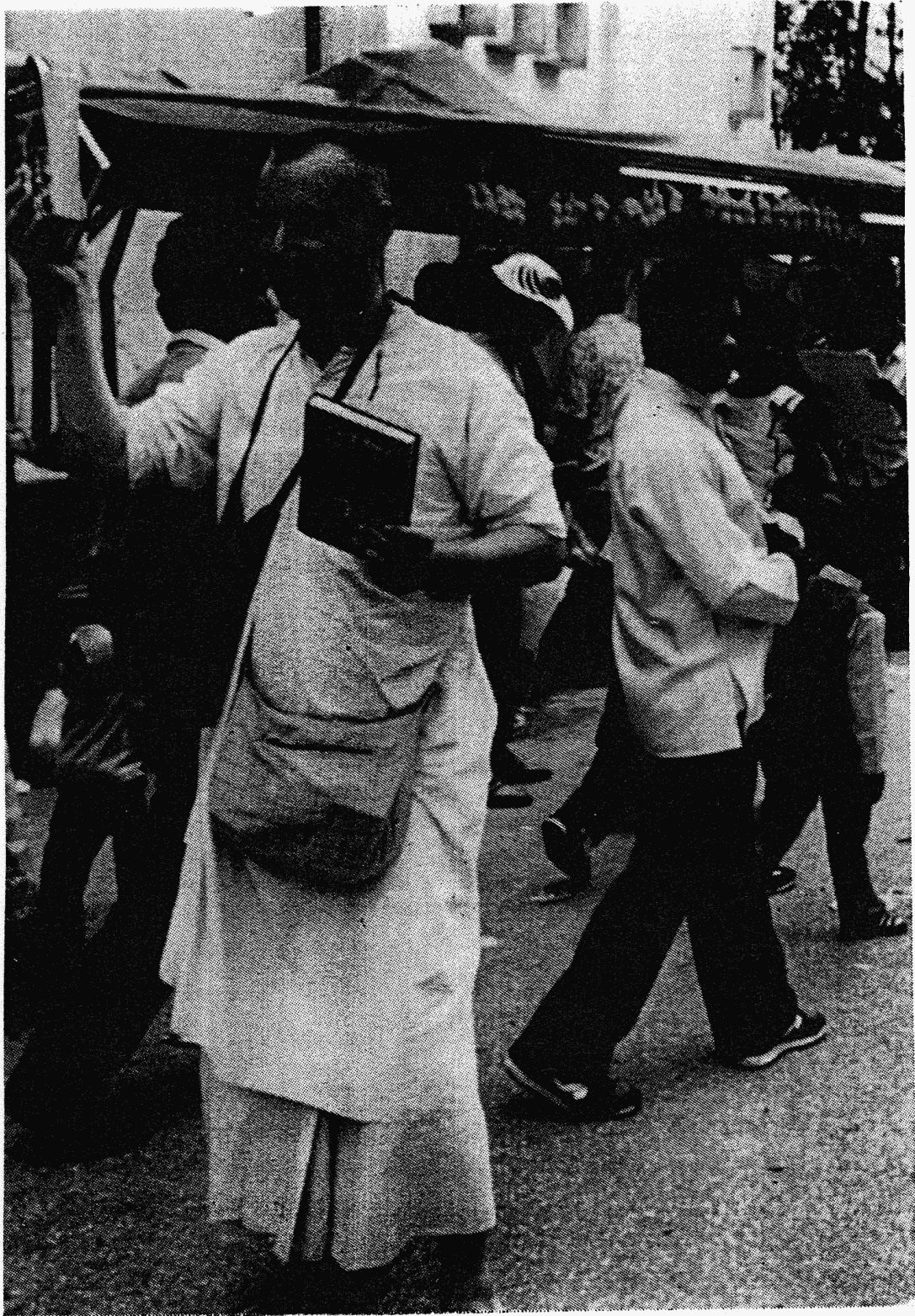
There is no certain gate but causeless is the way to find it since your heart is reaching everywhere and everything is in there. Like Krsna is showing Arjuna His universal form, your divine 'limbs' seem to be spreading all around the world - tongues gently carrying your instructions and legs crossing distances just to let the hands give out Srila Prabhupada's books. And what is more obvious - the selfless devotion to you which is melting from view? There should be no different desire from yours - to reveal Krsna to all, to travel in distant and dangerous lands and to preach.

My dear spiritual Master, feeling very small like Lord Brahma when realising he was having heads only four, I humbly beg for your mercy to be able to serve those who are so much closer to you. Always enthused by their serious endeavour to distribute Mahaprabhu's grace, I only wish to become the same.

Your unworthy servant,

Vairagya-laksmi devi-dasi

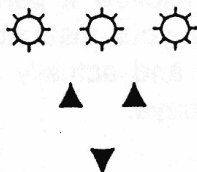




HOMAGES

from

GERMANY



Germany

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

Dear Srila Goswami Maharaja,

Hare Krsna. Please accept my most humble obeisances at the divine dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your Divine Grace and Srila Prabhupada.

This year, I have been observing that by your mercy so many devotees are joining the movement in Germany – mostly by our distributing books and showing up on the streets under your protection. I have also received the ISKCON award honouring me as one of the top ten book distributors. This was certainly very inspiring for me for I realised how just by following your order in a small way, all auspicious things can happen – what to speak of when I follow it perfectly. May I be fortunate enough to always follow your instructions and not listen to my rascal mind and senses and actually become a purified servant of yours and overcome *maya*.

Srila Prabhupada's books are so potent and you are so merciful to engage me in this nice service of reading and distributing them. May you always be glorious all around the universes. All glories unto you, O ocean of mercy, saviour of the fallen souls. How you are mercifully giving us the shade of your lotus feet and the nectar of your lectures which are my life and soul and a great source of inspiration for all the devotees. We are just taking this ever-fresh nectar again and again by hearing them again and again. Please go on giving us your wonderful

association for otherwise what would be our chance to become Krsna cōnscious? How can we make any advancement?

This year, I also saw how *maya* was attacking me in many different ways – trying to engage me in sense gratification but just by taking shelter at your Divine lotus feet and acting according to your instructions and also by your purifying association, I could easily "catch the fish" without getting wet. All I can understand is that by following your instructions I am very safe in Krsna consciousness and by not taking them seriously, I am lost. Therefore I am so dependent upon you in my life – spiritually and also otherwise. This feeling of dependence is certainly your mercy.

When Srila Prabhupada was distributing Krsna consciousness in the early days, he was taking more and more responsibilities and Krsna would give him more and more service and engagements. I can see that the mercy of Krsna is also in the same way making more and more responsibilities and engagements for you. Your Divine Grace has taken up this mercy to heart, always diving into the ocean of transcendental loving service of Krsna and travelling around the world to enlighten not only the conditioned souls but other *Vaisnavas* who also become very glad by your purifying association and nectarine instructions. Now that you are potently distributing the sankirtan mission of Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu in eastern Europe, please give me some mercy and let me assist you by letting me become fixed in your devotional service.

param vijayate sri krsna sankirtan!

All glories to the all merciful Srila Suhotra Maharaja!
Always praying to Lord Nrsimhadeva for your health, I remain

Your useless servant,

Bhagavat-dharma dasa

Germany

All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's *sankirtan* movement!

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

All glories to you on this auspicious day of your *Vyasa-puja*!

Without the mercy of guru, the disciple cannot accomplish any transcendental task, not even glorifying his own spiritual master by chosen words. Completely neophyte as I am, carefully saved from the whirlpool of ignorance and lust, what can I say at this moment? To praise you properly does not mean just talking about your glories. It means to also act according to your instructions. Then it will be possible to actually realise who you are! I am very fallen and unworthy, but still you accepted me as your disciple – such is the mercy of the spiritual master. How can it be possible that speculators are distributing Prabhupada's books? It is only by your grace and kindness that I am engaged in Lord Caitanya's most glorious *sankirtan* movement.

*mukam karoti vacalam pangum langhavate girim
yat-krpa tam aham vande sri-gurum dina taranam*

Who can be more merciful than a person who gives life and soul to corpses that are flowing on wild streams, thinking themselves independent enjoyers and controllers ? Sometimes due to speculation and laziness, we forget the importance of book distribution but with your sharp spiritual intelligence, you always know what is the basis for this, and lead us back to the land of salvation for exhausted swimmers in the materialistic ocean of birth and death.

I am praying that I can assist you and act as your instrument. That will be the perfection of my life. Please give me the desire, the fortitude and intelligence to be more serious about the endeavour to increase my service to you. Please allow me to render some significant service.

Your worthless servant,

Raghupati dasa



Germany

Beloved Spiritual Master,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

I am just a neophyte in spiritual life, but unfortunately, I am not a neophyte in false ego and pride. There I am pretty advanced. I take myself too importantly and forget that the most important is the service to you and Krsna. In very rare moments, when I am aware of my strong false ego, my pride and all my impurities, I feel very ashamed. How can I forget Krsna? Why don't I forget myself? Me? This what I call 'mine' is just an incomplete temporary body. Why don't I remember my real position as an eternal servant?

Beloved Guru Maharaja, I need your guidance. Just by taking shelter at your lotus feet and by your mercy I am able to go home, back home to Krsna. You can save me from material life by giving me the chance to serve Krsna.

Please break my false ego and take off all my impurities, let my real nature as an eternal servant hatch, like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly.

Guru Maharaja, I cannot even express my gratefulness with words. My only desire is to please you.

I offer all my respectful obeisances unto you, who is going to open my eyes which are blinded by the darkness of ignorance, with the torchlight of knowledge.

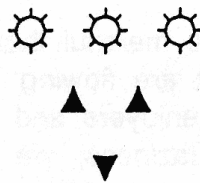
Your helpless servant,

Bhaktin Silke

HOMAGES

from

NEW ZEALAND



New Zealand

Wheel Turns Full Circle

I first met His Holiness Suhotra Swami 2 years ago. Immediately he reminded me of a laughing Buddha, which was later reinforced by his lectures with his great sense of humour and the way he clearly expounded the philosophy of Krsna consciousness with lively tales and stories. I remember asking him then, "How does one find a spiritual master?." His precise reply was, "The one that inspires you the most spiritually."

Recently, on his visit to New Zealand, I eagerly requested to be allowed to serve him. It was a most wonderful and sublime experience. His Holiness was very merciful to me despite my clumsy attempts to serve him. At last, after 3 long years, I have finally found a spiritual master who inspires me, not only spiritually but in all aspects of my life. His Holiness's exemplary way of life as a pure devotee of Lord Krsna completely satisfies me and I know that he alone can award me *mukti* from *maya*. Whenever His Holiness comes to mind, the verse from Bhagavad-Gita 6:47 pops up:-

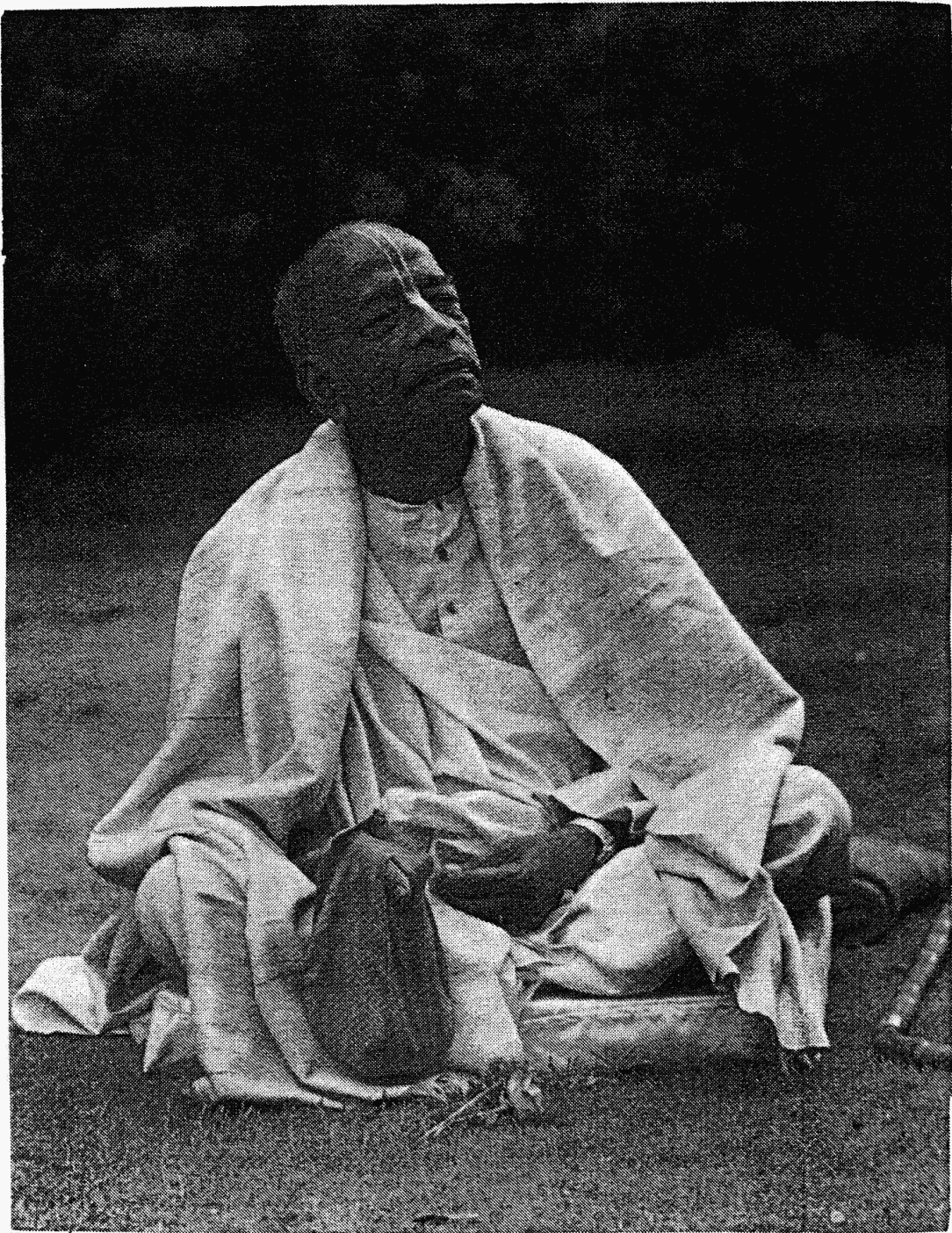
*yoginam api sarvesam mad gatenantaratmana
sraddhavan bhajate yo man sa me yuktatamo matah*

The wheel has turned a full circle and now I hope and pray that His Holiness Suhotra Swami will give me initiation and take on this very fallen soul and give salvation.

All glories to His Holiness Suhotra Swami!

Your aspiring servant,

Bhakta Peter Ho

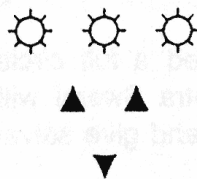




HOMAGES

from

NORWAY



Norway

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto you.

I am eternally thankful to you for saving me from the blazing fire of material existence. May I always be engaged in serving your Divine Grace. I am very much impressed how you always care for me and help me to advance – you are like a dear father to me.

My dear Lord, kindly engage me as your student and train me in such a way that I will be able to give up all other kinds of desires and simply engage in Krsna consciousness, devotional service. All glories at your lotus feet!

Your eternal servant,

Bhakta Garuda



Norway

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

My very dear Guru Maharaja,

Prior to becoming a *Prabhupadanuga*, I was very interested in Buddhism. However, I soon understood that the Buddhism of today is simply speculation deviating from the teachings of Lord Buddha.

Now I can see that there is no use of Buddhism, as empowered living entities like yourself, representing even higher authorities than Buddha - Krsna, the source of all incarnations (*krsnas tu bhagavan svayam*) - are still present on this planet.

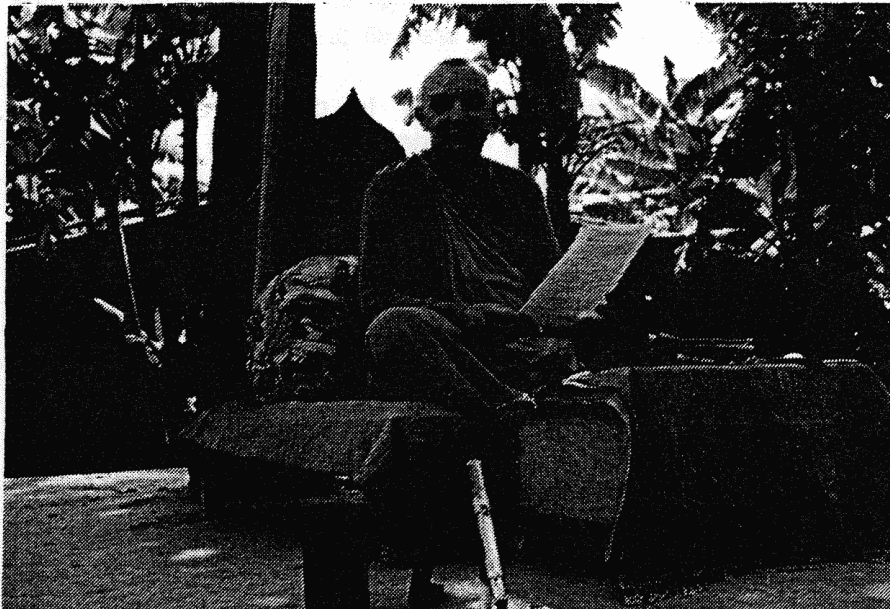
It is far beyond my ability to describe you properly. Whatever I may write will be nothing more than a child's clumsy attempt to please his father by uttering a few foolish words. Despite all my faults however, I hope that you will accept this offering as an honest attempt to please you.

You are the perfect example of a pure devotee – always following your guru and Krsna. You are very austere and your intelligence is far beyond my small perception. It is far beyond all doubts that you are one of the greatest sages living today, being comparable to all the *Vaisnava acarayas* of the past. Your causeless mercy is so great that even *maha* rascals like myself can feel great attraction to the sublime path of Krsna consciousness.

In your divine self, I truly see all the qualities of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, whose mission you are always fulfilling very expertly. Longing for a body old enough to join ISKCON, so that I can use all my time serving you and Krsna, I offer my prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet, always begging to remain

Your useless aspiring servant,

Bhakta Paul



Norway

Dear Suhotra Maharaja,

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. On this most blessed event of your Vyasa-puja, I would like to pay my deepest respect unto you.

Only by the causeless mercy of Srila Prabhupada and the devotees here, I got the opportunity to serve in the *sankirtan* movement and surely it is only by your causeless mercy that I get the opportunity to serve a spiritual master like you.

You are convincingly preaching the science of *bhakti-yoga* to drive away the fog of confusion that is covering us. Being tied up by hands and legs in eternal *samsara*, only your causeless mercy can save me. Therefore it is not possible for me to glorify your glories completely with my peanut-like brain. Being very grateful of your acceptance of me, I will do my best to serve you.

Hopefully your servant,

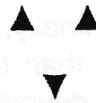
Bhakta Sveinung



HOMAGES

from

POLAND



Poland

Dear Spiritual Master,

Please accept my respectful obeisance at your lotus feet.

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

Whenever a pure devotee of Krsna appears in this material world, entangled living entities get one more chance to surrender to Krsna.

Today is the day when you, Guru Maharaja, appeared in order to spread the transcendental teachings about Krsna and awaken love for Krsna in everyone's heart. You are everyone's friend, captain of the boat by means of which we can cross this vast ocean of ignorance and forgetfulness of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krsna. By surrendering to you, to your instructions, everyone can get place there and being guided safely by you, go back home, back to Godhead.

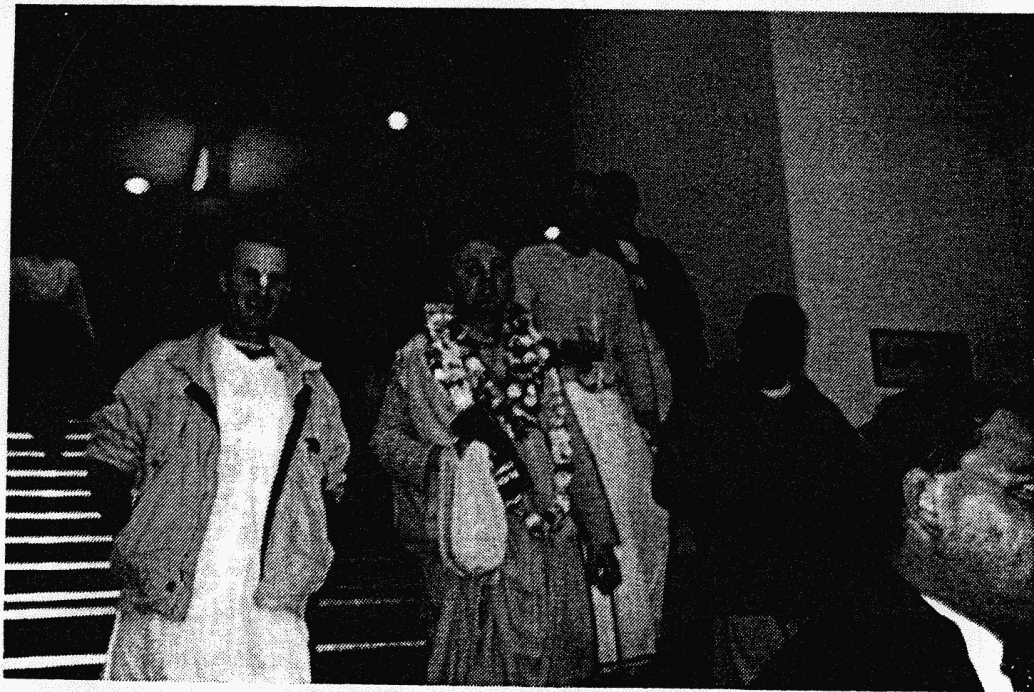
I would like to realise finally, to understand really that I have no other goal in life other than to please you, dear Spiritual Master. Pleasing Krsna's pure devotee with devotional service is the same as achieving all auspiciousness and perfection on the path of spiritual progress. I know that only by pleasing other *Vaisnavas*, I can achieve your mercy. This I would like to always gain strength and determination so as to serve other devotees better and better.

Taking advantage of this moment so joyous, I thank you Guru for letting me seek shelter at your lotus feet. You inspire us again and again, reminding us to always remember Krsna and never forget Him.

Please accept my respectful obeisances.

Your servant,

Bhaktin Agata



Poland

My dear Spiritual Master,

Please kindly accept my respectful obeisances.

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

Let me express my unlimited regards to you on this wonderful day of your *Vyasa-puja*. The day of your extraordinary appearance is all auspicious for all the living entities in all the three worlds. Let me thank you for travelling and preaching the message of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu to all the fallen souls. When you are walking upon the earth, she certainly merges in ecstasy and all the places you visit become sanctified. Thanks to your continuous journeys, taken with so much effort and thanks to your perfect preaching, people (and surely also living entities in other bodies) have a chance to hear about Krsna and become His servants. By their contact with a person so wonderful and pure as you are, and by your unlimited grace, everybody can become Krsna conscious very quickly. Teachings emanating from your lotus mouth, and your lotus instructions are extraordinarily clear and beautiful. Thanks to you, to your explanations and to your mercy, everybody can understand Krsna consciousness. It cannot be achieved by any other means.

Thank you very much for preaching about Krsna and for your patience in dissipating doubts of even such fools as myself. You are very magnanimous and tolerant.

Satisfying the spiritual master is the secret of happiness and success. I would like to always have the opportunity to serve you. I hope that sometime I will manage to satisfy you (which hasn't happened before that's for certain!). I hope that by your mercy I will be able to do it.

Let me thank you for all you have done for me, and for this vast ocean of mercy. Actually you are the only wonderful teacher and a friend of everyone. Please bless me with the dust of your lotus feet.

Your insignificant but always desirous to serve you,

Bhaktin Izabella



Poland

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

My dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.
All glories to you and Srila Prabhupada.

It is difficult to write the best as I like the offering to you
to completely please you. So I humbly request you to accept
these few words.

I want to thank you Guru Maharaja for such great mercy,
although I'm in ignorance. By your causeless mercy I may
continue the process of returning back to Godhead, back to
Krsna. I can't even imagine which way I would live not getting
Srila Prabhupada's and your mercy.

You are like a desire tree which fulfill everyones desires
and you are full of compassion for the fallen souls like myself.

Dear Guru Maharaja, the goal of human life is to obtain
perfection but *maya* is so strong that she easily covers me by
her energy. But by your mercy I may be able to fight her.

Your humble servant,

Dayala Candra dasa

Poland

All glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to Srila Suhotra Maharaja!

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.
All glories to you on this important day for all people.

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

Dear Guru Maharaja, you came into this material world to deliver conditioned souls. You are the ocean of mercy. You have Krsna's mercy but you don't want it for yourself. You are most merciful to the fallen conditioned living entities. Therefore you distribute freely and equally service to everyone - love for Krsna. Your lotus feet are the shelter protecting them from dazzling rays of material desires. This is what they are looking for when they circulate in birth and death cycle.

Guru Maharaja, all glories, all glories and all glories to you. Please let me serve you life after life.

Desiring eternally to hold your lotus feet,

Bhakta Marek

Poland

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humblest obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your Divine Grace and Srila Prabhupada, whose instructions you transmit so perfectly.

I am completely unqualified to glorify you on this occasion of your *Vyasa-puja* or to understand your true potency. I am only weak, sinful and stupid, without any realisations, so if you are not merciful unto me, I can only weep and I will not be able to maintain my life. In his books, Srila Prabhupada tells us that the only way to enter into the spiritual realm is to be fully surrendered unto Krsna. Intellectually I can understand this but my stone-like heart refuses. But still I dream that one day I will be able to fully surrender unto you, Guru Maharaja.

Your most ignorant servant,

Pracarananda dasa

Poland

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

Guru Maharaja, having the rare honour to travel with you for some time, I had the occasion to see with my own eyes what a personality like you is able to do. You present full devotion for Krsna and spiritual force based on purity and knowledge. I have seen how hundreds of devotees have become inspired by simply looking at you and seeing your knowledge about devotional service, which you gave to them and which gave new energy to serve Krsna.

If someone had asked me what is the evidence that the process of Krsna consciousness works and possess real value, without hesitation I would indicate you. You are the best evidence that *bhakti yoga* - changing material consciousness to consciousness of God - is the natural path of life for every living entities.

Now that the communist countries have opened their borders and their governments have become more liberal and tolerant, it is becoming clear to me that you must cooperate very closely with Krsna, the arranger. In the course of time, you may be able to come and save conditioned souls who live in these most dark regions of ignorance.

Guru Maharaja, I can only say that for me to exist without you and not to serve you is the greatest misunderstanding full of suffering and darkness the 'scrap-heap' on which the most disgusting creatures in the form of lust, anger

and envy are found.

The *sastras* describe the guru as the manifestations of Lord Nityananda. You, by your own behaviour, in a perfect way prove the truth of this statement. Sri Nityananda Prabhu is the original manifestation of the guru and only through Him are we able to get the mercy of Krsna. At the same time, you as our Guru Maharaja and a manifestation of the Supreme Lord, pour upon us this mercy which is received by great sages and yogis only with extreme difficulties.

We, your disciples, out of foolishness, cannot properly appreciate this mercy. But your mercy and compassion expand far beyond the narrow circle of your disciples. Due to your transcendental characteristics and beautiful and pure heart, you are able to completely get into the mood of Sri Nityananda Prabhu and preach Krsna consciousness to all persons without distinction, in places where even the Personality of Kali feels ill at ease and squeamish. But you pick everybody up by your enthusiasm and spiritual power and remind them where their home is and where they can find eternal bliss and freedom from material suffering.

The mood of Lord Nityananda which is presented by you, in your preaching, is Krsna's special mercy for all living entities. You are empowered by Lord Nityananda to save the most fallen fool and rascals who are addicted to all kinds of sinful activities and nonsensical ideas. You are also empowered by Sri Nityananda Prabhu to know the confidential plan of Lord Caitanya - how to save these conditioned souls.

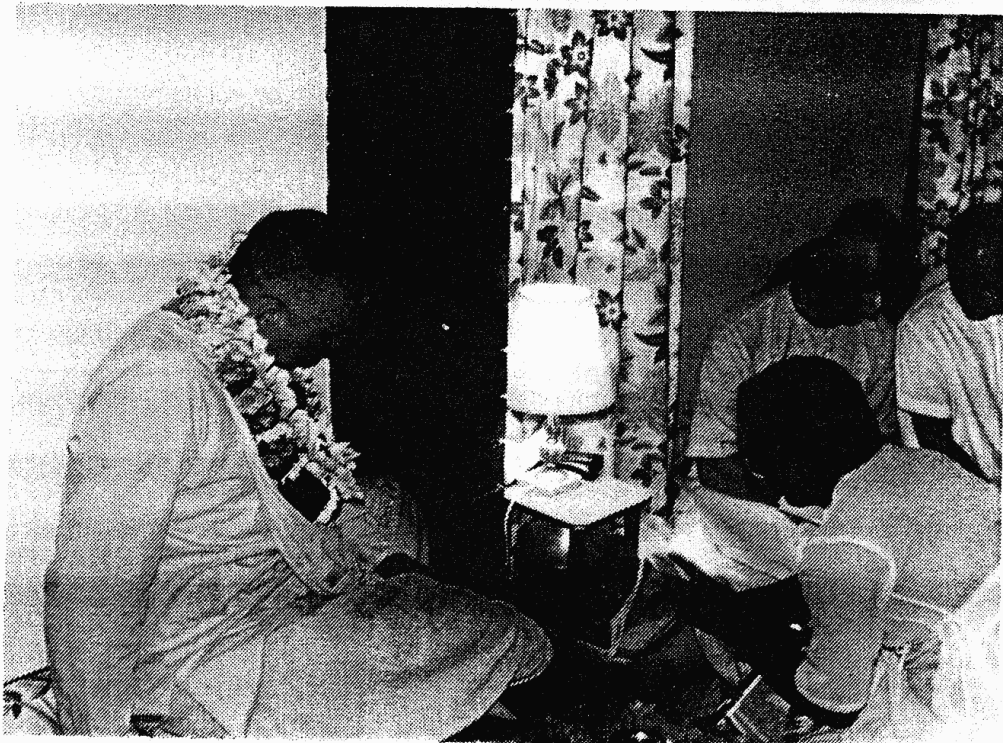
Guru Maharaja, you are the manifestation of Krsna's mercy and all kinds of material obstructions are not able to stop your mission to rescue the drowning conditioned souls from the ocean of material existence. This whole material world is like the "Titanic" - the ship which sailed to its own destruction, filled by fools who have no idea about sailing and navigation.

But you, by your endless chanting, voluntarily have agreed to become a passenger in order to avert the disaster by taking control of the rudder and leading the ship – despite the protests of suicidal people – to the quiet port of devotional service for the Supreme Lord, Sri Kṛṣṇa.

Thus may this auspicious *Vyasa-puja* day become for us the day in which we take up your desire as our own desires. May we understand your mood and in this way help you save the fallen conditioned souls.

Your useless luggage,

Purnaprajna dasa

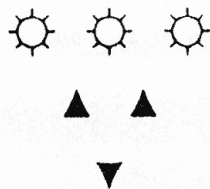




HOMAGES

from

SWEDEN





Sweden

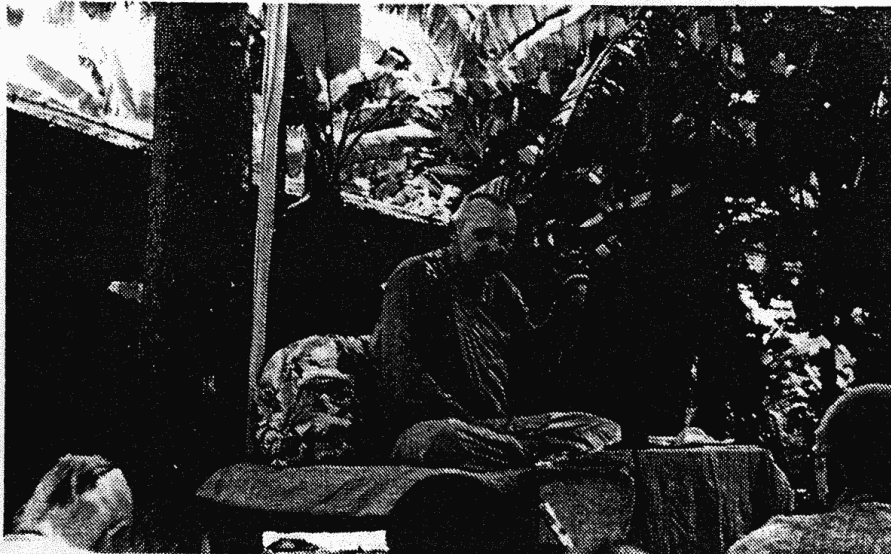
Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you on this most auspicious day. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I have realised that only by your causeless mercy, you can save me from the dark well of material existence. You are always so kind to all of the living entities because you are constantly spreading God's name. I am very grateful to you that you have accepted such a conditioned soul like me as your disciple. All glories to you!

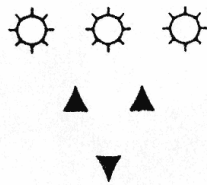
Your foolish servant,

Manjari dasi





APPRECIATION





Australia

Dear Srila Suhotra Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet on this auspicious occasion of your *Vyasa-puja*. All glories to Srila Prabhupada, and to your dedicated service to him.

The benefit from hearing the words emanating from your lotus mouth has placed me in a position of eternal indebtedness to you. Although this debt can never be paid off – in fact it is ever increasing – I can only pray for some suitable words to express my gratitude and love.

Your words are very uncommon. It's not that you are saying something new, it's the fact that your way of explaining the eternal truth is exceptionally illuminating, especially to one who is greatly afflicted by a highly speculative, uncontrolled mind, which is always trying to present the sceptical point of view that I previously used to embrace. Fearful of both fanaticism and deviation, I always feel greatly relieved whenever I hear your soundly logical and deeply analysed explanations of the *Vedic* angle of vision, and the histories of how this knowledge had been handed down purely, as well as how it becomes distorted from time to time. The total picture is obviously completely clear to your vision, and you have the transcendental perfection of being able to impart that vision to others who hear from you.

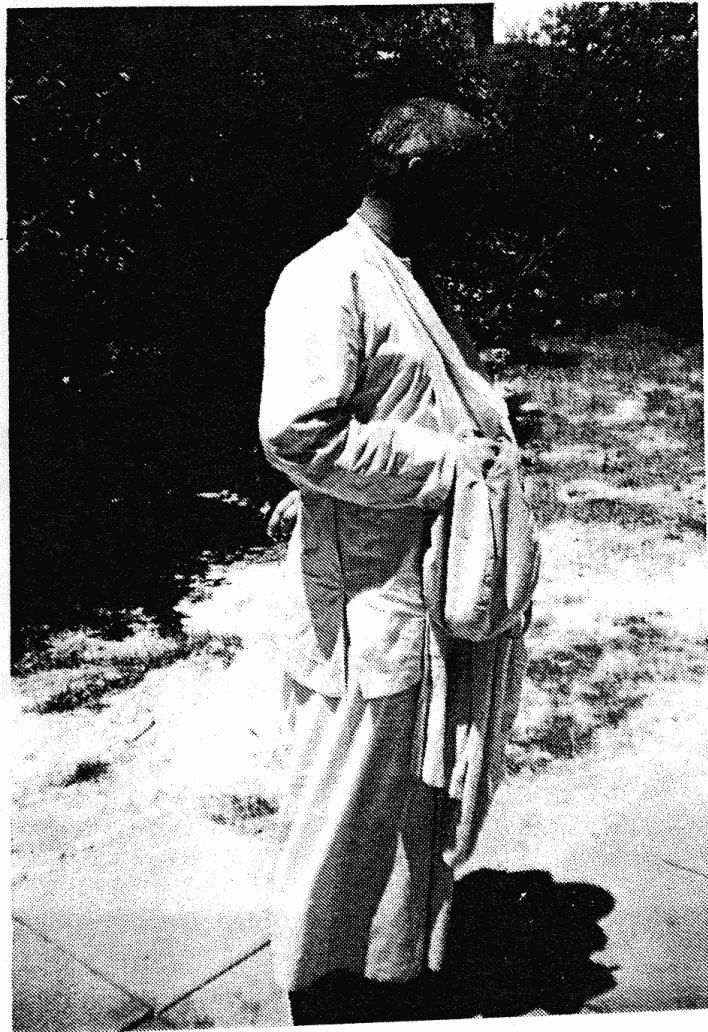
Unfortunately, I am very dull and I take a very long time to assimilate what you speak. All I can say is that I feel very confident that as long as I can keep hearing from you, there will be gradual injection of light into my darkened eyes, and therefore I feel extremely grateful to you for giving so much inspiration to such a fallen rascal. Your tireless preaching is a measure of your unlimited compassion.

Since you are leading your followers to the topmost

platform of pure loving service to Sri Sri Radha and Krsna in Vrndavana, I beg to be able to keep following in your footsteps eternally.

Your fallen servant,

Suci Rani dasi



New Zealand

All Glories To Srila Suhotra Swami On This Blessed Day!

Dear Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

*bhavad-vidha bhagavatas tirtha-bhutam svayam vibho
tirthi-kurvanti tirthani svantah-stena gadabhrt*

"My Lord, devotees like your good self are verily holy places personified. Because you carry the Personality of Godhead within your heart, you turn all places into places of pilgrimage." [SB 1:13:10]

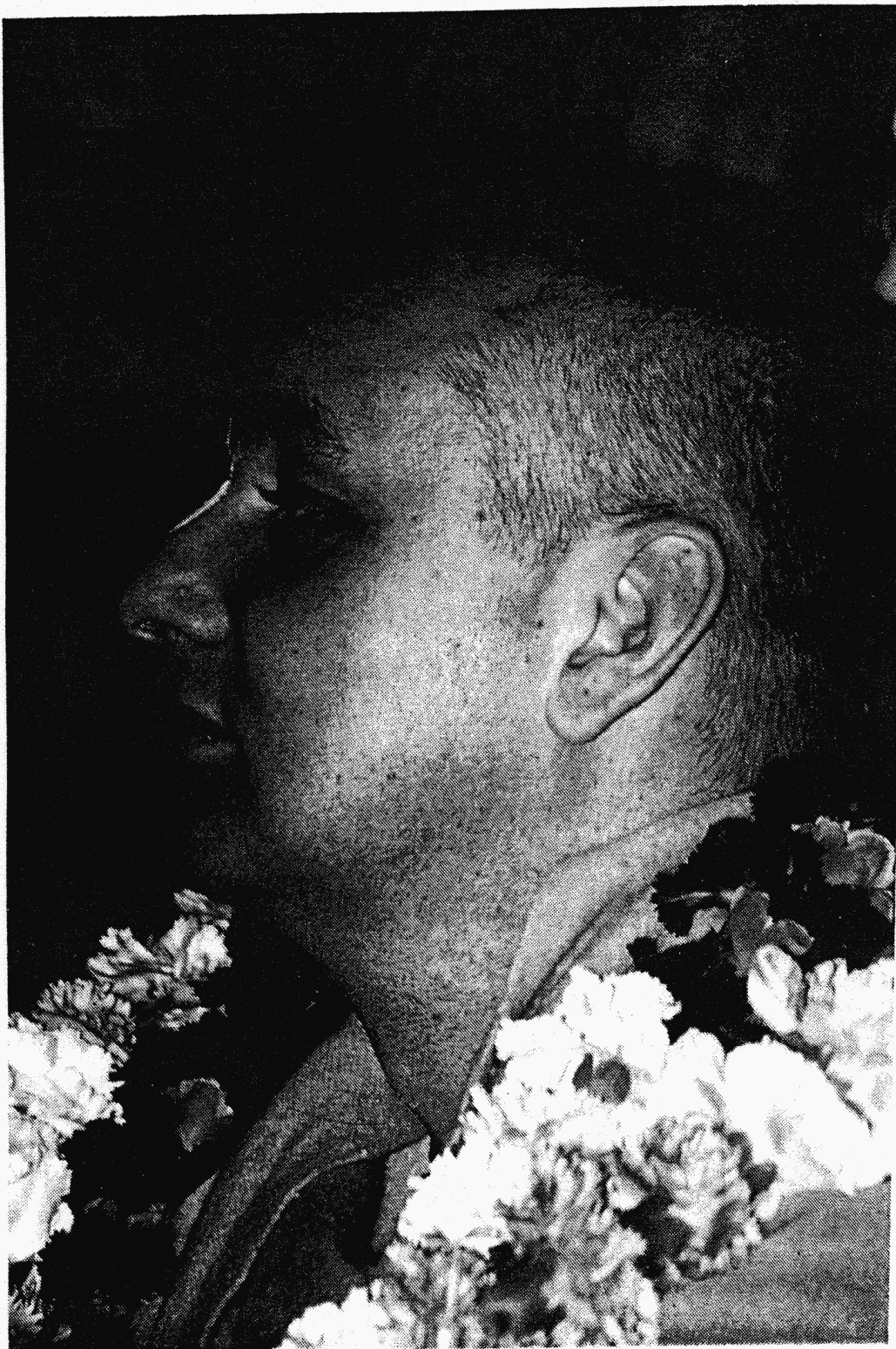
Continuously travelling and preaching, you enliven all at every step. Perfectly you are situated, firmly at the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada and Sri Krsna.

Maharaja, by your fatherly mood and compassion and your intense Krsna conscious spirits, you have picked me up from waves of nescience in times of need. Just as when you were in Christchurch recently, I was in need of some strong spiritual upliftment. I was lamenting as my Guru Maharaja was in the Soviet Union, and Krsna, the Supersoul in the heart of all the living entities, inspired you to give me just the right attention I needed. I thank you very much for your unlimited friendliness, knowledge, and funny jokes. You are truly a shining jewel of Srila Prabhupada!

Please always allow me to catch a drop of your nectarine association,

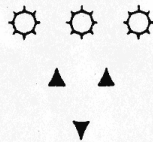
Always aspiring to be your servant,

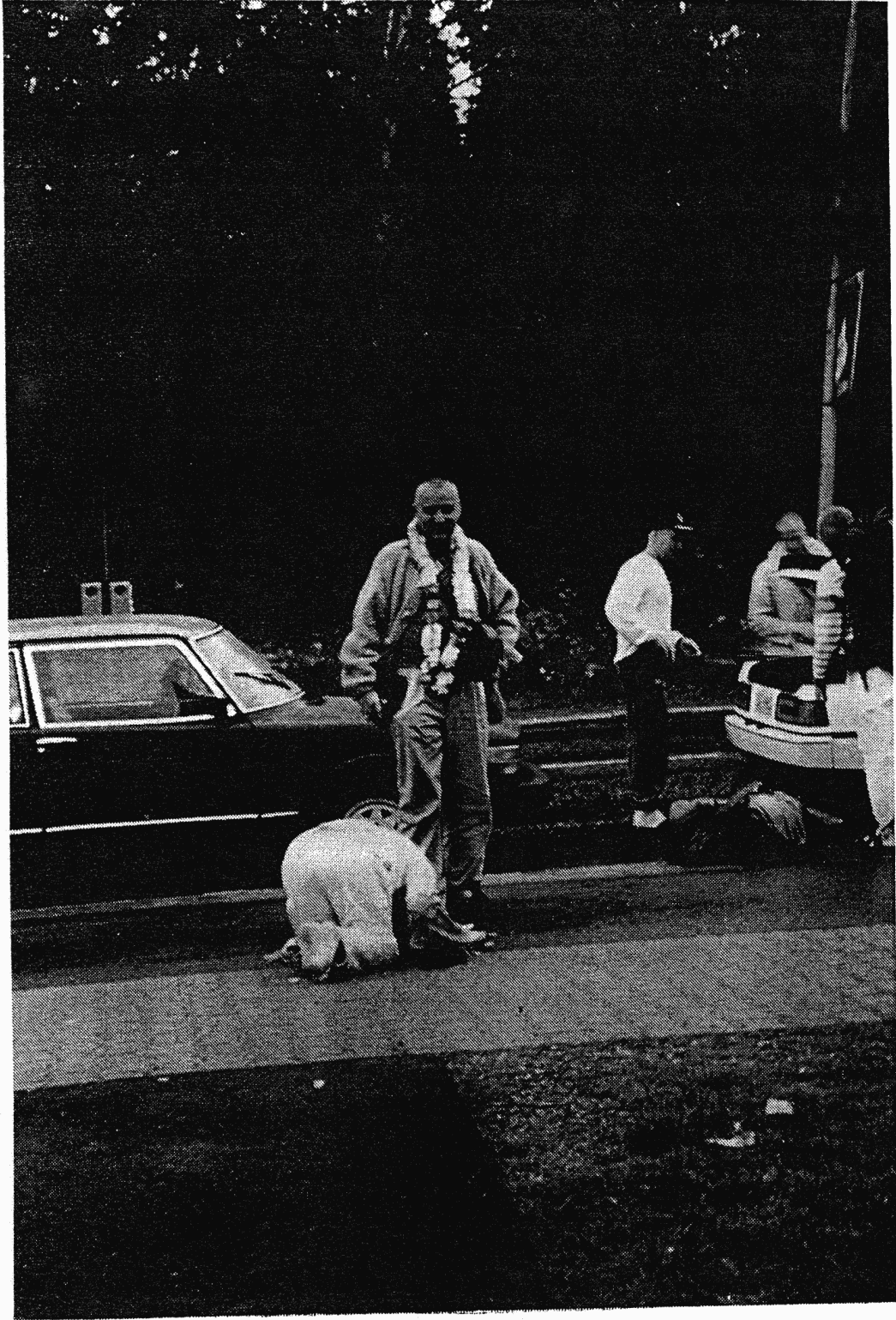
Visnupriya devi-dasi



SRI GURV-ASTAKA

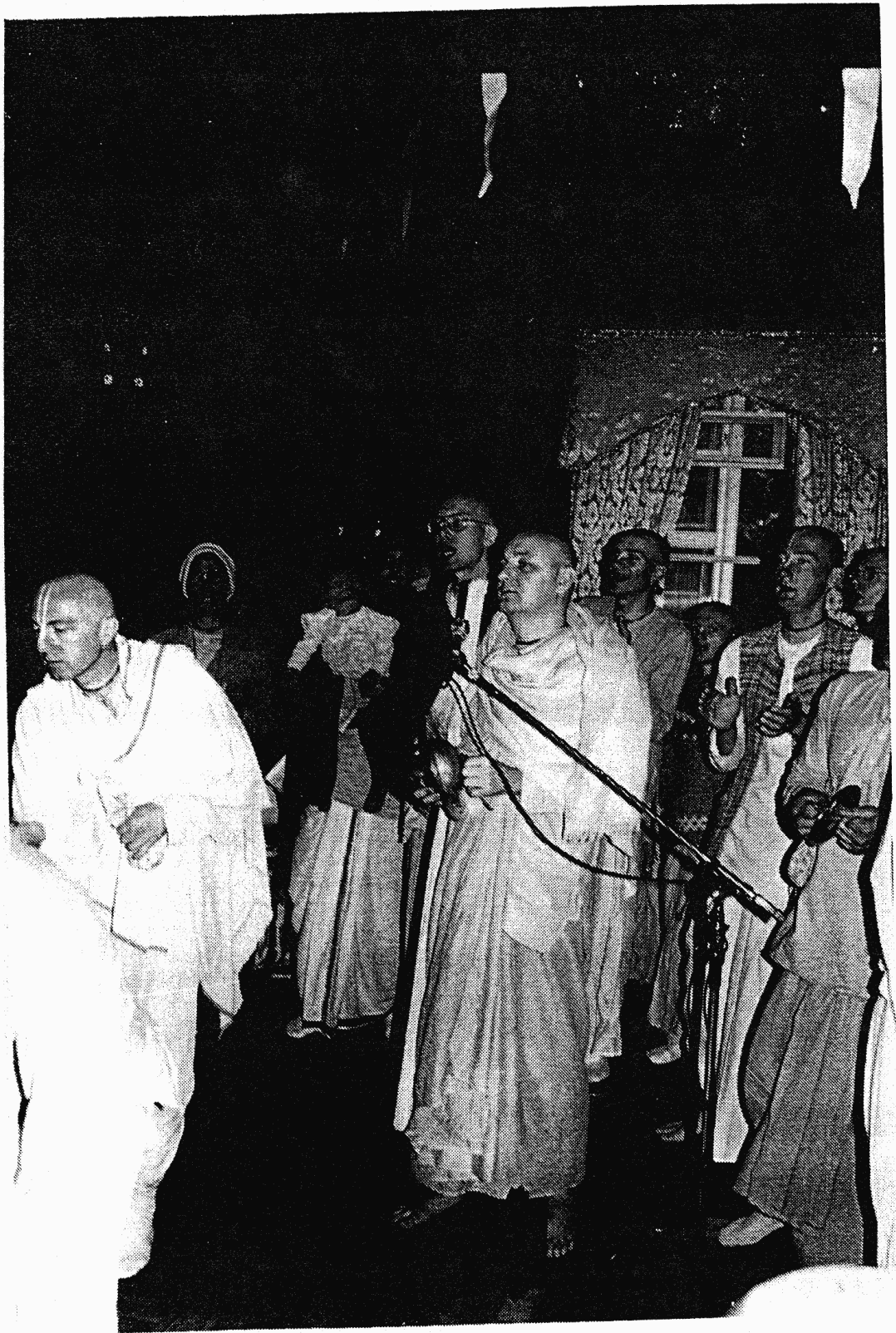
by Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakur





*samsara-davanala-lidha-loka
tranaya karunya-ghanaghanatvam
praptasya kalyana-gunavarasya
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

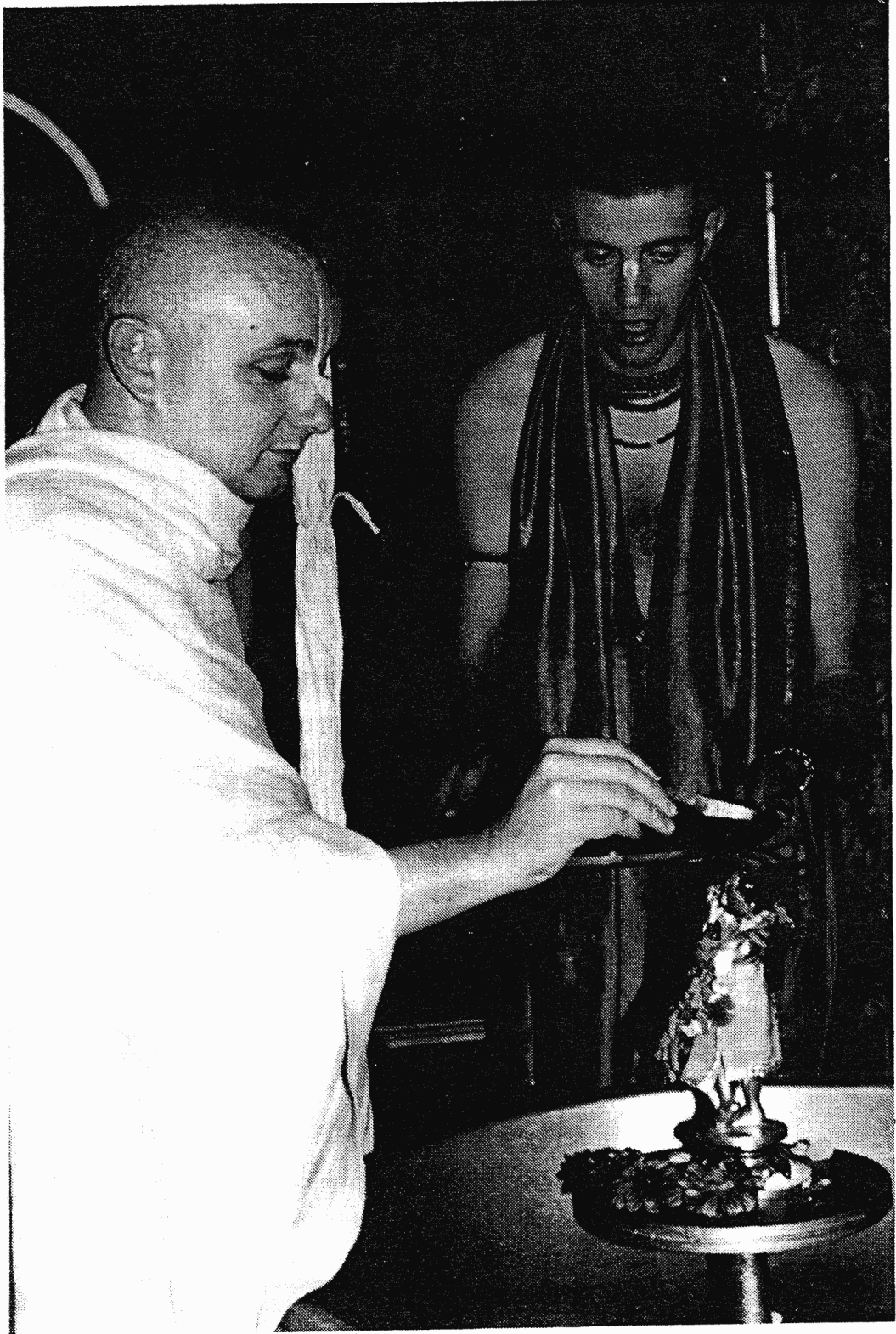
The spiritual master is receiving benediction from the ocean of mercy. Just as a cloud pours water on a forest fire to extinguish it, so the spiritual master delivers the materially afflicted world by extinguishing the blazing fire of material existence. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus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



2

*mahaprabhoh kirtana-nrtya-gita
vaditra-madyan-manaso rasena
romanca-kampasru-taranga-bhajo
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

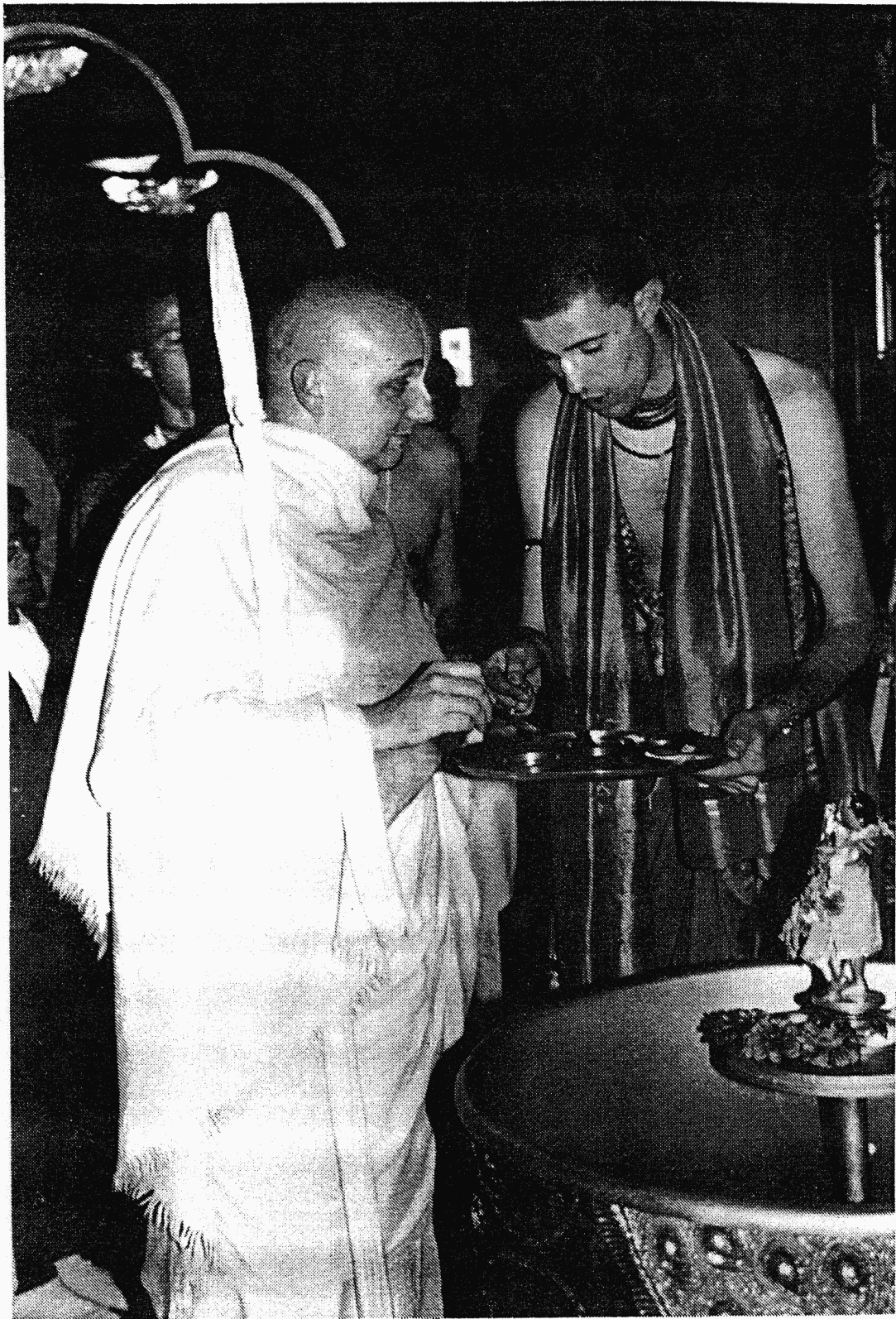
Chanting the holy name, dancing in ecstasy, singing, and playing musical instruments, the spiritual master is always gladdened by the sankirtan movement of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Because he is relishing the mellows of pure devotion within his mind, sometimes his hair stands on end, he feels quivering 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

*sri-vigraharadhana-nitya-nana-
srngara-tan-mandira-marjanadau
yuktasya bhaktams ca niyunjato 'pi
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

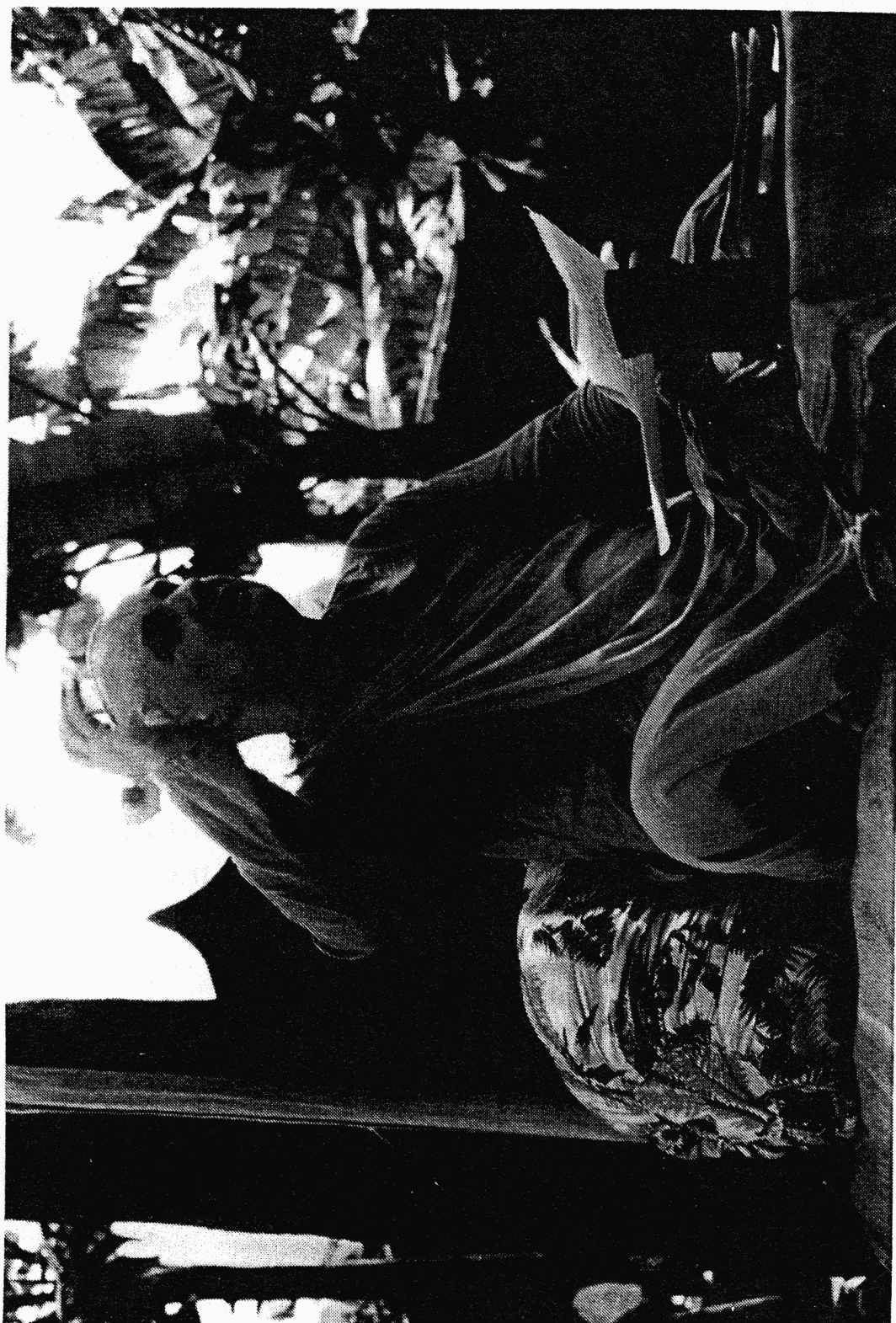
The spiritual master is always engaged in the temple worship of Sri Sri Radha and Krsna. He also engages his disciples in such worship. They dress the Deities in beautiful clothes and ornaments, clean Their temple, and perform other similar worship of the Lord. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the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



4

*catur-vidha-sri-bhagavat-prasada-
svadv-anna-trptan hari-bhakta-sanghan
krtvaiva trptim bhajatah sadaiva
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

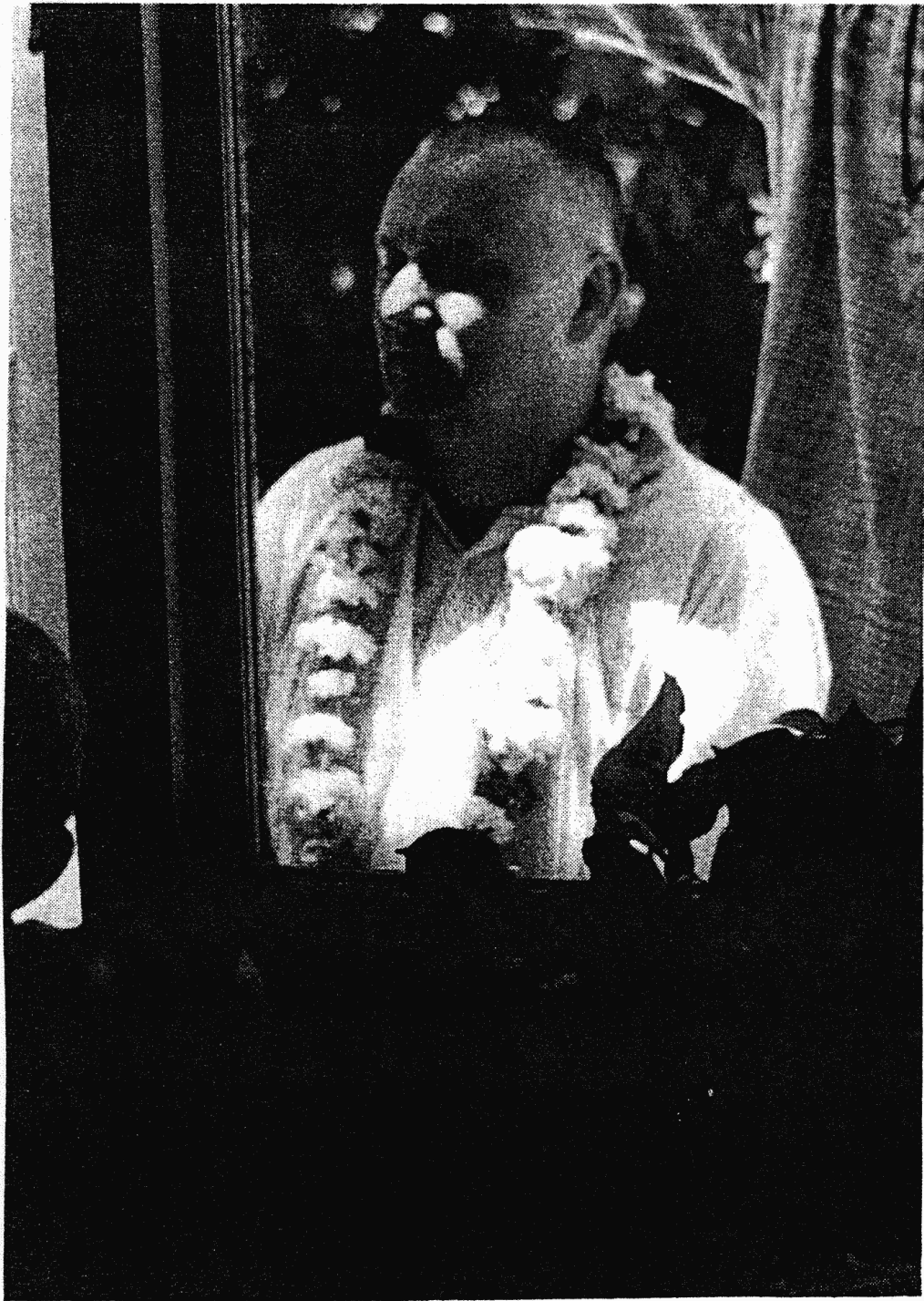
The spiritual master is always offering Krsna four kinds of delicious food (analyzed as that which is licked, chewed, drunk, and sucked). When the spiritual master sees that the devotees are satisfied by eating bhagavat-prasada, he is satisfied. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of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



5

*sri-radhika-madhavayor apara-
madhurya-lila-guna-rupa-namnam
prati-ksanasvadana-lolupasya
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

The spiritual master is always eager to hear and chant about the unlimited conjugal pastimes of Radhika and Madhava, 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

*nikunja-yuno rati-keli-siddhyai
ya yalibhir yuktir apeksaniya
tatrati-daksyad ati-vallabhasya
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

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 Radha and Krsna's conjugal loving affairs within the groves of Vrndavana. I offer my most humble obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.



7

*saksad-dharitvena samasta-sastrair
uktas tatha bhavyata eva sadbhih
kintu prabhor yah priya eva tasya
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

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 Sri Hari (Krsna).



8

*yasya prasadaḥ bhagavat-prasado
yasya prasadan na gatiḥ kuto 'pi
dhyāyaṁ stuvāms tasya yasas tri-saṁdhyam
vande guroḥ śrī-caranaravindam*

**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.**