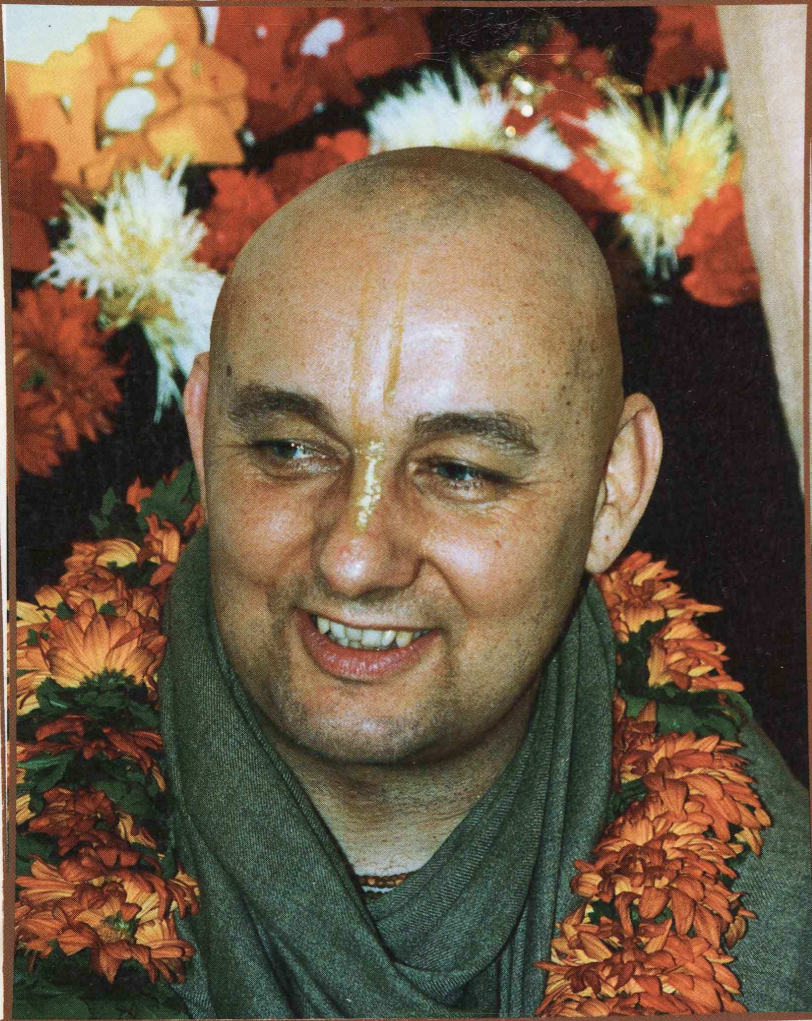


SRI VYASA-PUJA



*The most blessed event November 24th 1995, the Appearance Day of our Beloved Spiritual Master
Om Vishnupada Paramahansa Parivrajakacarya Astottara-sata Sri Srimad*

Srila Suhotra Swami Maharaja

*Initiating spiritual master of the international society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder Acarya Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada*

Contents

| | |
|---|--------|
| Introduction | ix |
| The meaning of Vyasa-puja | xi |
| Prayer to Guru Maharaja | xiv |
| Mangalacarana Prayers | xv |
| Guru Maharaja's Homage to Srila Prabhupada | xxi |
| Offerings from Australia | 1 |
| Daya-Dharma Devi Dasi 2, Kanya Kumari Devi Dasi 3, Vijaya Devi Dasi 4 | |
| Offerings from Benelux | 7 |
| Ananda-Laksmi Devi Dasi 8, Bhaktin Lisa 9, Madhu Pandita Dasa 10, Mukti Datri Devi Dasi 11, Bhaktin Olga 12, Vindaranya-Priya Dasa 13, Kamalavati Devi Dasi 14, Kesava-Priya Devi Dasi 15 | |
| Offerings from Bulgaria | 19 |
| Bhagadatta Dasa 20, Bharadhari Dasa 21, Cintamani Devi Dasi 23, Daksinesvari Devi Dasi 25, Bhaktin Diana 26, Gopati Dasa 27, Bhakta Hristo 28, Jaganatha-Misra Dasa 29, Kalavinka Dasa 31, Kaumudi Devi Dasi 32, Krsnananda Dasa 33, Ksetrajna Dasa, Kriyasakti Devi Dasi, Nadya 34, Madhva Dasa 34, Mahabhava-Svarupa Devi Dasi 36, Mahendra Dasa 37, Mitrasuta Dasa 38, Bhakta Nikolay 39, Nikunjarasi Vilasi Devi Dasi 41, Pandhu-Rani Devi Dasi 42, Bhakta Plamen (Sofia) 44, Bhakta Plamen (Plovdiv) 46, Rasa-Lila Devi Dasi 47, Rasatmika Devi Dasi 48, Ruciravatara Dasa 50, Sasabindu Dasa 52, Satyamadhava Dasa 54, Sthanu Dasa 55, Vaniseva Devi Dasi 56, Madhusudhana-Krsna Dasa, Tilottama Devi Dasi 58, Vasudama Dasa 59 | |
| Offerings from Czech Republic | 61 |
| Jnanacaksusa Dasa 62, Bhakta Karel 63, Krsna-Valli Devi Dasi 66, Kusa Dasa 67, Madhura Devi Dasi 68, Bhakta Martin 69, Pattrapati Dasa 70, Pavitravani Dasa 71, Radhesa Dasa 71, Susanga-Jata Dasa 73, Vasumana Dasa 74, Vidya-Vacaspati Dasa 75, Adhika-Daya Devi Dasi 76, Bhakta Vladislav 78 | |
| Offerings from Finland | 81 |
| Bhakta Mans 82, Tattvavada Dasa 83, | |
| Offerings from Germany | 87 |
| Amara-Prabhu Dasa 88, Bhagavata-Dharma Dasa 89, Bhakta Pawel 92, Vipula Dasa 93 | |

Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Offerings from Greece | 96 |
| Dharma-Rupa Devi Dasi 96, Dvija 96, Gaura-Bhagavan Dasa, 97, Bhakta Igor 98, Panagati-Tirtha Dasa 99, Purna-Prajna Dasa 100, Vairagya-Laksmi Devi Dasi 101 | |
| Offerings from Hungary | 105 |
| Antardhi Dasa 106, Gada-Bhrt Dasa 107, Gopi-Candra Dasa 108, Ijya Devi Dasi 109, Bhakta Karoly 111, Sita-Laksmi Devi Dasi 113, Vaikunthesvari Devi Dasi 114 | |
| Offerings from Moldavia | 117 |
| Indra-Karma Dasa 118, Prema-Vanya Dasa 118 | |
| Offerings from Norway | 121 |
| Gour-Gopal Dasa 122, Bhakta Jon 123, Jalendra Dasa 123, Manjari- Svarupa Devi Dasi 124 | |
| Offerings from Poland | 127 |
| Bhakta Andrzej (Gdansk) 128, Bhakta Andrzej (Warsaw) 128, Atma- Maya Devi Dasi 130, Bhakti Acyuta-Priya Devi Dasi 131, Dayala-Candra Dasa 133, Isanghri-Seva Devi Dasi 134, Bhaktin Izabela 135, Bhaktin Joana 137, Mantresvara Dasa 137, Martanda Dasa 138, Bhaktin Paulina 140, Pracarananda Dasa 141, Bhaktin Sabina 143, Bhakta Sebastian 144, Bhakta Wojtek 146, Bhaktin Zuzanna 147 | |
| Offerings from Romania | 151 |
| Bhakta Costel 152, Bhaktin Gabi 153, Krsna-Ragini Devi Dasi 154, Bhaktin Maria 155, Bhakta Minel 157, Murari-Krsna Dasa 158, Bhakta Ovidiu 160, Prabhu Nityananda Dasa 160, Sri Caitanya Dasa 162, Syamala Devi Dasi 163 | |
| Offerings from Sweden | 167 |
| Cit-Sakti Dasa 168, Bhakta Karel 170, Sankarsana Dasa 171, Sundaranayika Devi Dasi 172 | |
| Offerings from other Temples | 175 |
| Padma-Sambhava Dasa, Bhaktin Soo peng, Hanumana Dasa, Krsna Dasa, Vamana Dasa (New Zealand) 176, Raghupati Dasa 177, Varadaraja Dasa 177 | |
| Miracle | 181 |
| Sri Sri Gury-astaka | 183 |

Introduction

Dear Suhotra Maharaja!

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

Using this auspicious occasion of your birthday and responding to the merciful offer of your disciples, I would also like to express my gratitude to such a wonderful godbrother as yourself.

I remember, the first time you came to Germany, hearing your lectures, which shook up the minds and hearts of the devotees present. Ignoring the spirit of a personality cult which dominated the yatra at those times, you preached boldly the principles laid down by Srila Prabhupada on the basis of guru-sastra-sadhu. Opposing cheap sentimentality, you gave strong evidence of how the guru-parampara will continue, even after the departure of Srila Prabhupada. Maybe these strong, non-sentimental words hurt the false ego, but they surely pleased the soul. Later on throughout the last 20 years, I learned to admire your chastity towards Srila Prabhupada and his teachings. It may take maybe a little while for those who care to discover that under the "heavy" shell resides a most gentle and shy devotee. It is this wonderful love for truth and aversion for hypocrisy which makes one drawn to you again and again.

You are the true intellectual, since you have the wonderful ability to bring out the essence of any sastra and present it in a way that even the most simple devotee can understand. In your lectures, humor becomes wisdom and wisdom becomes practical reality. Therefore, it is so refreshing to have your association.

I personally cannot repay the debt I have to you. You helped me so much on points where I badly needed it. To describe this alone in detail would dramatically increase the volume of this Vyasa-puja book. It is so nice, to get the right advice at the right moment. And I got it from you exactly when it was needed. So I can only thank you again and hope that you may visit our temple again.

I am sure, that you will have Srila Prabhupada's association as his confidential servant again, so please, if you could also pray for me in this regard, that would give me some hope as well.

Meanwhile, I can simply count my blessings to have the association of such a wonderful godbrothers as yourself.

Your servant,
Manidhara dasa



His Divine Grace

A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Founder-Acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Meaning of Vyasa-puja

In Caitanya Caritamrita it is said: "*brahmāṇḍa bhramite konyā, bhāgyavan jiva, Guru Kṛṣṇa Prasāde paya bhaktilata bīja*". According to their karma all living entities wander over the world, from the lowest, to the middle, up to the highest planetary systems. However, they cannot fulfill their material desires anywhere. "*abrahma-Bhuvanaḥ loka, punar avartino 'rjuna...*" - all planets in this world, from the lowest to the highest, are the places of suffering, wherein repeated births and deaths takes place. Therefore the living entities suffer, trying to attain something that can not be attained. In their attempts to reach pleasure, material perfection, unlimited fame or beauty they remind a mythical Tantalus, thrown into a well by the Gods as a punishment for his disobedience. Even though he was covered with water up to his mouth and wonderful bunches of grapes were just above him, he could satisfy neither his thirst nor hunger. As soon as he wanted to seize the fruit, by higher arrangement they would sneak out of his reach. And when he wanted to draw some water into his dried mouth, its level was suddenly falling under his knees, so that there was no hope for relief. Similarly attempts to satisfy material desires, in this unfriendly environment is doomed to failure and the result is simply suffering, which cannot be soothed. This is the common phenomena in the lives of millions of living entities. Therefore, one who by the grace of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna, can be bestowed with the association of a bona fide spiritual master and in this way receive the seed of devotional service, should be considered extremely lucky. However, the spiritual master is not just a seed giver, but also a gardener, which requires a lot more responsibility. The task of the gardener is to sow the seed, so that it could grow into a mature plant, which can survive all kinds of disease, wind, frost and pests, and ultimately give a mature fruit or flower. Similarly a spiritual master, being a member of the transcendental disciplic succession cares for his fortunate disciple, watching his growth in devotional service for Krishna, enjoying all his, even the slightest, positive changes for good, which are attained by education and training. In Skanda Purana it is said: *gu sabda stwandha karasya andhakara nirodhitwanda gururitya bhidhiyate*

The word *gu* means darkness, and *ru* its dissolving. Since the time immemorial living entities remain in the clutches of illusion and darkness, regarding himself to be the doer and developing the tendency to identify with the material body and accepting the temporary, earthly matters or phenomena as belonging to him, according to the principle: *janasya mohayam aham mameti* So, in order to wake up from the terrible state of eternal coma, one should accept the shelter of one, who is beyond darkness and who is therefore able to dissolve it - Srila Gurudeva. And how does it happen?

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

People often ask, how the Supreme Lord shows his mercy as they think it should have some material dimension? According to the vedic knowledge, the Lord's mercy appears in the form of spiritual knowledge, by which one is able to give up the material entanglement and situate oneself back on the path of spiritual self-identity and love

Meaning of Sri Vyasa-puja

for Krishna. However, it is obvious that the transmission of the spiritual knowledge must be done by the appropriate persons, who are not only able to understand it, but also practice it, giving the example of its spirituality and universalism. The authorized disciplic succession gives such personalities, and our beloved Guru Maharaja belongs to it. In Mundaka Upanisad (1.2.12) it is stated:

*tat-vijnanartham sa gurum evabhigacchet
samt-panih srotiyam brahma-nistham*

"In order to learn transcendental knowledge one should approach a bona fide spiritual master, who comes from the disciplic succession and who is fixed in the Absolute Truth." The verse explains, that in order to learn the transcendental knowledge one should approach the guru and in this way attain a possibility to practice it as a bona fide initiated disciple, according to the principle of guru-sastra-sadhu. This is the greatest mystery of spiritual progress and success at the same time - humble inquiring the truth under the guidance of guru, acting according to instructions heard from him and pleasing him in this way. Spiritual master is fully satisfied when he sees that his disciple makes a steady progress in Krishna consciousness. And this is the meaning of the Vyasa Puja - nobody has ever attained the mercy of guru, revealed scriptures and sadhu - previous acaryas in the guru-parampara succession and devotees in general, without understanding the mystery of this celebration of Vyasa-puja and appreciate its value for us.

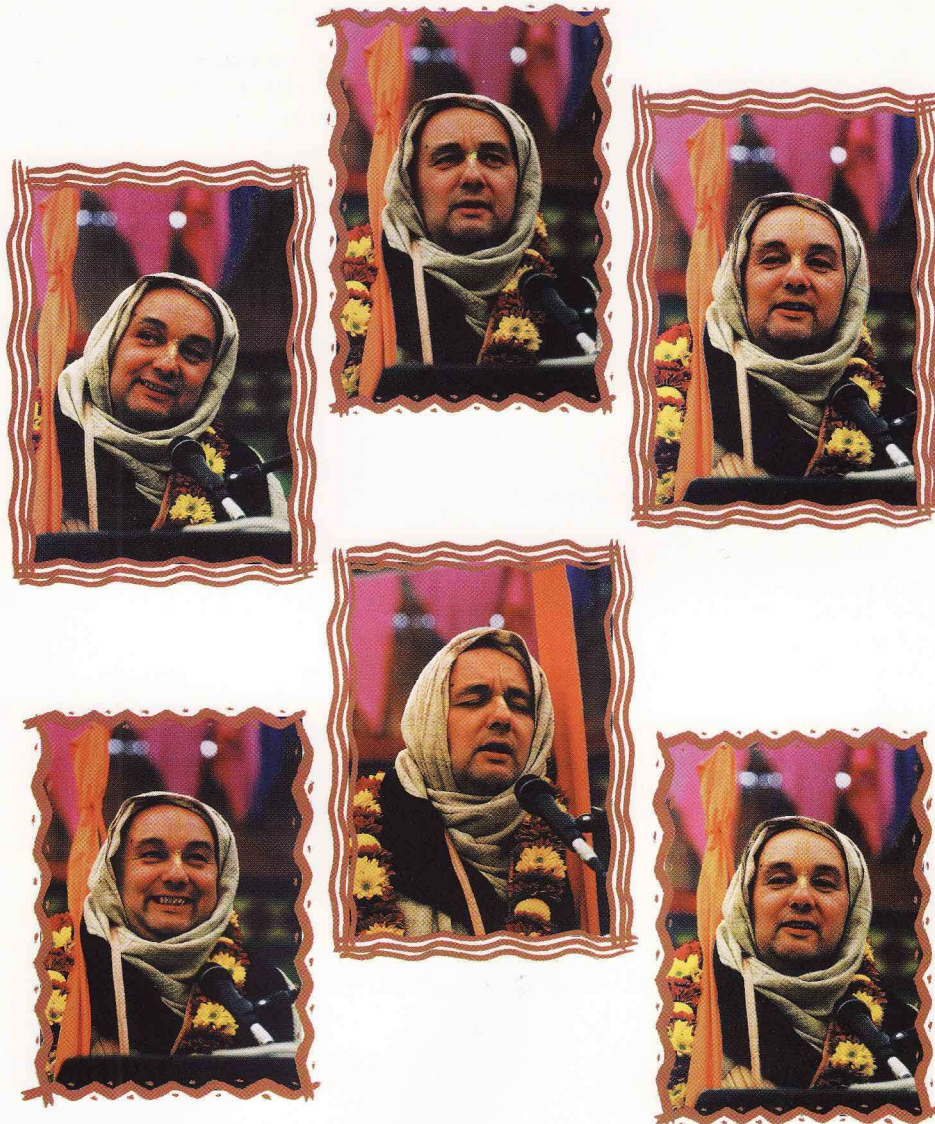
On this special day of the appearance of our beloved Spiritual Master - Om visnupada, Paramahansa Parivrajakacarya Astottara Sata sri Srimad His divine grace Srila Suhotra Swami Maharaja we should fully concentrate on remembering and glorifying His divine qualities. We should always remember about his wonderful mission of fighting the demoniac influence of Kali Yuga, by giving extatic classes based on the teachings of Srila Prabhupada and we should always try to assist him, organizing programmes for him so that those who are covered with illusion, be purified. Our duty is to always remember that our Guru Maharaja is the Simha-Guru and therefore all our intelligence should be centered on careful listening and remembering his divine instructions for our spiritual benefit. And we can show that by constant improving the quality of our service for him.

All glories to His divine grace Srila Suhotra Maharaja!

All glories to His Vyasa-puja!

Pracarananda Dasa

Prayer



O Gurudeva!

You have received your brilliant transcendental intelligence directly from Srila Prabhupada, and are fulfilling his innermost desire by preaching the gospel of Sri Caitanya mahaprabhu in the most demoniac countries, thus delivering their inhabitants from their present suffering condition.



SRI VYASA PUJA



Mangalacarana Prayers



Mangala-carana Prayers

*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.

*sri-caitanya-mano-'bhistam sthapitam yena bhu-tale
svayam rupah kada mahyam dadati sva-padantikam*

When will Srila Rupa Gosvami Prabhupada, who has established within this material world the mission to fulfill the desire of Lord Caitanya, give me shelter under his lotus feet?

*vande 'ham sri-guroh sri-yuta-pada-kamalam sri-gurun vaisnavams ca
sri-rupam sagrajatam saha-gana-raghunathanvitam tam sa-jivam
sadvaitam savadhutam parijana-sahitam krsna-caitanya-devam
sri-radha-krsna-padan saha-gana-lalita-sri-visakhanvitams ca*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master and of all the other preceptors on the path of devotional service. I offer my respectful obeisances unto all the Vaisnavas and unto the six Gosvamis, including Srila Rupa Gosvami, Srila Sanatana Gosvami, Raghunatha dasa Gosvami, Jiva Gosvami, and their associates. I offer my respectful obeisances unto Sri Advaita Acarya Prabhu, Sri Nityananda Prabhu, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, and all His devotees, headed by Srivasa Thakura. I then offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of Lord Krsna, Srimate Radharani, and all the gopis, headed by Lalita and Visakha.

*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.

*namas te guru-hamsaya, kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto you who are the simha-guru and the one who takes away the influence of Kali-yuga by delivering wonderful lectures on the scientific teachings of Srila Prabhupada.

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

Mangala-carana Prayers

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

*namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatyā-desā-tarine*

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

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktisiddhanta-sarasvatīti namine*

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

*sri-varsabhanavi-devi-dayitaya kṛpābdhaye
kṛṣṇa-sambandha-vijnana-dayine prabhavā namah*

I offer my respectful obeisances to Sri Varsabhanavi-Devi-Dayita Dasa [another name of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati], who is favored by Srimati Radharani and who is the ocean of transcendental mercy and the deliverer of the science of Krsna.

*madhuryojjvala-premadhya-sri-rupanuga-bhaktida-
sri-gaura-karuna-sakti-vigrahaya namo 'stu te*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto you, the personified energy of Sri Caitanya's mercy, who deliver devotional service which is enriched with conjugal love of Radha and Krsna, coming exactly in the line of revelation of Srila Rupa Gosvami.

*namas te gaura-vani-sri-murtaye dina tarine
rupanuga-viruddhapasiddhanta-dhvanta-harine*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto you, who are the personified teachings of Lord Caitanya. you are the deliverer of the fallen souls. You do not tolerate any statement which is against the teachings of devotional service enunciated by Srila Rupa Gosvami.

*namo gaura-kisoraya saksad-vairagya-murtaye
vipralamba-rasambhode padambujaya te namah*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto Gaurakisora dasa Babaji Maharaja [the spiritual master of Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati], who is renunciation personified. he is always

Mangala-carana Prayers

merged in a feeling of separation and intense love of Krsna.

*namo bhaktivinodaya sac-cid-ananda-namine
gaura-sakti-svarupaya rupanuga-varaya te*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto Saccidananda Bhaktivinoda, who is transcendental energy of Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He is a strict follower of the Gosvamis, headed by Srila Rupa.

*gauravirbhava-bhumes tvam nirdesta saj-jana-priyah
vaisnava-sarvabhaumah sri-jagannathaya te namah*

I offer my respectful obeisances to Jagannatha dasa Babaji, who is respected by the entire Vaisnava community and who discovered the place where Lord Caitanya appeared.

*vancha-kalpatarubhyas ca krpa-sindhubhya eva ca
patitanam pavanebhyo vaisnavebhyo namo namah*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto all the Vaisnava devotees of the Lord. They are just like desire trees who can fulfill the desires of everyone, and they are full of compassion for the fallen conditioned souls.

*namo maha-vadanyaya krsna-prema-pradaya te
krsnaya krsna-caitanya-namne gaura-tvise namah*

O most munificent incarnation! You are Krsna Himself appearing as Sri Krsna Caitanya Mahaprabhu. You have assumed the golden colour of Srimati Radharani, and You are widely distributing pure love of Krsna. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You.

*panca-tattvatmakam krsnam bhakta-rupa-svarupakam
bhaktavataram bhaktakhyam namami bhakta-saktikam*

I offer my obeisances unto the Supreme Lord, Krsna, who is nondifferent from His features as a devotee, devotional incarnation, devotional manifestation, pure devotee, and devotional energy.

*he krsna karuna-sindho dina-bandho jagat-pate
gopesa gopika-kanta radha-kanta namo 'stu te*

O my dear Krsna, ocean of mercy, You are the friend of the distressed and the source of creation. You are the master of the cowherdmen and the lover of the gopis, especially Radharani. I offer my respectful obeisances unto You.

Mangala-carana Prayers

*jayatam suratau pangor mama manda-mater gati
mat-sarvasva-padambhojau radha-madana-mohanau*

Glory to the all-merciful Radha and Madana-mohana! I am lame and ill advised, yet
They are my directors, and Their lotus feet are everything to me.

*divyad-vrndaranya-kalpa-drumadhah
srimad-ratnagara-simhasana-sthau
srimad-radha-srila govinda-devau
prethalibhih sevyamanau smarami*

In a temple of jewels in Vrndavana, underneath a desire tree, Sri Sri Radha-Govinda,
served by Their most confidential associates, sit upon an effulgent throne. I offer my
humble obeisances unto Them.

*sriman rasa-rasarambhi vamsi-vata-tata-sthitah
karsan venu-svanair gopir gopinathah sriye 'stu nah*

Sri Srila Gopinatha, who originated the transcendental mellow of the rasa dance,
stands on the shore in Vamsivata and attracts the attention of the cowherd damsels
with the sound of His celebrated flute. May they all confer upon us their benediction.

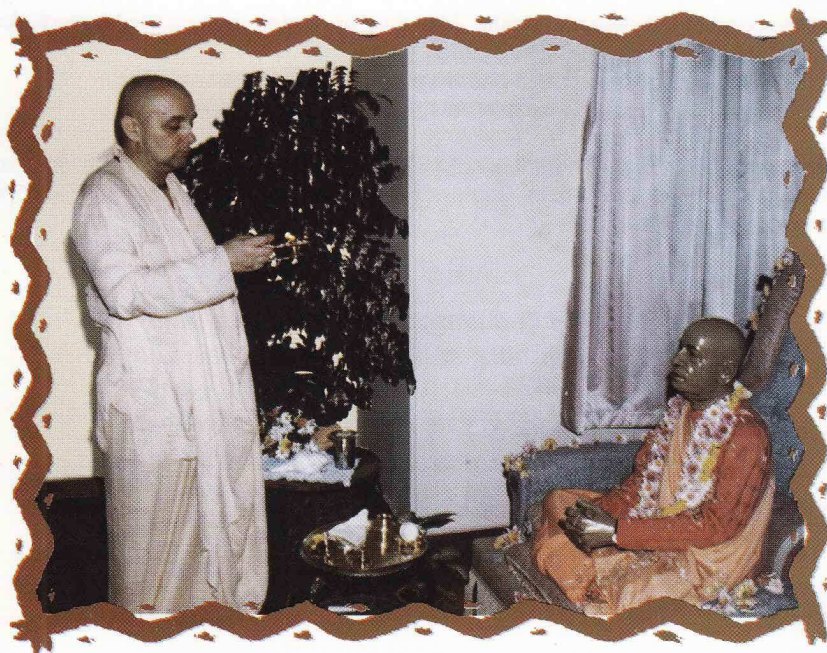
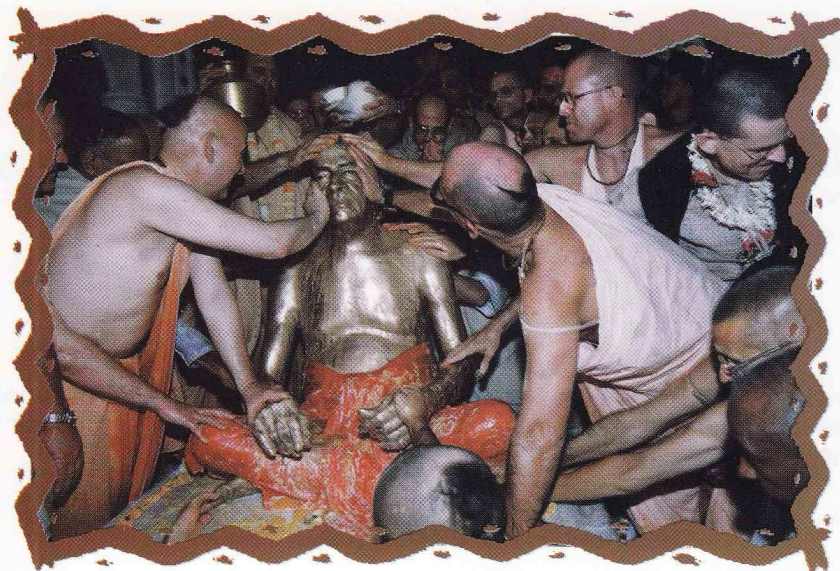
*tapta-kancana-gaurangi radhe vrndavanesvari
vrsabhanu-sute devi pranamami hari-priye*

I offer my respects to Radharani, whose bodily complexion is like molten gold and
who is the Queen of Vrndavana. You are the daughter of King Vrsabhanu, and You
are very dear to Lord Krsna.

*jaya sri-krsna-caitanya prabhu nityananda
sri-advaita gadadhara srivasadi-gaura-bhakta-vrnda*

*hare krsna hare krsna, krsna krsna, hare hare
hare rama hare rama, rama rama, hare hare*

Homage to Srila Prabhupada



Homage to Srila Prabhupada



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

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His divine grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who is very dear to Lord Krsna, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

*namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-desa-tarine*

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

Dear Srila Prabhupada, in Srimad-Bhagavatam 8.20.21p you write as follows.

"Sometimes we see a devotee offering Ganges water to the Ganges. After taking his bath in the Ganges, a devotee takes a palmful of water and offers it back to the Ganges. Actually, when one takes a palmful of water from the Ganges, the Ganges does not lose anything, and similarly if a devotee offers a palmful of water to the Ganges, the Ganges does not increase in any way. But by such an offering, the devotee becomes celebrated as a devotee of mother Ganges. Similarly, when we offer anything with devotion and faith, what we offer does not belong to us, nor does it enrich the opulence of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. But if one offers whatever he has in his possession, he becomes arecognized devotee."

All I have in my possession is the sublime knowledge you have given me. In the same way that a palmful of Ganges water is offered to the Ganges, I shall attempt to offer a palmful of knowledge into the ocean of philosophical truth that is Your Divine Grace with this homage. It is based upon a room conversation you had with a German man and a professor in Mexico City, January, 1975, edited for brevity's sake. According to my palmful of realization, which is only by your mercy, I've made notes on certain points.

Homage to Srila Prabhupada

The topic under discussion is, Why is there anything?

Guest (1) (German Man): I would like to ask you a question. Once Leibnitz, who is one of the fathers of the Western tradition, formulated the question which was the beginning of metaphysics in a way, Western metaphysics. The question is "Why there is anything?" What is your stand about this classic point?

Note: According to G. W. Leibnitz (1646-1716), the "why" of anything cannot be discerned by studying anything, because the things of this world do not contain in themselves the reason for their existence. The reason for anything is to be found in the being that does contain the reason for its own existence i.e., the Necessary Being, God. The complete reason for anything is knowable to the mind of God, not to the mind of man. Therefore, God's mind is perfect. But Leibnitz's argument for God's perfection does not proceed further, from the cosmological to the transcendental. He posits God's mind as nothing more than a mirror of this imperfect cosmos. He pleads that the perfection of the cosmos is that it is mirrored in the perfect mind of God. This perfection is to be approached through abstract mathematics. Leibnitz's attempt to answer the question "why?" leads to further "whys?". We shall see why in a moment.

Prabhupada: (chuckles) "Why anything exists?" (laughter) What do you mean by anything?

Guest (1): Well, that's precisely the point. What is the purpose? What is the sense, if there is any, or does the very question make sense?

Prabhupada: No, no, unless understand what is that "anything..." First of all, you have to understand what is that "anything." Anything... Just like this book, this table, this bell, the electric they are so many things. So you can take any one of them; that is anything. What is your idea of anything?

Note: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, in these few matter-of-fact sentences, calls attention to a grave shortcoming in Leibnitz's approach to philosophy. A passage from a textbook explains: "...Leibnitz's logical doctrine ... remains a logical doctrine with no bearing on the nature of what there is in the world." Leibnitz believed that the mind is not functionally connected to the world of matter. Mind and matter are two chains of events initiated by God, working independently of one other. His "reason for anything" is simply the mathematical harmony of these two chains of events. Such a "reason why" does not pertain to anything as described by words like book, table, or bell. Therefore it cannot answer questions about the purpose of the objects of our perception. Sense objects are precisely the "anything" that we know.

Guest (1): Oh, reality. Material, external, reality to our ego, our internal reality as well.

Homage to Srila Prabhupada

Prabhupada: Internal reality and external reality?

Guest (1): Both. For me, the word "anything" covers both.

Prabhupada: Yes. So that also we understand, "anything." There are so many varieties of things, and you can take any one of them. That is "anything." But your question should be, "Wherefrom these things coming?" That should be the proper question.

Professor: What is the reason of this (indistinct) "anything"?

Prabhupada: Yes. There are so many things, and you can take any one of them. That is "anything." But the real question should be "Where from all these things are coming?" That is real question, "What is the origin of all these things?"

Note: In Bhag. 11.22.34, the attempt to establish by argument the reality and unreality of the things of this world is condemned by Lord Krsna as useless, though thinkers who are not Krsna conscious are unable to give it up. Leibnitz argued that the reality of "anything" is an abstract state of calculation in harmony with calculations about any and all other things. Apart from this, "nothing" is real. But this is only one of many ways to think about "anything" and "nothing." Perhaps "nothing" really exists out there, and "anything" that we think is real is just a creation of deluded perception and speculation. Or perhaps "anything" is real, with "nothing" dependent upon our power of perception and thought. These arguments are as endless as they are useless. Therefore Srila Prabhupada turns the guest's attention to a different concern, which Western thinkers frame with the word "teleology." The teleological argument asserts that an intelligent comprehension of the things of the cosmos requires the acknowledgment of an intelligent origin of everything.

Guest (1): Well, origin, that is more on the theoretical side. It's a question, "Why?" But I am, rather, after the purpose.

Note: The guest has not yet grasped the significance of Srila Prabhupada's reply. The word teleology is built upon the Greek root *telos*, which means purpose, goal or end. Teleology is precisely knowledge of the purpose of anything, which the guest claims he is after. The purpose of anything is known in the intent of its creator.

Prabhupada: Yes. That is a nice question. But there is the real source of everything. That is the Vedanta-sutra... Perhaps you have read. Vedanta-sutra, first question is: "Wherefrom all these things come?" So the answer is that *janmadyasya yatah*: "Brahman. The original thing is Brahman, or the Absolute Truth, and from Him, everything is emanating."

Note: Srila Prabhupada's phrase, "there is the real source of everything," is most

Homage to Srila Prabhupada

significant. The real source can only be Brahman, the unchanging *Sat. Nasato vidyate bhavo*: that which does not endure (the material world) is *asat* or unreal, and therefore cannot be the real cause of anything. Real philosophy must identify that origin (*adi*) which is eternal and unchanging. "So science, philosophy means to find out the ultimate cause of everything. That we are getting from the sastras, Vedic literature, that Krsna is the cause of all causes." (SP 21 August 1973 in London)

Prabhupada: Just like physical... The sun is there, and whole material world is product of the sunshine. What your physical science says? Eh? Eh? Do they not say? It is a fact that sunshine... Due to the sunshine all these material things are there.

Guest (1): Well, it's more involved than just saying that...about the meaning of celestial bodies and the meaning of, in particular, of sun and moon and so on...We can't see, assuming all the glory of that what happens on the earth due to the existence of those bodies, we do not try to look inside of the structure of these things, as something meant for us. Just universe as it is... And this question, like Nietzschean question which I am repeating--that's not my point--this big question is... Rarely, directly, we hear the direct answer to that.

Note: The guest doesn't complete his thought about the "Nietzschean question." It seems he is referring to Nietzsche's calling into question the idea that the things of the world have an innate human-centered reason or truth to them. In the *Will to Power*, Nietzsche argued that the world is "as a falsehood always changing but never getting near the truth: for there is no 'truth'." To Nietzsche, the world is untrue because the world separates humankind from reason, the way a veil separates the face of a woman from the eyes of a man. Yet he wondered (in *The Joyful Wisdom*) if there is truth in this very veiling of the truth: "Perhaps truth is a woman who has reasons for not showing her reasons?" Not knowing that this feminine *tattva* is Krsna's *sakti*, Nietzsche could not know her *telos* or true purpose: devotional service to Krsna. She serves Krsna by veiling the truth of the Lord and His energies from the eyes of the nondevotees, and lifting the veil of *Maya* from the eyes of the devotees.

Professor: If Indian philosophy...

Prabhupada: No, no, it is no Indian or American. It is the philosophy. It is philosophy. The philosophy is not Indian or American. Truth is truth, not Indian truth or American truth. That is not truth. That is relative truth. The Absolute Truth is absolute. That is neither Indian nor American.

Note: As noted before, real philosophy concerns itself with the intelligent origin (*adi*) of everything, not with speculative arguments over what is real and not real about anything. All Western philosophy began with Greek philosophy. Greek philosophy began as a dispute between those who argued that the *arche* or origin is chaos,

Homage to Srila Prabhupada

and those who argued it is logos. Today, Western materialists still posit chaos as the origin of everything. They shift the sense of the word chaos away from that of the original Greek, so as to mean a state of disorder and unreason, or a void. But the original sense of chaos is better reflected in the English word chasm: a gap. Chaos is the "gap between," just as *pradhana* is the unmanifest between the spiritual and the material manifestations in Vedanta philosophy. *Pradhana* is unconscious and is represented in the state of dreamless sleep called *susupti*. Similarly, in Hesiod's Theogony, night, sleep and death are said to represent chaos. Logos has two senses: meaningful sound (this sense of logos is evident in the word "dialogue"), and reasonable thought (as evident in the word "logic"). In Vedanta philosophy, creation is the order brought to *pradhana* by the thoughts of Maha-Visnu transmitted by *sabda*, Vedic sound. ("This material world is created by the dreaming of Maha-Visnu." Bhag. 4.29.83p;)

"The material energy is coming through the breathing of Maha-Visnu, who is lying down in the Karana, Causal Ocean. So, from the breathing there is sound."
(SP Bg lecture, 19 Feb. '74 in Bombay.)

The idea that intelligent logos is the arche or origin is an ancient Greek attempt at "real philosophy," Vedanta. The opposing idea that everything originates from unintelligent chaos resembles atheistic Sankhya philosophy.

Guest (1): But in what sense you use the concept "truth" here? Is it in the ontological sense, or is it in somehow in a more pragmatical human sense, refers to human beings or...?

Prabhupada: Yes, it is pragmatic, that you cannot see beyond this wall. That is your insufficient knowledge or your senses are insufficient. You cannot go beyond this wall. But that does not mean there is nothing beyond this wall. So if you want to know what is beyond this wall, you have to know from a person who knows it. Yes. Because you cannot see, you cannot know, that is not the end. There must be something.

Note: Pragmatism is a doctrine that favors "value" over abstract "truth." The value of anything is the effect it has on the conduct of life. Pragmatic evaluation of anything supports regular conduct of life, expressed as the Greek *prassein*, "to do (habitually)," from which the word pragmatic is derived. Nietzsche summed up his view of pragmatism in these quotes from Thus Spake Zarathustra. "Many lands saw Zarathustra, and many peoples: thus he discovered the good and the bad of many peoples ... Much that passed for good with one people was regarded with scorn and contempt by another ... Much here called bad was there decked with purple honors." In other words, the values of pragmatism, being human-centered, are inherently relative. In Vedanta philosophy, regular conduct of life means the religious rites prescribed in the Vedas. The Vedas are *apauruseya*, not conceived by human beings. Therefore

Homage to Srila Prabhupada

the sacrificial duties given therein are called setu, "the bridge" between the relative world and the transcendental world. As Lord Krsna explains in Bg 4.33, *sarvam karmakhamilam partha jnane parisamapyate*, "All sacrifices of work culminate in transcendental knowledge." Now a new doubt arises. Transcendental knowledge awaits us on the other side of the bridge of Vedic dharma. Still, while on this side, we must know and embrace the values that support that bridge. Otherwise how can we, who are now in complete ignorance, value the crossing of that bridge? As Srila Prabhupada said to the guest, "it is pragmatic, that you cannot see beyond this wall. That is your insufficient knowledge or your senses are insufficient." Prabhupada gives a transcendently pragmatic solution to the problem of humanistic pragmatism: "If you want to know what is beyond this wall, you have to know from a person who knows it." Krsna similarly declares in Bg 4.34 that the knowledge of the transcendental goal of prescribed duties is given the *tattva-darsi*. Because the *tattva-darsi* sees the truth, he can lead the conditioned soul across the bridge of the Vedas.

Professor: But in the case of a mystical man that has been able to see...

Prabhupada: There is no question of mystic. First of all we have to admit that on account of our senses being imperfect, whatever knowledge we gather, that is imperfect. That is imperfect. Therefore, if you want to possess real knowledge you have to approach somebody who is perfect.

Note: Srila Prabhupada uses the word "mysticism" in different contexts. The context here, in which mysticism is rejected, is summed up in the following sentence from Bhag. 1.12.3p. "Ardent hearing from the bonafide master is the only way to receive transcendental knowledge, and there is no need for medical performances or occult mysticism for miraculous effects." The context in which mysticism is acceptable is seen next. "Vedanta is the last word in Vedic wisdom, and the author and knower of the Vedanta philosophy is Lord Krsna; and the highest Vedantist is the great soul who takes pleasure in chanting the holy name of the Lord. That is the ultimate purpose of all Vedic mysticism." (Bg 2.46p) The Vedic context of mysticism (*raja-guhyam*, the secret of all secrets) is explained by Lord Krsna in Bhagavad-gita 9.2. In Bg 9.1 He prefaces this explanation by reminding Arjuna: *pravaksyami*, "I am speaking." What Krsna speaks in Bhagavad-gita constitutes real mysticism, for He is Yogesvara, the master of all mystics.

Guest (1): How can we know that somebody is perfect?

Prabhupada: That is another thing. But first of all, the basic principle is we have to understand that our senses are imperfect, and whatever knowledge we gather by these imperfect senses, they are imperfect. So if we want perfect knowledge, then we have to approach somebody whose senses are perfect, whose knowledge is perfect. That is the principle. That is the Vedic principle. Therefore the Vedic principle says, *tad-vijnanartham sa gurum evabhigacchet*. You know Sanskrit, yes. "In order

Homage to Srila Prabhupada

to know that perfect knowledge, one should approach guru." So who is guru? Then the next question will be... Your question is that, "How I can?"

Professor: Well, this is... We've only come to one of the mentioned theories of knowledge, I think, *sabda*.

Prabhupada: *Sabda*, yes, *sabda-brahman*. Yes...Just like many thousands of miles away we are getting some radio message and we learn that "Something is happening there. Something is there." Therefore *sabda*. This is... *Sabda* means sound, sound, sound vibration. So that is the real source of knowledge. That is the real source of... *Sabda-brahman*.

Professor: One of the sources of knowledge or the only one?

Prabhupada: No, that is the only one. There are others; they are subordinate. But the *sabda*, knowledge received, *sabda*, through *sabda*, *sabda-brahman*, that is perfect knowledge. Just like the same example: beyond this wall I cannot see, but if somebody there says, "This is the position here"--the sound comes--that is perfect. You cannot see what is going on, but if somebody says, sends radio message or any message, sound, then you know. Therefore *sabda-pramana*, *sabda*, knowledge received through *sabda*, that is perfect knowledge. ... Direct perception. *Sabda*, you can (have) direct perception. It is not intuition. It is perception. ... So this is *sabda-pramana*, *sabda-pramana*, that "In the beginning there was God, nothing else." So in this way our Vedic principle is: when your knowledge is corroborated by the Vedic version then it is perfect.

Note: The word *pramana* in Sanskrit means "source of valid knowledge." Three kinds of *pramana* are accepted in the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya Sampradaya. These are *sabda* (spiritual sound), *pratyaksa* (sensory perception) and *anumana* (logical argument). The root of *pramana* is *prama* (cognition); therefore *pramana* is that by which the truth is ascertained. But the *acaryas* of our *sampradaya* hold that of the three *pramanas*, *sabda* alone is the best evidence because it alone reveals the truth that lies beyond material perception. Therefore Srila Prabhupada said, "that (*sabda*) is the only one. There are others; they are subordinate." Sensory perception (*pratyaksa*) and logic (*anumana*) help us only to understand the Vedic evidence in terms of our present condition. But they themselves are unable to reveal eternal truths. As Prabhupada said, "*Sabda*, you can (have) direct perception that in the beginning there was God, nothing else." Then in what way are sensory perception and logic accepted as evidence? In that with their help, Vedic knowledge can be demonstrated and confirmed. When employed skillfully, sensory perception and logic reinforce faith in the *sabda-pramana* (evidence of spiritual sound). *Pratyaksa* and *anumana* that do not support the *sabda* enunciated by the *tattva-darsi* are to be rejected.

Homage to Srila Prabhupada

Professor: But why existence of all these things?

Prabhupada: So? Why? Then the answer will be: "Why there shall not be existence?" First of all you answer this. If you question like that-- "Why there is existence?"--then I shall inquire, "Why there shall not be existence?" Therefore the decision should be taken from the Absolute. Your question, my answer, will not solve. If you say, "Why there is existence?" I can ask you, "Why there shall not be existence?" And who will decide this?

The purpose is... That is experienced by every one of us, what is the purpose of life, what is the purpose, anything. That, everyone, we can understand very easily. The purpose is *ananda*. Pleasure. That is the purpose. There is no difficulty to understand what is the purpose. The purpose is pleasure-seeking. Or purpose is pleasure. One who hasn't got the pleasure, he's seeking after it. That is the purpose. Purpose is *ananda*. *Anandamayo 'bhyasat*. That is the Vedanta-sutra. Everyone of us, seeking *ananda*. The scientific knowledge, philosophy, or even driving the car or whatever you are doing--the purpose is *ananda*. That is a common factor. Purpose is... Why I am eating palatable dishes? I can eat anything, but I am seeking that "This sort of foodstuff will please me." That is *ananda*.

Guest (1): That is driving force and motivation of most human activities. But the question, purpose, which Leibnitz was asking for, he was asking on higher plane, in abstraction.

Prabhupada: Higher plane means you are seeking after pleasure, but that is being obstructed. That is your position. You are seeking pleasure, but it is not unobstructed. Therefore you are seeking higher, where there is no obstruction. Pleasure is the purpose, but when you speak of higher plane, that means you are experiencing obstruction in getting pleasure. So you are seeking a platform where there is no obstruction. But the purpose is the same.

Note: As Srila Prabhupada so often said, "Variety is the mother of enjoyment." That is why anything and everything is displayed in this world. Unfortunately, the variety displayed on the lower or material plane of existence is "a falsehood always changing but never getting near the truth." Material variety is *nirvisesa*, without quality, because it is temporary. The varieties of this cosmos sooner or later collapse into chaos. Attempting to adjust consciousness to the *nirvisesa* position by intellectual abstraction will not bring one to the higher plane. To ascend to the higher plane, the idea of "I am the original enjoyer" must be given up, not the idea of enjoyment itself.

On the lower plane, the individual soul posits himself as the original enjoyer. But he is not original. The only obstruction to the soul's happiness is his failure to admit that because he is not the origin of the variety he is attracted to enjoy, he is not free to do as he likes. Krsna is the origin. Real enjoyment is therefore Krsna-centered. On the higher plane the soul achieves eternal enjoyment of the endless variety of Krsna's transcendental qualities.

Homage to Srila Prabhupada

Dear Srila Prabhupada, Lord Caitanya said to Prakasananda Sarasvati that the purpose of Vedanta philosophy is very difficult for an ordinary person to understand. But, *ye sutra-karta, se yadi karaye vyakhyana tabe sutrera mula artha lokera haya jnana*: if the person who wrote Vedanta-sutra explains it, its original meaning can be understood by the people in general. The intention of my offering is to establish that you, dear Srila Prabhupada, are the *sutra-karta*, Srila Vyasadeva, whom we worship on this holy day of your merciful appearance in this world. I know this is true because, though I am an ordinary fallen soul, by hearing your explanations of the Vedic scriptures a glimmer of attraction to real philosophy has taken root in my heart. Now I prostrate myself in the dust of your lotus feet and humbly submit before you on this Vyasa-puja day a request. As a wise man declared, "To be a philosopher is not merely to have subtle thoughts; but so to love wisdom as to live according to its dictates." I pray for the benediction of such love for this wisdom impart by you throughout the world, for this wisdom is the Lord Himself (*jnanam jneyam jnana-gamyam*). Please instill this transcendental knowledge in my soul, thoughts, words and deeds, life after life. For then I may be sure to serve you with fixed attention, eternally.

Your ever insignificant, ever aspiring servant,

Suhotra Swami





SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Australia



Australia

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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru-Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you on this special day of your appearance.

Like every other year, I always find writing a simple offering to you, a major task. I guess this is not a problem for those disciples who are completely surrendered at your lotus feet, following your instructions with determination, without deviation.

*acaryera mata yei, sei mata sara
tanra ajna langhi' cale, sei ta' asara*

"The order of the spiritual master is the active principle in spiritual life. Anyone who disobeys the order of the spiritual master, immediately becomes useless."
(Cc Adi-lila 12.10)

So I guess, from my own realization of this verse, that it also means that whatever little intelligence I have left, due to misusing it, has become useless to the point that glorifying your transcendental qualities is beyond me...

Resolutions to improve my sadhana-bhakti, each year, lasted only for as long as a couple of months, if at all... I remember hearing you once say on a lecture tape (my only source of inspiration), "It is only due to weakness of heart."

"Yes, Guru-maharaja, even though the desire to serve you is there, due to the weakness of my own heart, which is laden with material desires, I am not able to keep the resolutions... " as long as the desire to have the desire to have the desire to have the desire to serve Krsna is there...", you once said at the last arrival speech you made last time you were here, "...then, there is hope."

So on this day of your Vyasa-puja, I again ask you to bestow your mercy upon this useless soul. For without it, the old habit of chewing the chewed will always be hard to break.

Your most fallen servant,
Daya-Dharma Devi Dasi

Australia



Dear Guru-Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you,

This year has been one of many changes for me and I have received your mercy in different ways. When receiving your mercy in the form of chastisement, I found it difficult to take, due to my neophyte nature. I realize that it was the real mercy and it is your duty as my spiritual master to cut through my anarthas and attachments. You are fulfilling your part of this relationship so perfectly, while I am dragging behind, with all my anchors out. All I can say is that I am still here in ISKCON.

Please give me your blessings, that I may always remain in ISKCON at your lotus feet.

Your servant,
Kanya Kumari Devi Dasi

Australia

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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

While trying to write an offering for your vyasa-puja, I am realising, how little ability I have to do anything nicely. I would like to offer you something special, but I have nothing of any value to give to you. All I can do, is to fall at your lotus feet and offer myself, and pray that you can somehow engage me in Krsna consciousness.

It is stated in the Sri Guru-vandana, " The lotus feet of our spiritual master are the only way by which we can obtain pure devotional service. I bow down to his lotus feet with great awe and reverence. By his grace, one can cross the ocean of material suffering and obtain the mercy of Krsna..."

Guru Maharaja, you are my only chance in obtaining Krsna's mercy. On this auspicious day of your Vyasa-puja, I beg that you accept this offering and help me to remain in devotional service.

Your fallen servant,
Vijaya Devi Dasi



Sri Vyasa puja





SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Benelux



My dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances.

On this most auspicious day of your Vyasa-puja, I have the opportunity to thank you for your causeless mercy upon such a fallen soul like me and also to glorify your transcendental qualities.

Half a year ago, you gave me second initiation, so that, by your mercy, I can go on the altar and worship Their Lordships, Sri Sri Radha-Gopinatha. Thankyou for this causeless mercy. I am just a crazy, selfish and ungrateful person, yet despite all this, you are so merciful to me and always want to help me. Please forgive me that so many times I can not fulfill your instructions and consequently make you angry and frustrated with me. Somehow or other I am trying to serve you and Sri Sri Radha-Gopinatha. I know that I am very fallen, because of being very sinful in the past. Please be merciful to me and allow me to serve you.

I want to write a prayer. This is what I always say before I start worshipping the Deities every morning. I always look at you and Srimati Radharani and pray: "O, beloved spiritual master, you are always in the presence of the cowherd-girl, Radharani, the daughter of King Vrisabhanu. Please award me service at your lotus feet, which are the source of devotional service. Please, place me in the ocean of joy by bestowing upon me the happiness of the mellows of service at the lotus feet of Sri Radha in the grooves of Vraja-dhama."

Your servant,
Ananda-Laksmi Devi Dasi



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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and your dedicated service on his behalf. All glories to you on this day of your appearance.

Well, it is that time of year again and the same problems arise: what to say, how to say it, etc.. All my God-brothers and -sisters are very expert at glorifying you with



nice words and sincerity. Myself? I cannot claim to do so well, but I see in you, what they describe so eloquently.

As you are a pure representative of Srila Prabhupada and the disciplic succession, naturally all good qualities are manifested within you. Often I hear of your activities and how you are always fully engaged in service to Lord Krsna. This is what especially inspires me. You keep doing your service regardless of all the problems which people, like myself, present to you, always giving sound instruction and following strictly. Philosophically, you cannot be faulted and you are always enthusiastically expounding that which is so nectarean to hear.

There is a famous saying that actions speak louder than words. Of course, we know that the hearing process is most important, however, we also need a perfect example of how to apply what we have heard. That person, from whom I always wish to observe, hear and take instruction, is yourself.

"The lectures you deliver are very wise and true,
But I think I will also get my lesson by observing what you do. Because I might misunderstand you and all this high advice you give,
But there is no misunderstanding how you act and how you live."

Dear Guru Maharaja, with such care and dedication you are guiding us all personally in our Krsna consciousness, though I find it hard to follow what you have given me so strictly. There is always some excuse I come up with, but I am only procrastinating in my Krsna consciousness and this, I am sure you see clearly. However, for you, I wish to wrench myself out of the rut I have fallen into and dedicate myself to following what you have given me and will continue to give in the future.

Thank you so much for appearing in this material world and for endeavouring to pull me out of the cess-pit of material life, of which I am so fond of wallowing in.

Your servant,
Bhaktin Lisa



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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

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

A thought comes into my mind as I type this offering trying to meet the deadline: "Why auspicious?" Srila Prabhupada writes in Chapter Two (SSR) "We adore this auspicious day as Sri Vyasa-puja-tithi, because the *acarya* is the living representative of Vyasadeva, the divine compiler of the Vedas, the Puranas, the Bhagavad-gita, the Mahabharata, and the Srimad-Bhagavatam."

The rtvik-vadis see no need for a living representative of Vysadeva and instead take shelter of their own mental concoctions which manifest externally as the rtvik guru who supposedly connects them with Srila Prabhupada. For them, everything certainly becomes inauspicious.

The siksa-vadis also see no need for a living representative and instead miss their connection with Srila Prabhupada, even sometimes claiming that Srila Prabhupada's teachings are at variance with the teachings of the previous *acaryas* like Jiva Goswami. Or even worse that Srila Prabhupada wasn't telling us the truth on certain issues, like where the jiva came from. Again more inauspiciousness.

The maha-bhagavata-vadis say there is only one living representative who can connect you with Krsna. Somehow or other they also seem to miss their connection with Srila Prabhupada when quoting the previous Acaryas or otherwise. Again the results are more inauspiciousness.

Without your timely intervention, my future would certainly have been as inauspicious and I would have missed the connection. You are demonstrating to me, by your constant example, what it means to be a true follower of Srila Prabhupada and the guru-parampara. If I were to receive a benediction on this day, it would be to be able to follow in your footsteps.

Your anistha servant,
Madhu Pandita Dasa



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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

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

*namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani pracarine
nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-desatarine*

Your love is like the hunters music which lures a doe to her death. First You attract us with Your affection, then You kill us by going away. The devotees will die in separation from You."

*"tandera carana sevi bhakta-sane vasa janame janame haya, ei abhilasa".
"kandiya kandiya bale ami to' adhama sikhaye saranagati koro he uttama".
"tumi ta'Thakur, tomara kukura baliya janaha more".*

Your struggling aspiring servant,
Mukti-Datri Devi Dasi



Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your divine grace forever shining face.

Representing Krsna's glories
Telling Krsna stories

You are trying very hard
To make us a bit more smart,

Dealing with us very tender
While asking us to surrender

Every second a little more
Detached, whatever the score

You are so kind
To tell us we are not the body, nor the mind,

Without your blessing
I'd still be like a hippy dressing

My life was a mess, complete distress
But since we met, there is real happiness

You are giving all your days
In many, many ways,

For Krsna's pleasure only
Thus I believe you are never lonely

Since you never have any pride
You're always on Krsna's side

I would like the shelter of your lotus feet
Not a life in maya's lust - defeat

All glories to your divine grace
Not affected by time and space,

Always on Mahaprabhu's mission
A perfect example in Vedic tradition

It's easy to see why
Srila Suhotra Swami- ki JAYA!

Your servant,
Bhaktin Olga



Dear Srila Gurudeva,
Please accept my very humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to His divine grace Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you.

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

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

All glories to you, o spiritual master, who appeared on this auspicious day to save fallen conditioned souls like me. I am so fortunate that, Lord Krsna arranged for a great personality like you to appear on this planet to help us go back to Godhead where we belong eternally.

krsna se tomara, krsna dite paro, tomara sakati ache

Krsna is yours. You are able to give Him to me, for such is your power.

But in what way can we repay you for your magnanimity? What can we give you? We try to render service for Guru and Gauranga. I pray to you on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyasa-puja, that you kindly continue to accept my worthless service. Your causeless mercy is everything for me. I pray that I can always get your blessings to serve Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Gopinatha and Their devotees, and let me please always take shelter at your lotus feet. Your knowledge of shastra enlivens my dull mind. Absorbed in Radha and Krsna you are so merciful to all mankind.

*ei-baro karuna vaisnava gosai
patita-pavana toma bine keho nai*

O, Vaisnava Goswami please be merciful to me now, there is no one except you who can purify the fallen souls.

*mukam karoti vacalam pangum langhayate 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 in eloquent speakers, and enables the lame to cross mountains.

Your unworthy servant,
Vrindaranya-Priya Dasa

Dear Guru Maharaj,
Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet! All glories to Srila Parbhupada and to your divine grace!

It is said, that in order to be able to fully appreciate the glories of an exalted personality one has to be oneself on a similar platform. So I can probably end up my humble attempt to write a Vyasa-puja offering here, since what can a rascal like me perceive of your glory. Actually I can either copy something from last year's Vyasa-puja book - a few statements which I do not realize - or write about the effect your divine personality has upon me. It is said that one way to perceive the greatness of a Vaisnava is to see how many fallen conditioned souls, this exalted devotee has converted into aspiring servants of the Lord. My mind keeps going back to the time when I first met you - the very end of November 1991. Actually the association with you in the following month of December is what drew me irresistably to Krsna Consciousness. Although completely in ignorance I could see from the very beginning that the devotees are special but your divine personality deeply impressed me. After I met you I was glorifying you, before my parents the wonderful person who gave the class at the Hare Krsna temple at least for 20 minutes. Even my mother - a complete atheist by this time - was affected by my words and was respectfully listening. After that, I couldn't take my dinner (which had never happened before in my life) and I went to sleep. A few days later by Krsna's grace I heard that you'll stay longer, so I decided that instead of going only for the Sunday-feast to the Hare Krsna temple, I'll go once more during the week. But after coming to two more classes I was so irresistably attracted to your classes, kirtans and to your wonderful and completely transcendental personality that I ended up coming both in the morning and in the evening for the program, always praying for the opportunity to meet you again. Before meeting you, Guru Maharaja, I never believed in perfection, but your incredible humility, intelligence, eloquence, sense of humor and unlimited number of other qualities completely changed this idea of mine. Or in other words, the association with you in the form of excellent classes and unforgettable kirtans changed my whole life - my perception of the world, aspirations, hopes and fears, external appearance - practically everything. Of course, this is only one example of your power to change a barbarian into an aspiring servant of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, but I've met personally and also heard about many, many others whose lives have been affected in the same way under the influence of your transcendental personality.

After this most wonderful month of December in my life, Krsna consciousness remained equivalent to me with Srila Suhotra Swami. Whenever I read the descriptions of how the pure unalloyed devotees of the Lord behave, of their qualities and activities, in my mind emerges your image - the living example of such a highly elevated devotee. Your mercy upon me in the form of instructions, compassionate guidance and personal care are my only hope for spiritual progress. And what does this spiritual progress consist of? The complete surrender to the service at your lotus feet - dedicating my whole being in efforts to please you - the perfect representative of Lord Caitanya who

is most dear to Him being fully enagaged in His mission of sankirtan. I'll end this poor attempt to glorify you by praying intensely for your mercy so that I may surrender fully to your divine grace - to live and act only for your pleasure.

SRILA SUHOTRA SWAMI ki JAYA!

His divine grace's mission - SANKIRTAN-YAJNA ki JAYA!

your most indebted servant
Kamalavati Devi Dasi



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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and your divine grace!

Today, we have the special opportunity to glorify you, but there are no words popping in my head to describe your glories. This is probably because of my lack of realizing what the spiritual master-disciple relationship is about, but I will try to write something down anyway. I remember, that in one darshan you were telling me that "actually, to go out on book distribution, you have to be a little empowered by Lord Caitanya's mercy", and not only depend on our own strength, thinking that by using our material intelligence, and some psychological understanding of selling-technics, we are able to hand out the mercy. You said that "it is the JOY that is attractive to everyone, without considering whether they're intellectual or not" and that "it's by this joyful association that they buy a book." I couldn't understand anything about this darshan: you said that I have "this tendency for philosophising, speculation and intellectualism". And being covered by a thick layer of false ego, I was thinking "I'm a great philosopher, big intelligence", but in a joking way you were smashing my false ego and rediculling all the people who think they're intelligent without depending on some higher authority. I was even flattered by that statement, because I couldn't grasp that you were trying to point out how idiotic it is to depend on, or to be proud about such a conditioning! But last week, I was making the transcriptions of this tape and I could hear very clearly how you were trying to make me understand that "intellectualism is a useful crutch, but without pure bhakti it's a limitation" and that "in order to really get into the

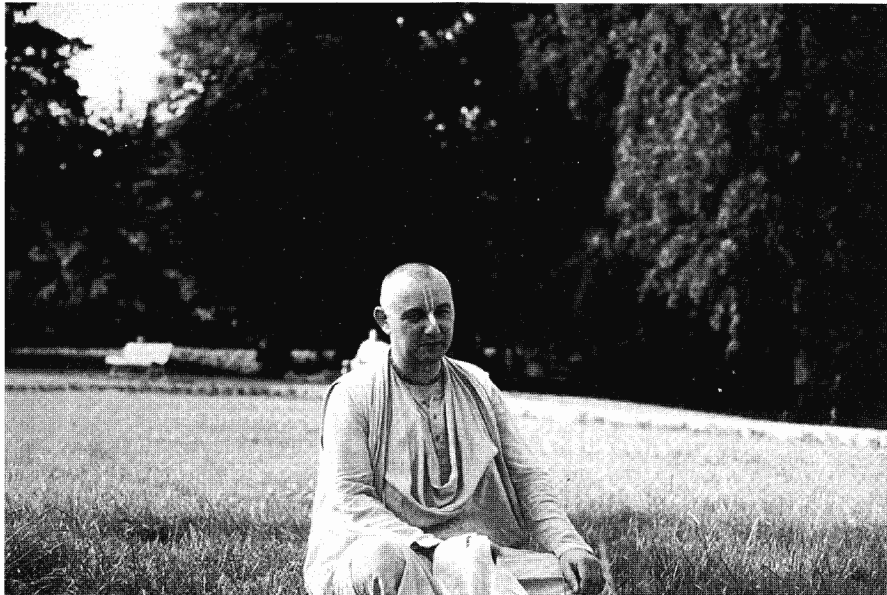
swing of devotional service it is not enough", so "this jnana should gradually mellow into bhakti". Finally I could understand that you weren't glorifying my material qualifications, but warning that if these qualities are not used in a Krsna-conscious way, they are only limitations and obstacles on the path of devotional service, because it keeps us from surrendering. Because there's the danger of depending on ourselves again, instead of throwing us at your lotus feet and beg for the mercy in order to be able to perform our service... I have a limited understanding of your greatness, but what I do know, is that it is only by your causeless mercy, that I'm allowed to take part in Lord Caitanya's sankirtan-lila. And being engaged in this book distribution, I will be able to realize one day, how fortunate I am to recieve the shelter of Your lotus feet.

jogyata-vicare, kichu nahi pai, tomara karuna-sare

"When I examine myself, I find nothing of value. Your mercy is therefore essential to me."

So, please Guru Maharaja, bestow a little drop of your mercy upon this fallen servant of yours. In this way it will be possible to obtain the enthusiasm to serve you eternally.

Your insignificant servant,
Kesava-priya Devi Dasi



Sri Vyasa puja





SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Bulgaria



Bulgaria

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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear spiritual master,
Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

I have no understanding of your glories whatsoever. I can not pray sincerely for your mercy. I can not express properly my words of gratitude towards you. But by the mercy of my god-brothers and god-sisters, I'll try to take advantage of today's opportunity, and express some words of respect for your great personality.

Since Krsna has put me into the tough situation of living for some time apart from the devotees, I could realize what a fallen bum I am. Now it's obvious to me that without you and your loving protection I'm nothing but a useless and wretched "Kali-yugaman". The only difference between me and all other suffering conditioned souls is that I have your personal care and divine instructions. And if I resist following your careful guidance, then I'm not any different from the suffering, conditioned souls.

In one lecture you said that the spiritual master is "*patita pavana*" or the friend of all fallen souls, and that he gives his special mercy to those who are trying sincerely to satisfy him. But what happens to those who are not trying sincerely? Are they completely excluded from receiving the guru's mercy? I very often ask myself, "Am I trying sincerely to please you?" and if I'm trying sincerely "Why am I not taking your mercy?" I see that my God-brothers are advancing so rapidly and I feel like I'm always in the position of a retarded child, who is constantly pushed by the loving parent.

I always try to artificially take the position of an advanced disciple, but Krsna always exposes my inexperience and immaturity. Last time when you were in Sofia and I was cooking for you, Krsna again showed me how spaced out and puffed-up I am. The evening before you left, I asked you personally, "What would you like to have for travelling prasadam," and you said that you wanted some tomato soup and bread. The next morning, I made everything, and just when it was ready, you left without taking it. I was so much absorbed in simply "doing the work", that I didn't notice when you left. And what was the result? "The work was done", but you left without prasadam. Later during the day, when Mahendra Prabhu took a nap, he had a dream in which after seeing the foolishness of your disciple, you exclaimed, "This is animalism!" I took this to be your comment on my activity. I thought, "I'm a hopeless case."

When will I stop acting foolishly? There is only one hope for me. I must

Bulgaria

become attached to your vani. I must make your mission of pleasing Srila Prabhupada the mission of my life. For a long time I was avoiding the preaching, but this time you got me. Now, if I don't preach vigorously, I can't survive. And I'm very happy about it. This is the full manifestation of your mercy upon me. Now everything depends on my strong desire to take the mercy and surrender to it.

Please give me the intelligence by which I'll be always able to have your instructions resounding in my consciousness, and the eagerness to get your mercy.

Oh Vaisnava Thakura, all glories to your divine grace!

Your insignificant servant,
Bhagadatta Dasa



*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*

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
on this most auspicious and most important day, please allow me to salute you and to pray for mercy and forgiveness.

A child is always dependent on his father. Without the shelter and support of the father, the child is in great danger. Practically, he is finished off in no time. Just like several puppies I saw once: Their mother had disappeared somewhere, leaving them by the roadside, and they, being blind and helpless, were starving for nutrition and her shelter. Later on, when I again passed by the same place, I saw that one of them had died of hunger and another, having entered the road in its blindness, was flattened by the passing cars and trucks. And this had happened just in a few hours...

In the material world, the father supports the body. But we are now trying to realize that we are not the body. In this attempt, we are completely dependant on you, who are, without a doubt, our spiritual father. Without your shelter we would be finished off by maya in no time. Your words and lectures are a torchlight, opening our blinded

Bulgaria

eyes. And your saintly association and especially your powerful kirtanas are our nutrition. We need them so much. We need you vitally.

All glories to your words and lectures!
All glories to your divine association!
All glories to your powerful, ecstatic kirtanas!
All glories to your service to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories, all glories to you, dear Guru Maharaja!

A father expects his son to be a good child, but due to ignorance and bad association, sometimes the child disturbs his father or even makes him angry. I don't want to be a spoilt child. I am simply tricked and cheated by illusion.

On this auspicious and important day
I pray to you, please give forgiveness
for the offences I have ever done
due to foolishness and weakness

A father also expects his son to grow up, become a mature man and then to assist him. Our debt to you will be payed off only when we execute your mission. Because of your service, you are glorious. You spread the Krsna consciousness movement. Because you are great, please forgive us. Out of mercy, you give us service and accept our service.

So on this auspicious day, I am begging now your mercy. Please consider Bharadhari yours and accept him as your servant.

Aspiring to become your useful servant,
The foolish Bharadhari Dasa



Bulgaria

Dear Guru Maharaja!

Please accept my respectful obeisances on this most auspicious day of your appearance.

*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.

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto you who are the simha-guru and the one who takes away the influence of Kali-yuga by delivering wonderful lectures on the scientific teachings of Srila Prabhupada.

I pray to you singing:

*Ohe! vaisnava thakura, doyara sagara
e dase karuna kori'
diya pada-chaya, sodha he amaya,
tomara carana dhor
chaya bega dami, chaya dosa sodhi'
chaya guna deha'dase
chaya sat sanga, deha'he amare
bosechi sangerase
ekaki amara, nahi pay bolo,
harinama-sankirtane
tumi krpa kori', sraddha bindu diya,
deha krsna nama dhane
krsna se tomara, krsna dite para,
tomara sakati ache
ami to' kangala', krsna' krsna' boli'
dhai tava pache pache*

"O, venerable Vaisnava! O, ocean of mercy, be merciful unto your servant. Give me the shade of your lotus feet and purify me. I hold onto your lotus feet.

Teach me to control my six passions. Rectify my six faults. Bestow upon me the six qualities and offer unto me the six kinds of holy association. I do not find the strength to carry on alone the sankirtana of the Holy Name of Hari. Please bless me by giving me just one drop of faith with which to obtain the great treasure of the Holy Name of Krsna.

Bulgaria

Krsna is yours. You have the power to give Him to me. I am simply running behind you, shouting: Krsna, Krsna!"

Dear spiritual master, I'm begging for your mercy. I am very fallen and helpless. I am very weak and I am afraid of maya. I don't want to stay in the poison of this material world full of miseries, in the cycle of repeated birth, disease, old-age and death. But I have no power to overcome this great ocean of material existence all alone. The divine material energy is very powerful and it may be overcome only by your's and Krsna's mercy. I simply must surrender unto you and Krsna.

Every day, I am struggling with my mind which wants to enjoy and control. I try to listen carefully to the Hare Krsna maha-mantra, but I cannot. My heart is very impure. The mirror of my mind is covered by a thick layer of dust. In one lecture you said that our minds are presently like a hell. But the heart of a pure vaisnava is like a temple, where worship is constantly going on with a lamp of love; just as a pujari worships the Deities with the flame of a ghee-lamp, we fallen conditioned souls may turn our minds into a temple of the Lord and may worship Krsna with great love and devotion. Only by the mercy of a pure devotee like yourself is this possible. Without such mercy there is no hope. Therefore, I pray to you for one little drop of mercy.

Dear spiritual master, please give me one little drop of faith by which to obtain the great treasure of the Holy Name of Krsna. Please, be merciful upon me so that I can chant and hear the Hare Krsna mantra. I do not want to chant officially and mechanically, but I do not have the strength to conquer the mind which brings me again and again to the material world. I pray to you: "Please, help me to realize that there is no difference between Krsna and His Holy Name, form, qualities and activities." Krsna is yours. He is in your heart and you are in His heart.

You are very dear to Krsna because you love Him and you spread Krsna consciousness. I will run behind you and shout: "Please, give me Krsna! Please, give me Krsna!" I want to love Krsna like you do. I want to purify my heart of all material contaminations. It is only possible by your mercy. Krsna gives you to me and you want to give me Krsna, but first of all I must purify myself and you gave me the process of Krsna consciousness.

Thank you very much. I cannot express my thankfulness. Krsna consciousness is so great. I simply want to serve you eternally.

Your servant,
Cintamani Devi Dasi



Bulgaria

My dear Guru Maharaja,

Let the day of your appearance be blessed! As the sun illuminates the the universe and bestows heat and light upon all the living beings, so you, by your godly presence, bestow light upon our souls and dissipate the darkness of ignorance from our sleeping hearts.

Due to your causeless mercy we, your disciples, have the wonderful chance to learn how to use most properly our human lives by endeavouring sincerely and selflessly to serve the lotus feet of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krsna. You are the crystal-clear, pure via media between us, the conditioned souls, and the Supreme Lord, Krsna. Without your blessings, none of us can advance spiritually.

I offer my most humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. With your Godly qualities, by your example, you teach us how to serve the Lord in the most perfect way.

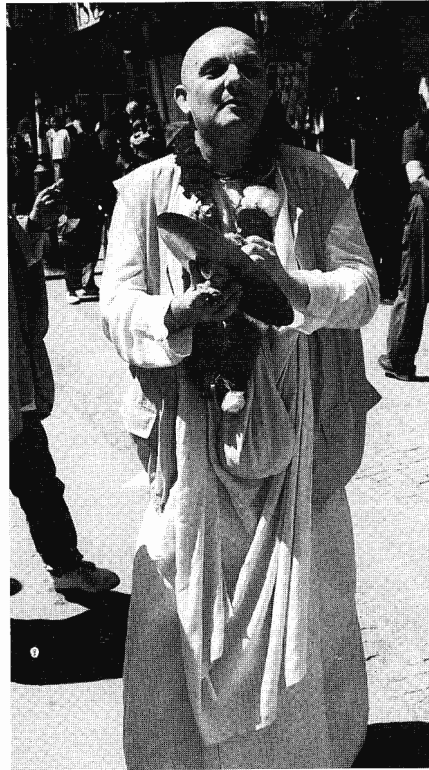
All glories to you, Suhotra Maharaja!

The transcendental knowledge that you deliver to us cleanses our minds and hearts and helps us to advance in the science of Krsna consciousness. I like to hear your words which give great spiritual strength and enthusiasm for service. Your personal presence and your refined sense of humor always refresh the atmosphere.

My dear Guru, I am unlimitedly thankful for the great spiritual support you have given me in the hard moments in my life. My only desire is to follow in your footsteps, to fulfill your instructions with patience and humility, and to serve selflessly at your lotus feet life after life. I offer my most warm-hearted wishes for successful and unobstructed spreading of Srila Prabhupada's mission; that in every inhabited place the holy name should be chanted. I wish that all your disciples will become pure devotees as their own guru.

I repeatedly offer my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet.

Your eternal servant,
Daksinesvari Devi Dasi



Bulgaria

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please, accept my respectful obeisances unto the shade of your lotus feet!
All glories to His divine grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada!
All glories to the sankirtana movement of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

"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."

On the day of your holy appearance, I am trying to express my thankfulness to Your divine grace. By your causeless mercy, I was fortunate to meet you and understand the meaning of life. I humbly bow down before your perfection by which you fulfill your wonderful mission.

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

My only desire is to touch your causeless mercy by giving my whole heart to constantly endeavouring to be your servant, forever and life after life.

O, master! Be merciful unto me! Your fame is spread all over the three worlds, I take shelter at your lotus feet.

*vancha-kalpa-tarubhyas ca krpa-sindubhya eva ca
patitanam pavanebhyo vaisnavebhyo namo namah*

All glories to your divine grace.

With an overpowering desire to be your eternal servant,
Bhaktin Diana



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*

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

In one lecture you said, "So, now the sun is setting, this wonderful day is coming to an end, and it will not come back for any one of us." But I ask myself whether, in these quickly-passing days, I succeed to grasp the essence of your lectures about the glories of the Lord which you deliver to us with such depth and devotion. Do I understand even slightly this real and pure philosophy of the Vedas, the essence of which is to know the Lord, Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead?

In another lecture you said, "It's easy to explain the spiritual master's instructions, but it's not that easy to act them out..." And why is it so? Because for countless lives we've been living with the idea that "I am this body. This material world is mine, and it's my lawful right to enjoy it." In this way, life after life, we've been poisoning ourselves with materialism. And that's why it's so hard for us to surrender to Krsna, to take our natural position; that of servants. Servants - mostly of our spiritual master and also of the other acaryas in our disciplic succession. And that succession has only one goal, namely, to help us understand the Supreme Lord, Sri Krsna, by taking up our constitutional, natural position as servants.

In many lectures you've said, "Actually we don't have any other business in this material world, except to serve the Lord. Everything else is simply a waste of time." It is said in the sastras, that if a person associates even for a moment with a sadhu, a saintly person, he can attain liberation from the material suffering of birth and death. And we, your disciples, have this incredible fortune to see you and hear your wonderful lectures on Bhagavat-gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam, despite the fact that you have so many other engagements. And this inspires us so much, and also gives us energy to render more and more service for the fulfillment of your mission to spread the holy name of the Lord all over the world.

Srila Prabhupada used to say that Krsna consciousness is not a religion, but a science, because it gives knowledge about the real nature of things, and only by the devotional service under the expert guidance of the spiritual master can one get liberation from the cycle of birth and death. Otherwise, one simply squanders this very valuable form of life, and lives on the platform of the hogs and dogs. That's why it's so important that one understands each word of the instructions which the spiritual master is giving, following them with great zeal and delight, because this is the only key to real

Bulgaria

satisfaction of the senses. This is called happiness, and everything else is temporary and unnatural to our spiritual identity.

In one lecture in which you were talking about the mission of the spiritual master, and you said that if a disciple is not convinced about the instructions of his guru, then he always feels unsatisfied and moves from one temple to another, from one service to another, and finally he moves from one body to another. There is no other path and there is no other truth, except that one, which is contained in the instructions given by our spiritual master. Therefore, I pray every day for the mercy of Kṛṣṇa and the spiritual master to understand and follow his precepts rigidly.

My dear spiritual master, let me offer you again and again my most humble obeisances. I wish you a long and successful life in your important and wonderful mission of enlightening more and more fallen souls in this material world.

Your eternal servant,
Gopati Dasa



Dear Suhotra Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to His divine grace Srila Prabhupada, the founder-acarya of ISKCON and the ISKCON-guru-vrnda!

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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-sikṣa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

If one is sincere in his desire for such guidance, the Lord will send a bona fide person who can guide one properly back home, back to Godhead.

"In the devotional service of the Lord the only required qualification is surrender."
(Srimad-Bhagavatam)

All glories to your holy appearance day. I am very much inspired to celebrate the day of your Vyasa-puja together with all your disciples and other devotees from ISKCON. I was impressed from my first meeting with you. This was in 1990 in Mataji Anumati Devi Dasi's house. The devotees were accepting prasadam. I was also with them. And when you appeared from the other part of the room, which was separated by a

Bulgaria

curtain, by Krsna's mercy, you touched me unwillingly with your lotus feet. From that moment, I understood that the essence of my spiritual life is to be a servant of the servant of the servant... of Krsna.

Thank you very much that you convinced me about the importance of the association of devotees. In order to get the strength to follow the four regulative principles, one must associate as much as possible with the devotees, then one can choose a spiritual master and follow him. Now my desire is to surrender with love and devotion to Radha-Krsna, accepting full shelter of your lotus feet.

All glories to Sri Sri Gaura Nitai. All glories to all the great souls who have taken up the path of loving devotion unto Their Lordships.

Your eternal servant,
Bhakta Hristo



*om ajnana-timirandasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam jena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances.

I was born in the darkness of illusion
Twenty-five years later I started to understand
Who is my well-wisher who is truly my friend
By your causeless mercy, Guru Maharaja...

These were not my "relatives" which
blaspheme the devotees and the Lord
Because of my karma - all my bodies
and my "enemies" were symbols of envy
My real father is never attracted

Bulgaria

to women, money and fame
He broke the chains in my heart
and showed me Krsna's pure love

My real mother possessing
unlimited perfections and beauty,
Removing the "sweetest" illusion
she gave me the shine in my eyes

My father who is never envious
of anyone - I call him Guru Maharaja.
My mother is coming from the breathing
of Narayana - sastra is her name

They both together serve Krsna
in great ecstasy. They'll do this eternally
These true friends - like the sun and the moon
dropped Lord Caitanya's mercy upon my hear.

And I learned what is Krsna's desire. How can I
be useful and all the people be happy?
Just do sankirtan - this is the only solution
There are no other ways, other truths, other mean.

Golokera prema dhana harinama sankirtana...
Now you give us a chance to taste and distribute this nectar
I cannot do anything for this suffering humanity
nor for myself without your mercy, Guru Maharaja

Please bless me, my dear Guru Maharaja,
to always remember Krsna and never forget Him
Actually that means only one thing: let me serve
your lotus feet and the feet of all the vaisnavas

Please, give me these blessings - for eternity

Your insignificant servant,
Jaganatha-Misra Dasa

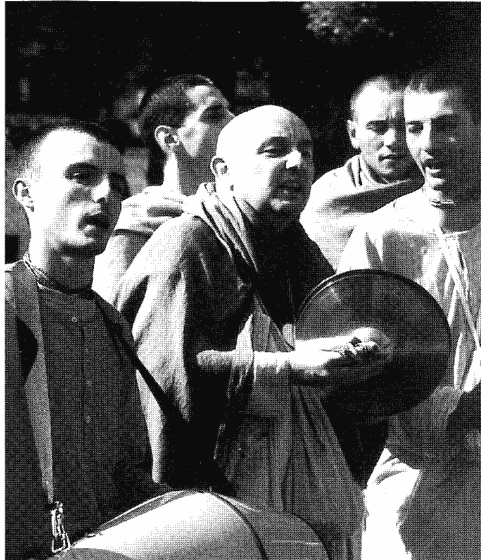
Bulgaria

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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Srila Gurudeva,
Please accept my most humble obeisances.

I remember how once in a sankirtana interview, you said so submissively that because your disciples are going out to distribute books, you feel connected with Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. When I heard this statement of yours it got stuck as a wedge in my mind. I have heard you so many times preaching about the importance of book distribution in so many ways, but this statement is indeed unique for me. On one hand, I cannot accept it literally, i.e. that because I am going out to distribute books, you feel connected with Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. This is simply a manifestation of your great humility. On the other hand, for me it is a clear indication of what I am doing; serving the most important instruction given by the previous acaryas. On the bank of Radhakunda, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati told Srila Prabhupada, *amarica kilo bica kei karana*: "If you ever get money, print books." And Srila Prabhupada himself said: "If you really want to please me, distribute my books."



I am praying at your divine lotus feet to find a shelter under them. These feet which are the transparent medium of sri-guru-parampara and the pure embodiment of *trnad api sunicena taror api sahisnuna/ amanina manadena kirtaniyah sada harih*. You are so merciful that you accept everyone at your lotus feet, as the tree gives its shade to everyone. However, I am so unfortunate and Kali-yuga is so cruel, especially in this country, Bulgaria, where the people are of a gypsy mentality (and I am not much different from them). This is indeed so terrible. Therefore, please let me preserve this instruction of yours. Without your mercy I am NOTHING.

Your servant,
Kalavinka Dasa

Bulgaria

Dear Srila Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my most humble obeisances.

I offer my humble obeisances at the lotus feet of the one who is my friend and master, the one who is looking after me and the whole humanity's welfare - to my teacher.



If I am lacking something in this world, it is God consciousness - everything else is in abundance. And if He, the Lord, is always unapproachable, you, my dear master, are so easy to approach that there is no obstacle for me to draw from the treasure-house of your knowledge and experience, so that I can learn from you how to love Krsna.

With the advancement of age, all my activities are getting more and more beyond the strength of my old body. But then you, my dear master, showed me another service that never makes me tired. And not only did you give me the seed of devotional service, but encouraging me to take care of this seed, you turned it into a source of pleasure. Without your help, my dear Guru Maharaja, the beauty of this ever-growing tree would remain unknown to me forever. Through your mercy, I am also trying to draw inspiration

from the Deities in the temple. Without my Guru Maharaja, I cannot understand even a single verse from Bhagavad-gita or Srimad-Bhagavatam.

I have so many debts: to the Lord, to the great souls, to the people in general, to the forefathers, to the parents and relatives - for everything I have gotten from them. And without your wise instructions, would I ever be able to understand how to repay them?

Every day I am praying to you, my master, and my prayers always contain one and the same request: please teach me how to act for the Supreme Lord, my dear Guru, Srila Suhotra Swami.

Your servant,
Kaumudi 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*

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear Guru Maharaja,

Obviously, on this day, Krsna has poured out all His mercy upon suffering humanity and endowed it with a pure Vaisnava able to deliver it from the pangs of material existence, such a Vaisnava as you, my dear Guru Maharaja. And from the thousands of suffering souls looking for shelter at your lotus feet, I am the most insignificant one, bereft of all good qualities. I have just a little sincerity to try to follow your eternal instructions coming down through the guru-parampara, which you have personally heard from the lotus mouth of His divine grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Sometimes, Krsna through His external energy is putting serious tests both for my mind and for my body. Then I realize that only by your causeless mercy, am I able to pass these tests, otherwise there is no hope for me.

Please, my dear Guru Maharaja, never leave me in the whirlpool of this material world, as long as I have at least a little bit of enthusiasm and dedication towards serving you. Now I am on travelling sankirtana. It is summer, hot, damp, and with the other sankirtana devotees, I am staying in a small, stuffy room, actually a damp cellar in Varna. It is difficult to breath here. It is hard to sleep. The only salvation for our consciousness and for everybody else around us are the books of Srila Prabhupada. They are the only resort which we can safely take to in difficult moments. By your causeless mercy now, here in Varna, many people are taking these books about Krsna and we are so happy, because we know that despite all of the difficulties, this book distribution will satisfy you, Srila Prabhupada, the whole guru-parampara, Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Lord Krsna. Srila Prabhupada has said that through this book distribution every sankirtana devotee is paving his way back to the spiritual world.

My dear Srila Guru Maharaja, I can never repay you for the wonderful association you are giving me and for the service you have engaged me in. May I be at least a little help for you in the great sankirtana mission of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

Your insignificant servant,
Krsnananda Dasa

Bulgaria

Dear Guru Maharaja,
We offer our respectful obeisances unto you and to the whole guru-parampara beginning from Lord Krsna.

Even in our wildest dreams we couldn't imagine that we could ever receive initiation, have our own Deities and personally worship Them. By your causeless mercy, now everything is a reality. Every day, we all together worship the Deities and we try to serve Them during the whole day. Bharadhari prabhu helped us to make the altar and when Krsnananda saw it, he said it was very nice. Mahendra prabhu, brought us the Deities. Rasa Lila devi dasi sent a Deity of Gopal for Nadya and now she is offering Him incense and flowers. When Rasatmika mataji saw Him, she said she never saw a more beautiful Gopal. This ocean of mercy came to us only by your causeless mercy. Guru Maharaja, and the only question that remains is whether we'll be able to make proper use of it?

Your servants,
Ksetrajna Dasa, Kriyasakti Devi Dasi and Nadya



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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

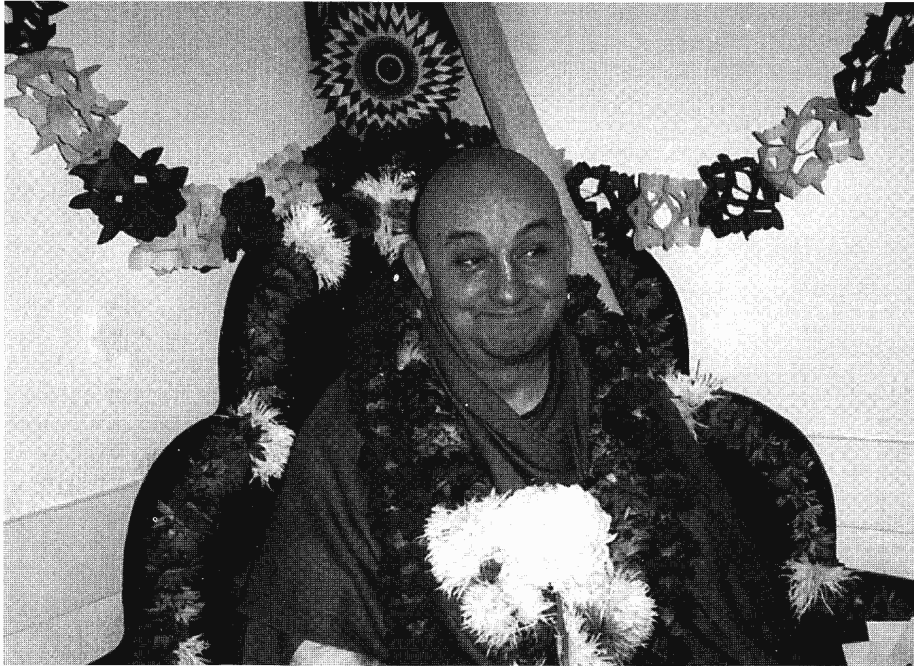
Dear Guru Maharaja,
I offer my most humble obeisances to your lotus feet.

In theory I knew this before, but now I'm realizing more and more, that my relationship with you is the most important thing in my life. Who else can wake me up? Who else can help me in this hopeless situation (the dead world of sense enjoyment), fix me in the eternal service of the Lord, and show me Krsna? I don't know other persons from the spiritual sky. Krsna sent you to save me. You are my only friend in this world, my only hope, my only chance, my master.

Please forgive all my mistakes and unintentional offences, because if you don't forgive me, then I am lost.

Thank you, dear Guru Maharaja, for your most valuable gift to me: this great mission of distributing Srila Prabhupada's books. I cannot express my gratitude. Please bless

Bulgaria



me to become steady and attain perfection in this service. Please be pleased by my little service. Bless me to be purified by this service, so that I can do more for you. Please use me more and more. Please don't throw me out on the garbage. Use me somehow, otherwise I am lost. Save me and use me, even despite my low nature.

Therefore don't forget me, Guru Maharaja. Don't leave me in maya, far far away from Krsna. Be merciful upon me, please. I am suffering so much in this material world, but if you want to help me, I am ready to suffer hundreds and thousands of times more, because this won't be material suffering any longer, since you, Srila Prabhupada and Krsna will be satisfied.

I pray to you, to Srila Prabhupada, to Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai and all the Vaisnavas, "Please give me power and intelligence and purity, so that I can distribute Srila Prabhupada's books in huge quantities for the rest of my life for your pleasure." Maya bites my mind and body; she is so powerful, but I have you, Srila Prabhupada, his books, the holy name, the devotees' association and the shelter of travelling sankirtana. This is Krsna according to my vision, and I will fight for you, my master. Please lead me.

Your servant, who is fighting with maya,
Madhva Dasa

Bulgaria

My dearmost spiritual master!

All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to the sankirtana mission!

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to you and your appearance day!



After one more year has passed, I realize that I can engage in devotional service only due to your strong and pure desire to save me from my deep ignorance. I am completely helpless in my attempts to satisfy you; even now it is so difficult for me to write this homage. I would prefer to do something essential for you and your mission, proving in this way that I have understood your instructions and have taken them seriously. Because of stupidity, I missed so many opportunities to serve you, and I simply wasted your mercy. Now I know that I have to fight with maya for each and every minute of devotional service and I must constantly pray to you and Sri Kṛṣṇa for help so that I can continue.

I am forced to be humble. I realize that I am not even a devotee. All I want is to be able to at least be your disciple, i. e. to be able to follow submissively your instructions. I pray to be able to become your servant - insignificant, but faithful and uncompromising. Unfortunately, so far, I have mostly

served my crazy mind rather than you. This balance is very painful for me, but it's a fact. Of course, with your help, I will try to change. I don't want to promise anything. I don't even pray for blessings because I don't deserve them. Still, I have a desire to partake in your mission, despite the fact that I haven't realized its depth and importance.

My dear Guru Maharaja, I will try my best to not disappoint you any more and to act as your obedient maid-servant, otherwise everything becomes useless.

Your disciple eternally,
Mahabhava-Svarupa Devi Dasi

Bulgaria

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to your divine grace!

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to thank you for the mercy you are pouring upon me. I am so happy that I can associate with you and render some service to you. It is such a great fortune to be your disciple.

As stated in a purport in the Srimad-Bhagavatam (4.28.29), "The name Malayadhvaja signifies a great devotee who stands as firm as Malaya Hill and, through his propaganda, makes other devotees similarly as firm. Such a mahabhagavata can prevail over the opinions of all others. A strong devotee makes propaganda against all other spiritual conceptions - namely *jnana*, *karma* and *yoga*. With his devotional flag unfurled, he always stands fast to conquer other conceptions of transcendental realization. Whenever there is an argument between a devotee and a nondevotee, the pure, strong devotee comes out victorious."

By hearing from you and applying it in our lives, we can become strong and pure and victorious. I pray that this be my only desire: "

In conclusion, if a disciple is very serious to execute the mission of the spiritual master, he immediately associates with the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Instead of being eager to see the Lord in some bush of Vrndavana while at the same time engaging in sense gratification, if one instead sticks to the principle of following the words of the spiritual master, he will see the Supreme Lord without difficulty." (SB 4.28.51p).

Srila Prabhupada writes in SB 4.28.50p.: "Similarly, a devoted disciple of the spiritual master would rather die with the spiritual master than fail to execute the spiritual master's mission. As the Supreme Personality of Godhead comes down upon this earth to re-establish the principles of religion, so His representative, the spiritual master, also comes to re-establish religious principles. It is the duty of the disciples to take charge of the mission of the spiritual master and execute it properly. Otherwise the disciple should decide to die along with the spiritual master. In other words, to execute the will of the spiritual master, the disciple should be prepared to lay down his life and abandon all personal considerations."

My dear Guru Maharaj, please bless me to be such a disciple.

Your servant,
Mahendra Dasa

Bulgaria



Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I have only one spiritual desire, and that is to become a useful devotee in the preaching mission of Lord Caitanya. Please give me your blessing to fulfill my desire in this life time.

Your useless servant,
Mitrasuta Dasa



Bulgaria

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

"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."

In one of the four nutshell verses of Srimad-Bhagavatam, the Supreme Personality of Godhead explains to Lord Brahma, that the material world is so created to look as if God does not exist:

*tad vidyad atmano mayam
yathabhaso yatha tamah*

"Know it as My illusory energy, that reflection which appears to be in darkness."
(SB 2.3.34)

Under the influence of maya, the illusory energy of the Lord, the material creation seems to be not connected with the energies of the Lord. Indeed, in this world we cannot see God with these eyes. When the conditioned soul develops a sincere desire to remember his eternal position as a spiritual entity, the Supreme Personality of Godhead sends His real representative to the material world - the spiritual master. In order to attain the final goal of life - to go back home, back to Godhead - one has to approach such a bona fide spiritual master, serve him and satisfy him. The scriptures advise:

*tad viddhi pranipatena
pariprasnena sevaya
upadeksyanti te jnanam
jnaninas tattva-dasrinah*

"Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized souls can impart knowledge unto you because they have seen the truth." (Bg 4.34)

"Such a spiritual master should be accepted with full surrender, and one should serve the spiritual master like a menial servant, without false prestige. Satisfaction of the self-realized spiritual master is the secret of advancement in spiritual life."
(Bg 4.34, purport)

Dear Suhotra Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to you!
On the day of your appearance on the earth, I would like to offer my respectful obeisances to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krsna, and to your spiritual

Bulgaria

master, Srila Prabhupada, and thank them for being so merciful as to send you to these lands. I would like to offer my respectful obeisances to you personally, as their representative, and thank you for your great mercy of coming to our country and preaching Krsna consciousness.

The inhabitants here are very influenced by two forces: materialism and ignorance. In reality the people are suffering and are so entangled that they have no hope for a normal human future. Only by the mercy of the Lord and His servants they may be saved.

I would like to thank you for your kindness and courage in coming and preaching to these people. I remember, the day I met you for the first time in 1990. You became for me and for the others (at that time all beginners) the example of a spiritual master. You taught us the alphabet of God consciousness and we felt causelessly satisfied and happy. Now most of those boys and girls are your initiated disciples and Krsna consciousness is well known all over the country.

On this day, I want to beg pardon from you for the offences and inconveniences caused by me. I pray to Krsna to give you energy and inspiration to continue your mission, and to allow me to assist you in that mission as well. Begging your permission, I take shelter at your lotus feet, chanting the mantra:

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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Your servant,
Bhakta Nikolay



Bulgaria

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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai! All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

Once, after long expectation, your car stopped in front of our temple in Simeonovo, Sofia, but you didn't get out. I didn't even see you. I just overheard that you will leave for Plovdiv immediately. I was completely discouraged. "Oh, Guru Maharaja, I am like a disgusting worm. You won't even look at me! I lost your mercy, therefore I am so unhappy!" That was my sentimental mood at that time.

But it was getting time for Gaura-arati. I had to give up my mind and begin my evening service for the Deities. At 7pm, I stood facing the altar of Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai and Sri Sadbhuja Mahaprabhu. And then I saw that you were already there, in your portrait, next to the arati-set, and you were waiting for me. While I was hanging around your car, begging for the mercy to see you, you were already on the altar. Then I realized that I can see you only through service. And I began...



I blew the conchshell three times. I begged for your blessings. I took the bell in the left hand and the incense in the right hand. I offered you the incense. The next moment, you started to move my hand: you offered the incense to Srila Prabhupada, and then to Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati and so on through the guru-parampara to Lord Gauranga. You offered the ghee-lamp as well, the water, and the flower in the same way. Actually you are the pujari. You are using my hands, my body, my activities in your worship of the Deities. This is so much mercy for me! Without your mercy I cannot do anything for the Deities! I am so ungrateful - I am speculating that you are not merciful towards me, while actually you offer me so much mercy, mercy, mercy, the best, pure mercy... But I accept only little of it. This is my nonsense. Even if I serve you lifetime after lifetime, I won't be able to pay you back. But I will try.

Guru Maharaja, I want to do something for your pleasure. Please allow me to make

Bulgaria

arati for you. I will offer you incense, fire, water, flower, camara, fan. But not only that, together with these items I will offer you my mind, my body, my intelligence, my activities, my ego. I know, they are in a bad state and my offering is very contaminated and full of offences, but you are able to offer these items to Krsna in their pure state. Today is a suitable time to begin this arati. You are waiting for me since a long time. I want this arati to be eternal.

Actually with this letter I want to tell you only that you are the most wonderful person I know and I want to offer you everything I have.

Your servant,
Nikunjarasi Vilasi Devi Dasi



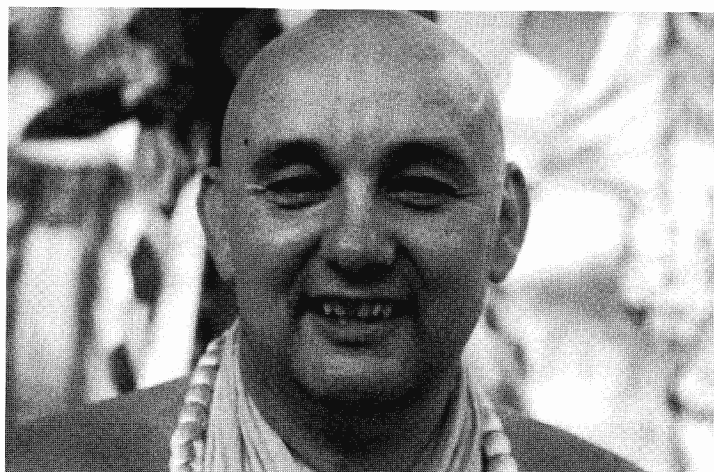
*om ajnana-timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my most humble obeisances in the shade of your lotus feet!
All glories to your Vyasa-puja and your wonderful service to His divine grace Srila Prabhupada! You are rendering this service so selflessly, expertly and with such a strong desire to give Krsna to everyone, that you are constantly enthusing me to pray to you, to the whole guru-parampara, to Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai and Sri Sadbhuja Mahaprabhu to enable me to serve you as purely and dedicatedly as you are serving your spiritual master.

Every day you are teaching me a lesson in humility, compassion and tolerance, simultaneously pouring your mercy upon me and engaging me in service, despite my perpetual mistakes and offences against you. These offences are of such great number and so terrible that they can be ignored only by a Vaisnava like you, with a big, kind heart in which there is a place for everybody. In a lecture on Srīmad-Bhagavatam 1.18.19, given in Sofia in 1991, you mentioned that only by Krsna's mercy can we overcome the mistakes and offences we are committing. And if we haven't received Krsna's mercy, it means we are lacking sincerity, desire, devotion,



love and attraction to Krsna. Guru Maharaja, I am praying to be unable to live without your mercy any longer, to always serve you and drink the nectar of your lotus-feet. I am praying to never lose my desire for distributing Srila Prabhupada's books and to serve you in a way that can please you. Still, my mistakes and offences are so many, and maya is so strong. Therefore on this most blessed day of your Vyasa-puja, although I am bereft of devotion, love and humility, please kindly allow me to ask you for your mercy so that I stop committing offences at your lotus feet and other devotees' lotus feet.

I have no good qualities and because of that, even on this great day, I am unable to offer you prayers and glorify you in suitable words. I can only ask you to accept as my prayer the wonderful verses of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura's song "*Kabe ha'be bolo*:"

- 1) Please tell me, when will that day be mine - when my offences will end and a taste for the pure holy name will be infused within my heart by the power of divine grace?
- 2) Considering myself lower than a blade of grass, bringing the quality of forbearance into my heart, showing respect to all, myself being freed from all false pride - when will I taste the essence of the liquid nectar of the holy name?
- 3) Wealth, following, beautiful women, as described in worldly poetry - I do not want any such bodily pleasures. O Lord Gaurahari, please give me unmotivated devotion to Your lotus feet, birth after birth.
- 4) When, while articulating the divine name of Sri Krsna, will my body be thrilled in ecstatic rapture and my words be choked with emotion, when will pallor and ecstatic trembling occur, and when will streams of tears flow constantly from my eyes?

Bulgarian

5) When, in the land of Navadvipa, on the banks of the Ganges, will I run about, guilelessly calling, "O Gaura! O Nityananda!" dancing and singing like a madman, giving up all considerations?

6) When will Lord Nityananda be merciful unto me and release me from the illusion of worldliness? Giving me the shade of His lotus feet, when will He allow me to enter the marketplace of the holy name?

7) I shall buy and plunder the mellows of the name of Hari, and becoming thoroughly intoxicated by those liquid mellows of the holy name, I shall become stunned. By touching the feet of those great souls who are able to relish those mellows, I will be constantly immersed in the sweet nectar of the holy name.

8) When will there be an awakening of compassion of all fallen souls, and when will this Bhaktivinoda, forgetting his own happiness, with a meek heart set out to propagate by humble entreaty the sacred order of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu?

Your servant,
Pandu-Rani Devi Dasi



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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

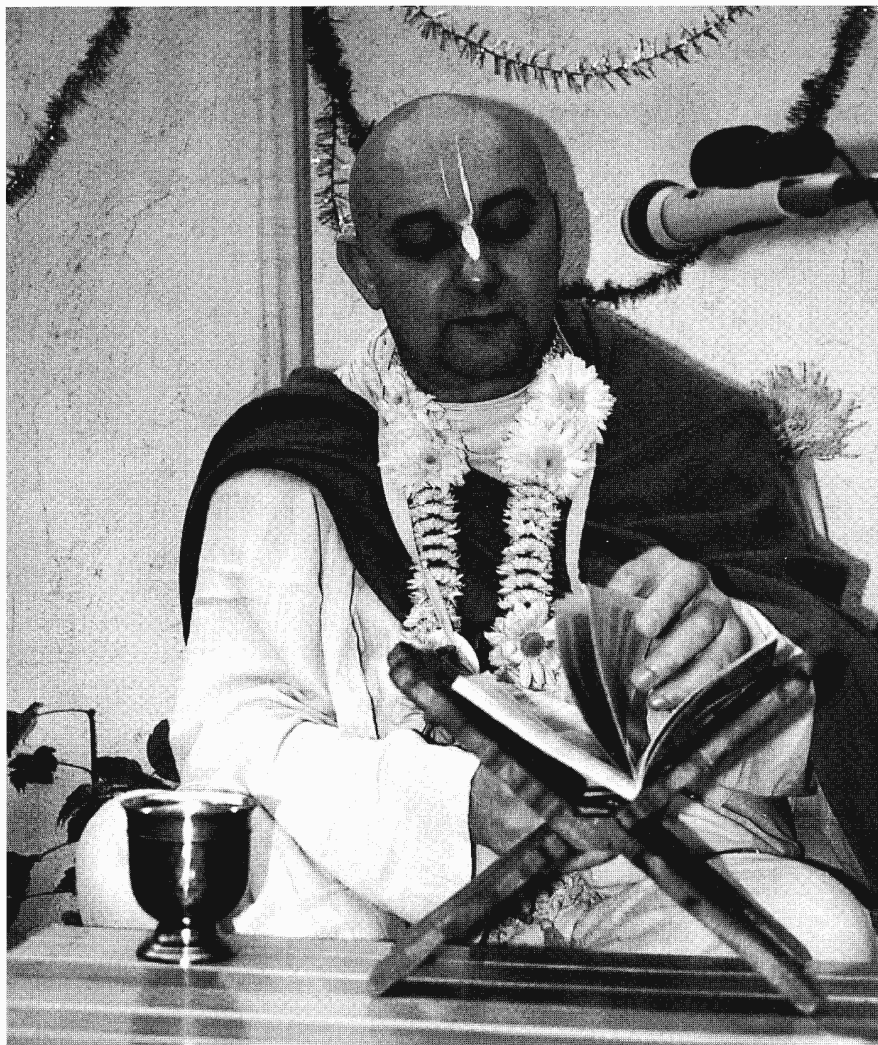
Dear Guru Maharaja,
Falling flat on the floor, I offer my most respectful obeisances to you, the dear disciple of His divine grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, continuer of the movement for chanting the holy names of the Supreme Personality of Godhead started by Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. The day of your appearance is blessed with the rising of knowledge of the Absolute Truth for all the fallen conditioned souls hankering for the safe shelter of your lotus feet.

Bereft of all good qualities, covered by the mode of ignorance, once on sankirtana I met a conditioned soul who managed to cheat me very nicely. The rudiments of my intelligence were covered by my impatient desire to give him the books of Srila Prabhupada. He took seven books, but he paid with a counterfeit note. I humbly pray to your holiness, in order to be able to assist you in expanding the sankirtana movement of Lord Caitanya, to give me good intelligence, strong enough to keep my mind

Bulgarian

unflinchingly absorbed in thoughts of Kṛṣṇa. By your causeless mercy I am engaged in devotional service to Kṛṣṇa, and I pray to you: "May even the smallest dust-particle from the knowledge of the Absolute Truth presented by you in such a wonderful way, reach my heart and be manifested there eternally."

Sincerely your eternal servant,
Bhakta Plamen (Sofia)



Bulgaria

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet.

In the Vedic scriptures it is written that the spiritual master has opened our eyes with the torch of knowledge. There is no doubt that, you, Guru Maharaja, can do this for me.

*arthabhavam viniscitya
pratitasyapi natmanah
tam capi yusmac-carana
sevayam paranude*

"But, my dear sir, I am obliged to you, because now I can understand that this material manifestation is without substance, although it appears real. I am confident that by serving your feet it will be possible for me to give up the false idea." (SB 3.7.18)

*yat-sevaya bhagavata
kuta-sthaya madhu-dvisah
rati-raso bhavet tivrah
padayor vyasanardana*

"By serving the feet of the spiritual master, one is enabled to develop transcendental ecstasy in the service of the Personality of Godhead, who is the unchangeable enemy of the Madhu demon and whose service vanquishes one's material distresses." (SB 3.7.19)

When I am in difficulty and do not find any other alternative, your lotus feet take me out of the darkness of maya.

Dear Gurudeva, when I look back, I see how you and Krsna have arranged a wonderful plan for me, how everything in my life has led me to Krsna. You, Guru Maharaja, create great tests for us, but these tests are like nectar, for then we are forced to remember you. And if someone meditates on you and your instructions, he certainly becomes free from all material sufferings, and obtains pure love of God.

Your servant,
Bhakta Plamen (Plovdiv)



Bulgaria

Dear Guru Maharaja!

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to your beloved spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada! And all glories to your service to him. On this most auspicious day of your appearance in this world, I want to thank you for mercifully caring about me and all the other fallen souls and giving us the opportunity to advance in our spiritual lives and gradually attain the topmost perfection of existence, pure devotional love to Lord Sri Krsna. Please mercifully continue your sublime mission on this planet. Here is my humble attempt to write a poem for your pleasure:

Our spiritual master calls, "Hare Krsna, Hari Hari bol!"
You are an eternal, blissful, full-of-knowledge soul
Why are you thinking wrongly now, my dear fools
That you are these perishable bodies, full of stools

We are playing in this world, a most unhappy game
In the core of our hearts, we're envious of Krsna's fame
We wanted to cheat ourselves, taking the position of God
So we fell from Vaikuntha, to Maya's special spot

After long suffering, we have to desire so strong
To go back to Godhead, where we really belong
And never, never come to the darkness again
Where the separation from Krsna is the cause of our pain

We have to hear, serve and inquire from our learned spiritual master
With the fire of knowledge, he can destroy our confusion much faster
Then the whole material ocean, will be no longer be deep
When we have a captain to lead us on a transcendental ship

In the Kali-yuga, only the Hare Krsna mantra can cure
In the beginning may be bitter, but after - nectar pure
You can also try this process, don't be shy
Just come, join, be blissful, "stay forever high!"

Come with us to sing, play, chant and dance
And get a lot of mercy to spiritually advance
If you are sincere, just chant and chant feeling great joy
Simply, because you want to please the transcendental cowherd boy

And full ecstasy, will overcome you very soon
When you look upon Suhotra Swami's face, like the moon
In the rhythm of his voice, full of devotional power
Gaura Nitai raise Their hands, like lotus flower

Bulgaria

While dancing, divine dust like honey sweet
Comes to bless us, from Their reddish feet
This kirtan is so nice, exchange of loving mood
And for the spirit soul, it is his heart and life and food

Devotees are satisfied, just by glorifying Yasoda's son
And they are so enthusiastic, to continue this topmost fun
Krsna's beauty increases, He is always new, never the same
O, when I will get the taste to chant constantly, the Lord's holy name?!

Your servant,
Rasa-Lila Devi Dasi



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

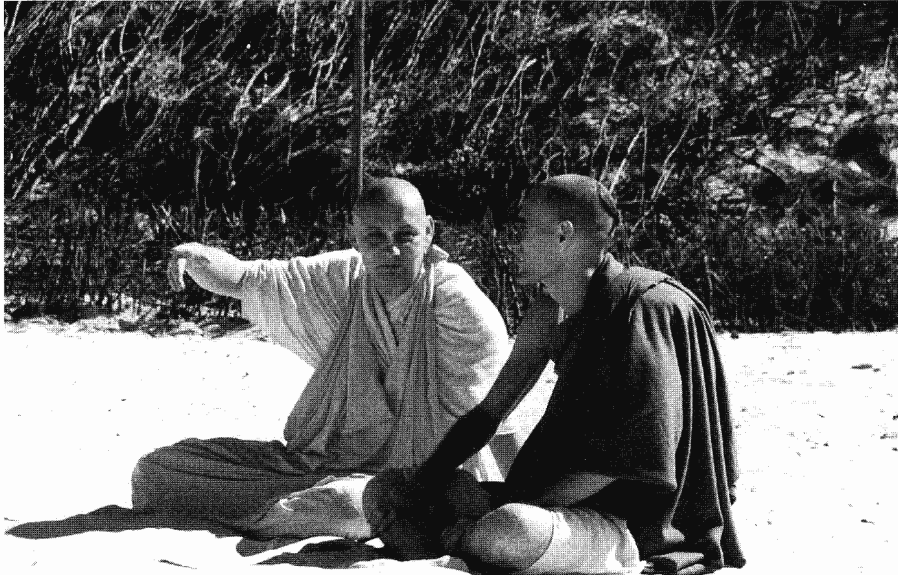
*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Srila Gurudeva,
Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to His divine grace Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada! All glories to your service at the shade of his divine lotus feet!

Please allow me on the day of your holy appearance to try and glorify your divine qualities. Guru Maharaja, you want us to grow up and to start helping you in your service to Srila Prabhupada in his "garden of bhakti". And you say, "Kali-yuga is very rocky and there are so many souls-seeds." The souls who have dropped in the land of Bulgaria have very bad karma. Preaching here is so heavy, due to the deep ignorance which we are in. But you, Guru Maharaja, are able to sow us in Srila Prabhupada's garden which is ISKCON, and to tend us properly. Although, we are under the influence of the three modes of nature, and our qualities are similar to the qualities of the dog-eaters, you possess the power and skill to make us pure by your perfect instructions, nectarian lectures, ecstatic kirtanas and your maha-prasada also.

Bulgaria



You converted our hearts, which are full with fear and material longings to a place where we worship Lord Krsna and develop our love for Him. Even one of your lotus smiles is enough to capture forever the heart of the fallen conditioned soul entangled in repeated birth and death.

Meditation on you and your instructions purifies my mind which is filled with nonsense. Your presence makes me very happy and enthuses me to do whatever will satisfy you in your service to Srila Prabhupada and Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

Dear Guru Maharaja, your appearance in the material world is really the causeless mercy of Sri Krsna and Srila Prabhupada for all living entities, and especially for your disciples in Bulgaria. Thank you for the causeless mercy you are pouring upon us. Thank you for engaging us in your service and Lord Caitanya's mission.

I pray at your lotus feet to succeed in my attempts to satisfy you.

Your insignificant servant,
Rasatmika Devi Dasi

Bulgaria

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please, accept my respectful obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to you!

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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Several days ago I found in "Teachings of Lord Caitanya" one very wonderful verse from Srimad Bhagavatam in which Akrura is offering prayers to Lord Krsna (SB 10.48.26):

*kah panditas tvad aparam saranam samiyad
bhakta-priyad rta-girah suhrdah kṛta-jnat
sarvan dadati suhrdo bhajato 'bhikaman
atmanam apy upacayapacayau na yasya*

"Who can surrender to anyone other than Yourself? Who is as dear, truthful, friendly and grateful as You? You are so perfect and complete that even though You give Yourself to Your devotee, You are still full and perfect. You can satisfy all the desires of Your devotee and even deliver Yourself unto him."

With these words Akrura addresses the supreme spiritual master, Lord Krsna, trying to describe a part of His godly qualities.

On this unusual day of your transcendental appearance, I would like to approach you with the same words, trying to express my thankfulness for all that you, dear Guru Maharaja, are doing for me.

I am a very ordinary kind of rascal, who by your causeless mercy has fallen into the company of the devotees. Because of the material contaminations, I still can not understand that I really have no other chance except to surrender fully unto your lotus feet.

Two weeks ago, for the first time after a year and a half, I went on sankirtana with prasadam. Only after several hours, by your mercy, did I succeed in understanding how useless and stupid I am. The first half an hour, I simply stayed on the street without any ability to stop any person. I did not have determination to stop anybody. I just stayed quite confused and hopeless. And then through my consciousness passed, as on cinema screen, all the transcendental experiences that I had felt a year and a half ago when I distributed Srila Prabhupada's books. At that time I had entered such God-forsaken places of public resort, full of people greedy for sense gratification. I

Bulgaria

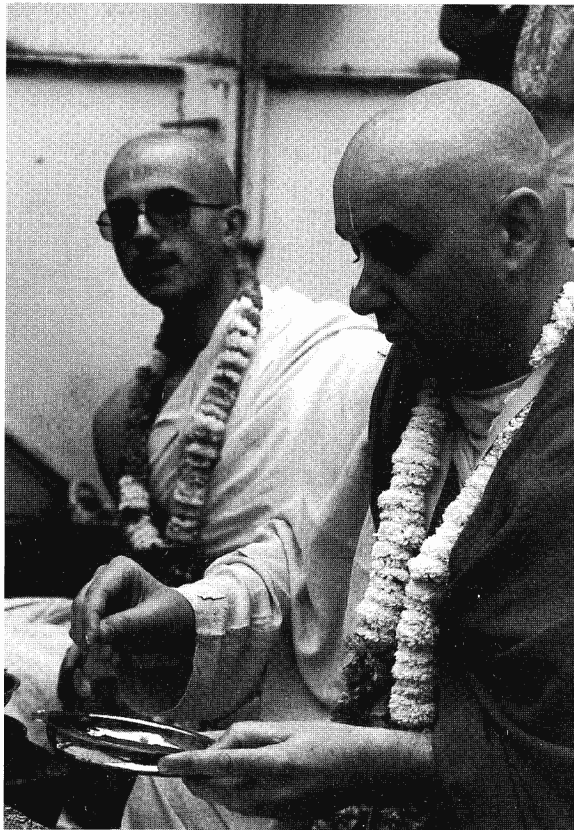
distributed whole sets of books to these people who didn't even want to hear anything about Kṛṣṇa. I visited rich and puffed up businessmen who were inspired to give a donation for Kṛṣṇa and to take Śrīla Prabhupada's books. And so staying on the street, I realized that in fact these books were not distributed by myself, but by you and your desire to please Śrīla Prabhupada.

Your desire to expand Lord Caitanya's mission is so great that even a rascal like me can be inspired and can be used as an instrument in your hands. But due to my false ego and pride, you sometimes show your mercy towards me by hiding and leaving me alone with my big mind. And I become quite useless, just as Arjuna was standing quite hopelessly in the encirclement of cowherd men who came to kidnap Lord Kṛṣṇa's wives after His departure. Arjuna was such a famous hero, that he could fight alone with 10 000 armed soldiers. But after Kṛṣṇa left this planet, Arjuna didn't find any strength to fight with a few cowherdmen.

In the same way, when my pride swells up so much, that it covers fully my intelligence, you, in order to give me a lesson, leave me alone, and then I become quite hopeless and can not distribute even a packet of prasadam.

In one of his lectures in Mayapur, Sivaram Maharaja said that Lord Caitanya is so merciful that He told the fallen conditioned souls: "Please, come and take My mercy!" He melted so much from the mercy that He ran after them in order to give it to them.

Lord Caitanya is running after us in the form of Śrīla Prabhupada in order to give us this mercy. And Śrīla Prabhupada has sent you to run after us to give us his mercy.



Bulgaria

Why? Because, who is more dear, honest, friendly and thankful than you? Because you are so, perfect and complete that although you surrender fully unto your devotee, you still remain perfect and complete. Because you can satisfy all the desires of your devotees and you can give them even yourself.

Guru Maharaja, please, give me intelligence to understand your transcendental greatness. Help me to remain in the association of your devotees and life after life to serve your lotus feet. And although I do not have any good qualities, use me as an instrument in your hands. Give me strength to run with you after the unfortunate conditioned souls in order to give them your mercy.

Thank you for everything!

Your insignificant servant,
Ruciravatara Dasa



Dear Srila Gurudeva Maharaja,

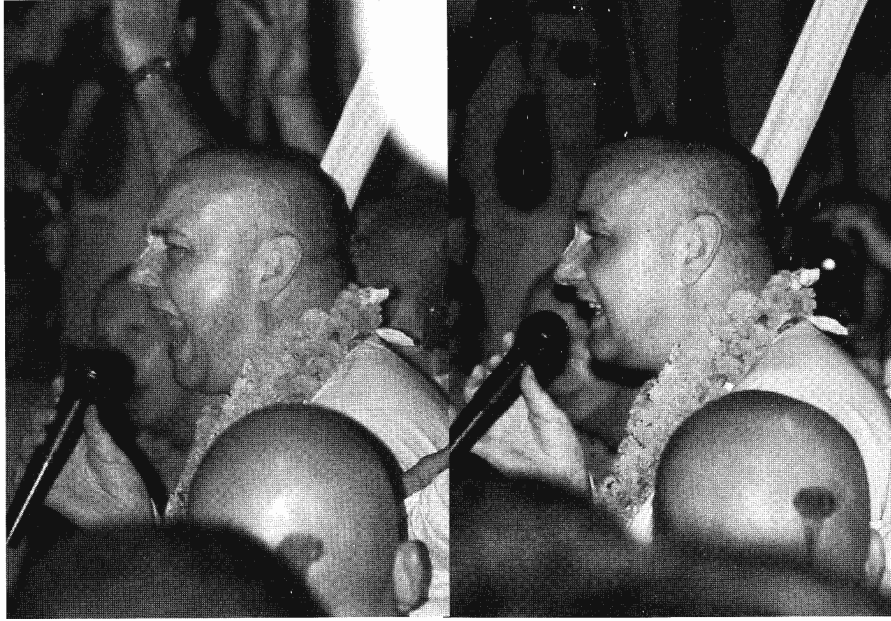
Today, on this most auspicious day of your appearance, when you accept each and every guest, any insignificant service offered to you and all the prayers, I am also anxious to take advantage of this occasion.

That's why I have brought here to offer you again this mind-dog. The mind and senses are like a dog with mad eyes, which is sometimes lolling its tongue, sometimes snooping and sniffing or wagging its tail. I have brought along here this dog to ask it to be tied up with your thick, strong leash, so that it can never again break free.

Therefore, my dear master, please accept my prostrated dandavats in a way that can be offered only by a dog, which falls flat at the feet of its master. This dirty dog is all the time breaking the leash, forgetting its master and running back to the street to the midst of the garbage from where you dug it up. On the street amidst the crowds, where you pulled it out of maya and had your servants tie it up, it was looking at fat gentlemen chewing carrion and waiting for some remnants.

Still, maya is like those people who train their dogs in such a way that when somebody pays a good price for the dog and its tricks and takes it home (sometimes even very far away), after some time the dog again goes back to its trainer. In the same way, the training of maya filled up the mind and senses with so much nonsense and speculation that they begin to look like an emaciated dog with tons of fleas and ticks fastened with their suckers to its body, and drinking its blood.

Bulgaria



Today, on the day of your appearance, the most auspicious day, when you accept all kinds of guests and all the prayers, I am praying to you please continue to buy me off from maya, please continue to save me from the material world, please continue to comb the coat of this dog-mind with the thick comb of your instructions, and in this way all speculations and nonsense will quickly drop just like fleas and ticks. This is impossible to do by my own endeavour, with simply the nails of a dog's paw which only look like your thick comb.

However, the more you comb and pat the dog, the more it drops off to sleep at your feet. Therefore, please, when you see it sleeping, scream out loudly and kick it with a foot. Make a wound on its body which will keep it awake while it is licking it.

I am taking shelter at your lotus sticks and kicks - me, the same dog, who has, so far, only been patted and combed by you, and whom you carefully avoid chastising because it may still run back to the street.

Your servant,
Sasabindu Dasa

Bulgaria

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

Dear Guru Maharaja,
I want to express my thankfulness and joy to you for the opportunity to become your servant and to try to surrender fully unto you and your mission.

Surrendering to you and the Supreme Lord is definitely the highest interest of the living entities in all the three worlds.

"But, my dear sir, I am obliged to you because now I can understand that this material world is without substance, although it appears real. I am confident that by serving your feet it will be possible for me to give up the false idea." (SB 3.7.18)

There is no doubt that without your mercy the living entity is fully entangled in the modes of material nature and cannot make even one step ahead in his spiritual life.

"To learn the transcendental matter, one must approach a spiritual master. In doing so, he should carry fuel to burn in sacrifice. The symptom of such a spiritual master is that he is expert in understanding the Vedic conclusions and, therefore, he constantly engages in the service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead." (Mundaka Upanisad 1.2.12)

This is confirmed in all the scriptures, as in Bhagavad Gita 4.34.

Your wisdom and tolerance of your disciples have no limits. Your mercy and love are expressed fully in your instructions to us. Your activities and your determination can be compared to those of a lion, chasing his victim. Your words are like fire, burning all the potentially impious things and contaminations in the hearts of the living entities. Thus my amazement about you and your transcendental activities expands more and more.

Please, forgive all my offenses that I have committed towards you out of pure ignorance and let me serve you!

Your servant,
Satyamadhava Dasa



Bulgaria

Dear Srila Gurudeva,
I offer my humble obeisances 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*

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

I'm reading the biography of Srila Prabhupada, and I come again to his words, "My spiritual master was not an ordinary spiritual master - he saved me." I cannot fully understand the meaning of these words, but in many places, in his purports to the Srimad Bhagavatam, Srila Prabhupada stresses the necessity of accepting a bona fide spiritual master. He mentions also that even the lowest among the human beings (*mlecchas, candalas, yavanas* etc..) can receive vaisnava initiation from a bona fide spiritual master, and thereby become purified.

How much causeless mercy are you bestowing upon me?! Even in my boldest notions, I cannot grasp the scope of your preaching mission; neither your great enthusiasm and determination to distribute Krsna consciousness around the world, nor your ecstatic kirtans and lectures that dissipate all the misgivings on my path to Krsna consciousness.

In connection with the celebration of Srila Prabhupada's centennial anniversary, I promised personally to read the whole Bhagavatam and Caitanya-caritamṛta, and also to gather at least 100 bookpoints every week and become steady, which is the most important thing for the service of a book distributor. Guru Maharaja, I know that this is only possible by yours and Krsna's mercy. I also know that book distribution satisfies you most, and that the perfection of my life is to surrender to the mission of the disciplic succession and my spiritual master. I know that I can develop a strong desire and pray for your mercy, and I'll go for it!

I offer again my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Your eternal servant,
Sthanu Dasa

Bulgaria

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please, accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to you!

It is so nice that there is such a day, when we have the opportunity to engage fully our feelings and thoughts, our minds and hearts, to write down this offering for your pleasure. In these moments, I wonder what it means to be absorbed constantly in thoughts of one's spiritual master. If I can engage constantly my mind, thoughts and feelings in order to remember you and your transcendental instructions and to follow them, my life will have perfect meaning. And you are the best example of this. You constantly glorify Krsna, His name, qualities, pastimes and devotees, with great determination. You have made Srila Prabhupada and his mission to spread Krsna consciousness everywhere, your life and soul. The result is that more and more new devotees are joining us and we become more and more enthusiastic to engage in sankirtana.

This life is so simple and sublime, but for me it appears difficult. Why? Because I am so attached to my sense gratification, from which arises disrespect and offences towards the other devotees. In one of your lectures in Plovdiv, you told the story about the mercy that Lord Caitanya poured upon Kali Dasa. And you said that the secret for quick advancement in Krsna consciousness is to remember that all the devotees are as rare as the Lord Himself, because Krsna says: "They are like Me." And if we respect the devotees with whom we have the good fortune to associate, then we respect the Lord Himself. But if we ignore them, then we ignore the Lord. In another lecture you said that if we would be lost at night in the forest and had only the light coming from the moon, we would be very happy to use this light. We would not say: "O, the moon has spots, so I will not use his light, because it's not quite pure." In this dark Kali-yuga, the devotees are our only shelter and their defects are like the spots on the moon. The only opportunity to go out of this dense darkness is to accept the association they mercifully give us.

Once you explained also that maya captures her victims in the way vultures do it. She separates one or several devotees from the others and finishes them off. But when the devotees are together, maya is helpless. In one of your lectures you said that our love to Srila Prabhupada is expressed in how we co-operate to spread this movement for Krsna consciousness.

Dear Guru Maharaja, if now I would have the opportunity to choose one thing, which I want to do for the rest of my life, it would be to listen constantly to your nectarean lectures, which are full of love for Krsna and Srila Prabhupada, whose purifying power can liberate all the conditioned souls from the miserable existence in this material world. But if you want, I agree to distribute Krsna prasadam and I also shall use my voice only to chant the glories of Krsna and the devotees and for nothing else. As the Kumaras pray: "O Lord, we pray that you let us be born in any hellish

Bulgaria



conditions of life, just as long as our hearts and minds are engaged in the service of Your lotus feet. Our words are made beautiful (by speaking of your activities) just as tulasi leaves are beautified when offered unto your lotus feet, and as long as our ears are always filled with the chanting of your transcendental qualities."

Guru Maharaja, for me there is no other hope to throw away all the material contaminations and become quite indifferent to the material temptation, if you don't give me shelter at your lotus feet. Please, use me in your great sankirtan in some way, although I have no good qualities and I'm so sinful.

As Narottama dasa Thakura prays:

*patita-pavana-hetu tava avatara
mo sama patita prabhu na paibe-ara*

" You have descended in order to deliver the fallen souls. O, my Lord, you will not find a more fallen soul than me (therefore my claim is first)."

I offer again and again my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.

Your eternal servant,
Vaniseva Devi Dasi

Bulgaria

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept our most humble obeisances into the dust of your lotus feet! All glories to His divine grace Srila Prabhupada! All glories to your divine grace!

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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Trying to glorify your divine grace in this most auspicious day, the day of your divine appearance, we realize that now we only begin to understand in truth your greatness, compassion and beauty which are impossible to be compared to anyone born in this material world.

Your pure, transcendental, all-attractive qualities have their origin in the spiritual world. The Supreme Personality of Godhead have created you with these wonderful, striking every imaginary qualities, so that everyone blessed by the dust of your lotus feet be able to approach the lotus feet of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

In this most auspicious day we are praying to you as a representative of Srila Vyasadeva, the whole guru-parampara and the special mercy of Srila Prabhupada to never withdraw your lotus feet from our heads, however unsuccessfully we are trying to follow your instructions.

Sometimes it seems to us, that this day is a kind of test how strong is our desire to actually be together with you. And if we really wish to be together with you, we must prove in practice our love. You are pouring upon us your love, now it is our turn to respond. It is our duty to sacrifice all the dust accumulated in our hearts by bringing it to your lotus feet. By your causeless mercy, you are giving us this possibility. We feel the warmth of your presence around us. We only have to always follow this presence by realizing your instructions. Eternally wishing to serve your lotus feet, The most insignificant of your eternal servants

Madhusudana Dasa
Tilottama Devi Dasi



Bulgaria



Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances!
All glories to Lord Sri Krsna and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!
All glories to the sri-guru-parampara! All glories to you, Gurudeva!

I cannot find words to glorify you properly on this auspicious day. I am very happy that you decided to celebrate your Vyasa-puja ceremony again in Bulgaria. I am not able to thank you, for the present, but I pray to Lord Krsna to give me an opportunity to do so! We know that the disciple is ever-obliged to his spiritual master, because the master gives him the most valuable thing - Krsna Himself. Lord Krsna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and He is the richest. How, then, can we repay you? The only thing we may do is execute your instructions, trying in this way to please you. This is the only hope in my life. I am waiting with eagerness to hear your lectures.

All glories to you, Guru Maharaja!

Your servant,
Vasudama Dasa



SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Czech Republik



Czech Republik

Dear Srila Gurudeva,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

"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 lotus feet of Sri Vyasadeva 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 Sri Gurudeva or Sri Vyasadeva.

"Therefore, gentlemen, we should surrender ourselves today at the feet of the representative of Sri Vyasadeva for the elimination of all our differences bred by our unsubmitive attitude. It is accordingly said in the Bhagavad-gita 4.34: *tad viddhi pranipatena pariprasnena sevaya/ upadeksyanti te jnanam jnaninas tattva-darsinah*. 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."

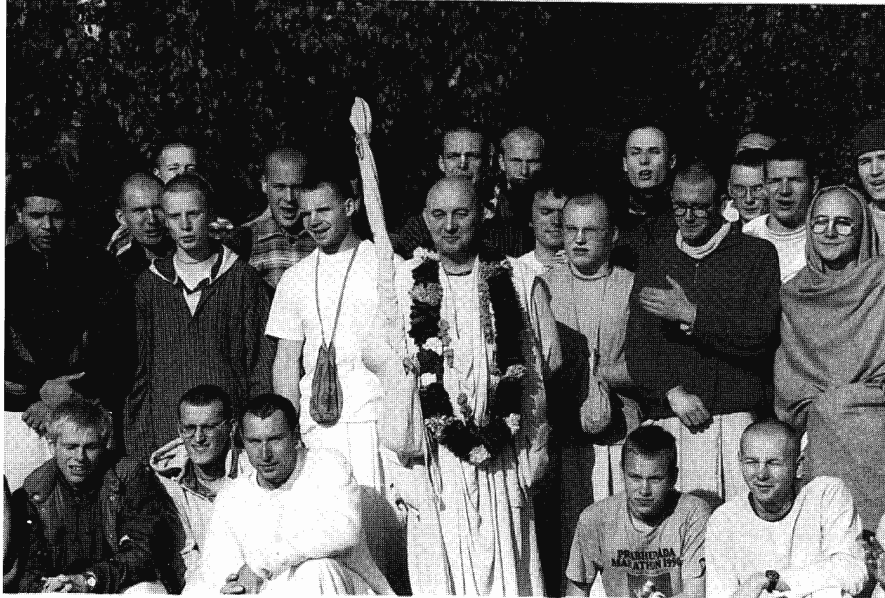
Therefore, my dear Guru Maharaja, please help me to change my mind and be able to serve you with love and devotion.

Thank you for your endless mercy.

Your servant,
Jnanacaksus Dasa



Czech Republik



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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet, which are the only
shelter for this fallen soul.

*sri-guru karuna-sindhu, adhama janara bandhu,
lokanath lokera jivana
ha ha prabhu koro doya, deho more pada-chaya,
ebe jasa ghusuk tribhuvana...*

As time moves me closer to the celebration of the most auspicious appearance day of Your Divine Grace, I am eager to remember and glorify your personality and activities more and more, together with your spiritual children, my godbrothers. It is only your mercy that makes a dumb man like me speak. I know, our dear Guru Maharaja, that beautiful flowers and honey-like words alone cannot please you. Still, especially today, I want to flood you with the most beautiful garlands and sweet words glorifying Your divine Mercy.

Czech Republik

Dear Guru Maharaja, I am really proud and happy to be a disciple of such an exalted spiritual master, to be a godbrother of your sincere children, and I want to cry enthusiastically: "All glories to His divine grace Srila Suhotra Swami!"

*aksnoh phalam tvadrsa-darsanam hi
tanoh phalam tvadrsa-gatra-sangah
jihva-phalam tvadrsa-kirtanam hi
sudurlabha bhagavata hi loke*

"O pure devotee, the purpose of the eyes is to see you. The purpose of the touch is to touch your body. The purpose of the tongue is to glorify you, because in this world it is very difficult to find a pure devotee like you."

Dear Guru Maharaja, Srila Prabhupada was once asked who he really is, and he responded by saying, "If I told you, you wouldn't believe me." In a similar way, I think I wouldn't believe it if I asked you who you really are. "All glories to you, who have assumed the form of half-man, half-lion! Just as one can easily crush a wasp between one's fingernails, so in the same way the body of the wasp-like personality of Kali has been ripped apart by the words emanating from your beautiful lotus mouth."

Dear Guru Maharaja, in a similar way, you destroyed my demoniac sentiments by the pointed nails of knowledge in your wonderful lectures. During your last visit to Prague, you delivered a very strong lecture against the modern Kali-yuga demons, roaring like a lion: "How many people die?! How many people went to hell?! Ask yourself that question!! We have a mission!! That's a very, very serious mission!! Don't be sentimental!!" and knocking down a small table with your fist. These words deeply penetrated my heart and I could realize that you are also a really "heavy" guru. After this lecture, I wanted to immediately jump out onto the street and distribute Srila Prabhupada's books in a furious way in all directions.

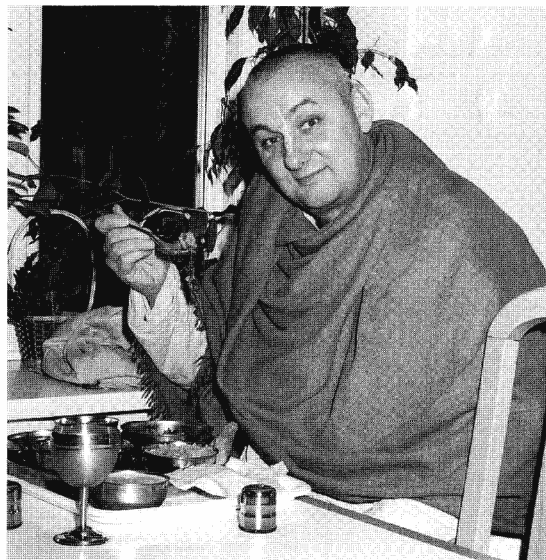
*sastra-yukte sumpuna, drdha-sraddha yanra
uttama-adhikari sei taraye samsara*

"One who is expert in logic, argument and the revealed scriptures and who has firm faith in Krsna is classified as a topmost devotee. He can deliver the whole world." (C.c.Madhya 22.65)

Dear Guru Maharaja, I surrendered my life unto you, and if you tell me to jump from Charlese's Bridge, I'll jump for your pleasure!

Dear Guru Maharaja, please accept my body, mind, words, time and the results of all my small efforts, as yours. My only desire is to sacrifice these things in your service. I completely depend on you. Actually, you are always personally present in any activity I am performing. It is you who worships Krsna in various ways. When we, the devotees at Govinda's, cook nice preparations, we really only assist you, our

Czech Republik



dear spiritual master, in your service of cooking for Krsna.

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

Dear Guru Maharaja, you woke me from a deep sleep in the lap of the witch Maya by your loud, "Haribol!! Haribol!! *Jiv jago, jiv jago, gauracandra bole/ kota nidra jao maya-pisacira kole.*" You brought to me the medicine that wipes out the disease of illusion from which I am suffering. *enechi ausadhi maya nasibaro lagi/ hari-nama maha-mantra lao tumi magi.* You ordered me: "Stay high forever and never come back down!" *grhe thako, vane thako, sada hari bole dako/ sukhe duhkhe bhulo nako, vadane hari-nam koro re.*

Thank you, dear Guru Maharaja, for not kicking this idiotic fool away. This, above all, is the greatest display of your mercy.

Srila Suhotra Swami ki jaya!
Srila Suhotra Swami ki jaya!!
Srila Suhotra Swami ki jaya!!!

"Na shledanou", dear Guru Maharaja.

Your fortunate disciple, Bhakta Karel

Czech Republik

*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 of His lotus feet.

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto you, who are the simha-guru and the one who takes away the influence of Kali-yuga by delivering wonderful lectures on the scientific teachings of Srila Prabhupada.

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my most humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada! All glories to the wonderful sankirtan mission of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

Your spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada, in his purport to Bhagavad-gita 3.21, writes: "People in general always require a leader who can teach the public by practical behavior. A leader cannot teach the public to stop smoking if he himself smokes. Lord Caitanya said that a teacher should behave properly before he begins teaching. One who teaches in that way is called acarya, or the ideal teacher."

This is what I can see in you. You know that people in the Kali-yuga are fallen and not very intelligent. In The Nectar of Instruction it is described how one learns things: One learns just by hearing and seeing the example, others must hear and be punished for the offence and the third-class people hear, do the nonsense, are punished, but still do not learn. But pure devotees of the Lord are full of compassion (of which you are the best example) and patiently try again and again to save fallen fools from the clutches of maya, although they embrace her very strongly.

I can just pray to learn from you to see only the good qualities in the devotees, to become a fault-finder about this material world and to have the same compassion for the conditioned souls that you have, in order to be able to assist you in your mission. This is only possible by your mercy and for that I must actually hear the holy name, humbly serve the devotees, hear from you and the scriptures and perform my service enthusiastically. This is also possible by your mercy.

Now I come to the real conclusion: whatever I want to accomplish in spiritual life is fully dependant upon your mercy. Although your mercy is causeless, still I have to try very hard to get it.

Czech Republik

When somebody asks me who is my spiritual master, I am very proud to say: "His Divine Grace Srila Suhotra Swami Maharaja," and I want to become such a disciple that you will not be embarrassed to say that I am your disciple.

Desiring to be qualified to become your servant,
Krsnavalli Devi Dasi.



*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

*mukam karoti vacalam panghum langhayate girim
yat-krpa tam aham vande sri-gurum dina tarinam*

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet! All glories to you, dear Srila Gurudeva! All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada!

By the mercy of the books of Srila Prabhupada, I could understand what the real meaning of life is: that I'm an eternal servant of Krsna, who is my real master. Thus, I could understand, that the perfection of life is to understand Him and recover my eternal relationship with Him by the mercy of the via-medium spiritual master. Sri Krsna has sent you, a bona-fide spiritual master, to me and you have mercifully engaged me in devotional service and, what's more, in the preaching mission, which is most pleasing to Sri Krsna Caitanya and Srila Prabhupada. I'm becoming more and more conscious of the mercy contained within the sankirtan mission and thus realize my eternal position as a servant of yours, who are the servant of the servant... of Krsna.



I'm more and more happy to see that people are really happy by getting and using the books of Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you, who really understands the mission of Srila Prabhupada. By following your instructions, I'm able to understand the real desire of Krsna and Prabhupada and thus, I'm getting the strength to help the

Czech Republik

conditioned souls out of the dense darkness of ignorance and also to save myself. Please forgive my faults and offences unto your lotus feet.

I'm fully conscious of the impurities in my heart, but I'll try my best to purify myself and thus become a true representative of you and ISKCON.

Your insignificant servant,
Kusa Dasa



*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Your Vyasa-puja day is the most auspicious event in this dark and evil age. By your causeless mercy and deep compassion upon the fallen, ignorant souls, you have appeared to turn their faces towards Krsna. I'm one of those souls, who are lost in the material ocean and although, life after life, I've been trying to escape from my best friend and only master, you mercifully gave me the real knowledge, the real goal of life. And still, in my fallen condition, I cannot realize the incomparable benediction which you've bestowed upon me.

I always feel ashamed that, on one hand, my spiritual master is a perfect example of a pure devotee, who has all knowledge and preaches like a real warrior of Lord Caitanya's transcendental army, while on the other hand, I'm weak, attached and dull, and thus unable to realize the importance of your instructions. It is said that the teacher is known by his disciples. Please, Guru Maharaja, help me to become like your disciples. Please, protect your investment of bhakti in me. I know that only you can help me to perfect my life. You are like fire, that can burn all the impurities in my heart. I pray to you, please make me strong in following your instructions, make me humble, and always enthusiastic to render some service in the dust of your lotus feet.

Begging to remain your servant,
Madhura Devi Dasi

Czech Republik

My dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Please give me strength to be always sincerely engaged in your service without deviation. Use me as an instrument in your spiritual master's mission of spreading the sankirtana movement of Lord Caitanya, for this is the activity that pleases you the most.

Very often, I become suddenly covered by the lower modes of material nature in the form of a polluted mind and false ego, and in that state it is very hard for me to surrender to the particular situation and serve you by all means with determination. Therefore, I ask you to be kind to me in these moments and bless me with your causeless mercy to be always, at every moment placed as an eternal servant at your lotus feet.

Almost always, I'm forgetting that after millions of lifetimes, due to your causeless mercy, I can serve you, the spiritual master. And I'm acting like a fool, neglecting your instructions.

Please give me your mercy, so that I can serve you and the Vaisnavas.

Your forever-indebted servant,
Bhakta Martin



Czech Republik

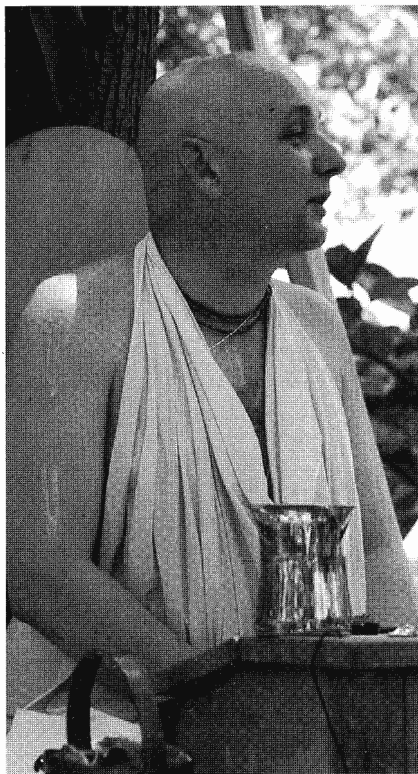
Dear Guru Maharaja,

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

*tasya tvam tamaso 'ndhasya dusparasyadya paragam
sac-caksur janmanam ante labdham me tvad-anugrahat*

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

On the occasion of your appearance day, I want to offer you my humble obeisances, and request you to kindly allow me to stay henceforth in the service of the dust of your lotus feet.



I'm the most unqualified and least intelligent, but by your causeless mercy, I have gotten the opportunity to serve you. I can clearly remember my previous helpless situation as a servant of the material energy, subjected twenty-four hours a day to the deep illusion of happiness and distress, in her merciless grip. In those days, I was really searching for any way to escape, but without the light of the real guru-parampara, I was unable to do so. Even though I'm highly stupid and primitive, I'm trying to beg at your lotus feet that you will kindly help me to cultivate the creeper of my devotional life, so that I can become somehow qualified to even slightly repay you for what you are doing for me by leading me, the blind idiot, towards the real goal of life, the secret of the Vedas, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is residing in the hearts of all pure devotees and has the name, Sri Krsna.

Thank you for your difficult task.

At your lotus feet,
Pattrapati Dasa

Czech Republik

Dear Guru Maharaja !
I offer to you my most humble obeisances !

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Due to the passing by of another year in Krsna consciousness, my illusion has more disappeared, and I have had more experiences in fighting against maya and am consequently able to appreciate more the nobleness, purity, power, and all-attractiveness of devotional service. And you are so kind and merciful to such a rascal. In actuality, I do not deserve your mercy, but you make such big plans and always desire the best for my spiritual progress.

I'm conscious of my inability to repay you for your love and attention, but still I hope that, one day, I will be able to do so.

Your eternal servant,
Pavitravani Dasa



Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

On this auspicious day of your Vyasa-puja, I would like to glorify your greatness, at least partially, because in this offering I cannot describe it fully. Now I beg you, Srila Prabhupada and Sri Sri Nitai-Navadvipacandra for words by which I will be able to glorify you.

First of all, I want to thank you, that I can personally serve you, when you come to Prague. I am not even aware of what great mercy it is. Narada muni attained pure devotion to Krsna in this way. In Srila Prabhupada's books the importance of service to the bona fide spiritual master is emphasized, and you are giving me this mercy. But I just always think about getting some fruits for my service, and that is my wrong

attitude. But you still allow me to serve you, and that is one of your innumerable good qualities.

You are really the "lion guru". With so much spiritual knowledge, you are able to push such a conditioned soul as I along the way back home, back to Krsna. On your last visit to our Prague center, I could see what it means to act in full Krsna consciousness, within the sankirtan mission of your spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada. I could see constant engagement. Many times you do not even go to sleep at night and you renounce your meal. Instead, you are always engaged in organizing, working on the computer, answering many letters, dealing with different conflicts, etc., and at the same time giving wonderful lectures, which fit exactly to the time, place and circumstances. You always know, where the problem is, where the impurity is. You are the best doctor, who expertly cuts open the boil and, with the minimum of pain, gradually removes impurities (by your lectures on Srimad-Bhagavatam and Bhagavad-gita). This is your greatness.

In your example, we can see what it means to strictly follow the spiritual master, as you are following Srila Prabhupada. Therefore, all of us in the Czech yatra are happily awaiting your next visit, when you will again, by your lectures, which are as sharp as a razor's edge, cut open our boils of material disease and purify them from the next impurities. Also as a cure for our diseases, you are conducting three hours of "STAY HIGH FOREVER" kirtans, and you lead us in almost three hours of harinam, chanting and dancing. You are only giving to us, expecting nothing in return. You are always absorbed in the mission of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada. And that is your greatness.

In your example, I can see what detachment means. You are not attached to nice prasadam or to some personal comfort. You are attached only to the spreading of the sankirtan mission of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, to please Srila Prabhupada. And that is your love and devotion for Srila Prabhupada. Therefore, you are more pleased by an offering of love from your disciples, than an offering of some material comfort.

Once, I was pouring water over your hands after prasadam, and you were also washing your mouth as usual, and I was expecting to get this maha-maha, but after cleansing your mouth (I was waiting), you swallowed this water. I was just amazed, why you did not spit it out!

By your mercy, I could understand what mercy means. It does not come by itself. As you said in one lecture, "God helps those, who help themselves." For the mercy of the spiritual master, we must fight, beg and cry. And this mercy is to be engaged in your service in the sankirtan mission by distributing the books of Srila Prabhupada. You know how to teach your disciples by your exemplary behavior and expert dealings. And that is your greatness.

Czech Republik

In this way, I can at least sometimes understand a little the meaning of the Sri-Sri-Gurv-astakam song, Sri-Siksastakam, *om ajnana timirandhasya*, etc..

I beg for all of us, that we can understand and expand within the cores of our hearts, what "spiritual master" means, as well as the mercy of the spiritual master, service to the lotus feet of the spiritual master and the mission of the spiritual master, as they are understood by Srila Bhaktivinodata Thakur in his song "Gurudev".

Thank you very much for the mercy you are giving us.

Your servant, who is always bowing down at your lotus feet,
Radhesa Dasa



My Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Only a highly intelligent person like you, can go on with devotional service year after year and also help other devotees avoid obstacles on the path of devotional service and then stick them to Krsna permanently with the glue of love.

I see that many Prague devotees who are not even your disciples become infected by your enthusiastic lectures and they desire to have tapes of them from other countries to get more nectar.

The devotees, like the bumblebees, are flying all around, and they seek the nectar of Krsna consciousness at your lotus feet, Guru Maharaja. I am longing for the day when I will leave maya and stop fault-finding and when I will be able, just like the devotees, to seek the nectar emanating from your lotus mouth.

Srila Prabhupada used to say that many people can proclaim themselves to be surrendered to God, but the devotee is actually recognized by how much he is fired-up for Krsna, fired-up for His glorification and His service.

Czech Republik

In your "Stay High Forever" concerts, you are just like Arjuna, who, when he had to shoot at the bird, could see just its eye. So, you are teaching us how to achieve Krsna by concentrating on His holy name. Thank you for that!

Your eternal servant,
Susanga Jata Dasa



*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. On this day, I would like to express my gratitude that, because of your mercy, I still can serve you in some insignificant way.

*yasya deve para bhaktir yatha-deve tatha gurau
tasyaite kathita hy arthah prakasante mahatmanah*

"Only unto those great souls who have implicit faith in both the Lord and the spiritual master are all the imports of the Vedic knowledge automatically revealed."
(Svetasvatara Upanisad 6.23)

The scriptures reveal that the disciple has to dedicate himself completely to the service of his guru and to take his instructions as the goal of life. Because the spiritual master is the savior of the disciple, only he can give to the disciple the Vedic knowledge to bring him on the path of perfection. Therefore the disciple is eternally obliged to his guru. I know that my attempts to serve you are always insufficient. I'm a bad disciple - I've changed my service many times, yet you are still patient and merciful towards me.

I'm happy, because I know that if I can somehow serve you, I will still get your mercy, which, like the sun, is shining for everyone. The problem is only one of the will of the living entities, whether they will appreciate these benediction rays or hide from them. I'm like those who, because of ignorance, do not take full advantage of such mercy. But I know that you are like a loving father, who always takes care of the son and whose main concern is that his children are engaged in Krsna's service.

Czech Republik

Thank you for everything Guru Maharaja. I am happy to write year after year an offering for your blessed Vyasa-puja.

Remaining forever your servant,
Vasumana Dasa



*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear Guru Maharaja,
At this opportunity, I want to write some words to you. Now I know how unlucky I was before I met you the first time. "Having obtained a human birth and having not worshiped Radha and Krsna, I have really drunk poison." But nowadays nobody knows how my life has changed. I have found shelter at your lotus feet and thus. I'm satisfied. I think, I will never be able to appreciate such mercy.

*karma jam buddhi yukta hi
phalam tyaktva manisinah
janma bandha vinirmuktah
padam gacchanty anamayam (Bg. 2.51)*

Your eternal servant,
Vidyavacaspati Dasa



Czech Republik

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

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Again and again I fall in front of you. I do not know any other way to express my thankfulness and my tender desire to have proper attitude towards you. I have only material sentiments which I can not offer to you because for you material things do not have any value. To write this offering is one of the best events of the year, because it provides the opportunity of uninterrupted meditation about you. Otherwise, most of the time I am concerned about myself. I try to write this offering, and every attempt seems to me very insignificant. But now something special happened- we had a car crash on travelling sankirtan. At that moment I was reading Srila Prabhupada Lilamrta. Srila Prabhupada said: "I accepted him as my spiritual master immediately. Not officially but in my heart I was thinking that I had met a very nice saintly person." And just after this happened this accident. I was shocked... And what if I would left the body? Do I accept you deep in my heart? What I know is that I am completely depending on your mercy and could not imagine my life without you.

Now I also remember the moment when I met you for the first time... I heard unusual sound from far away... I saw a group of happy, strange looking people... You and Bhaktivaibhava Maharaja leading. (I think you had your big karatals.)... Everyone was looking so free and I joined... I even can not remember everything very well... In the afternoon it was lecture, I came late... You were already sitting in a festive way, I remember how you were looking at the people in the hall... Everything what you told was very natural, I did not understand much, but I knew I liked it, foreseeing beginning of the new life... And inspite of that I did not understand that you are the person with whom I am connected forever, I started to seek for association of the devotees and wanted to do something for them... You have planted the seed. Although I, the conditioned soul, did not understand, the power of your presence was acting. This short meeting have changed my life -

*'sadhu-sanga', 'sadhu-sanga' -- sarva-sastre kaya
lava-matra sadhu-sange sarva-saddhi haya*

"The verdict of all revealed scriptures is that by even a moment's association with a pure devotee, one can attain all success." - now I realize, that everything happened by your causeless mercy. Since that time I remain, constantly depending upon it... Some time ago I had a dream that you have left the body and I was very unhappy

Czech Republik

and cried. I depend so much even on your personal presence... I am ignorant and sometimes I think that my life is separate from you, but... Things around me are changing, circumstances, places, position, times of difficulties or inspiration are coming, surrender or material desires and relationships, followed by frustration... but you... you stay always - a treasure which I have, and hope for which I can be proud. You stay always, and hold Krsna in your hands to give Him to me, when I will have free hands to take Him...

Now I go on with reading Srila Prabhupada Lilamrta and I can see how you are following Him in everything. You also live life of travelling renunciant and like Srila Prabhupada you are always conscious of your spiritual master... Even one day of your life is enough... In the morning we get up for mangala-arati, your computer is still on, you were working the whole night... We can hear your chanting outside and walking in your uncommon wooden shoes... Lecture. You hit the table and shout: "How many people die?! How many people go to hell?! Ask yourself this question! We have the mission, very, very serious mission, authorized by acaryas... One can see what these demons are doing. It's not funny. ... This mission, Lord Caitanya's sankirtan mission is meant to stop this nonsense!..." - in real mood of Srila Prabhupada. You understand his philosophy perfectly... We, who constantly bother you with insignificant problems... Your heart is so big and there is care and love for everyone... I saw you walkig outside of the temple, I hide myself to see you. You spoke with one of your disciples who have had some problems before. You placed your merciful hand on his shoulder and spoke to him very kindly. I caught myself to be very envious, wanting to be on his place... Bhaktivaibhava Maharaja once said: "Who else travels to those dark countries? He has such a big heart for everyone..." Then GBC responsibility are increasing more and more. But you always protect authority of ISKCON... Harinama ... You are the best example of how spiritual energy is inexhaustible and spiritual bliss never ends... We are tired but you go on and on. You are completely transcendental. You are never tired of chanting the holy name... Stay high forever...

I have never seen personality more ecstatic than you are... You are using every opportunity to serve Srila Prabhupada-even though you engage such rascal as I am. You have given to me this service - book distribution and because I know that you want me to go on, I pray to be able to go on in spite of all my disqualifications. Most of the time I am spaced out and misuse your energy. Most of the time I forget you and your instructions. In the best case my motivation is: Guru Maharaja is so kind to me, and I want to reciprocate. On sankirtan I can gradually realize my helplessness, and that everything happens because of your pure desire to spread the movement of Lord Caitanya.

With my sahajiya mentality I always want to have some special relationship with you. But now I can somehow remember that I have to learn to be simply your servant. As Prahlada Maharaja is praying to Lord Nrsimhadev:

Czech Republik

*aham tv akamas tvad-bhaktas
tvam sa svamy anapasrayah
nanyathehavayor artho
raja-sevakayor iva*

"O my Lord, I am your unmotivated servant, and You are my eternal master. There is no need of our being anything other than master and servant. You are naturally my master and I am naturally Your servant. We have no other relationship."SB. 7.10.6

Please accept my humble obeisances.

your still not unmotivated servant
Adhika-daya Devi Dasi



Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please 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
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

During your visit to Prague, I had the chance to be present at all of your lectures and several times I was even so fortunate, that I could serve you personally as your driver on your sudden visits to Govinda's restaurant or I could serve you prasadam.

By your mercy, I could also feel the wonderful atmosphere of happiness and understanding which you spread around yourself. Your mercy, which you distribute so broadly to everybody, also drives me towards greater effort and surrender.

My life, before I came in contact with devotees and Srila Prabhupada's books, was full of vain searching. Dear Guru Maharaja, only you lead me on the right path. I got your causeless mercy, you accepted me as your disciple and allowed me to worship your lotus feet.

Your servant, Bhakta Vladislav

Sri Vyasa puja





SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Finland



Finnland

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear spiritual master,
please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories, all glories to you on this glorious day of your appearance in this world! For the benefit of us suffering rascals, you have stayed on here another year, instead of reclaiming your place in the nitya-lila of the Lord.

Narada Muni says in the Bhagavatam (7.15.26):

*yasya saksad bhagavati jnana-dipa-prade gurau
martyasad-dhih srutam tasya sarvam kunjara-saucavat*

"The spiritual master should be seen as the Supreme Lord Himself, since he gives enlightenment through transcendental knowledge. For one who maintains the material view that the spiritual master is an ordinary human being, everything is lost. His enlightenment, Vedic studies and knowledge is like the bath of an elephant."

From this statement we can nicely see the difference between a mundane scholar and a bona fide spiritual master. The one that sees the guru as an ordinary human being or simply ignores him, for him, everything is like the bath of an elephant; simply useless labor. He might perform horrible austerities, read the Vedas and know so many esoteric things, but since he does not surrender to the Lord through the Lord's representative, as soon as he finishes his austerities or closes his book, he again comes down to the material plane.

It is said that "*acaryavan puruso veda*," without an acarya, a spiritual master who teaches through his own example, the Vedas cannot be understood. I have so much experience of this. What can I do independently? Simply collect mundane knowledge. I remember, some time ago, reading how Srila Baladeva Vidyabhusana compared the form of Sri Krsna to that of a melody. I used up so much time trying to understand this simile, but I could not fully grasp it. But then! In a lecture you used the same simile and explained it, thus filling the dark, empty hollow of my brain with the light of transcendental knowledge once again! It was suddenly so easy and clear.

From this, and so many other examples, it can be seen that your divine grace certainly is such an acarya, who carries, as Narada says, the lamp of transcendental knowledge, and you mercifully let it shine into every nook and corner of this world. Simply by listening to your ever-increasingly nectarean lectures, even I can get some of this light of transcendental knowledge. Guru Maharaja, I'm afraid I'm not a good example of a person who is not "*martyasad-dhih*", maintaining the view that the guru is an

Finnland

ordinary human being. Much of my spiritual activities certainly seem to be like an elephant's bathing. You, on the contrary, never fall down into the lower modes of nature. A person in knowledge can see this. None of your wonderful activities are for your own pleasure, but for the service of Srila Prabhupada and Sri Krsna.

Gurudeva, I take the opportunity to beg you: please glance also towards this fool. Please have mercy upon me, a sinner. Make me a real disciple like my glorious God-brothers, and drive away my anarthas through your simha-like preaching.

Your eternal servant,
Bhakta Mans



Dear Guru Maharaja,
please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

All glories to Srila Prabhupada and all glories to your divine grace.

In the short break during a book distribution day, I'm trying to make a list of all those things which I'd like to thank you for. And from the beginning it seems that, although I had hundreds of pens and hands and weeks of time, it will be impossible.

It is said:

*vancha-kalpatarubhyas ca krpa-sindhubhya eva ca
patitanam pavanebhyo vaisnavebhyo namo namah*

Vaisnavas are like desire trees, and to associate with you shows that sloka to be so true.

Who would not like to listen to the most exciting lectures given so nicely and so expertly that there is no word to explain it? Or to associate and get orders from one who knows exactly what life is all about, and can explain those very deep philosophical things, so that even forest people like me can understand them? Or to give Srila Prabhupada's books to people who nowadays are also even interested in them? Or to meet many, many young people in the schools who really have an interest

Finnland



in the subjects we are presenting? Or to hold ecstatic preaching programs for people who have even any kind of interest in spiritual things? Or to travel with a nice group of devotees, to name only a few of those so very valuable things Your Divine Grace has given to me?

So what else could one hope for in his life? As you were recently saying in one sankirtan meeting, "Who could fail to be attracted?"

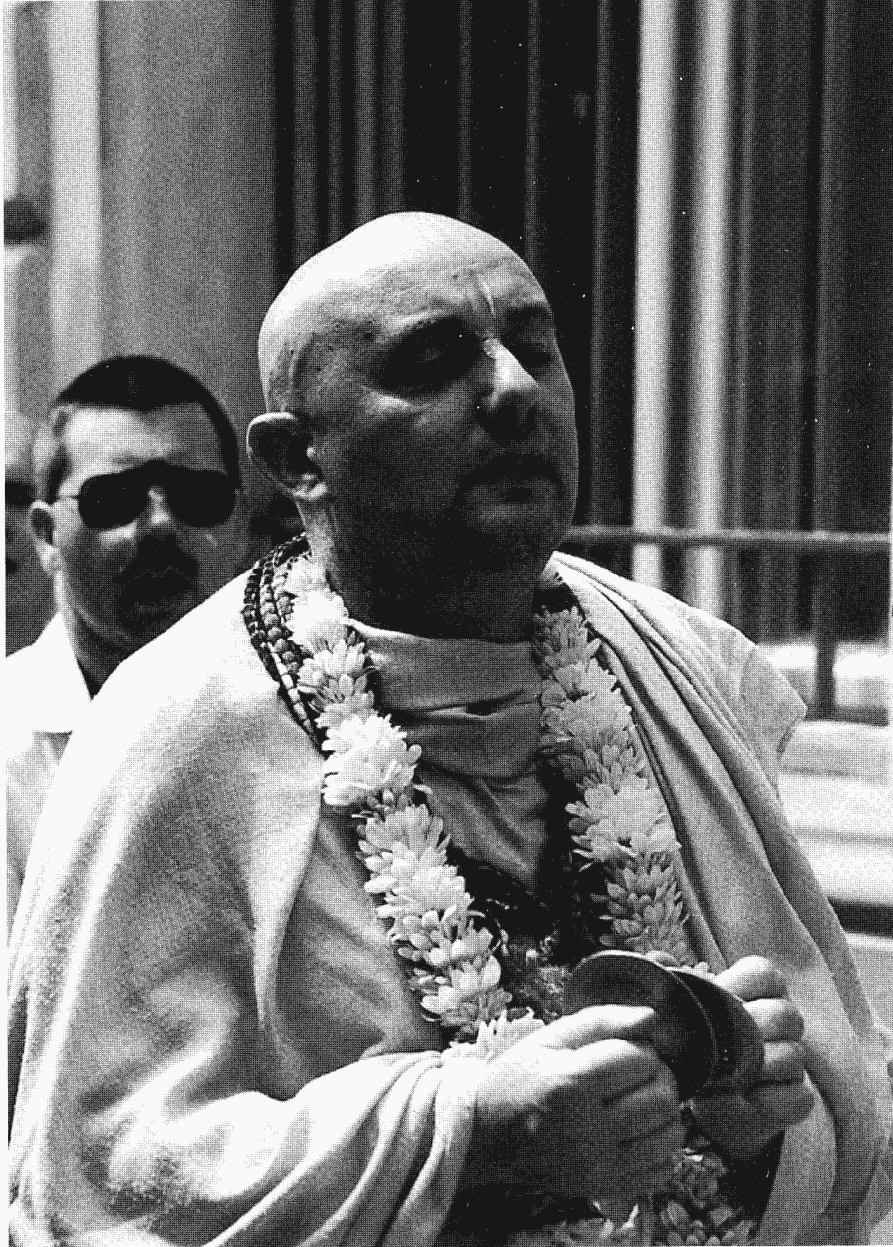
Guru Maharaja, you have given to a rascal like me such a nice opportunity to take part to this ecstatic sankirtan-lila of Lord Caitanya's. That is really showing your greatness. In all the three worlds there can be no better gift to one than to have you as the spiritual master.

I feel helpless in trying to thank you for this really causeless mercy, but I try to do it by at least going again out of this sankirtan van and continuing this nice service, which you have arranged for me for the rest of my life, and hoping that I never lose the shelter of your lotus feet.

I thank you, Guru Maharaja, more than one can ever say.

Your humble servant,
Tattvavada Dasa

Sri Vyasa puja





SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Germany

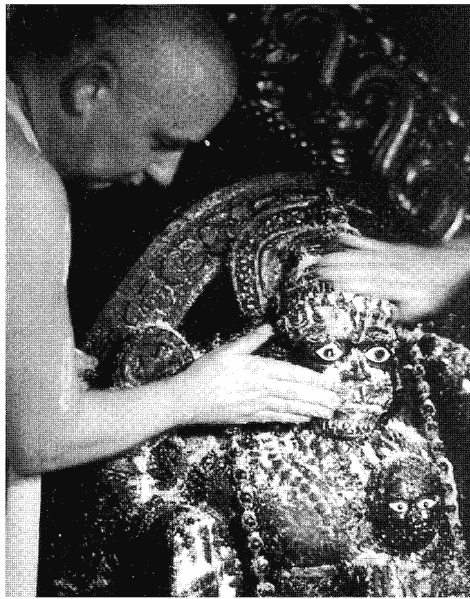


Germany

My dear spiritual father,
Please accept my fallen obeisances.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Because you have appeared in my useless and fallen rogue-like life, and have given me shelter under your lotus feet, I have been given the chance to come out of the ocean of material life. Although, there are still some meat-eating fish, like piranyas, and blood-sucking worms on my body, I know that by your healing hands, these parasites and wounds will disappear.



O Gurudeva, you are and will always be my Sri Nrisimha-deva, my all-worshipable Deity. Let me serve you, hoping to become healthily Krsna conscious. Bhaktivinoda Thakur describes the feelings of a disciple towards the spiritual master, which I cannot even pronounce, what to speak of even creating such thoughts! Therefore, I do not want to use any flowery language, and I quote from Saranagati:

"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."

I, simply and honestly, want to give you something from my heart, but my contaminated heart is worthless. I know that Krsna consciousness is Amrita. You are showing this by your own example. Therefore, give us your mercy, so that we can spread the fire of self-realization everywhere. The youth shall regain their blissful goal of life, away from the total destruction of nature and consciousness, for without Krsna consciousness this world is gray and empty. But a pure soul like you can make the whole universe joyful, therefore, I pray to Sri Nrisimha-deva that He protects your health and journeys eternally. I wish you sincerely all good fortune.

Your eternal mini-servant, Amaraprabhu Dasa

Germany

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Goswami Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your appearance. All glories to you and Srila Prabhupada.

As I was preparing to write this offering, I went through a nectarean collection of your writings, which I keep with me as a great treasure, and I found a very nice and probably unpublished offering of yours to Srila Prabhupada. I found it so interesting that I thought it wise to get some ideas from it. As one can not present any better offering to Mother Ganges than her own waters, I have no better offering to your divine grace than your own nectarean words emanating from your lotus mouth. Thus the following is your own words, changed a bit, for your glorification.

"Since time immemorial, the pure devotees of the Lord have been celebrated for their unparalleled wonderful feats done in the service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. The sastras loudly proclaim the glories of the great souls as being unique in the history of the world, for the powers they exhibit are directly coming from Krsna. Thus, like Krsna, the appearance and activities of such pure devotees is completely transcendental."

"For instance, when the Lord appeared in ancient times as Sri Ramacandra, His foremost devotee was the mighty Hanuman. But Hanuman could not be recognized as the best of the Vaisnavas before he met Lord Rama and began to serve Him directly. Until that time, he was considered to be an ordinary living entity dwelling in the forest. When the opportunity for devotional service arose, however, the very special significance of Hanuman's eternal relationship to Lord Rama became quickly and dramatically visible to all."

Similarly, your life, before you embarked upon the great mission to fulfill the order and desire of Srila Prabhupada, seems quiet ordinary. Many people who knew you before you came to this ISKCON movement, could not imagine the great feats Your divine Grace would perform for the pleasure of Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga.

"Hanuman first revealed his qualities as the greatest Vaisnava devotee of the Lord when he took up the task of leaping across the sea from India to Lanka in order to see if Sita devi was being held captive there."

Similarly, Srila Gurudeva, you established the uniqueness of your position among the Vaisnavas of this age when you came across the Atlantic ocean and began your preaching in Europe. Fearlessly, you braved Maya's kingdom (at first in Germany and

Germany

later on in other places) just to satisfy the desire of your spiritual master. Thus your fame as a preacher of Sri Caitanya's movement will forever be recorded in the annals of wonderful accomplishments in the service of the Lord.

"When Hanuman landed at Lanka, he, possessing great intelligence and all mystic powers, reduced his body to the size of a cat just so that he could search for Mother Sita without being seen by the Raksasa guards of the evil demon Ravana. Silently and unobtrusively, he searched high and low for goddess Lakshmi-devi, who had appeared in this world as Sita, consort of Krsna-avatar, Lord Sri Ram. Hanuman even entered the opulent quarters of Ravana, but in no way was he interested in the beautiful queens who lay asleep there. His mind was dedicated to find Sita-devi. At last he saw her, forlorn and alone, held under guard in a palace garden. From a hidden place he spoke to her the glories of Lord Ram. Thus Sita's love for the Lord overflowed, and she became bright with joy."

Similarly when you, dear Guru-maharaja, came to Europe, you assumed the guise of an American tourist, who would be visiting for only few days. No-one among the demons could imagine the real intention of your journey. You were like Hanuman, searching high and low for an opportunity to preach and with the sweet vibration of Krsna-katha, you caused the devotion of all devotees to bloom.

"Lakshmi-devi is the personification of devotion to Lord Visnu. She is also the Goddess of prosperity who naturally graces those, who are pure servants of the Lord."

In the early days of your preaching Krsna consciousness in Germany, during the late 1970's and early 80's, you noticed how the demoniac government of Germany is trying to stop the mission of Srila Prabhupada, but you fearlessly pushed on this mission, giving strength to the weaker and younger devotees, re-assuring them of the almightiness of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. I have been told about these wonderful pastimes of yours. By your good example, you showed the devotees how to be fearless in such circumstances. Chanting and dancing in ecstasy, in hard days, you declared that in difficult circumstances, there is no better medicine than taking shelter of the holy name. There is no use in being fearful. This will only cause disturbance among neophytes. Many devotees in the German yatra are still praising this and other wonderful qualities of Your Divine Grace.

Mahendra Prabhu was once telling me about your extra-ordinary dancing and chanting pastimes even amidst the threat of gun-shots by some envious villagers near Sofia. By this fearlessness you have fulfilled the true purport of the sannyasa-asrama, and thus you are the acarya among sannyasis.

By encouraging your followers in book distribution, you are building a bridge of Krsna consciousness that links all fallen people in a network of Sankirtana. Just as Hanuman organized the building of the bridge to Lanka for Rama and Lakshman,

Germany

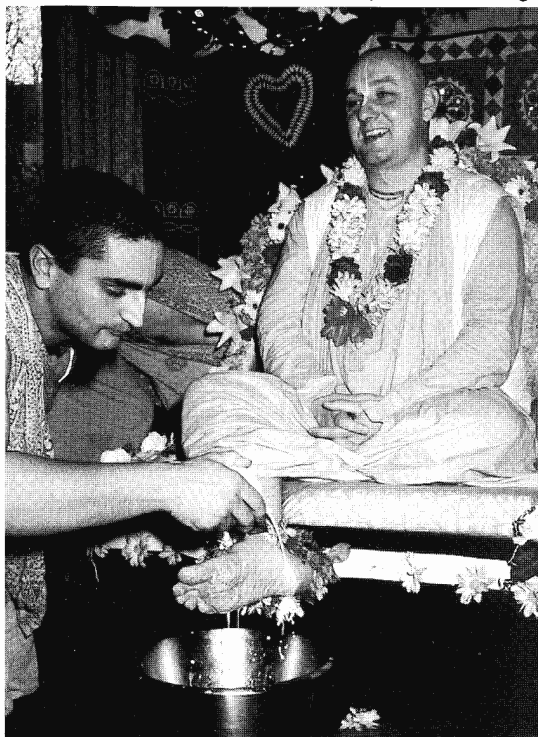
you are the merciful spiritual master who has come to the other side of *setu*, to attract conditioned souls, like myself, to Kṛṣṇa.

With your sharp eyes moving through this Kali-yuga age, you study the character of degraded persons and point out their nonsense to the devotees, thus making them detached from flickering moments of so-called happiness in materialistic habits, and thus you are the best of all preachers.

With your incredible, ever-expanding, spiritual intelligence, you have truly learned the art of chopping-preaching from your guru-maharaja and thus you are tirelessly seeking confrontations in order to smash all kinds of Kali-yuga philosophies based on mental speculation and sense gratification, coming out in the name of religion, spiritualism, or even Vaisnavism of a higher form, and although all these philosophical discussions are so much demanding to your service, still you do it! You know the importance of establishing that, which Srila Prabhupada has given to the world, AS IT IS *brahmany upasamasrayam*. Thus, leaving aside all material considerations, without any desire for popularity, you are the bonafide spiritual master worthy of taking shelter of, for you have realized the conclusions of Srila Prabhupada's teachings and you are convincing others of its conclusions, as they are. You are a real Prabhupada-man.

I must admit that from the very beginning of my spiritual life, I was so much attracted to these qualities of yours. Like a small child who is proud of the prowess of his father, I was thinking: "Here is person who no-one can defeat!" As years pass by, I can realize this more and more. Preachers of your caliber are very rare.

When you come to Heidelberg, I know that there are going to be some corrections, at least, in my approach and enthusiasm in devotional service, therefore even the thought of you coming to our temple inspires me to surrender more!



Germany

Dear Guru Maharaja, I am very thankful to you. I want to surrender completely to your lotus feet and have your eternal association. Please award me this benediction and give me a drop of your intelligence and faith in Srila Prabhupada, so that I can assist you in your mission.

I know that you are always well and blissful in Krsna consciousness, since you are always preaching, and I hope that you will be able to preach even more vigorously and attract millions of people to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's Sankirtan mission.

All glories! All glories to your divine grace!

Your humble servant,
Bhagavata dharma Dasa



Dear Guru Maharaja,
All glories to you, o spiritual master, who re-establishes the relationship between the soul and Krsna, and thus perform all auspicious activities, which make you very dear to Krsna. Being engrossed in sense gratification, we try to achieve happiness. But although we are trying with great effort to satisfy our senses independently of Krsna, we fail to become happy. After some time, we come to the understanding that it is completely impossible to satisfy our senses independently and at that time, we try to become Krsna conscious persons. We chant the names of Krsna and we gradually obtain a taste for Krsna consciousness. With the higher taste, we can conquer our attraction for sense gratification. By service to you, o spiritual master, we can satisfy Krsna. Therefore, it is a very important thing for somebody who wants to make progress in spiritual life, who wants to know Krsna, to serve his spiritual master with love and devotion. The idea that we can become united with Krsna and in this way lose our personality, is false because in reality we never observe that somebody loses his personality. The soul has its original spiritual personality and this is awakened when that person chants the holy names of Krsna.

I feel grateful to you that by your mercy I can chant the names of Krsna and become free from material bondage, and get more taste for spiritual life. My desire is to chant without offences.

Your servant,
Bhakta Pawel

Germany

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you.

Once while travelling with Simha Batta Prabhu, I had an opportunity to see children who were sliding down a hill. We were watching them as they enjoyed sliding down, after which, they would climb back up to the top again with great effort. The surface was very slippery and many of the children slipped back down before making it even halfway to the top. Their determination was astonishing. After many attempts, when they finally reached the top, they were enjoying sliding down again in due course of time.

Simha Batta said, "Look, this looks like what material life is: After a long hard struggle, a moment of enjoyment! " Yes," I said, "but this remind me also of Krsna consciousness. One achieves the highest level of advancement with great effort and later on, one false step by engaging ourselves in sense gratification, and one slips away like those children. And then one must start again from the very beginning. The razor's edge."

At that time, I already knew about this, but now I have realized this. However, we are different from those children. When they were slipping down, they could not find any point of support to stop themselves. But we have the Krsna consciousness movement. Our spiritual master who is giving us his hand when we are flying down and even if we do not want to accept it, he catches us by force and keeps us from falling down. That is the difference. We are sure that there is somebody who is ready to give us a helpful hand. This is the causeless mercy of the spiritual master, who has compassion for such fools as myself, whom being under the influence of envy, lust and ignorance, are not able to have full faith in Krsna and are afraid of giving up their material attachments. Despite all this, the spiritual master is always ready to help his disciples, although he usually doesn't get anything in return. I also belong to the so-called disciples. Often I do not appreciate what you have done for me. Therefore, taking into consideration your greatness, I pray to you that you do not refuse me shelter at your lotus feet, so that I can follow you up to Goloka Vrndavan, on this Vaikuntha express, in which you are both the engine-driver and guard. Thank you very much.

Your insignificant disciple,
Vipula Dasa



SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Greece



Greece

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my dandavats at your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

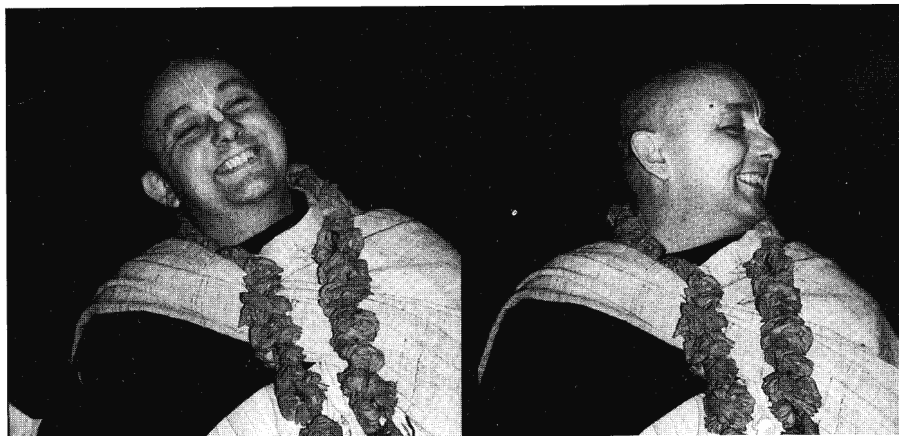
On this Vyasa-puja day I want to thank you for the mercy you've given to us. I like your lectures very much because they are somehow different from all others. You give me knowledge and touch my heart.

I hope you can forgive my mistakes. Please have mercy upon me.

Your servant,
Dharma-rupa Devi-Dasi



Dear Maharaja,
please accept my dandavats at your lotus feet.
From you I got the new name Dvija and learnt to chant the maha-mantra on my japa-mala. Thank you.
Your servant,
Dvija



Greece

*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
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

*mukam karoti vacalam pangum langhayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam aham vande sri gurum dina tarinam*

Oh, my dear Guru Maharaja, saviour of the fallen, please have mercy upon this very lowborn and fallen servant of yours. If we can develop attachment for fulfilling your instructions, then even though we are so extremely fallen, we can be connected with the guru-parampara and be completely transcendently situated. I am often troubled by my sinful, mleccha nature, but when I remember your compassion and concern for me, I am not affected by it. You deal with us in such a caring way that it is impossible for a conditioned soul to not become moved in the heart and begin to develop attachment to you.

Srila Prabhupada writes in the Krsna book in the prayers of the personafied Vedas that of all of Krsna's glories, His mercy upon the conditioned souls is the most important. You embody this very mercy of Krsna. Therefore, all glories to you. Bhaktivinoda Thakur sings in Saranagati that the pure Vaisnava is Krsna's glory.

One of the first instructions you gave me was that I remain a good boy. That is still very relevant now. I simply have to try not to be an ungrateful rascal. I should be faithful to your instructions and remember how merciful and inviting you and Krsna are, and how easy you are making it for us to enter the spiritual world.

By yours and Krsna's infinite grace, I have received the seed of the creeper of devotional service. Now I simply have to water it by the careful chanting of the holy name. Please give me strength and intelligence so that my bhakti-lata may grow all the way to Krsna's lotus feet without great interruptions. I am simply hanging on to your lotus feet because they are my only hope. My only qualification to be in ISKCON, which is the spiritual world, is your mercy upon me.

I am hoping that my condition will improve, so that I may render some substantial service in this life-time, and that the "goofoblious" quality of my present service may diminish. Please bless me that I may become fully engaged in Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's mission and remain so until I leave this body. Please forgive all the foolish mistakes and offenses I may have committed due to my wretched condition.

I remain, your aspiring dog, Gaura Bhagavan Dasa

Greece

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my most humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

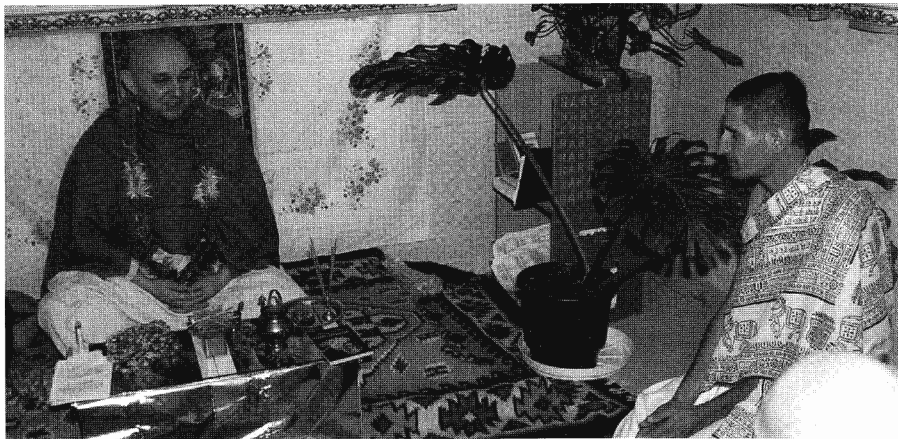
*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

On this all-auspicious day, this useless servant wants to thank you, that you came to this world to be with us.

Thank you for allowing me to come in contact with this overflowing nectar which is coming from your lotus mouth. You are preaching very strongly and loudly the mission of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and in this way, you are confirming the name of Simha-guru. Despite this, if a person is so lucky that he has, darsan of your lotus eyes in his life-time, surely he will recognize in them a very merciful and warm call: "My dear Children, please come to me, let us together dive into this unlimited ocean of love for Krsna."

I ask myself whether someone is able to reject this merciful call! And if it is so, then he must be most unfortunate amongst men! Please be merciful to me, do not allow that I become such an unfortunate person. Do not allow me to again have horrible dreams, o my lord, rather save me from this forest of illusion, so that I can finally start to serve you.

Your fallen servant,
Bhakta Igor



Greece

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances.

My dear master and eternal spiritual father, I want to write a few words for you, but everything that comes to my mind, appears so small and insignificant. Where am I going to find the words that are suitable to praise your unlimited glories? My wise master, I do not know how to do this. You have accepted such a useless rascal as me, and you have given me shelter, at your lotus feet, but I have not given you anything, rather, you have given me everything.

You are the one who illuminates, like a torch, my way out of darkness, which is very difficult, because of all the material desires and attachments. All glories and honor to you, my dear master! You can break the grasp of maya which is holding me. By your good advice, you keep material desires away from me.

All glories to you, my dear master! Every time that I have the great fortune to be in your presence, seeing your shining face, and hearing your wise speech, I feel like I'm swimming in an ocean of bliss. Maybe I do not deserve such a great benediction, because no matter how I try, I cannot find suitable words to express my gratitude to you.

My dear spiritual master, please simply accept from me a very great, "THANK YOU," from the depth of my heart. I pray that Lord Krishna gives all power and knowledge to you, so that you can give us, the most fallen souls, love for Him. My only desire is that, one day, I will be able to offer you at least the smallest and most humble service. All glories and honor to you.

I repeatedly offer my humble obeisances to you with great love, respect and appreciation.

Your humble servant,
Panagati tirtha Dasa



Greece

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
please accept my humble obeisances.

During the last year, I became humbled and humiliated in so many ways by the material nature. It was a turning-point in my spiritual life. It showed how shallow is my Krsna consciousness and the lack of my spiritual back-bone. The thing I realized is that, you are the one to whom I can reveal my nasty self and you are the one who can take me out of this material mess. I experienced from you a lot of patience, tolerance, warm feelings and real love, and thus I understood how seriously you take responsibility for your disciples.

Before I thought that the external features of your relationship with me and my Godbrothers were of a great significance. I was suffering when you were cold to me and envious seeing others enjoying your association. Now I know how far this is from the reality. The reality is that regardless of external circumstances, you always remain in the position as a pure devotee of Srila Prabhupada and Krsna. Although externally you agree to assume the position of spiritual master and accept worship, you always remain as a servant of the conditioned souls. However, how embarrassing it is for the disciple to be in the situation where his spiritual master almost has to cry and beg him to turn away from maya.

Although mostly I do not perform activities pleasing to you, I know that by the quality of your pure vaikuntha-compassion, you still tolerate me. By your personal example, you teach me patience. Although right now, I may be stuck in my spiritual development and as a reaction for my nonsense life, I may feel and look like a dried up vegetable -- despite my hundred kilos -- I know for sure that I do not want to leave the association of the devotees. By your unlimited mercy, the time will come when I fully wake up and take part in Lord Caitanya's movement. Whatever insignificant and at the same time puffed-up offering I can make, I know you'll accept it. And this is my chance to enter the real life of the devotional existence. A life eternally full of bliss and devotion in relationship to the guru is beyond the temporary ups and downs of our materially polluted consciousness. One day, by your grace, I will understand this and the real meaning of service to your lotus feet.

All glories to you!

Your servant,
Purnaprajna Dasa

Greece

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
please accept my respectful obeisances.

The spiritual master comes to this world to save us from maya and to engage us in Krishna's service. This is your two-fold mercy upon us, Guru Maharaja. But a disciple must always want this mercy.

I've experienced both, how by depending on your mercy, you've bestowed full blessings and protection upon me, even in the most dangerous situation, and how by neglecting your association in my heart, I've lost Krishna's shelter. Praying for your mercy in every circumstance and at all times is actually the test of the sincerity of a disciple.

You know I have not always turned to you for help, due to my persistent attraction to sense gratification, yet you have still never rejected me. Srila Prabhupada explains in SB 1.5.19: "There are certainly many instances where devotees of the Lord have fallen down due to uncongenial association, just like fruitive workers, who are always prone to degradation. A karmi suffers the result of own fruitive reactions, whereas a devotee is reformed by chastisement directed by the Lord Himself. The sufferings of an orphan and the sufferings of a beloved child of a king are not one and the same. An orphan is really poor because he has no-one to take care of him, but a beloved son of a rich man, although he appears to be on the same level as the orphan, is always under the vigilance of his capable father". Of course I have no right to compare myself to a devotee of Krishna, for I have not been even a sincere or serious servant, but still you have always allowed me to feel strong, even at the weakest moment, because you are my strong and capable father.

You said: "Become sincere and serious". I know you are not impressed by my appealing words anymore. To become actually sincere and serious in Krishna consciousness means to become fixed-up and steady in sadhana. "No sadhana, no realization". Our position remains unknown as long as we keep the mind as the basis of knowledge. Just like the mundane, modern philosophers who break down everything according to their "likes" and "dislikes" and end up explaining Nietzsche's side-point, "I forgot my umbrella". You compared it, in our case, to licking the outside of a jar of honey, without opening, without tasting. It is absurd and impotent.

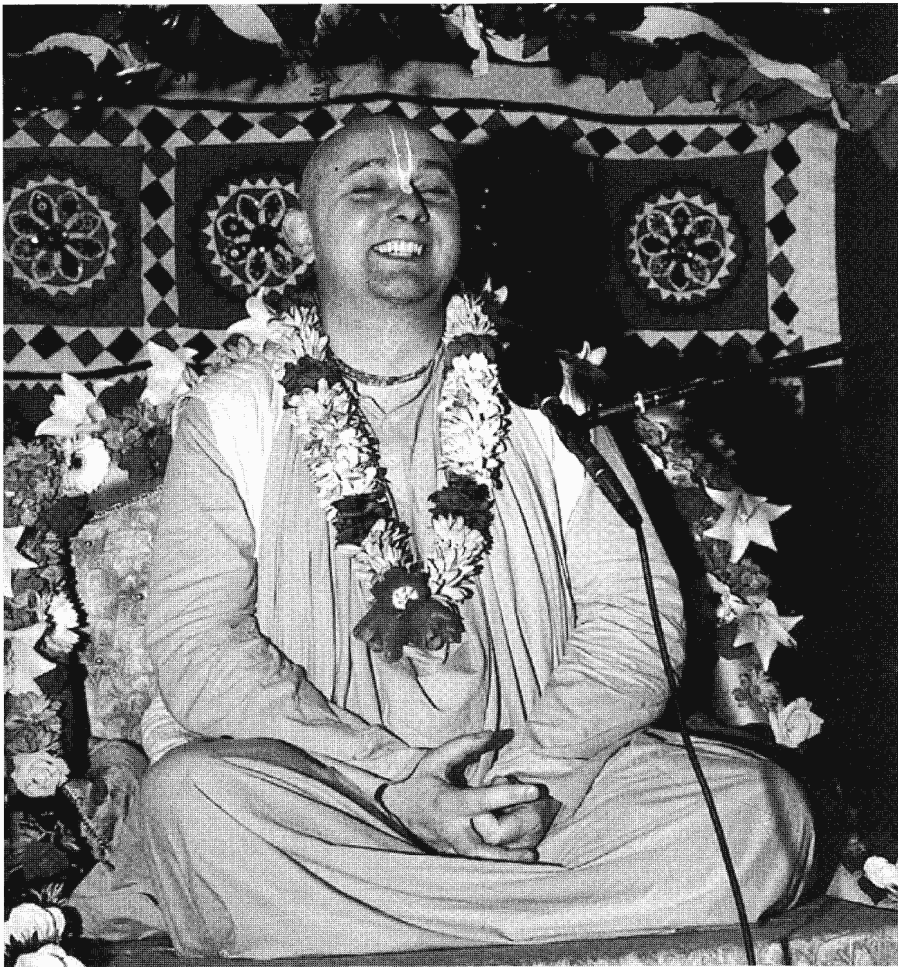
The practical way to control the mind is by engaging it in Krishna's service, which is the other feature of your causless mercy upon us. I'm still trying to go out with Srila Prabhupada's books and I'm still as unsteady and fearful as in the beginning. Often

Greece

I think there is no progress, but actually you have given me everything by engaging me in this service. You have shown me that it is the best cure for my disease, although it is certainly not the easiest because I'm so attached to nonsense.

I am trying to surrender to you, Guru Maharaja, but my desires are not pure. Please help me to become established as your surrendered servant by relieving me from these unwanted desires for sense gratification. Please have mercy upon me, a sinner.

Your servant,
Vairagya-laksmi Devi-Dasi



Sri Vyasa puja





SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Hungary



Hungary

Dear Guru Maharaja!

Please accept my respectful obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

All glories to you, Guru Maharaja! You are a real *atmarama*, a perfectly liberated soul, who has no other desire than devotional service, but you have appeared here in the material world free from the unlimited suffering, which is awaiting us.

Who can understand your glorious position, and that mercy which has been given to us by you? An ordinary person, like me, would never be able to understand!

You are far above the material modes of nature and you do not have any contact with this material world, which is keeping us in illusion. You have reached that exceptional position, which is attainable only for one in many millions. Perhaps by the mercy of Lord Krsna and the spiritual master, this will also be possible for me!

You realized perfectly your original position as the eternal servant of the Lord. When you are talking about the situation of the living entities who are under the material nature, during the lecture you laugh softly and easily. I have no doubt that you are not influenced by maya.

You are like the richest person in the world who can get everything he desires and whose desire is always fulfilled. You came to us fallen insects who reside in the stool and you try everything to pull us out of it. Why are you doing this? There is no material explanation for such behaviour. Such mercy does not exist in the material world. It is completely inconceivable how a person is able to take away the sufferings of others without any personal interest. On the material platform, it is not understandable, but on the spiritual platform this can be understood. It is clear, because you surrendered fully to Srila Prabhupada. You understand and follow perfectly his desire to liberate us fallen souls. Giving up your own desires, you live just to make him satisfied. You are not looking, whether you get help or not, whether you are in a comfortable situation or not, whether you are appreciated or not. You just execute your service without being upset. The dualities cannot disturb you at all. Your only desire is to see Srila Prabhupada happy and satisfied.

Once you explained to me: "The disciple should aspire to see that his spiritual master is satisfied with his service, because he knows that then Krsna is satisfied as well. Your life and soul should be like that." Your life and soul is the devotional service to Srila Prabhupada. This is my unlimited luck. Just by your devotion to Srila Prabhupada, you have unlimited compassion towards such a person as me. It can

Hungary

be explained only in this way, why a liberated soul who isn't affected by the material sufferings, tries to make others happy. This is the way how a rich man works hard to get insects out of the stool.

I will never be able to show my gratitude to you. I just pray to be able to help you a little in the mission of Srila Prabhupada. Let me be able to make you satisfied with my service.

Praying for this, I remain your fallen servant,
Antardhi Dasa



*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
on account of being unqualified, I would like to use the words of a perfect person
(Sanatana Goswami):

"I was born in a low family, and my associates are all low-class men. I, myself, am fallen and the lowest of men. Indeed, I have passed my whole life fallen in the well of sinful materialism. I do not know what is beneficial for me and what is detrimental. Nonetheless, in ordinary dealings people consider me a learned scholar, and I am also thinking of myself as such. Out of Your causeless mercy, You have delivered me from the materialistic path. Now, by the same causeless mercy, please tell me what my duty is. "

I know that I can become able, only with such a mentality, to taste at least one drop from the nectar ocean of your causeless mercy.

O Guru Maharaja, please let me smear my



Hungary

head with the dust of your two lotus feet. By taking shelter at these lotus feet, liberation is guaranteed even for such a fallen and guilty man like me.

Your divine personality is an immeasurable grace for mankind, as you give your whole life just to show the way to Lord Krsna through your instructions. I wish I would be able to accept the shower of your causeless mercy.

All glories to your lotus feet.

Your insignificant servant,
Gadabht Dasa



Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Thank you for the opportunity to write to you, although I am not able, but by your mercy, I can still do it.

I always want to get to know you better so that, by knowing your desires, finally I can serve you. You told me a lot of things personally in your letters and although I could understand only a little of it, you saved me from my mind and Maya in this way.

When I see your activities again or I hear about them, I don't understand them, because you always turn to even the most fallen living entities very mercifully and with endless patience, you take infinite care for them. I can always feel this. When I think about this, I see that this will always remain incomprehensible for me. Therefore, I can call myself very lucky, because you have such a huge desire to save the unfortunate people. You can destroy the violence which is aimed at fate that we are absorbed in, namely ignorance.

My dear Guru Maharaja, I know there is nobody else besides you in this world who could save me, and I still feel very much ashamed because I cannot understand anything. I can see you travelling in the world tirelessly and coming even to the ends of the earth, this little, temporary city, Szeged. I feel ashamed, because I cannot thank

Hungary

you for what you have done for me, because if I had a sincere desire, then I would do something, namely that which you order me to do. But unfortunately, I am a rascal and a very foolish person.

Dear Gurudeva, I am very unworthy of it, but my life can gain significance only by serving you. In spite of my imperfection, please allow me to remain in your service in the future too.

Thank you for the possibility to offer you and Krsna all that I have received from you - my tiny existence.

Your insignificant servant,
Gopicandra Dasa



*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your blessed appearance day!

The disciple is always indebted to his spiritual master. I was thinking to myself, "What enables me, who is completely unqualified, to go out day after day and distribute Srila Prabhupada's books, and what enables me to follow the four regulative principles, and what enables me to chant the holy name of the Lord? And that which enables me to do all these things is your causeless mercy, Guru Maharaja. Only due to this mercy am I able to practice Krishna consciousness.

The instructions of the spiritual master are the disciple's life and soul. You said in a lecture that only through the ears can one receive the mercy of the spiritual master. We must hear the instructions, and we must become expert in executing these instructions. May I become able to make your instructions my heart and soul.

By the grace of the spiritual master, one can achieve perfection, even in one lifetime, and we must be enthusiastic to achieve perfection in this life. As you wrote in one of your letters: "As Srila Prabhupada explained in a lecture: Utsahat means you must be very much enthusiastic that, in this life, in this human form of life, I must complete

Hungary

my spiritual consciousness, or God consciousness, so that in the next life I may not have this material body. That is called *utsahat*. *Utsahat* means very much enthusiastic. Just like a man is very much enthusiastic that, in this life I must accumulate ten million dollars in the bank, and he does work with great enthusiasm. Similarly, we must have also similar enthusiasm that, in this very life, in this very human form of life, I must make my spiritual life perfect so that after leaving this body I may not come again to this material world. That is called *utsaha*, enthusiasm."

Yes, we must go home, back to Godhead, after all, we all belong to Krishna. By taking this favourable opportunity, I'd like to ask your causeless mercy that in this lifetime I will be able to completely surrender to the service of the Lord.

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

"By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Krishna. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one can not 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."

The disciple is always indebted to his spiritual master. But he can do only one thing to repay this debt:

*etadeva hi sacchisyaih
kartavyam guru niskritam
yad vai visuddhe bhavena
sarvarthatmarpanau gurau*

"In order to repay the debt to the guru, the only thing the sincere disciple should do is to offer everything he has, including his very being, favorably in the eternal service of his guru."

Your eternal servant,
Ijya devi Devi Dasi



Hungary

Dear Guru Maharaja,

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Please accept my respectful obeisances ! All glories to your divine personality ! All glories to Srila Prabhupada and to the guru parampara.

On the occasion of your Vyasa-puja, allow me, please, to thank you again for giving me shelter at your lotus feet. I always try to pray to Lord Krsna to be able to accept this mercy.

Bhaktivinoda Thakura says:

*ami to durbhaga ati
baisnaba na cini
more krpa koribena
baisnaba apani*

"I am certainly most unfortunate, for I cannot realize who is actually a vaisnava. Therefore I beg that, if any real vaisnava hears my prayer, then please be merciful to me."

Bhaktivinoda Thakura is begging for the mercy. But what is the mercy of a vaisnava?

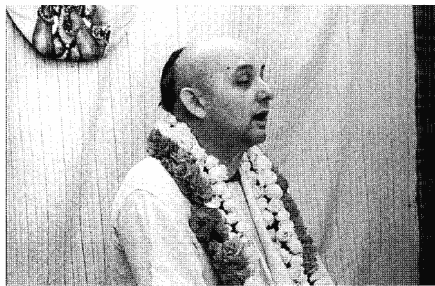
In your last lecture in Budapest you said: "The definition of a saintly person is that he just cuts off the rope of the material attachments by his razor- sharp words." I am attached so much to these ropes, but I pray to become a real disciple of yours and to become able to submit myself fully to your will. I know that I will be able to get the mercy for which Bhaktivinoda Thakura is begging, only when I think: "Please do whatever you want with me." We have to make our life one with the instruction of the guru. But this is very painful and hard. H. H. Srila Sivarama Swami Maharaja once told a story which is connected to these thoughts and I always try to remember this:

There was once a king named Hariscandra. Once his guru told him: "You must leave your kingdom, treasures, gold and wealth, and give them all to me. You can keep only your child and wife." After this, Hariscandra left with his family to get a job and to find shelter. Hariscandra worked very hard and he saved some money. Soon after, his spiritual master sent him a message: "Send me 1000 gold coins quickly!" But the money he had saved was only a small quantity compared to 1000 gold coins. "Where should I get so much money from?" thought Hariscandra.

Hungary

He went desperately from house to house to beg money for his guru. But he was rejected everywhere and he just could not get the money together. Finally he took his son and wife to the market and sold them. The next day, he received a new message: "The money was not enough, therefore you should send me double the amount." Hariscandra went to the market again and decided to sell himself, but nobody wanted to buy him. He was waiting all day and finally a man came, a *mlecca*, and bought him. This man had a crematorium. From then on, he had to work very hard and he was cremating human bodies.

Meanwhile, his wife had become the servant of a wicked man. One day they sent the son of Hariscandra to the forest to collect wood and he got bitten by a snake. The mother, wanted to get more money for burying her son and she started to work in another village as well. One night, she saw a man lying on the ground. She bent over to see what had happened to him and she saw that he had been killed by a knife. Suddenly, a troop of cavalry-men appeared and they thought that the woman was the murderess, and therefore they captured and imprisoned her.



The next day, she had been sentenced to death and they took her to her husband who was burying bodies. He was told to carry out the death sentence of this woman. He felt that he would not be able to kill her. His master brought him a sharp sword and commanded him to cut off the woman's head. Hariscandra had no choice, so he lifted up the sword and closed his eyes...

Suddenly, at that moment, the room become filled with light and Hariscandra's spiritual master appeared, accompanied by the demigods. The wicked master of Hariscandra and all those people before whom he had begged for money and who had refused him - now they stood before him as beautiful demigods. "You stood the trial. You just stayed my faithful disciple in all difficulties," said Hariscandra's guru-maharaja and he blessed his disciple. Then Hariscandra understood how merciful his spiritual master had been to him, as he freed him from the shackles of this world, from pride, from wealth, from family attachment, etcetera, and he taught him eternal humility.

Dear Guru Maharaja, I would like to become such an obedient disciple of yours, who is always with you in every difficulty. Please forgive me, because of my many mistakes. I will work hard to be able to get that mercy from you, give to all fallen souls causelessly.

Your servant,
Bhakta Karoly

Hungary

To the wonderful Vaisnava of the Lord: Srila Suhotra Swami.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabupada.
All glories to your lotus feet.

Thank you very much for saving me from another hellish life. Dear Gurudeva, I don't give you anything, yet you are giving me Krsna. My desire is to perform more and more service to you, by your mercy, because this is the most valuable thing for me. This is what connects me to you and to Krsna. You help me through all difficulties and by your teachings, it becomes more and more clear to me what Krsna Consciousness is. You give me spiritual intelligence and the Holy Name, and in this way you give us a straight path, back to Godhead. You give us Krsna, and what can I give you in return? Nothing. The only thing I can do, is to take it. May I become able to do at least that. My whole body, soul, my thoughts and words are yours, and you engaged them in the service of the Lord. But when will I actually offer all this? But I know if I simply follow your instructions, then that time will come very soon, and then I can become fully absorbed in devotional service, and we can all become pure devotees of the Lord, because your mercy is so strong. You are the personification of Lord Krsna's mercy. I must only take this grace, as you asked me to do. On this wonderful day of your appearance, what can I say to please you?

All glories to Srila Prabupada who is the most dear person to you, the saviour of the whole world. All glories to Srila Prabupada's sankirtan mission, to Lord Caitanya and His associates who live in your heart. All glories to you, who are singing the Holy Name in such a way, that it dissipates all illusion. All glories to you, who are destroying the influence of the age of Kali.

All glories to you, my most dear spiritual master. Please keep me always at the corner of your lotus feet. You are my final shelter. Please help me, help me, help me. I am very much afraid of maya.

Your very fallen, but eternal servant,
Sita-Laksmi Devi Dasi



Hungary

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances . All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you. Let me offer my sincere obeisances to you on the occasion of your appearance day.

Srila Prabhupada writes in the Krsna book, "Not only does a pure devotee easily surpass death, but by his grace, his followers can also do so without difficulty. The power of devotional service is so great that a pure devotee can electrify another person by his transcendental instruction on crossing over the ocean of nescience."

Dear Guru Maharaja, I think again and again about how you are able to do this. Why are you able to convince everyone? Why is it that when I just see you, I become enthusiastic? I always remember that I never wanted to take Krsna consciousness seriously, and perform devotional service, but I do it because of you, and I can continue only by your mercy. Although the living entity's natural duty is Krsna's service, still I could only receive this mercy from you.

*distya me bhagavan dristo
durdarso yo krtatmanam
distya p-da-rajah sprstam
sirsna me bhavatah sivam
disty- tvay-nusisno 'ham
krtas c-nugraho mah-m
ap-vrtiah karna-randhrair
just- distyosatir girah*

"It is my good fortune that I have been able to see you, for you cannot easily be seen by persons who have not subdued the mind or controlled the senses. I am all the more fortunate to have touched with my head the blessed dust of your feet. I have fortunately been instructed by you, and thus great favor has been bestowed upon me. I thank God that I have listened with open ears to your pure words." (SB 3. 22. 6-7)

I think with gratitude about how you always help me. My mind is creating more and more problems all the time, but you always have a good medicine for that, which is very efficient. I thank Lord Krsna that I could get your association and your teachings. And what's more, you are taking care of me with personal kindness and attention. By doing so, you induce me to become introspective and ask myself again and again, why you are doing that. Why are you so kind to me, although I don't deserve even a word or a glance from you? Why are you encouraging and enbravening me, when I deserve only your scolding and disapproval? Why are you doing that?

There were some god-brothers and -sisters who told me that you are heavy (and probably it is true), but you were never heavy with me. I only always felt your support and the burning pain of not deserving it. I simply feel that you are too merciful to

Hungary

me. You take on a very great responsibility and give such mercy that I am unqualified to accept. I can't accept or compensate for all of it and I can't even comprehend it .

*evam janam nipatitam prabhav-hi-kupe
k-m-bhik-m-m anu yah prapatan prasangat
krtv-tmas-t surarsina bhagavan grhitah
so ham katham nu visrje tava bhrtya-sev-m*

"My dear Lord, O Supreme Personality of Godhead, because of my association with material desires, one after another, I was gradually falling into a blind well full of snakes, following the general populace. But Your servant Narada Muni kindly accepted me as his disciple and instructed me how to achieve this transcendental position .Therefore, my first duty is to serve him. How could I leave his service?" (S.B.7. 9. 28)

What can I offer to you now?

One time you said: "You must know that what can please me is the sincere endeavour." So I think that the best thing would be, that in spite of my unbearable amount of faults and inabilities, I should try and endeavour as sincerely as is possible. I pray to the most merciful Lord, like a madman, to be able to do it, and at least one time please you with that endeavour. I would be happy if it could happen. Please forgive me for the numerous faults and foolishness I enacted in this year again.

Believe me, I have a great desire to become a worthy and normal disciple of yours. It is impossible to write about everything you do for me, and it is not possible either to write how grateful I am to you for everything.

"...a person who tries to repay the spiritual master or the teacher of the transcendental message of Krsna becomes a laughingstock just like a joker, because it is not possible to repay such a debt." (S.B.4.22.47.purport)

Thank you Guru Maharaja!
Let the meaning of my life become your service only!

Your insignificant servant,
Vaikunthesvari Devi Dasi





SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Moldavia



Moldavia

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Because I am the most desperate of your disciples, I cannot even describe the grace of your personality. With your form, you maintain in me, the desire to act in devotional service. Your lectures induce the conditioned souls to forget about the four necessities of the material body.

You are completely absorbed in the sankirtan mission, and as long as my gross and subtle bodies are alright, I want to assist you as much as I can. You are pleased when Srila Prabhupada's books are distributed, so I am trying to do it. It is a great happiness to be the disciple of such a great personality. I have something to be proud of.

Your servant,
Indrakarma Dasa



Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances.

In one of your lectures you said that the devotee preacher should be pure and convinced. Because if he is alone and is not pure, then his words are dry and cannot convince other persons. I can tell you that my steel-heart and my soul full of *asurika-bhava* can be melted only by your words. Your words are like a fiery arrow that pierced me and destroyed all of my doubts that I had in the beginning of my devotional life.

I have seen many times that when I listen to other spiritual masters, their words are, for me, philosophical information. But when you speak on the same subject, it touches me and for me the same information is transformed into a fact.

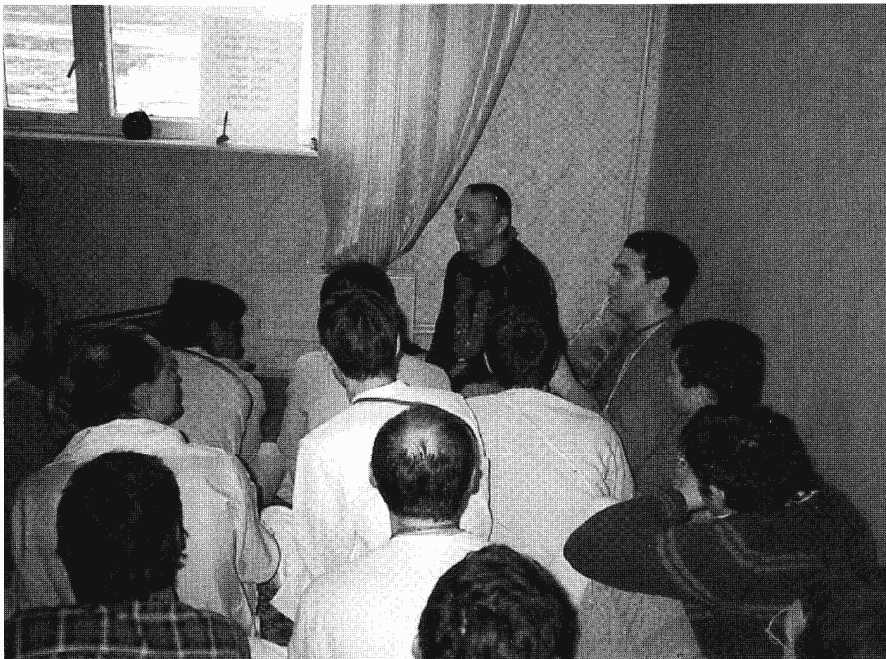
Once in Moscow, a senior devotee told me about your first and last visit there. You were giving a lecture in a devotee's flat. Somebody came to this senior devotee and told him that a swami has come, and that they should go and see him. They went to this flat where you were sitting on an armchair, and the whole flat was full of devotees who were gazing at you. You were wearing a sports suit (in those days, the KGB was still operating) and you were smiling whole-heartedly. With this visit, you won the hearts of many devotees who were waiting for you for a long time and longing for you.

Srila Prabhupada describes in S.B. 2.9.24 that an easy life and attainment of perfection are opposed to one another. The Lord wants to see how sincere and serious the devotee is in his service. The Lord Himself, and also the spiritual master, gives instructions to the devotee. But the execution of these instructions at any price is a difficult austerity. The one who executes these instructions will surely attain the Lord's mercy.

When I read this purport of Srila Prabhupada's, I see myself exactly in this situation. You gave me the instruction to open a center in Cluj Napoca. Honestly, I don't have any ability to do this. But I hope that, through my efforts to fulfill your desire, I will be able to satisfy you, and this hope compensates the lack of association with devotees in the temple. Your desire gives me power and enthusiasm.

On this day, I pray to Lord Krsna that He will accept my service which has only one motive: the lotus feet of my eternal spiritual master, Srila Suhotra Swami Maharaja.

Your servant,
Prema Vanya Dasa



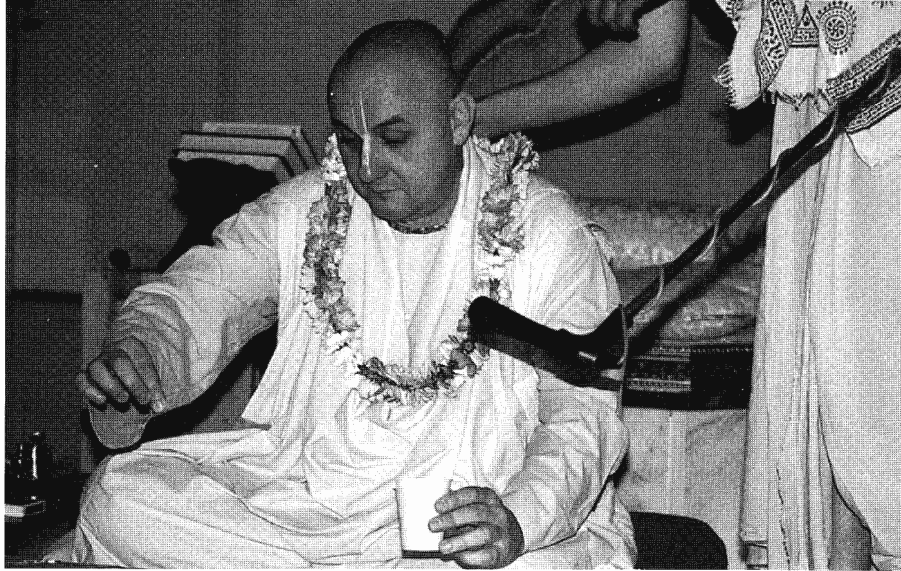


SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Norway





Dear Guru Maharaja,
please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Only the most fortunate persons have the opportunity, to get the seed of *bhakti* implanted in their hearts, and by your divine mercy, I also got the opportunity to come in contact with the Holy Name and the sankirtana mission. This by itself is incredibly unique, especially in this dark age of Kali. But no matter how dark the times are, or how fallen the world might be, personalities like yourself shine through the black clouds of ignorance like the shining sun - with only one aim in life, namely to spread Krsna consciousness to the entire world, regardless of the people's past.

The shastras tell us, that if there were only one man who is fully Krsna conscious in the world, he alone could change the consciousness of the entire world and, indeed, even if you were the only one, this world would be a safe place to develop one's spiritual life, but fortunately we are blessed with many expert representatives of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada.

With these words, I now pray that someday I will be able to surrender completely unto your lotus feet and finally understand that there is nothing to gain by trying to enjoy in this material world.

Your aspiring servant,
Gaura-Gopal Dasa

Norway

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet on the most auspicious event of your Vyasa-puja. All glories to your divine grace! All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

Out of causeless mercy you have opened my eyes and given my life meaning. I was advancing quickly on the way down to the lower species of life, but you threw out a rope, so now it is just up to me to grab a hold of it, and you will take me home, back to Godhead.

It is not easy for an ignorant and contaminated person like me to glorify such a personality like Your Divine Grace! I don't know what love of God means, but I am eager to find out, and I am sure that by rendering service to you, and by your causeless mercy, I will find out one day.

I pray to the Lord to find the intelligence that will make me able to serve your lotus feet for all eternity. By taking shelter at your lotus feet, and following your instructions, there is nothing to fear within this universe, so although I'm not qualified at all, please accept my attempts to serve you, because without your mercy, I am completely lost!

Trying to become your useful servant,
Bhakta Jon



Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to you!

On this most blessed day, I want to thank you for everything that you've done for me. I could never have imagined that it would be possible to meet such a nice person like you in this world. When I saw you for the first time, I understood that it was possible, even in this age of Kali, for a person to become a holy man, even if he lives in a big city.

Please excuse me for the all stupid things which I've done while I was trying to serve you. I know that I don't have the proper quality to serve you. The only thing I can do is to just try. Now that I've started writing this letter, I am trying to remember what I have done for you during this last year and I see that it is not enough. I'm sure I could have done much more.

Norway

I feel very stupid when I see how the time is going and I don't use all the opportunities to serve you. I don't have any excuse, except for my little desire to serve you. Therefore, I beg you to give me a strong desire, so that I can serve you forever. When you initiated me, I was feeling unready for the responsibility, maybe because I was feeling it to be something serious and I was not able to get myself together. But still, you are so merciful and you took care of this fallen soul. Even now, I can't understand your causeless mercy upon me.

I wish to thank you again and again and again for your protection, and I wish to become your real servant,

Jalendra Dasa



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.

When I think about your great and wonderful personality, I don't know exactly where to begin and where to end. Every thing you do is a success. Your determination, spiritual strength, enthusiasm and dedication to fulfill Srila Prabhupada's desires, shows your purity and greatness. You are very dear to Lord Krsna. He is ever thankful for all the big responsibilities and numerous problems you have taken upon your shoulders. You have a very very big warm and merciful heart. Only by your causeless mercy do I have a chance to get out of Maya and become purified from all material desires. You shine like the sun. Every time I see you, I become so happy and joyful. When I feel this real happiness, I think about the poor nondevotees who are out there, thinking themselves so happy. They think they are having great fun, but actually they are just suffering. When I think about that I realize how lucky I actually am, to have such a loving and eternal father like you, who can show me the way to pure, eternal happiness. I wish I can become more Krsna-conscious, so that I can surrender my whole life and soul unto you and go back home to Krsna after this lifetime. Please let me always remember your greatness!!

Your eternal servant
Manjari Svarupa Devi Dasi

Sri Vyasa puja





SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Poland



Poland

My Dear Gurudeva,
please accept my respectful obeisances unto the dust of your lotus feet.
All glories, all glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories, all glories to Gurudeva!

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Gurudeva, by your causless mercy you accepted such an insignificant person as me as your aspiring disciple, who thanks to your instructions and by following your example, learns how to serve other devotees. Your internal strenght and spiritual knowledge helps me in advancing in Krishna consciousness, without which I could not make a single step forward. By following your instructions, I can avoid so many mistakes that could slow down my advancement in Krishna consciuosness. My Dear Gurudev, please forgive all my offences I made against you and accept my obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet.

Your eternal servant,
Bhakta Andrzej (Gdansk)



Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

In spite of being an unqualified person I'd like to express my awe and reverence for Your sublime mission of rescuing conditioned souls. By Your message, dear Guru Maharaja, one can realize how spiritual knowledge and renunciation of materialistic way of life has great significance. By such realization one can start to perform devotional service for the Supreme Personality of Godhead Krsna, which is the only auspicious path of self-realization. By performing devotional service one can attain love of God and loose taste for gratifying the senses.

However, raising to the causeless platform of devotional service is impossible without Your mercy which You bestow upon everyone. I'd never be able to recognize the value of devotional service without Your message, dear Guru Maharaja, being in the

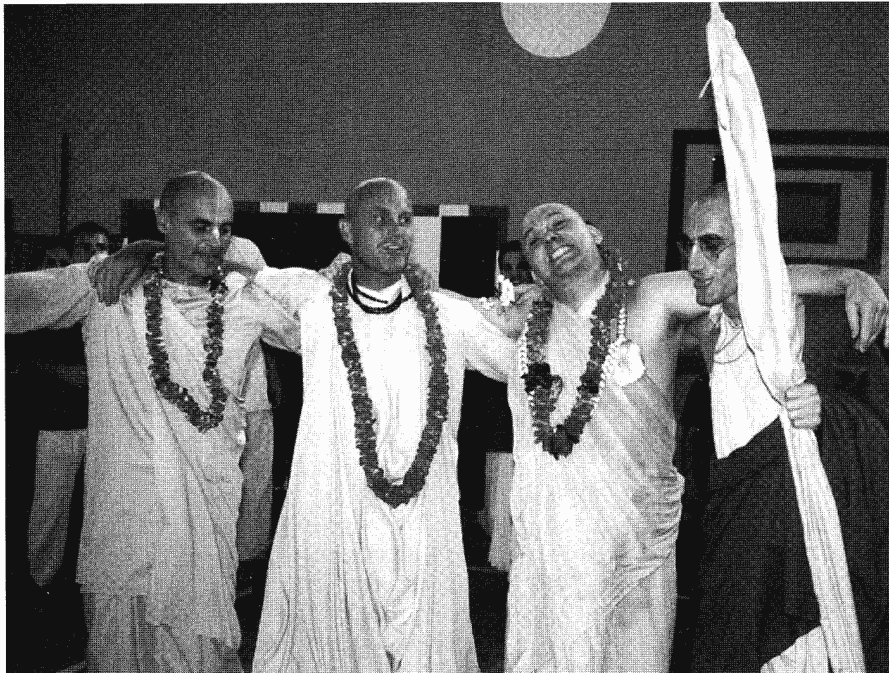
Poland

conditioned state. This allows me to attain proper understanding of the conclusion of Vedic scriptures. By this message I try to realize that I am eternal servant of the Supreme Lord and to appreciate the auspiciousness of this position. Your preaching is such, that one can practically apply in life the knowledge contained in vedic scriptures. By acting according to the scriptures one can appreciate the real value of life and share it with others.

Therefore, I'd like to thank you very much for your mercy. By your preaching I realize that one of the most important aspects of bhakti-yoga is humble service to devotees. I try to do this seeing in front of my eyes your sublime personality who is well-wisher of everybody although I am limited and conditioned in many ways. All your efforts are meant to lead everybody back home, back to Godhead.

Dear Guru Maharaja, please accept once again, my respectful obeisances.
Hare Krsna.

Your servant
Bhakta Andrzej (Warsaw)



Poland

My dear Guru Maharaja
Please, accept my respectful obeisances of Your Lotus Feet.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

I am always completely powerless, when I try to glorify you, Guru Maharaja. Just like Ananta Sesa is not able to pronounce all of Krsna's glories, although He uses his millions of mouths, I am also not able to describe your unlimited glories and qualities. There is a verse which is told by Lord Kapila to His mother Devahuti (S.B.3.25.21)

*titiksasvah karunikah
suhrdah sarva-dehinam
ajata-satravah santah
sadhavah sadhu-bhusanah*

"The symptoms of a sadhu 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."

Srila Prabhupada writes also in purports to verses which contain Narada's instructions for Pracetas. S.B.3.31.21-22 -purport: "The qualification of the pure devotee is that he does not have anything material and he is always happy, simply by rendering devotional service for the Lord. Sometimes devotees can look like they were materially impoverished, but because they are advanced and spiritually rich, they are very dear to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. They give up a sentiment to all material things and they are always happy, taking shelter of the lotus feet of the Lord. The Supreme Personality of Godhead makes Himself dependent on His devotees, because of His causeless mercy. How happy is a devotee who gained such relationship with the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura says that the Supreme Lord and His devotees are *rasa-jna*, full of transcendental mood." When I observe your preaching, listening to your lectures and also ecstatic bhajans and kirtans, I see that everything what Srila Prabhupada mentions realizes in your person. When I observe your transcendental mood, I would like to get under its influence, to remain your low servant and to associate with you in this preaching mission. I cannot even realize the fact, that I am such a fortunate person being engaged in serving your lotus feet. Guru Maharaja, I am so grateful that you engage me in this transcendental mission of book distribution. I would like to become really useful in this service and to please you in some way. You told on a lecture in Wroclaw, that a devotee is expert in managing his desires. It means that he has to become *dhira* and *vira*. *Dhira* means peaceful and *vira* means heroic, bold. If we connect this both qualities, we become experts. Such a person can develop devotional

Poland

service and by the Lord's grace can manifest so many wonderful qualities. You said also, that there are four departments of devotional service, in which we should be experts:

1. Chanting the holy names without offences.
2. Pleasing the Deities without making offences.
3. Pleasing the devotees.
4. Giving mercy to all living entities.

By practising this four kinds of service, devotees become experts and never fall down. Guru Maharaja, you are the most perfect example of how expert we should become and in which way. I would like to become only a little expert in devotional service to satisfy you the best.

Please, give me your blessings, that I could take up your mission of preaching and make it one with my life and soul.

Your eternal servant
Atma-maya Devi Dasi

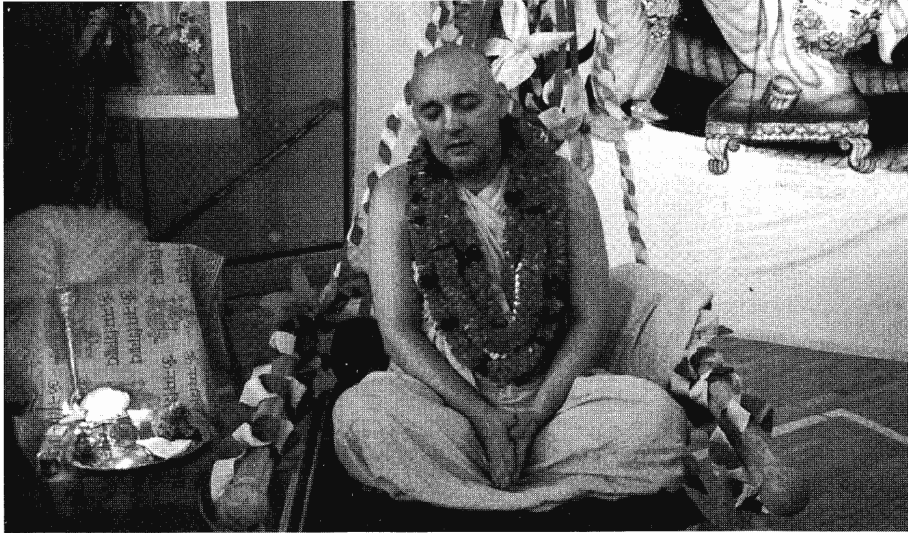


All glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to Your Divine Grace!

Dear Guru Maharaja,
please accept my respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Every time I should write a homage to you, I feel very confused with total emptiness in my head. It is very difficult for me to express my gratitude to you whom I owe all my spiritual life. I know that without your mercy I would drown in this roaring ocean of material existence. Guru Maharaja, it is to my great fortune that you kindly accepted me as your disciple. Indradyumna Maharaja said during the initiation fire *yajna* of Atma-Maya Devi Dasi that it is really great fortune to be a disciple of Suhotra Maharaja. Such appreciation expressed by your Godbrothers helps me understand Your sublime position. Lord Kapila says to His mother Devahuti (S.B. 3.29.33): "Therefore, I do not find a greater person than he, who has no interest outside of Mine and who therefore engages and dedicates all his activities and all his life - ever-



everything unto Me without cessation." These words perfectly describe your person and your complete engagement in devotional service to Krishna. Guru Maharaja, you act faultlessly as the member of the GBC and spiritual master. You have so many responsibilities and problems to solve. With your example you constantly show us the real standard of behavior. And I know, that you expect the same from your disciples. I would like to thank you for all your knowledge and instructions which you give us in your lectures. Thank you for your theater plays and for giving us so much of your transcendental association here in Gdansk. Thank you for all you do for us, for the possibility of rendering devotional service unto you for the association of my Godbrothers and Godsisters.

Guru Maharaja, you are our best friend and our real spiritual father. You are not interested in saving the external cover of the sinking man you are interested in us and our spiritual life. You are the most confidential servant of Krishna and that's why you always know what to do in every moment. Guru Maharaja, you teach us how to defend ISKCON from the attacks of degraded people putting aside unwanted sentiments. Guru Maharaja, you said that you have some fighting spirit. I would also like to learn this from you so I could fight for becoming Krishna conscious despite all stumbling blocks, weakness of the heart and mistakes. I would like to become a perfect servant of my Godbrothers and Godsisters and other Vaisnavas, so that you are pleased with me.

Your eternal servant
Bhakti Acyuta-priya Devi Dasi (Gdansk, Helsinki)

Poland

Dear Gurudeva,
Please, accept my respectful obeisances unto the dust of Your lotus feet.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to sankirtana mission!

On this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa-puja I would like to offer You this simple words of appreciation.

This material world is the place of suffering, distress, tragedy and ignorance. Every day conditioned souls entangle themselves in materialistic life more and more, like insects caught in the web of a spider. They have no hope to disentangle themselves from this web of birth, disease, old age and death. Living in ignorance, they do not know that there is possibility of another happy life.

The whole society is directed by atheistic and demonic rulers who are leading everybody to the hellish conditions of life. The activities of modern rulers are the cause of degradation for human society. Hazard, sexual debauchery, intoxication and killing innocent entities disseminate and this sinful activities have the status of normality. But we see that persons who break the four regulative principles of human life are living in frustration, family and social tragedies. Scientists want to proof that God does not exist, that there is no God and that there is matter only. They bewilder innocent people, whom as a result forget about Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. They try to find happiness in separation from Krsna for all price, not understanding that it is condemned action and it is destined to be a failure. People do not understand, they do not know about the happiness they could attain by serving Krsna, by developing love for Krsna and attaining pure bhakti for Krsna.

Five hundred years ago, Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu appeared and spread the ocean of love of God. By the mercy of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Krsna in the form of His holy name began to spread Himself through-out the world. Srila Prabhupada has delivered this mercy to western countries, and we can taste a little bit of nectar which Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu and all Guru parampara deliver to us only by such great souls like you, Guru Maharaja. The world becomes the place of happiness. Suffering and ignorance which disappear only by preaching of such elevated Vaisnavas like you. Conditioned souls begin to disentangle themselves from the web of birth and death. Guru Maharaja, you are giving us knowledge which dispels all doubts growing by years because of preaching of the atheistic scientists. You pull us from the hell of materialistic, sinful life, showing us the way to eternal, happy life full of love. We can taste the nectar of serving Krsna, by which our love for Krsna, although

Poland

still not so great, grows more and more by your mercy only. Because of that we can clearly see what is the true goal of life, what kind of desire we should have and how to fight against the illusory energy - *maya*.

My request is, that I would unceasingly serve you and assist you in spreading the mission of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu. I know that I have no qualifications, my activities are covered by faults and my help is like help of the spider who was trying to help Hanuman to built the bridge for Lord Ramacandra. But by your mercy and benediction that which is impossible becomes possible and such fallen person like I can do something for Krsna, Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Srila Prabhupada and all Guru parampara.

Your servant,
Dayala Candra Dasa



*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.

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto you who are the simha-guru and the one who takes away the influence of Kali-yuga by delivering wonderful lectures on the scientific teachings of Srila Prabhupada.

My Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. Guru Maharaja, you are the perfect servant of Srila Prabhupada, you are acarya. Reading your wonderful offerings for Srila Prabhupada I see in myself completely the lack of qualifications for glorifying you even as a proper disciple. I feel ashamed, powerless and without intelligence trying to glorify your divine person, because in reality by my hellish contaminations I can not see bright jewel of your transcendental features. If I can glorify you this means, flow of your mercy. Whatever service I can do, whatever I can understand, whatever I can have - association of devotees, knowledge or realization which I have - I owe to you. You give me in every situation perfect example for instance:

- Humility - your offerings for Srila Prabhupada are filled with humility.
- Tolerance - you tolerate me, you tolerate different shortcomings and difficulties in various situations.
- Intelligence - your activities as Guru and GBC bewilder me.
- Gentleman - in contact with all kinds of living entities.
- Man of letters and poet - your articles, poems and lectures are perfect kind of literature.
- Maharathi of sankirtan - you made this service many years and now by your inspiration many devotees are doing this service.
- Enthusiasm - for example in kirtan by your enthusiasm "even buraks dance in their burak's ecstasy", your program "Stay high forever" of your kirtans in Cracow with Trivikrama Maharaja or on Indradyumna Swami Tour are proof that you are the king of kirtan. You are true teacher completely different than so-called teachers of this material world, you are full of spiritual intelligence and all good qualities. I am very rich, because I can have your vani and vapu . This is the biggest, the most precious jewel, which I would like to protect from thieves.
- Free of Material desires, "fallible soldiers like the body, children and wife" like Srimad Bhagavatam says, from attraction for broken glasses of false *dharma*. Shelter in brightness of this jewel gives eternal happiness and freedom from material consciousness, it gives life. Please, let me attain association of this brightness and let me stay in it.

Your disciple,
Isanghri-Seva Devi Dasi



Dear Spiritual Master,
Please accept my most humble obeisances into the dust by Your lotus feet.

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

"By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Krsna. Without the grace of spiritual master, one can not 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 lotus feet of my spiritual master."

Poland

Dearest spiritual father,

Most beloved Guru Maharaja, you, who bestow your mercy upon all living beings, you, who always meditate upon qualities, names and forms of Sri Sri Radha and Krsna. You, who are most confidential servant of the Lord. You, who open our eyes which are plunged in darkness, and fill our hearts with knowledge. You are the reliance of all of us.

Dear Guru Maharaja, by your instructions we are able to know Krsna and come back home, back to Godhead. Out of your compassion, you bestow the mercy even upon the most fallen beings. You save us from this hellish world which leads only to repeating births and deaths. We run into debt which we are unable to pay off. We can only fully surrender. Please, give me the faith, with which I could dissipate all doubts for I would never hesitate to surrender to your lotus feet. Thank you, I can try to engage my body, mind and senses in the service of Krsna. By your mercy you guide me in worshipping the Deities every day and by your compassion They accept my service.

Dear Spiritual Master, since I met devotees, my life has become meaningful. Now I know what is the goal. When I look at the non-devotees I can see only persons who want to become great but their desires are never satisfied. That's why they are unhappy. But we have the greatest treasure: Krsna, Srila Prabhupada's books and instructions of our spiritual master.

Dear Guru Maharaj, even though I would several times a day thank you and pay obeisances at your lotus feet, I am unable to express my gratitude for you again and again. Give me your helping hand and pull me out the puddle of this material existence.

By your mercy, I can see how completely worthless is this material world and how so many things are nonsense. It turns out that the hope for wealth, fame and respect are all illusion. Awaiting for something nonexistent. I beg that by your mercy I would deliver myself of the desire of fame, advantage and privilege. I would like to dispose myself of attachment to this material world. Please, help me to be delivered from the bondage of illusion and bless me with the virtues of persons who serve you in a pure way. Please, clean up my heart, so that I would always remember what is the goal of life.

All glories to You Guru Maharaja.

Your aspiring disciple,
Bhaktin Izabela



Poland

Hare Krsna. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Today is the day of your Vyasa Puja. It is very auspicious day, the day when you appeared to liberate the fallen, conditioned souls. You spread the mission of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada through ecstatic bhajans, kirtans and nectarian classes, which just as the sunshine light up the darkness of ignorance in people's hearts. This light is very beautiful, bright and warm but my material senses, which are agitated by material pleasures don't want to notice it. You are so kind that you accept as your disciples, such fallen souls as I am, but my conditioning is so strong that I cannot fully appreciate it. I would like so much to serve you with humility and devotion, and sincerely follow your instructions. However, it is very difficult for me because my material desires are like stumbling blocks on the path of my spiritual advancement. Now, owing to your mercy I can live in the temple and render devotional service and I know that due to to your divine help and assistance of other kind devotees I will be able to make spiritual progress and please you. I hope that with your help the flame of devotional service and light of knowledge will shine brightly in my heart and light up the darkness of ignorance.

Your eternal servant,
Bhaktin Joanna



Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

It is difficult to avoid Maya's traps
Where unlimited people go around in samsara's wheel
There are many envious and vain
Many atheists and impersonalists

But you, dear Guru Maharaja,
Are capable of insuring that
Birth, old age, disease and death
Won't reach me any more

Poland

I believe in the scripture's statement that
You are as good as the Lord Himself
Therefore, I ask you to destroy my fear
Of my own spiritual identity

You are the dearest servant of Krishna
And never will there be anyone dearer to Him than you
Because in your wonderful classes
You are giving us the biggest secret

What is only a hoof's print for you
For me is an ocean of distress
And only owing to you can I take a seat
In a transcendental boat of knowledge

Thirsty for delicious nectar
Your mind like a bee
Settles down at the source of that honey
At the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord

I want to develop my desire
The desire to serve your lotus feet
And sometime I would also like to drink
The nectar, which you are enjoying

Your servant,
Mantresvara Dasa



Dear Guru Maharaja,
On this wonderful and auspicious day of your apperance, Guru Maharaja, my mind goes back to the moments when I had your association. I am neophyte devotee and that's why your physical presence gives me faith and makes me stronger in Krsna consciousness. My desire is to glorify your qualities and activities in this offering, but how can a street dog appreciate a person, who comes from the spiritual world. Your divine grace is a person full of compassion and mercy. You came to this material world to assist Srila Prabhupada in his mission. I am impressed because of your wonderful classes, in which you cleary explain that one can make spiritual progress only by the process of devotional service to Krsna.

"My only wish is to have my consciousness purified by the words emanating from his

lotus mouth. Attachment to his lotus feet is the perfection that fulfills all desires. He opens my darkened eyes and fills my heart with transcendental knowledge. He is my Lord birth after birth. From him ecstatic *prema* emanates; by him ignorance is destroyed. The Vedic scriptures sing of his character."

This wonderful prayer of Narottama dasa Thakura to the lotus feet of the spiritual master is for me a goal which I want to attain. I want to be always engaged in your service, Guru Maharaja. Let me never forget what is your mission and what pleases you the most. Please, give me your mercy. Without your mercy I can not do anything. I am completely dependent upon your mercy and every step forward on the path of spiritual progress is caused by you.

Allow me to take shelter in the dust of your lotus feet and please do not reject me. I am completely dependent on your mercy.

trying to be your servant,
Martanda Dasa



Poland

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear Guru Maharaja,

What a fallen person I am, if I am not able to do the most obvious thing - to glorify your transcendental qualities on this most auspicious day? I would like to please you a little by writing this offering, but your transcendental qualities and activities are unlimited-how can I hope to put them down on the paper? I am so unqualified to do it. My only hope is a story, which you once told us. This is the story of how Krsna was offered banana skins instead of bananas. But, because of devotion in which they were offered, Krsna accepted them. Of course, my devotion is very, very small, but I will try to satisfy you. Guru Maharaja, I never had any problems. I lived in good family, I was going to a good school. Although doing very good at school, I did not see any sense in it all. I desired fame, I wanted to be the best at everything. I considered material knowledge to be life's true path so I passed the time in the pleasures of mundane learnings. Then you appeared and that knowledge proved feebly. Now I see it is just ignorance. Your complete engagement in devotional service made very big impression on me. You have a goal - delivering the fallen souls from sufferings of the material world. And although you are the most expert, at the same time you are so humble! I remember that you said: "Being humble does not mean that you think about yourself in a humble way. It means that you do not think about yourself at all." This first meeting with you was like a turning point for me. I have a goal - the eternal service for you. But in spite of this I am such a big rascal that when you have given me your mercy by accepting me as your disciple, I became very proud of it. I was proud, because I was your disciple, not because you were my spiritual master. But as it is said:

*"sadhu-sanga, sadhu-sanga-sarva-~sastre kaya
lava-matra sadhu-sange sarva-siddhi haya"*

"The verdict of all revealed scriptures is that by even a moment's association with a pure devotee, one can attain all success." (Cc.Madhya 22.54)

Guru Maharaja, you give us so much of your sublime association that automatically everyone can be purified. I am still proud that you are my spiritual master, because I know that it is only, thanks to your causeless mercy that I am here and I am so low and fallen. I have no devotion, no knowledge, no determination, but I know that the ultimate goal of my life is service to you. How can I thank you for everything what you are doing for me, and all your disciples? How much love and devotion you must have for your disciples? Guru Maharaja that everyone of us can feel your protection all the time. By your perfect intelligence you engage each and everyone of us in devotional service. Guru Maharaja, I remember the lecture from Wroclaw when you were speaking about material desires. You compared them to Pandora's box,

Poland

which is in every heart. This box is very dangerous, therefore, we should not open it but offer it to Krsna on the altar. Guru Maharaja, my box is very, very big and the material desires, which are inside, boil all the time. I am scared that perhaps some day I will open up the cover and everything will jump out. Guru Maharaja I put this box to 'your lotus palms. Please, do something with it, whatever you want. I do not want it. Please, change it's content into the desire of serving Krsna eternally. I know you can do it. Guru Maharaja, all my words are so imperfect, they do not express fully my feelings, therefore I would like to quote the prayer of Srila Bhaktinoda Thakura:

"Alone, I find I have no strength to chant the holy name of Lord Hari. I beg you, therefore, please be merciful, and with a particle of faith, give me great treasure of the Holy Name of Krsna. Krsna is yours. You are able to give Him to me, for such is your power. I am indeed wretched and simply run after you, crying Krsna! Krsna!"

Guru Maharaja, thank you, thank you-I should not write anything else in this offering. Please, keep me always in a corner of your lotus feet.

Your useless servant,
Bhaktin Paulina



Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to your divine grace.

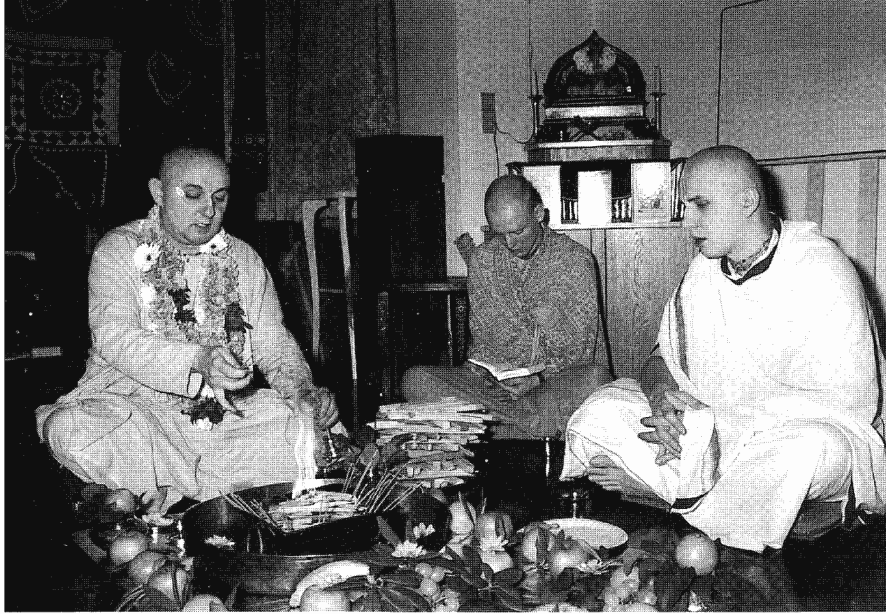
*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Trying to get some inspiration for writing a perfect offering that could glorify your lotus feet, I looked through the books from the previous Vyasa Pujas. I read many offerings by my Godbrothers which were presented to you in the past. When reading one of them I looked at a picture, which showed you, Guru Maharaja, during a harinama on the biggest Warsaw street in 1990. A wave of memories appeared in front of me, maybe sentimental, but very realistic, which showed me what was happening to me at that time and that I accepted as you as my spiritual master.

I remember when you came to Warsaw, at May 3rd 1990, you accepted me as your disciple. It was something extraordinary, as it took place on a narrow, dusty village

Poland

road leading to the Warsaw ISKCON temple. I went by car (small Polish Fiat) with Purnaprajna Prabhu (at that time bhakta Piotr) to get flowers for a garland for you. Suddenly we saw a good, western car, in which we could recognize you as a passenger. Without a second thought we stopped, opened the door and threw ourselves in front of the coming car. When we stood up we saw your wonderful, smiling face and kind eyes of a father. Seeing you and your merciful glance was, and still is, something unforgettable for me, something that allowed me to survive in the most difficult times in my life. This first meeting with you after your kind accepting me, an insignificant person, as your disciple, was something like meeting his father for a son. It was a turning point in my life, as it allowed me to gradually accept your instructions in a proper way. At that time you gave me an instruction, which its value, I can only appreciate now, and which I can make as the credo of my life. At that time, my spiritual identity and standing was not very strong - I was constantly falling in conflicts with the local authorities, not only in Warsaw, but all over Poland. It caused many problems and complaints, directed to the Temple Presidents, National Council, and even the GBC and it was at its climax during your visit at that time. In no way, do I want to value the motivation of devotees for whom I was a problem at that time, nor undermine the validity of the complaints against me, and I have to say that my behaviour differed in many ways from the canons of ISKCON behaviour. In other words I was critical about my Godbrothers and Godsisters, especially about the ones who had some position in the movement. It was not something positive, because it influenced my own spiritual life and also the life of devotees who were closely related to me. At that time, I remember that you were so merciful that you encouraged me to strictly cooperate with ISKCON and respect the temple authorities. You suggested solutions, which were acceptable for me at that time and which are resulting now. By your causeless mercy I was given the service of a temple president and from this perspective those instructions seem to have special potency and weight. Being a complete fool, I was not able to fully understand the necessity of strictly cooperating with and in ISKCON, looking at ISKCON from my limited perspective. Only now, watching how you are engaged in keeping the unity of the movement and the work of Srila Prabhupada I can see the importance of my participating in this mission. Srila Prabhupada said once that he was ISKCON, so serving, appreciating, glorifying, thinking about and cultivating the International Society for Krishna Consciousness we are being engaged in the service of the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada. It is so wonderful to try to be your disciple, Guru Maharaja, seeing how you, my dearest spiritual father, are engaged in perfectly maintaining the strict line of ISKCON, not allowing anyone to destroy its sanctuary. Let this low son of yours be engaged in a similar way, so that by your mercy I could help in your fight for Srila Prabhupada, your most perfect father and my beloved grandfather. My own, limited intelligence does not allow me to define the goals of this action, but having full faith in your instructions I am ready to follow you. My nature is that I always need some challenge, so please, Guru Maharaja, give them to me, so that I could always struggle to satisfy you, Srila Prabhupada and the whole disciplic succession. Your unworthy servant, Pracarananda Dasa



Dear Guru Maharaja
Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

The day of your appearance in this material world gave a chance to many souls suffering in this material world, a chance to come back to the spiritual world. It is also a great chance for me, because I can take shelter of your lotus feet. Due to the association of devotees and your exalted personality the dark way of my life becomes brighter and brighter.

Dear Guru Maharaja, you are very dear to Lord Krishna and all vedic scriptures say that you are as good as the Lord. Therefore, by following your instructions one can get qualifications to render devotional service for the Lord. You give us a perfect example of a preacher. As an acarya you give us the knowledge and show us how happy one may be and what the real position of each person is. By your mercy I can give up my personal concepts and become involved in devotional service. You give me the strength by which I can constantly correct my activities. You are the doctor for so many living entities, whom by contacting with your personality can engage

Poland

their senses in devotional service. Your classes influenced me deeply and enriched me with Krishna consciousness. Your thoughts, words and your behaviour have the purity of spring water. Your words can be heard in the same way as one listens to the wind in the trees, sound of the river, or singing of a bird, your words can awaken one's dormant Krishna consciousness. Therefore, I always come back to them because they are my spiritual shelter. Eventhough, I realize my limitations and conditionings, I understand that only due to your mercy can I make any progress on the path of devotional service.

Your servant,
Bhaktin Sabina



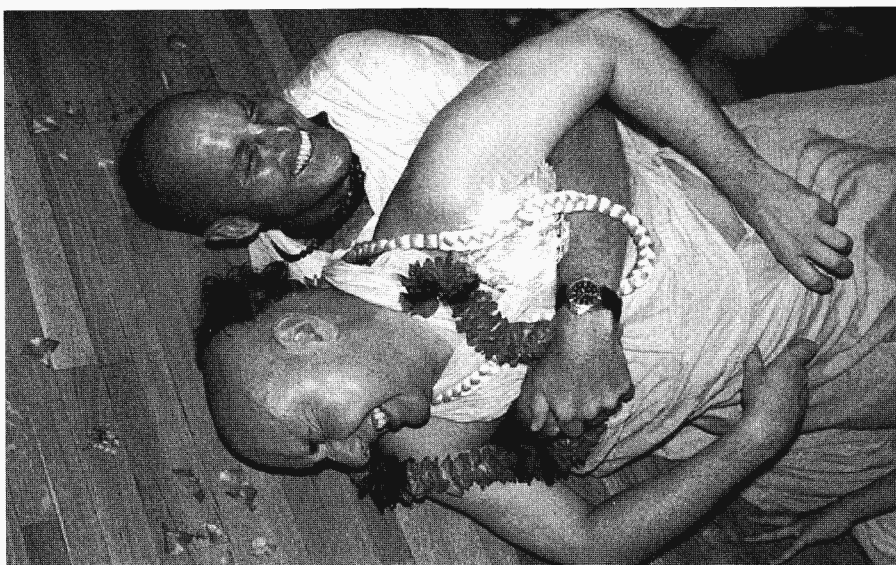
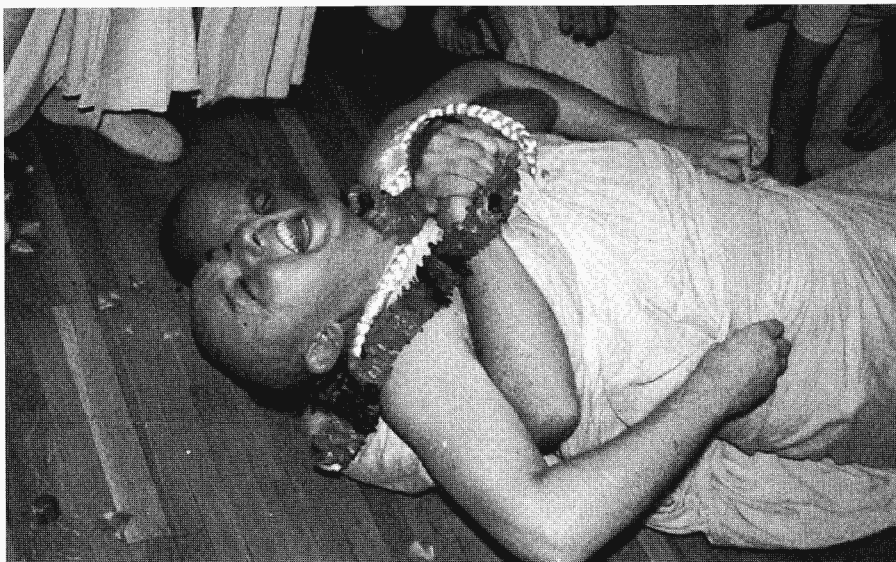
Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to You.

It is the third time that I can take part in the celebration of Your Vyasa-puja, second time as Your aspiring disciple. And just like one year ago I find it very difficult to write a homage. I know that it should not be like that because You are my ever well-wisher and the most merciful person for me. It is by your mercy that I can finish once and for ever with the sufferings of this material world and rise above the realization of *Brahman* and *Paramatma*. Thanks to your profound knowledge I can learn the meaning of the Vedic literature. Because of Your causeless mercy, I can often hear Your lectures. I am finding them more and more nectarean and they increase my attachment to your person. Seeing the effect in me I become more and more inspired to spread your teachings.

I would like to thank You, Guru Maharaja, for this nectar obtained from rendering service to you and I beg for more. I know that I can never repay this debt I owe you, Guru Maharaja. So, please bestow more of your mercy unto me, that I can always be your servant.

trying to serve You,
Bhakta Sebastian (Gdansk)

Poland



Poland

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

I know from Srila Prabhupada's books that one of the ambitions of the spiritual master is seeing his disciples not only chant, dance and follow regulative principles but also preach about the sankirtan movement to others to liberate them. It was the desire of Lord Caitanya. Once he said to the brahmana Kurma:

*yare dekhe, tare kaha krsna-upadesa
amare ajnaya guru hana tara' ei desa*

He says that whom ever you met teach him to follow the instructions of Lord Krishna as they are given in Bhagavad-gita and Srimad Bhagavatam, and in this way become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this country. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura wanted this, Srila Prabhupada wanted this, the whole *parampara*, and surely Krishna wants this. I know that you Guru Maharaja strictly follow Srila Prabhupada. With great determination you preach Krishna consciousness in all towns and villages spreading the glories of the holy name of Krishna attracting many innocent souls making them fully blissful. I can see your strong faith in the words of your spiritual master and strictly follow his instructions. Never being under illusion, you always know how to act being under Krishna's protection you feel safe and sure never being disturbed by any material conditions. Guru Maharaja, I desire to please you, because pleasing the spiritual master is the perfection of the spiritual life.

Your servant,
Bhakta Wojtek



Poland

Dear Guru Maharaja,
please accept my respectful obeisances.
All glories to Sri Krishna! All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to you, Guru Maharaja.

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

I am so happy, that I can join your disciples and together with them celebrate such a wonderful day as your Vyasa-puja. Once more I would like to thank you, Guru Maharaja, that you allowed me to accept the shelter of your lotus feet. I know that I will never be able to repay it. By your grace I receive Krishna's mercy everyday. All glories to you, Guru Maharaja.

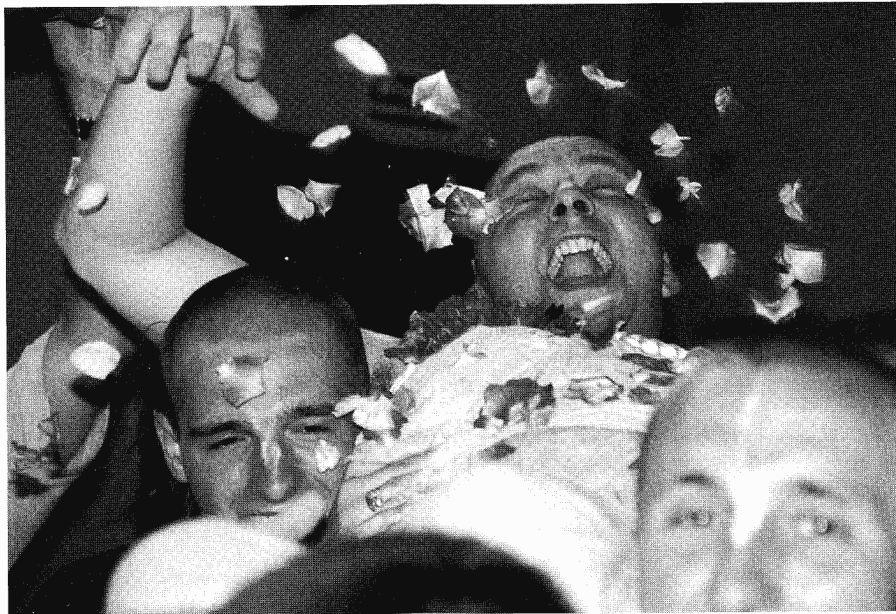
*tad viddhi pranipatena pariprasnena sevaya
upadeksyanti te jnanam jnaninas tattva-darsinah*

Guru Maharaja you are such a self-realized soul and by your mercy even such rascals as me can approach Krishna. By your mercy, I can come back to the Supreme because you are opening the gate leading to Him. How merciful is Lord Krishna that He sent you to us. You help us cleanse our hearts from the dust accumulated for so many years. Guru Maharaja, please give me your blessing that I may continue the process of bhakti yoga and that I may serve you birth after birth. I am very weak and I need your help. Without your instructions I would sink in the pool of material existence. I wasted so many years trying to satisfy my senses hoping to find happiness in this material world. I don't want to return to it, wasting time by doing nonsenses. I want to make advancement in spiritual life, because I know that, this pleases you. Guru Maharaja, please accept this homage.

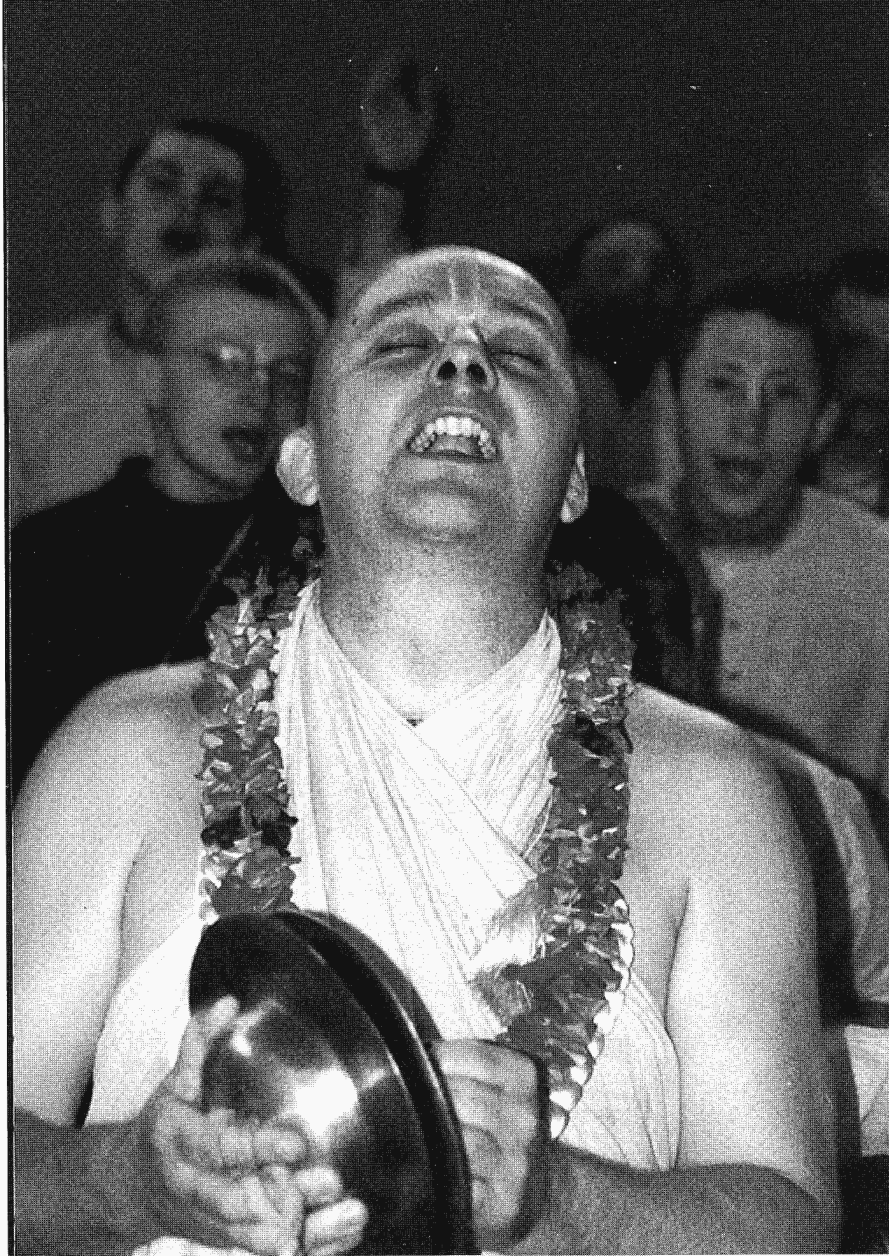
"... on that day Vivasvan ordered the sun to shine brighter and warmer. Indra did not let a single drop of rain to fall even though thousands of blue clouds waited impatient. All the demigods together with their wives waited for that moment with great joy holding in their hands baskets full of flowers for the one who was to appear. Everywhere one can hear beautiful sounds of the karatalas, mridangas, drums and conshells. The birds were singing more beautifully than usual. Celestial dancers, delighted in dancing. One could hear the sweet sound of a vina, it was Narada muni who was creating a new holiday song. Suddenly some whistle in the sky - two spaceships appeared over the demigods heads. Lord Brahma and Lord Siva with their consorts friendly waved greeting other demigods. Soon a broad smile appeared on everyone's face, for the transcendental sound of the Sri Krishna's flute could be heard. Transcendental emotions filled every heart. Syamasundara was slowly approaching them while playing His flute. He was kindly smiling at his devotees. "My dear devotees" Lord Krishna said with his sweet voice: "do you know, that this day is

very special, because my very dear devotee would appear on Earth?" "He would lead conditions souls back to Me and worship Me with transcendental sound: Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare/ Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare." "So Please all of you give him a proper welcome." Lord Balarama standing at the side of His brother looked at his transcendental watch and said : "According to our calculation it is still some five thousands hours left but according to their it is only five minutes. Let's go." Then every one entered into the third dimension. "Jay! Jay! All glories unto you who are very dear to Lord Krishna", shouted the demi-gods while throwing lots of flowers." He has appeared", Radharani whispered to Krishna. "Yes" said the lotus-eyed one and smiled "he will have a lot of devotional service because there are still many asuras who don't want to surrender unto Me.

Your aspiring servant,
Bhaktin Zuzanna



Sri Vyasa puja





SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Romania



Romania

Your divine grace Srila Suhotra Maharaja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances! All glories to you who are a pure devotee of Lord Krsna, and who removes the darkness of people's ignorance by the transcendental teachings of Lord Krsna! All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine
namas te sarasvate deva gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-desa-tarine*

Out of your mercy for all the conditioned people of this material world, you came to this place which is full of ignorance: Romania! Because I'm able to hear all these wonderful things which are meant to take me gradually out of ignorance and suffering I am now in, I am eternally grateful and indebted to you.

I also offer my obeisances to all the Vaisnavas who have dedicated their lives for serving the Lord and propagating the teachings about the glories of the Holy Name. Because I first received the teachings about Krsna from your devoted servant, Murari Krsna dasa, I offer my respects to him and to you again. Your disciples are great souls, devoted to Lord Krsna.

The same way that the cranes, in the story of the swan and the cranes, prefer horrible things to something wonderful, the conditioned souls prefer the miserable happiness of the material world to the spiritual happiness; this is a disease, madness. But you, like an expert doctor, have come to cure this disease.

Now, I am not afraid any more; I know that I will be cured, because I can see others being cured. That's why I offer my obeisances to your lotus feet. You are like the sun, which has started rising after a long night full of nightmares. As the sun casts its light equally on the virtuous and the rascals, your mercy is flooding everybody. I thank you, that you accepted even a sinner like myself in propagating the mission of Lord Caitanya. You know even better than me, how sinful I am, but you accepted me to assist the Vaisnavas, to serve Krsna, because you are more merciful than anyone else. For this, I offer my obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet one thousand times. I am eternally indebted to you.

Your eternal servant,
Bhakta Costel

Romania

All glories to His divine grace Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to His divine grace Srila Suhotra Swami Maharaja ki jaya!

Dear Guru 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
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine
namas te sarasvate deva gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-desat-tarine*

Leaving aside the material bodily consciousness that I had before, I found myself to be a spirit soul, a servant of your lotus feet.

Why did Krsna give me this life? I know that I was born to serve you, life after life, always and everywhere. I bow to mother Earth who is a jewel at your lotus feet, praying to her that I may be able to serve you.

You came here, to this dark world, to remove the burden of the age, by giving us the pure light of knowledge, pure love and service, in pure devotion. You came for me also. Even if I didn't listen from the beginning to your advice, even if I didn't hear your name, by your mercy, I lifted my forehead from the darkness of ignorance and I took up the path that you opened to me. Please accept my service as an offering, please accept my thought as an offering, and please accept me as a servant at your lotus feet.

From where do I receive so much mercy, and from where do I receive so much light, if not from you? It is your causeless mercy for which I thank you.

I offer my respectful obeisances to the Vaisnavas, who are devoted servants of your lotus feet, and who accepted me into their association and have placed within me, the seed of knowledge. I find in them a pure family which will help me to serve you. In you, I found the pure and perfect father.

I can do nothing without your mercy. In everything I find, get and offer, there is only your mercy. I bow down before your unlimited and unrestricted mercy. Maybe it is too much for me to accept your mercy, but I accept it submissively, to serve you. I am just an imperfect, conditioned soul, but through your mercy, I am finding the essence

Romania

of life. And for this I bow down thousands of times to your lotus feet. I am small, but you gave me the power to think, to love Krsna and you give me words to speak about Him. But can I speak to the world about you, Guru Maharaja? Because only through you can we taste the nectar of perfection. I received this nectar so many times and I offer you my respectful obeisances.

Maybe it is too little what I want to offer to you, but maybe you can just make a little place, so that a conditioned soul can offer his obeisances to your lotus feet.

Please accept me as an offering at your lotus feet, out of your causeless mercy. Please accept me as a servant soul. All glories to you, Srila Guru Maharaja.

Respectfully, your eternal servant,

Bhaktin Gabi



*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

I am in the beginning of a new life. A life born from your instructions to write, to translate and to preach. Will I be able to do all those things?

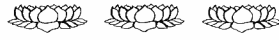
When you accepted me as your disciple you told me: "You are a married woman whose husband is not interested in Krsna consciousness. Your becoming a devotee depends on your determination." At that moment when you gave me the instructions to write and preach, you told me again: "You have to find the determination to do it in yourself."

I am very unqualified, and my mind is a big, wild jungle in which I find myself sometimes lost like an insignificant, scared, little bird. But your instructions always brought out the best in me and finally led me to light. And if I could follow the first instruction I received when becoming your disciple, maybe I would find the same strength to follow this last one too.

Romania

I just have to go on depending on Krsna. And after every page I write, after every page I translate and every word I preach, I feel I did something for you.

Your eternal servant,
Krsna-Ragini Devi Dasi



*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear Gurudeva,
Please accept my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet.

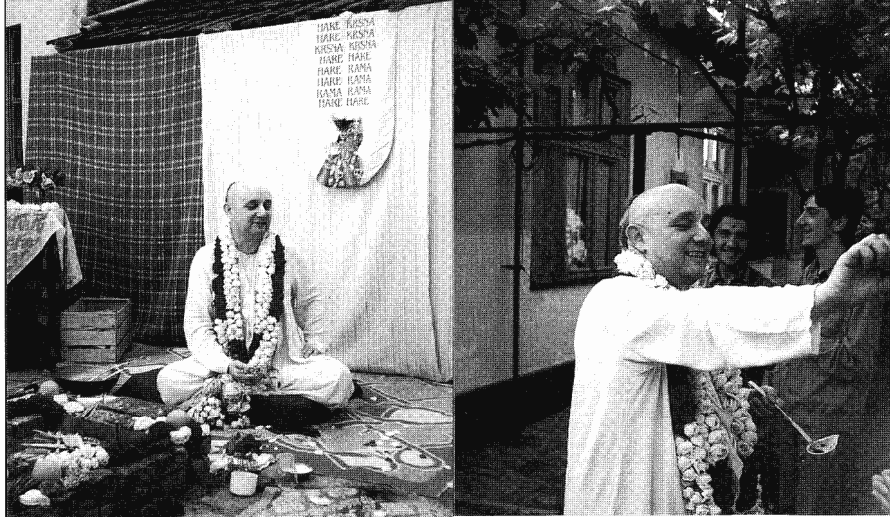
With humbleness and love, I ask the permission of my spiritual teacher Srila Suhotra Swami, to offer my obeisances, my respect and my gratitude at his lotus feet for the wonderful chance to be his disciple, thus opening the door for me to the light-filled path of the unparalleled communication between the pure devotee of Lord Krsna, who is very dear to Him, and his disciple, who is humbly waiting for a small drop of spiritual nectar from his hand.

We have now a special event, your appearance day, and personally I find myself desiring to wish you something, but I simply cannot find the words for what I would like to transmit to you. I am saying just this: I wish you whatever Lord Sri Krsna Himself wishes for you, especially hundreds of disciples like those who are most dear to you.

This is my first letter to you, and I ask you to forgive the imperfections in my wording, and I promise you that in the future, with your help, I will be more inspired. I would like to also tell you in this letter, that I am very happy to have you as a guide on the path of spiritual life, which is full of traps, and I am confident that with your help, I will be able to overcome all the hindrances and difficulties that await me at every step. I will never be able to fully thank you for giving me the hand which holds the science of liberation, from which you have taught me the first chapter. The others, I am sure, will follow the first one, right up to the last one, the last one being "liberation". And this one I will be able to reach only through your causeless mercy, and finally, achieve the destination.

I feel how the ritual and the devotional service are part of me and I am part of them. I will not be able to live for a moment without the name of our beloved Lord Krsna

Romania



and I am thinking with compassion about the conditioned souls who do not yet know of the nectar of devotional service and the unparalleled Hare Krsna maha-mantra.

From the moment you accepted me as your disciple, everything changed. Beginning with the most insignificant desire for knowledge, up to the greatest problems of this conditioned soul which were hindrances for my advancement on the spiritual path, they all found their solution. I can find no word worthy for the gratitude I would like to express to you. Thus, I will remain obliged to you throughout my whole life, offering you my sincere desire to become a good devotee of Lord Krsna. Bowing down to your feet, I offer myself like an open book in which whenever you would like to read, you would find somewhere, on some page, the statement: "If I would have to come back to the material world many lifetimes, each and every life I would search for you and I would serve you as the most humble servant and then my pangs would be the most pure nectar."

I end with these words and I thank you at the same time, my dear Gurudeva, for the mecy you've bestowed upon me.

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

Your humble disciple,
Bhaktin Maria

Romania

All glories to His divine grace Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to His divine grace Srila Suhotra Swami Maharaja ki jaya!

Dear Srila Gurudeva,
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
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine
namas te sarasvate deva gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-desat-tarine*

Guru Maharaja, I would like to thank you, on this day for the wonderful mercy that you gave me, showing me the real path in life and explaining to me that the life that does not have Krsna as its goal, is useless.

Although I am the most ignorant and unqualified of your servants, I would like to beg you to inspire me always out of your unlimited causeless mercy, so that I may be able to cleanse my heart of all material misery and be able to surrender completely to your lotus feet.

I implore you, Guru Maharaja, to inspire me so that my rascal mind becomes fixed at your lotus feet. You are the only one who can help me and I am waiting with much humility that you pour your boundless mercy upon me.

Your most ignorant servant,
Bhakta Minel



Romania

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Maharaja,
I offer you all my respectful and humble obeisances. All glories to your divine grace!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

"It's very difficult to write a Vyasa-puja offering," His Holiness Bhaktivaibhava Swami told me once, when he was in Timisoara, and was preparing himself to write his offering to Srila Prabhupada. He continued, "Do you know what it means to write an offering for the spiritual master?"

My answer was: "Yes, I know. I have this experience because I wrote also several offerings for my spiritual master." But immediately after that, I realized that my answer was formal, automatic, and without judgement of truth. It's true that I wrote several offerings for your Vyasa-puja ceremony, but this doesn't mean that I understood the meaning. In one way or another, to a greater or lesser degree, everybody encounters difficulties in writing, even in the most banal cases.

But why did Srila Bhaktivaibhava Swami put emphasis on understanding the meaning in the difficulty in writing an offering? Because this is the difficult path of crossing from "formalism" to "informalism," from "following rules mindlessly" to "inspiration", from material to spiritual.

It became a common custom to say, "I don't feel inspired," or even, "I feel inspired," but I wonder to myself, if I've understood what inspiration means. Why is it difficult to write? From *sankhya* we have learned that there are four stages of sound: three internally situated within ourselves, and the fourth, externally manifested, as speech. Writing is also an external manifestation. In this *vaikhari* stage, the sound and the meaning are different, yet they are related by convention. But this convention belongs to formalism, and is the "weak spot" which should be pushed. This is our challenge: to go beyond formalism, and this is difficult.

A disciple, should ask himself what pleases his spiritual master, and act accordingly. A spiritual master, would be pleased seeing his disciples inspired to serve him. But this inspiration can't be manufactured, can't be displayed artificially, can't be stimulated. We are living in a formal world, the world of material sense perceptions. Everything perceived sensorially is formal, and it's semantic content is limited. Acting in such a world, we derive limited results. After some time everything comes to a ceiling.

In the years before, thinking of what offering might please you, I was able to offer one more year of service to you. But now, I think this is not enough. What benefit can be

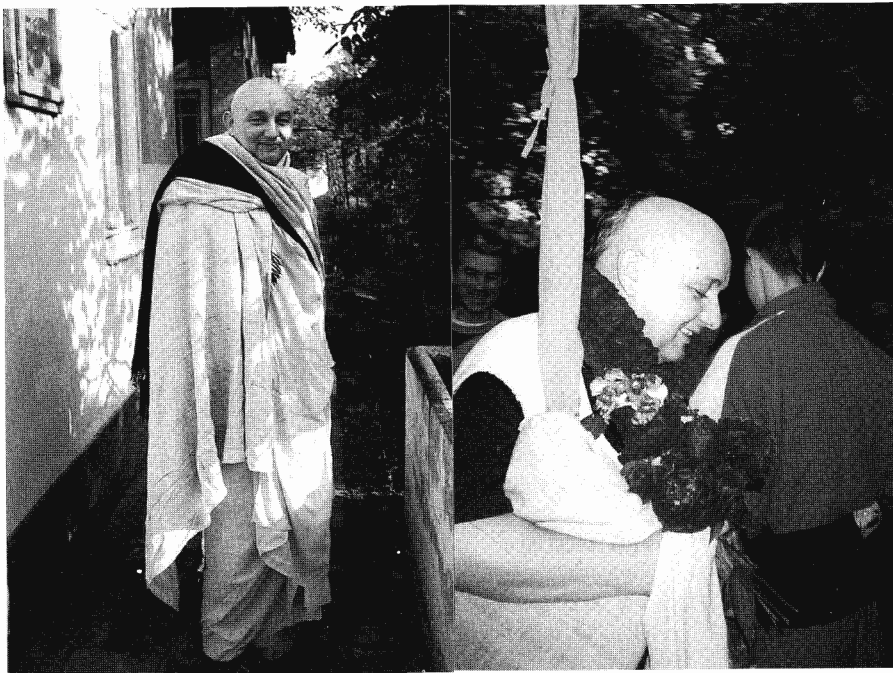
Romania

derived from a formal service? You said that you will appreciate "the years in Krsna consciousness." Only the years are not enough. The Krsna consciousness is the key factor. Srila Prabhupada said in his purport to Bg. 2.72, "One can attain Krsna consciousness, or divine life at once, within a second - or one may not attain such a state of life even after millions of births. It is only a matter of understanding and accepting the fact." And this means inspiration. This means establishing the communication link with *para-sabda*, with the Supersoul in the heart. But Sri Krsna will give inspiration only to those who are trying sincerely to serve His beloved devotee, to serve you. What a nice and perfect process.

How simply can we go beyond formalism, only with the state of truthfulness, with this last remaining leg of *dharma*. But how difficult at the same time.

I wish, I could offer you this year my sincerity, but I am not qualified for this. What I beg of you is to accept my sincere attempt to serve you from this uninspired position I have.

Your humble servant,
Murari Krsna Dasa



Romania

Dear Guru Maharaja,

O, most beloved one, who came just from Him,
In this Age of Kali, to deliver us from sin,
I bow down again and I beg you again,
To give a tiny light to this so sinful man

I was like a mad and a blind man who,
Didn't know where to go, till I met you,
And even if for your grace, I pay with an offense,
In grammar books hope is found in the future tense

I'm crying and crying and screaming so loud,
To clean my mind from the darkest cloud,
And put instead of the thoughts of the brain's night,
What you consider is true and what is right

The sweet name of Krsna which shines like the sun,
Taking us home is what you have done,
Serving Srila Prabhupada with your mind, acts and words,
Being by circumstances camara or swords,

Please help me and let and push me to
Serve Sri Krsna, Srila Prabhupada and you

Your aspiring servant,
Bhakta Ovidiu



Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances!

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

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

Romania

*namas te sarasvate deva gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-desat-tarine*

All glories to His divine grace Srila Suhotra Swami Maharaja, ki jaya!

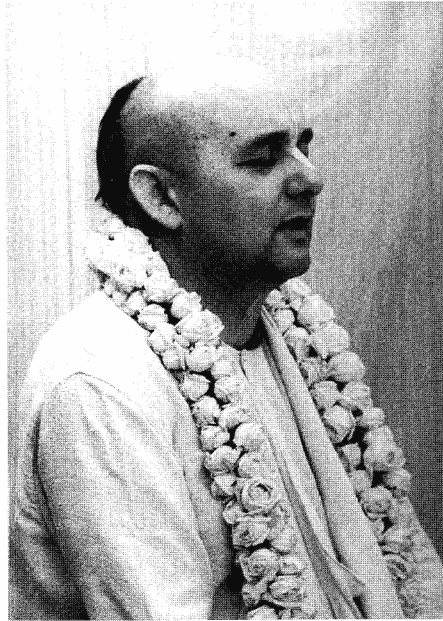
I want to thank you for being so kind and merciful, that you offered me the great and unique chance to go on the safe side, to be a part of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu's movement. I hope that I have sufficient sincerity and intelligence to follow your instructions, because only in this way will I have success in spiritual life.

I remember, one day on sankirtana, I had a realization. I am always in *tamo-guna*, but that day, I was so covered that I could not distribute even one book. Everybody was rejecting me. I had no more power, no more inspiration. I was in great despair and I was thinking: "Now, it's finished with me!"

I was praying to Krsna, to Guru Maharaja, to help me, but it seemed that nobody heard me. When I saw my godbrother Sri Caitanya das, I went to him and started lamenting: "I cannot go on. I have done something wrong. I think that my guru has left me." Then Sri Caitanya das told me: "It can not be. It is impossible. Guru never leaves the disciple. He is always in the heart of the disciple and goes with him everywhere, but sometimes we are tested by Krsna. He wants to see whether we want to serve Him or have some personal interest."

After saying all this to me, he continued distribution. So, he was going in front, offering books to people. I was going after him with my books under the arm, meditating on what he had told me, hoping, "Yes, it has to be like that".

Then, one person came to me telling me that he wants the Bhagavad-gita. I was shocked because I was not trying any more to offer the books to people. I gave him the Bhagavad-gita, he paid for it and left. I was then filled with great happiness and hope, and I realized that it is not that we are distributing the books, but Krsna, and that we are but His instruments, and that only if we have faith in the spiritual master can we be accepted in devotional service. Then I understood, that Guru Maharaja



Romania

never leaves me. I hope that I always remember these wonderful experiences that gives us faith in this process.

Unfortunately, I am full of impurities and am such a rascal that I always commit offenses against you. However, although I am completely unqualified to do whatever insignificant service for you, you accepted me as your disciple, and by the knowledge which you are transmitting, you are freeing me from the darkness of ignorance, that I am in. Please forgive my offenses to you.

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

Your servant,
Prabhu Nityananda Dasa



Your divine grace Srila Suhotra Maharaja,
please accept my respectful obeisances! All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine
namas te sarasvate deva gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-desat-tarine*

All glories to His divine grace Srila Suhotra Swami Maharaja ki jaya!

Srila Narottama dasa Thakura prays in his prayer to the spiritual master, *Sri Guru Carana Padma*: *ha ha prabhu koro doya, deho more pada-chaya*, "O master, be merciful to me. Give me the shade of your lotus feet."

The scriptures repeat with great insistence, that there can be no advancement and happiness in one's life if he has not been blessed by the dust of the lotus feet of a Vaisnava, a devotee of the Supreme Lord.

Romania

You, our Guru Maharaja, are so merciful and compassionate to us, the souls in this crazy and fallen age, magnanimously giving the shelter of your lotus feet and blessing us with the dust of your lotus feet, in the form of your divine instructions. But still we are so unfortunate that we have no attraction to follow your instructions.

Still, there exists a competition between your mercy and our fallen nature. You, very kindly give us this attraction, and you infuse us with this natural enthusiasm that comes from the heart.

The only thing that we have to do is, as you said, to keep the guru's order on the throne of the intelligence. We have to stick to your lotus feet with great determination. I pray, therefore, that I remain the eternal servant of your lotus feet.

Your servant,
Sri Caitanya Dasa



*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear Guru Maharaja,
I offer my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories to your divine grace! All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

My present for your Vyasa-puja anniversary is a "lila", in which I participated with my husband. I hope you will enjoy it, because in the center of this lila are there Lordships Sri Sri Radha-Gopinatha.

Everything happened two years ago, at the time when you were travelling with the red van, in which the pictures with Sri Sri Radha-Gopinatha were near the steering wheel, on the dashboard. From the nectar of your coming here, each time a drop of ecstasy was formed by seeing, with captivated eyes, the beauty and expressiveness of the Deities. Usually, these two pictures were all the time sitting in the car, during your travels, and I would use all opportunities to look at them, just like a child, stuck to the car's window, admiring, for minutes together, the ever-fresh expression of the divine couple.

Romania

One day, Murari Krsna Prabhu took the car to tank diesel, and I went on sankirtan. My husband was rather anxious, because it was the first time he was driving your van. After some time, when I arrived home, I met him unexpectedly. His eyes were widened with terror. He was saying, "He fell down, He fell down..." Immediately, I thought something terrible had happened. In the house everything looked ransacked. All sorts of tools were spread everywhere, glass potsherds were laying about, pots and plates from the kitchen were scattered everywhere.

Later, I could hardly understand what had happened, but all this agitation was caused by the fact that, during the driving, the picture of Sri Gopinatha fell down from the dashboard, and the protective glass had broken. My husband was trying to find, or cut a suitable glass for the picture. I took the picture of Sri Gopinatha and put it on our altar. Lord Gopinatha was smiling in a very amused way at what was happening. I asked my husband, "What have you done to Him? What's going on?" Agitated, he was repeating, "I've done nothing. I was after diesel, and He simply fell down from the board - twice. The second time the glass broke. But I was driving so slowly..."

Seeing that our attempts to replace the broken glass with our domestic possibilities had failed, we appealed after other adventures to a glass shop. We came back and replaced the glass, and finally, when we brought the picture back to the van, we saw that Srimati Radharani, all alone, had tearful eyes. We put the picture on the place left empty, and suddenly I understood: The pictures were placed in the opposite positions. We switched the pictures back and immediately the expressions of Their faces changed. Their eyes resumed the same inconceivable expression, and something like a great peace and bliss filled the the inside of the van and our hearts.

One day before, the brahmacaris had washed the van, and without noticing, they changed the place of the Deities, but Lord Gopinatha had noticed and had implicated us in this adventure.

My dear Guru Maharaja, I am capable of nothing but to thank you for the opportunity to participate in something so ecstatic, and to thank you because the red and the green van brings you always to us, although we are not qualified even to serve your servants.

Please forgive me for my incompetence, and I hope you will accept me as...

Your eternal servant,
Syamala Devi Dasi

Sri Vyasa puja





SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Sweden



Sweden

*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.

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto you who are the simha-guru and the one who takes away the influence of Kali-yuga by delivering wonderful lectures on the scientific teachings of Srila Prabhupada.

Dear Guru Maharaja,
please accept my most humble obeisances unto the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your divine grace!

On this most auspicious day I would like to express my thanks for your patient guidance in my spiritual life. I can see more and more that, it is only by your endless mercy and protection that I can somehow render any insignificant service for pleasing Srila Prabhupada and Sri Krishna.

Sri Vyasa-puja is the most auspicious day from the whole year and it is a great opportunity for every disciple to praise and glorify his spiritual master, but still I am finding myself extremely dull for writing anything meaningful. But as far as I can remember, in one of your lectures you related a story pointing out concentration on the service. It was a story from the days of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati and his Gaudiya Matha. They were donated a house - a ghostly haunted house. Nobody wanted to live there, but Srila Bhaktisiddhanta made his quarters there. And once, while doing something at the desk, his personal servant (Dola Govinda Sastri - I think it is correct) was given the service to read Srimad Bhagavatam loudly.

While he was reading, from time to time he looked at his spiritual master. Then suddenly he saw behind Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, a bone hand coming through an open window, closer and closer to Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati. Dola Govinda Sastri was shocked and fainted. Then Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati told him (something like): "You cannot faint like that. When you see something frightening or you have some vision, you should not faint, but you should chant Hare Krishna." Then they continued; Bhaktisiddhanta working and Govinda Sastri reading. But again the bone hand appeared. Govinda Sastri started to chant, but then fainted. Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati awakened him again, and when Dola Govinda Sastri wanted to explain what had happened, he stopped him and said (something like): "Don't tell me such things! Your service is to read Srimad Bhagavatam and at the point of chanting you should concentrate on service. So do it!" Then a third time the

bone hand appeared. Now Govinda Sastri started to chant, "Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna
Krishna Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Hare Hare," and he read very loudly. At this time, Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati turned and saw the bone hand. All he said was, "Haribol" and the hand disappeared.

By this story, you illustrated how one should concentrate on the service and actually how one should be steady in the service as well. The ghostly vision of the bone hand is compared to bhukti and mukti, which are for a devotee like two wiches, disturbing (or even destroying) devotional service. Then, you explained that overcoming them is only possible, by fixing oneself at the lotus feet of Govinda. You explained furthermore that the First Canto of Srimad Bhagavatam is like the feet, the foundation of the whole Srimad Bhagavatam and it is very important to read it, because then we are able to fix ourself at the lotus feet of Lord Sri Krishna.

In this way, I would like to describe how extremely valuable and important your lectures are to me. They are full of knowledge, instructions, advice and deep realizations *guru-vani* and Krishna consciousness in practise. And only through your lectures can I somehow understand, a little the meaning of this wonderful mission of Srila Prabhupada's, which is actually also your mission. And how you are surrendering to the mission of Srila Prabhupada is exemplary and inspiring for me. You are a bright example of how full surrender to the mission of spiritual master actually looks.

I ask myself: "How is it possible that, despite all this misery, I am so lucky and fortunate that I could meet you and now live in Srila Prabhupada's house, ISKCON, as your disciple?" The answer is simple: that's the causeless mercy of you and Krishna. In Krishna book it is explained, that to meet the spiritual master - your divine grace - is the causeless mercy of the Lord. And now by your causeless mercy, I can somehow be engaged in Prabhupada's ISKCON; a little prasadam distribution here, a little cleaning there, and some reading of Srila Prabhupada's books and your "Danda conference"! Actually for this "Danda conference" I would like to thank you especially! It is really spice for my (spiritual) life! From all these wonderful answers you are giving to the devotees, besides the personality of Hap Camper, I'd like to thank you for your comment on the "origin of the jiva" to the PEC, because alongside your philosophical explanation of this topic, you have given an excellent example of how to accept knowledge from the bona fide spiritual master.

Once, I asked you some foolish question and your answer was suprising to me: "Just chant Hare Krishna and read Srila Prabhupada's books, then you'll understand more about the Absolute Truth." And as time is passing away, I can see more how basic, important and deep this instruction is.

I can go endlessly into this and still I have much to do. *anandam buddhi vardanam*. And now after your "comment", how sweet the reading is: "Prabhupada said, nectar

prabhu!" And from my reading I'd like to select one quotation, which I feel is suitable for this most auspicious day (better let the Srimad Bhagavatam speak, as I'm too dull):

*rahuganaitat tapasa na yati
na cejyaya nirvapanad grhad va
na cchandasa naiva jalagni-suryair
vina makat-pada-rajo-abhisekam*

"My dear king Rahugana, unless one has the opportunity to smear his entire body with the dust of the lotus feet of great devotees, one can not realize the Absolute Truth. One can not realize the Absolute Truth simply by observing celibacy (brahmacharya), strictly following the rules and regulations of householder life, leaving home as vanaprasta, accepting sannyasa, or undergoing severe penances in winter by keeping oneself submerged in water or surrounding oneself in summer by fire and the scorching heat of the sun. There are many other processes to understand the Absolute Truth, but the Absolute Truth is only revealed to one who has attained the mercy of a great devotee." (Srimad Bhagavatam 5.12.12)

Thank you. I can only bow down again and again.

Your servant,
Cit-Sakti Dasa



Dear Srila Suhotra Swami,
Please accept my humble obeisances.

Only by approaching a real spiritual master and by rendering service to his lotus feet can we be saved from the shackles of maya. We can get the mercy in the form of love of Krsna by devotional service offered to the spiritual master. Spiritual master is very merciful, because he is distributing the Holy Name and in this way he is saving fallen souls and he is leading them back home, back to Godhead.

I offer my most respectful obeisances to your lotus feet.

Your servant,
Bhakta Karel

Sweden

Dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my most humble obeisances, on this wonderful day. All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to your divine grace!

In my offering to you, I want to stress a few points of my realisation which brings me closer in my relationship with you.

Recently, I heard a lecture from Prabhupada, in which he said: "Actually we are in a dangerous position, in this material world without Krsna, and Krsna's protection." Then in the Srimad Bhagavatam class it was pointed out that one should be always afraid of maya and all her snares. In the Srimad Bhagavatam it is described: "This material world is called the world of death and exists only as a dream due to our attachment to it." So, why should I want to stay here, in this dangerous place "where there is danger at every step?" *padam padam yad vipadam na tesam*.

My only hope and chance is in my connection with you, and the most wonderful thing is, that I have your kind protection and guidance although sometimes I forget it or, being foolish, don't understand it.

*aho mahatman bahu-dosa dusto
'py ekena bhaty esa bhavo gunena
sat-sangam akhyena sukhabahena
krtadya no yena krsa mumuksa*

"... although there are many flaws within this miserable life, there is yet one glory - the association of pure devotees. Cultivate such association. By it our desire for liberation diminishes".

Once one devotee told me: "If you want to serve somebody you must establish a relationship with him." It is a simple fact, but it was very difficult for me to accept it. Indeed, it is a very hard job to be personal. Although I heard and read many times that Krsna is a person, I still don't have this realisation. I'm blind to such a degree that sometimes I must struggle very hard even for such a small thing like speaking to somebody: "Haribol, prabhu how are you today?" In this hopeless condition, I can only pray: "Please help me to have a little brain and strength to be with the devotees in all circumstances." There is no happiness without Krsna and His devotees.

When I look back on my service during the last year, I realise, that due to my bad habits, how difficult it was to act as a devotee does. It is amazing how my material attachments, which I see are deep in my heart, are being cut off. In my last experience, I realised, how powerful is this attachment to the bodily concept of life. Under false identification, with the body and its place of birth, I was thinking: "I'm not born in Sweden. My body belongs to another nation and I can render service only in that particular country." I just wonder how many tests I must pass until I really understand

my position as the eternal servitor of the Lord and with such a pure consciousness ultimately go back home, back to Godhead.

I've had a few ecstatic experiences in my practice of Krsna consciousness - to chant with a pitiful voice, completely smashed before the Deities, due to some mistake or being corrected by other devotees. In such a hopeless position, it is more easy to surrender. And the most ecstatic time is to chant with upraised hands before the Deities, during the kirtan among the devotees full of bliss and happiness. It would be really wonderful if I could keep always this transcendental mood of chanting the holy name.

In conclusion, I want to again beg for your mercy. Please help me to always depend on Krsna and the holy name. Please help me to be always satisfied, in all circumstances, like Prahlada Maharaja, and to be always enthusiastic for the service and for the spreading of this wonderful movement of Srila Prabhupada's, The International Society for Krsna consciousness. Let me never grow old, but stay forever young in Krsna consciousness under your protection like a child following his father.

Let me have only one plan - to serve Krsna.

Let me have only one desire - to satisfy you.

Let me have only one problem - how to become more fixed and steady in devotional service and to follow nicely your instruction.

Trying to be your servant,
Sankarsana Dasa



Dear Guru Maharaja !

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

Again I'm struggling with my pea-brain, to glorify you in the best way. Your divine qualities are for me inconceivable. The way you are presenting Krsna consciousness is so ecstatic. When I am listening to your lectures, it is like putting on these 3 dimensional eye-glasses and just diving into the nectar of a transcendental adventure. You are mercy personified! Simply by your outstanding preaching and travelling, so many people get a chance to hear about and serve Krsna, especially in Eastern Europe, where the circumstances are very poor. But so many devotees are anyway serving Krsna in such an ecstatic mood.

By doing this service, I get a glimpse of how the people really are drowning in material ignorance. It's so sad to see. For them, it's dead serious how the yellow chair fits to



the light apricot curtain with the little red dot's on and that the flower pot with the little pink flowers are standing exactly on the right spot. It's quite fantastic that these kinds of people, who would maybe never take a book, also get a chance to render some devotional service. Of course, I have to stand there playing my role, pretending it's all very important. But most of the time, I'm standing there with my stone heart (slightly bored) and just waiting for the fat wallet to enter the scene, forgetting that it could be me there, buying these things, completely entangled in the illusion of material happiness. I can never ever thank you enough for saving me from this dark hole. I am so lucky to meet you and get a chance to render some menial service to you.

Please give me the intelligence to catch the mercy and let me always be engaged in your service and realize my position as

your eternal servant and never forget it - thank you.
Sundaranayika Devi Dasi

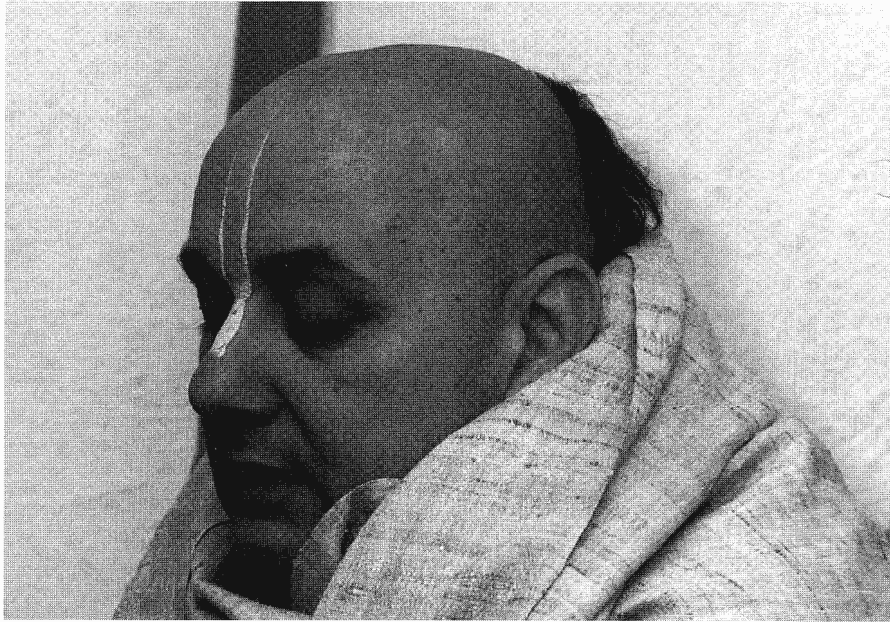


SRI VYASA PUJA



Offerings from
Other Temples





Dear Guru Maharaja,
We offer our obeisances again and again to the lotus feet of our spiritual master, His divine grace Suhotra Swami Maharaja.

You have kindly accepted us as an insignificant part of your transcendental body and have given us shelter and mercy. We can only pray very sincerely for forgiveness for our offences and beg for service at your lotus feet.

Since becoming your servant, you have touched and moved us with your greatness and wisdom. You have given us guidelines and left us to find out how to apply them in our own lives and situations. I am appreciating more and more your transcendental instructions.

On this very auspicious day, we most humbly, offer our obeisances and beg for your blessings.

Your servants,

Padma Sambhava Dasa, Bhaktin Soo Peng, Hanuman Dasa, Krishna Dasa,
and Vamana Dasa (Auckland, New- Zealand)

Other Temples

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine
namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear guru Maharaja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your divine grace and Srila Prabhupada.

I would like to say something nice about you on this Vyasa puja day but I can not, because I am still just a rascal, even after so many years in Krishna Conciseness. Please help me to get rid of my foolishness so that I can serve you properly.

Your servant
Raghupati Dasa (New Srivasangam, Denmark)



My dear Guru Maharaja,
Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa-puja. All glories to your divine grace. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to the whole Guru Parampara.

*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.

*namas te guru-hamsaya kali-prabhava-harine
prabhupada-siksa-vidyadbhuta pravacanena vai*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto you who are the simha-guru and the one who takes away the influence of Kali-yuga by delivering wonderful lectures on the scientific teachings of Srila Prabhupada.

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

I was born in the darkness of ignorance, but my spiritual master has opened my darkened eyes with the torch-light of knowledge. I offer my respectful obeisances unto him.

Other Temples

*mukham karoti vacalam, pangum langhayate girim
yat -krpa tam aham vande, sri gurum dina tarinam*

By the mercy of the spiritual master, a lame man can climb mountains and a dumb man can speak philosophy.

Guru Maharaja, I am simply struck with wonder, at your super-human activities. No ordinary mortal, could do what you are doing every day. You are corresponding with so many disciples, running the Danda conference, writing books, enlightening us with classes, giving darsan's, taking charge of a big GBC-zone, constantly travelling and sometimes you are hardly eating or sleeping at all. This is simply amazing to me. You are the perfect acarya, embodying the perfect example, for all of us to follow, but for me at least, completely impossible to imitate. I have a hard time just to keep up with your tight travelling-schedule, what to speak of when you perform Harinam-Sankirtan for three or five hours in a row, without deteriorating the least in vigor, bliss or enthusiasm. I get very embarrassed, when I am thinking of how much more that I could have done for Krsna, if I had not been so conditioned. right now, I am reading the Transcendental Diary of Hari Sauri Prabhu, and it is just amazing to see, how much he was able to take full advantage of the unique opportunity, of personally travelling with Srila Prabhupada. I wish that I could get just a drop of his good qualities and be able to serve you in a slightly similar way, but I am such a useless case and I am simply wondering why you still want me around. When I first came to you to become your driver, I was especially conditioned, lame, dumb and blind in so many different ways. I only had my Drivers-licence for a couple of months and I was very inexperienced. So many times I committed so many mistakes, that every day I was afraid that now you would have enough of me and would tell me to pack my things and leave. But until now, you have been extremely liberal, merciful, and forbearing with my useless person and have tried to bring me up, to be of some use for Krsna's service. For all this I am most grateful and feel indebted to you. When dealing with a dog, sometimes one has to use a stick. In my case, this has been also necessary from time to time. There are two features of the spiritual master by which he shows his mercy upon the disciple. The club and the Lotus. I generally tend to appreciate only the lotus and live in the constant fear of the club, although I know that your club is just as much the mercy as your lotus is. I would have been much worse off, if you had not taken care of me, and just ignored me instead of taking your precious time on rectifying me. I would have been hopelessly lost, left to sail my own boat without any captain to set out the right course to take. In the beginning, when I was driving you, I would sometimes become totally lost, and fearing your club, I would not stop to check the map. Instead I would just foolishly continue to drive without knowing at all where I was going. At such times you would very mercifully bring forth the club and say for example:

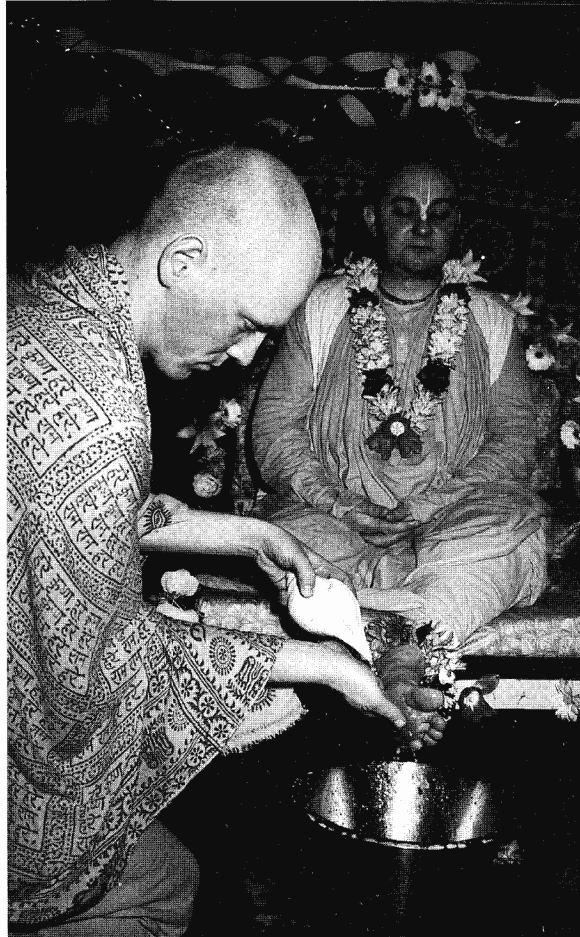
"Varadaraja, I think that you were among those living entities, who when Lord Brahma said that he was now distributing brains, you heard it was grains, and said: No thank you, today is Ekadasi!" At such times, it was very difficult for me to find it

Other Temples

humorous and take it as your speacial mercy, but today I can really appreciate it, because it made me to wake up from my dream-like state of mind and become more serious about finding out the right way to take. At other times, you are blessing me with lotus i.e. when I find a short-cut to the temple, you are expressing your appreciation by saying: "ooooohhee! That is quiet intelligent".

My dear Guru Maharaja, I know that in front of you, I am always acting like a foolish child, but despite my foolishness, I do hope that you continue to bless me with your mercy, either in the form of encouraging words and loving smiles, or in the form of chastisement and corrections. You are my life-line and best well-wisher. Therefore, I remain your's in the service to Krsna.

Your servant,
Varadaraja Dasa



Miracle



Miracle

This is a very ecstatic story which happened in May in Timisoara. We had organized a conference for Guru Maharaja in a big auditorium. The title was very attractive: "The Mystical Experience of the Ancient Veda." A lot of people gathered and everything was O.K. The conference was a real success. Guru Maharaja was perfect as always. The questions followed.

Suddenly, a lady of middle-age, stood up and came in front of Guru Maharaja. She looked determined, but at the same time conscious of the unusual moment of time. She spoke with a loud and clear voice, so everybody from the audience could hear her:

"I am going to tell you something amazing," she said, "something which happened to my friend. A week ago, my friend became paralysed, all of a sudden, without any apparent cause, and she was taken to the hospital. Later, she narrated to me what I'm telling you now. She was laying on the bed, without being able to move at all. She was wondering what had happened to her, and like an obsession she was repeating all the time: "Oh! God, help me!" Suddenly, in front of her bed, appeared a strange and completely unknown man. He was dressed in long robes, and had a mustard-colored cloth wrapped around his shoulders. His head was shaved and he was standing with hands leaning against the bed's rim. At that moment, she became so frightened and rose from the bed, running out of the hospital room. Then, she realized that she was completely cured.

"When my friend told me this story, I remembered that I'd seen a man resembling her description on some posters in town, announcing a Vedic spiritual conference. When my friend looked at these posters, she recognized you immediately. Now, she is also too scared, and couldn't come to your conference, but allowed me to tell the story. She doesn't understand what's happening with her."

Can you imagine the effect of this story on the audience? We all, devotees and non-devotees, remained in complete silence. That lady was so spontaneous and natural, that even the most skeptical of the skeptics couldn't doubt her sincerity. Our amazement increased when we found out that this whole story happened a week ago, when Guru Maharaja was not yet in Romania. He arrived only one day before the conference.

Guru Maharaja had listened to her silently, and then asked the lady to come with her friend to our temple in Timisoara. Indeed, they both came to our Sunday program. The lady healed of paralysis was still in a state of amazement. Her name is Magdalena Plesea. She is married and has a family. You can see her in the nearby picture. The garland around her neck is from Guru Maharaja. She was still very scared, and couldn't understand what was going on with her, or why all these things had happened to her. Everything was so strange and not related to her cultural background. A person to whom, until that time, the Vedic and Indian culture was completely alien. But, a person who believed in God.... I think any other comments would be superfluous.

Narrator: Murari Krsna dasa

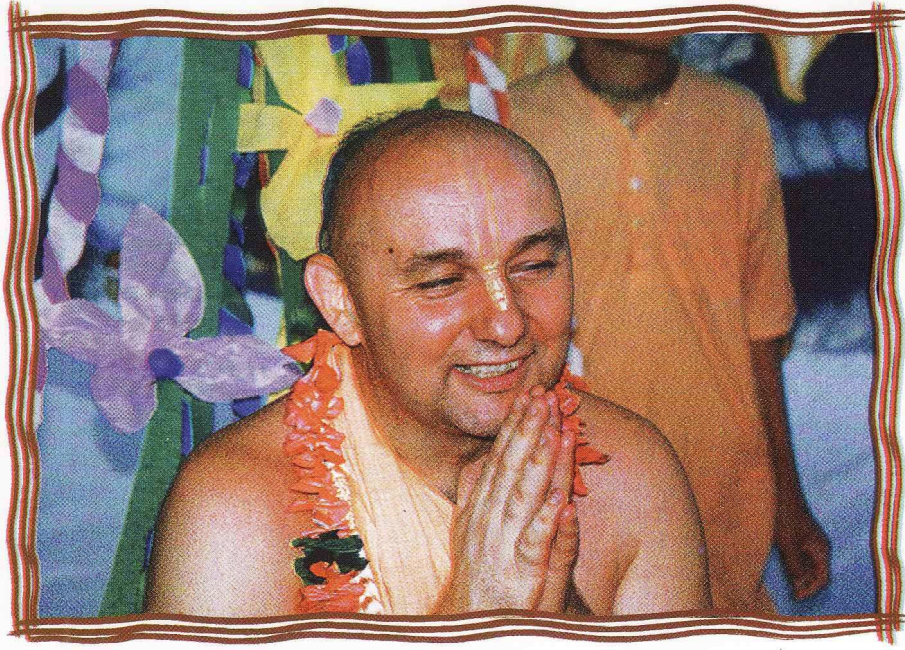
SRI VYASA PUJA



Sri Sri
Guruvastaka



Sri Sri Gurv-astaka 1



samsara-davanala-lidha-loka
tranaya karunya-ghanaghanatvam
praptasya kalyana-gunarnavasya
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.

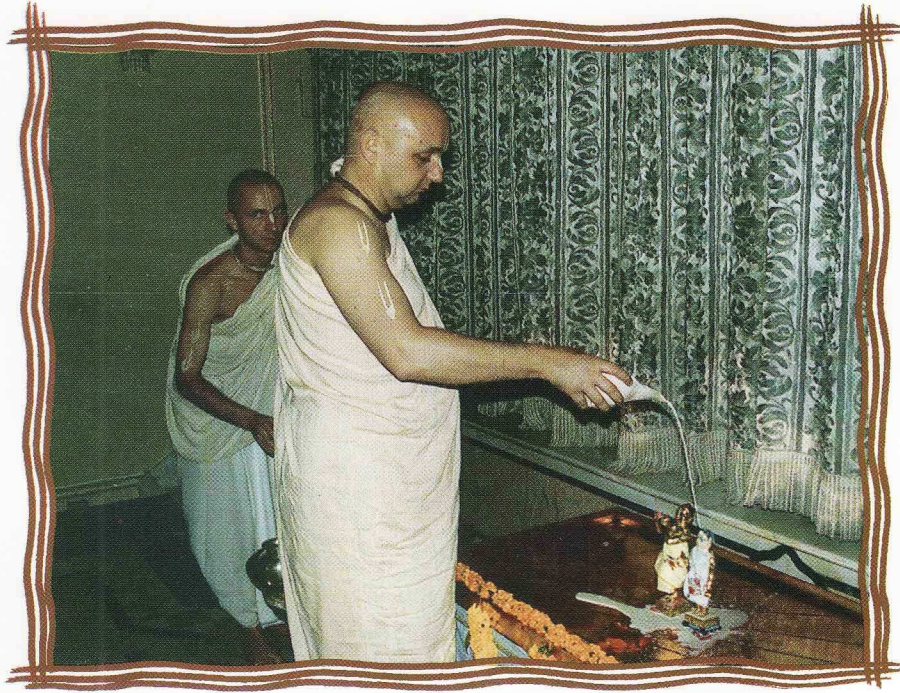
Sri Sri Gurv-astaka 2



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 sankirtana 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.

Sri Sri Gurv-astaka 3



sri vigharadhana-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 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.

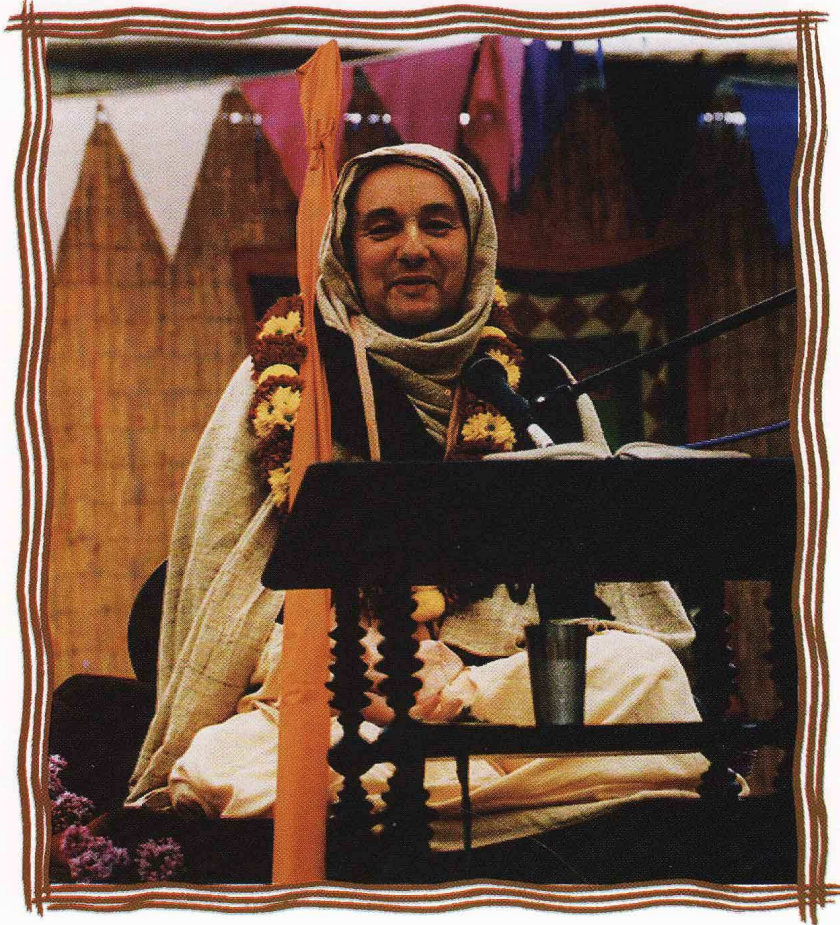
Sri Sri Gurv-astaka 4



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 Kṛṣṇa four kinds of delicious food (analysed 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, who is an ocean of auspicious qualities.

Sri Sri Gurv-astaka 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 formes. The Spiritual master aspires to relish these at every moment. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

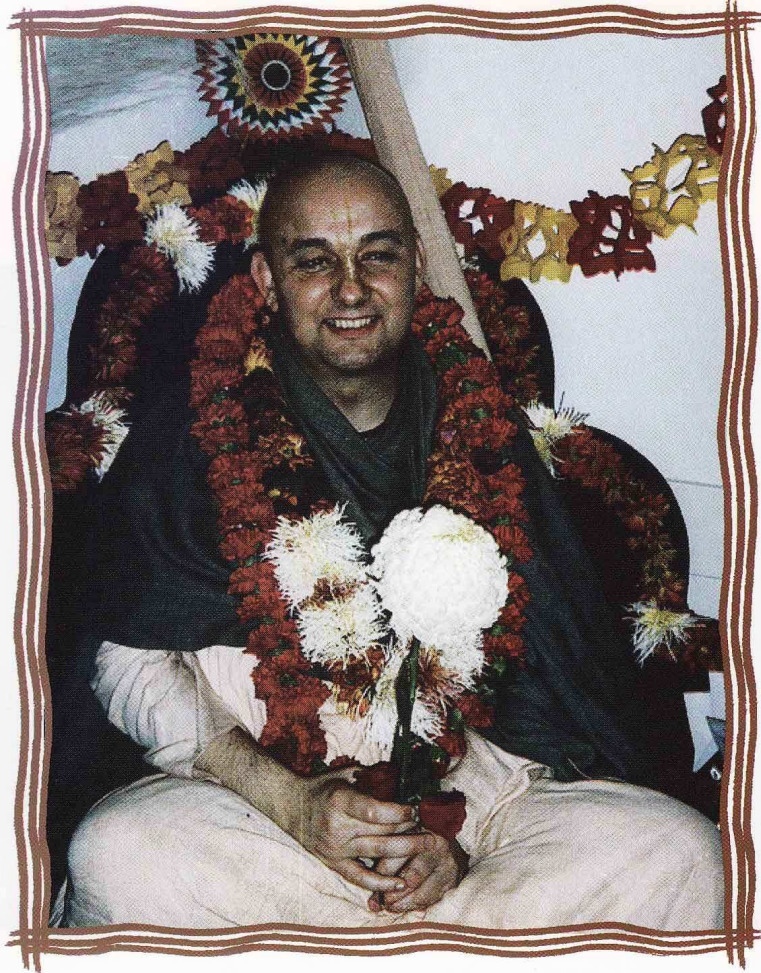
Sri Sri Gurv-astaka 6



nikunja-yuno rati-keli-siddhyai
ya yalibhir yuktir-apeksaniya
tatrati-dakṣyaḍ ati-vallabhāṣya
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 Kṛṣṇa's conjugal loving affairs within the groves of Vṛndavana. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the Lotus feet of such a Spiritual master, who is an ocean of auspicious qualities.

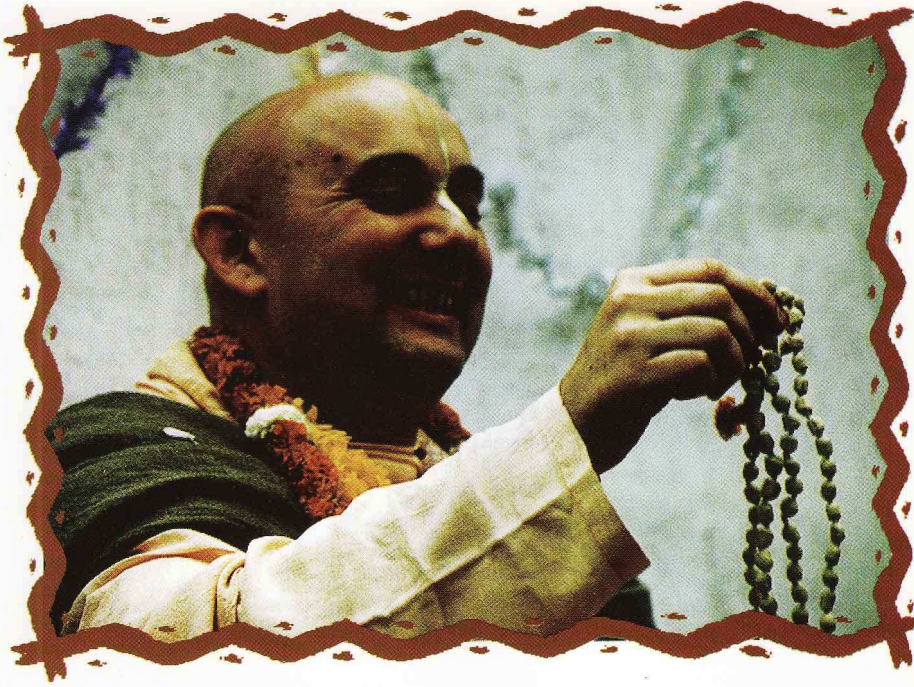
Sri Sri Gurv-astaka 7



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 (Kṛṣṇa).

Sri Sri Gurv-astaka 8



yasya prasadaḥ bhagavat-prasado
yasya prasadan na gatiḥ kuto 'pi
dhyāyaṁ stuvāṁs tasya yasaḥ tri-saṁdhyāṁ
vande guroḥ śrī-carānaravindam

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.

Sri Guru Carana padma, kevala bhakati sadma



The Lotusfeet of our Spiritual Master are the only
Way by which to attain pure devotional service