





His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami

Vyasa Puja

2014









‘ 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 bonafide representative of Sri Hari [Kṛṣṇa]. ’

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"On My Order"

Srila Prabhupada, Bombay, 4th April 1974

So in whatever position you are, you try to understand the science of Kṛṣṇa. Then you become guru. That is Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission.

yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa
āmāra ājñāya guru hañā tāra' ei deśa
[Cc. Madhya 7.128]

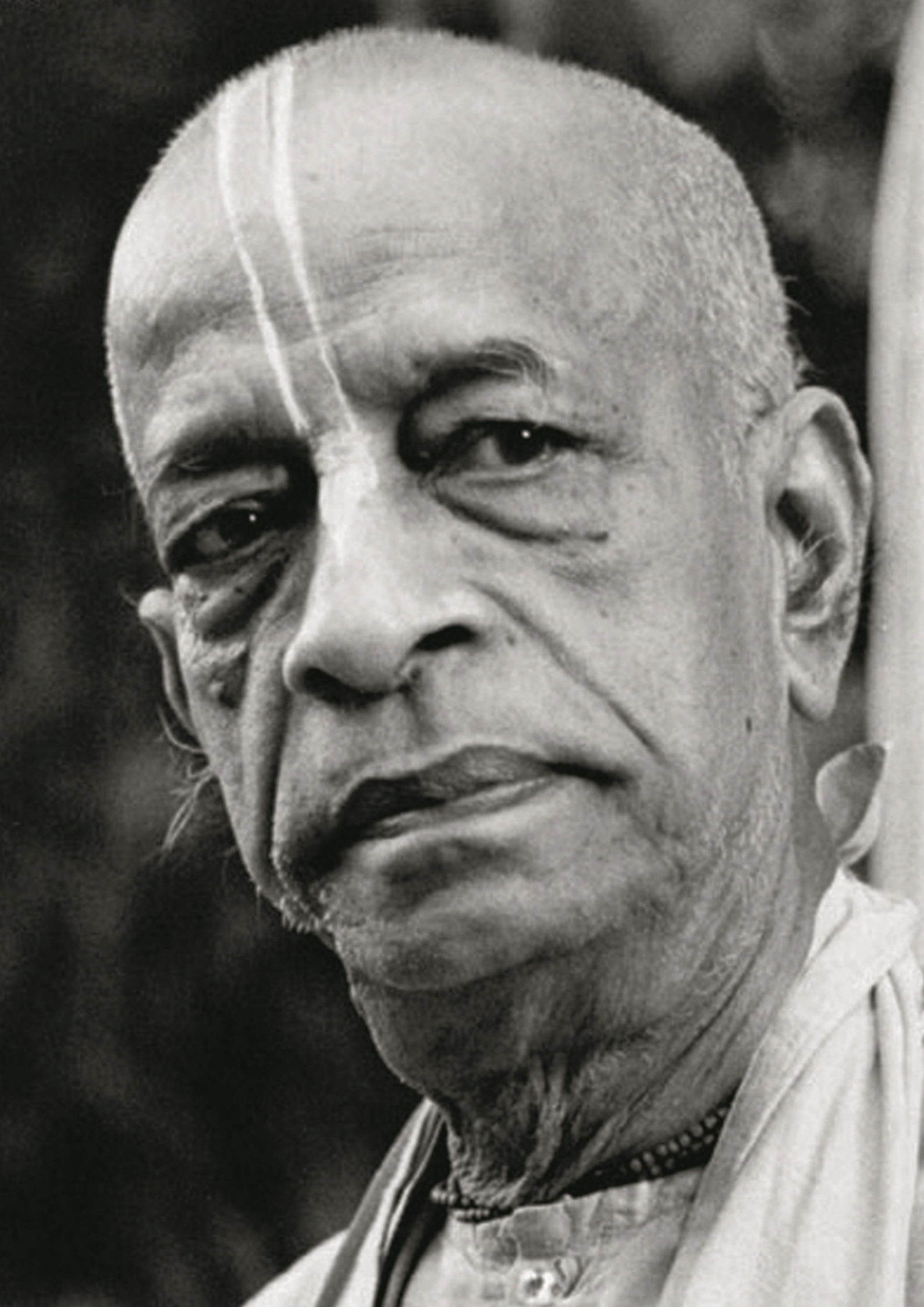
This is Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mission. He says, "You become a spiritual master." "How? I have no qualification. No. You just accept my order?" "So what is your order, sir?" *Yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa: [Cc. Madhya 7.128]* "You simply speak the instruction of Kṛṣṇa whoever you meet. Then you become a spiritual master."

So actually it is happening. We are not wonderful men. But our only business is that we are speaking only the same thing as Kṛṣṇa has spoken. That's all. There is no magic. This is the magic. If you adulterate nonsensically like a rascal, then you cannot become a spiritual master. If you simply follow what Kṛṣṇa has spoken, then you become spiritual master. Very simple thing. It doesn't require education. You can hear from your spiritual master what has Kṛṣṇa said.

It doesn't require even literacy. There are many great personalities, saintly persons. My Guru Mahārāja's Guru Mahārāja, he was illiterate, Gaura Kiśora dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja. He could not sign even his name. But my Guru Mahārāja was the best scholar of his time. He accepted him as guru. So this is the process, that *yei kṛṣṇa - tattva - vettā sei guru haya [Cc. Madhya 8.128]*. That is the business of every Indian. And Caitanya Mahāprabhu therefore asking,

bhārata-bhūmite haila manuṣya-janma
yāra janma sārthaka kari' kara para - upakāra [Cc. Ādi 9.41]

Indians are meant for para-upakāra, because outside India they are in darkness. But unfortunately, Indians are now imitating the western kind of life. It is very regrettable.You have to make your life successful by reading Bhagavad-Gītā and preach the truth all over the world. Then world will be happy and you will be happy. This is required. *Yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa [Cc. Madhya 7.128]*. That is recommended here, *evaṁ jñātvā kṛtaṁ karma pūrvair api mumukṣubhiḥ*. This kind of business can be done by whom? Mumukṣubhiḥ, not ordinary men. Those who are aspiring after liberation. Those who are thinking of stopping this nonsense business of repetition of birth and death, for them. They are not ordinary men. *Mumukṣubhiḥ*.



The Meaning of Vyasa Puja

Vasudeva das

At the time of initiation a disciple takes a vow to follow the Guru. He accepts him as the captain of the ship of human existence to cross over the ocean of nescience.

The spiritual master also makes a commitment to take his disciple back to Godhead by carefully imparting instructions according to guru, sadhu and sastra.

When both spiritual master and disciple keep their commitment to each other, an intimate bond forms between them, and the favorable breezes of Krishna's blessings start to blow. Then the ship plies smoothly, even though the waves of the ocean can be turbulent at times.

Throughout all phases of our human existence, with its innumerable challenges, the Guru is with us. If we are fortunate, we can approach him directly for guidance. In his physical absence, he is present by his instructions. Even in death he does not leave us. The fortunate disciple can appreciate the guidance of a bonafide spiritual master as the greatest blessing, because by following him we are always safe, in life or death.

Yet sometimes the commitment to follow Guru feels like a burden to us. The heavy load of discipleship, with all its restraints and demands, is at times so hard to carry, that we want to escape the bond, and be 'free' again. Many choose to drop the burden, and go overboard.

However, the bond still stands, because neither can we withdraw our promise, nor does the merciful guru let go of his beloved disciple. His compassionate nature does not allow him. Only in very rare circumstances does the spirituamaster reject a disciple, otherwise he is always ready to lift him up.

This is perhaps the burden of the spiritual master– to accept those who likely won't keep their commitment to him. Beyond the pain of disappointment, betrayal, and even blame from disciples to compensate for their own failures, the guru also physically suffers for the sinful actions of his students.

{ When both spiritual master and disciple keep their commitment to each other, an intimate bond forms between them, and the favorable breezes of Krishna's blessings start to blow. }

But a bonafide spiritual master does not care for his own happiness. He knows the difficulties of discipleship in the kingdom of maya. He feels for his disciples. Compelled by infinite compassion, he continuously reaches out to nurture them, to give them courage. He tirelessly works on behalf of the Supreme Lord to help them keep their commitment, which is their ticket back to Godhead. Because of his selfless service for the Lord's mission of mercy, he is most dear to Him.

When the disciple comes to understand the compassionate nature of his spiritual master, and how dear he is to the Lord, his heart softens. The commitment of the spiritual master stands so tall, that the disciple can only be humbled by it.

When there is genuine affection for Guru as our ever well-wisher, we naturally want to please him, and we do not want to act in any way that is displeasing to him.

The Vyasa-puja is not a formal social convention, but a facility given to help us deepen our love, gratitude and commitment. *Sri guru-carane rati, ei sei uttama gati.* The supreme perfection of life is loving attachment to the spiritual master.

If after observing Vyasa-puja we have increased our love and commitment to Guru, we have spent our time in the most valuable way – because when there is love for Guru, the sometimes heavy burden of discipleship becomes a light load to carry.

{ The supreme perfection of life is loving attachment to the spiritual master. }

Ādikartā Dāsa

nama om visnu-pádáya krsna prestháya bhú-tale
śrímate kadamba kánana svámin iti námine

nama om visnu-pádáya krsna-prestháya bhú-tale
guru dása jayadvaita svámin iti námine

nama om visnu-pádáya krsna-prestháya bhú-tale
śrímate bhaktivedánta-svámin iti námine

namas te sárasvate deve gaura-váni-pracárine
nirviśesa-śúnyavádi-páścátya-deśa-tárine

Lieber Guru Maharaja,

Nehmen Sie bitte meine achtungsvollen
Ehrerbietungen im Staub Ihren LotosfūḶen an.
Alle Ehre sei an Ihrer Heiligkeit.
Alle Ehre sei an Sri Gauranga.
Alle Ehre sei an Ihram Guru Maharaja
His Holiness Serial Guru Dasia
Jayadvaita Swami.
Alle Ehre sei an Serial Prabhupada.

Heute, dank Ihrer Grundlosen
Barmherzigkeit, der Barmherzigkeit
meines spirituellen Meisters Srila Guru
Maharaja Kadamba Kanana Swami,
habe Ich erneut die Mṭglichkeit mein
Offering zu āuḶern. Denn es findet Ihre
Vyasa-puja statt. Diese āuḶerst
glūckverheiḶende Begebenheit ist im
Grunde ein Feiertag fūr die ganze Welt.

om ajnána-timirándhasya jnánánjana-šalákayá
caksur unmílítam yena tasmai šrí-gurave namaha

Ich bin in der dunkelsten Unwissenheit
geboren und mein spiritueller Meister
ṭffnete mir die Augen mit einer Fackel
der Erkenntnis. Ich bringe Ihm meine
achtungsvolle Ehrerbietungen dar.

Wer ist der spirituelle Meister? Was bedeutet Er für uns und die ganze Menschheit? Man ist eigentlich fast unfähig die genügend erfassende Antwort zum Ausdruck zu bringen. Man kann hier als eine teilweise ÄuḶerung der Eigenschaften eines echten spirituellen Meisters beispielweise manche Zitationen, die in einem Videodokument vom Srila Prabhupada, der von Seinen Schülern hergestellt wurde, ertṭnten und die zur Kenntnis bringen.

Weil man durch die Augen die Anwesenheit der Überseele nicht wahrnehmen kann, aus Ihrem unbegrenzten Mitleid erscheint Sie vor uns in der Gestalt eines reinen geweihten, spirituellen Meister. Solcher spirituelle Meister ist demselben Verehren wert sowie Krishna, denn in seinem Verhalten sich findet man keine andere Taten als den liebevollen Dienst dem Herrn.

Alle offenbarten Schriften erklären, dass dank einem bloḶem Augenblick in der Gesellschaft des reinen geweihten, ist es dem Menschen mṭglich den allen Erfolg zu erreichen. Der Augenblick ist der grṭḶte Schatz der menschlichen Gesellschaft.

Das Anschauen des spirituellen Meisters mit Ergebung und Ehrfurcht, ist die Vollkommenheit des Sehvermṭgens.
Das berühren seiner Lotus FuḶens, ist die Vollkommenheit der Fühlung.
Das lobpreisen seiner Eigenschaften ist die rechte Tat der Zunge.
Der Kṭrper, das Gemüt und die Sinne des reinen geweihten, die nur für das erfreuen des.
Herrn handeln, sind transzendental und es kümmert sich der Herr Selbst um sie
Weil sich der reine geweihte seiner ewigen natürlichen Lage bewusst ist, befindet er sich im Samadhi, auf der hṭchsten Stufe der Vollkommenheit des Yoga
Er ist voll in hingebungsvollen Dienst vertieft und so kümmert er sich nicht was mit den äuḶerlichen Kṭrper geschieht.

So ein dem Herrn vertrauliche geweihte kann in jedem Augenblick eine besondere Barmherzigkeit des Herrn wahrnehmen. Die reine geweihten sind von sich selbst die Pilgerorte. Durch ihre Reinheit sind sie die dauerhaften Gesellschafter des Herrn und daher sind sie befähigt die Pilgerorte zu reinigen. Ein reine geweihte vergisst nie auf keinen Augenblick den Herrn und Der Herr vergisst nie Seinen geweihten. Das ist nur eine sehr kurze Einsicht, in das unendliche Verzeichnis der transzendentalen Eigenschaften des echten spirituellen Meister.

Mit grṭḶter Dankbarkeit und äuḶerst demütigtest sollen die LotosfüḶe des unseren spirituellen Meisters, Srila Guru Maharaja Kadamba Kanana Swami, ununterbrochen verehrt werden sein und daher verneige ich mich stets erneut vor Ihnen und bringe Ihnen, mit herzlichen Glückwunsch bei der Gelegenheit Ihrer Vyasa-puja, meine achtungsvollen Ehrerbietungen dar.

In Ihren Dienst Ihr ewiger Schuldner und unansehnlicher Schüller

Ādikartā Dāsa

Ānanda Vrindāvan Dāsi

Dearest Maharaj,

Please accept my humble obeisance and best wishes for your birthday. All glories to Srila Prabhupad! All glories to Bhakti-tirtha Maharaj! All glories to You!

It is my great joy and honor that I am able to write this birthday offering. I reflect with amazement at my immense fortune, having come into blessed contact with you. How can I express my gratefulness? You accepted me as your own, very graciously, very generously, although you hardly knew me at all – still your desire to be there for others, to assist whenever needed, was stronger than all the other concerns, and that just purchased me forever. You have that quality of vaisnava generosity, of a large heart softened by constant touch of Sri Krsna.

Actually, I admire all your qualities, because you are like a deep, vast ocean and it is so enlivening and enchanting to be on that shore and experience drops of nectar falling on my lucky head, making me a better person for good. It is so easy to love and respect you, it is just natural! How can I repay what you have given me… how?

In fact, you have told me how in the very beginning, while standing next to Srila Prabhupad, a simple but all encompassing answer: "Siksa, diksa – these are words only, you know… Let's do something together for Srila Prabhupad!" And that's it – a lifetime instruction, full of potency, full of bliss. I am somehow again discovering that utmost beauty of the transcendental system, and how great personalities make it possible for us, small ones, to fit in as well. Many times I am thinking how Krsna must be like, when His devotees are that lovable, that dear to heart, that beautiful in their extraordinary qualities and single focused devotion.

I reflect how my Gurudev has heard my prayers and sent on my path your precious company, and then you, from the other side, have opened a whole new world before my eyes – a beautiful, joyful world, full of hope, adventure, encouragement and deep spiritual aspirations and longings. When I think of both my Gurudev and yourself, I cannot but recall that beautiful verse which says it all, by Srila Ragunath das Gosvami:

{ You have that quality of vaisnava generosity, of a large heart softened by constant touch of Sri Krishna. }

nama-srestam manum api saci-putram atra svarupam
rupam tasyagrajam uru-purim mathurim gostavatim
radha-kundam giri-varam aho radhika-madhavasam
prapto yasya prathita-krpaya sri-gurum tam nato 'smi

"I bow down to my blessed Sri Guru, by whose causeless grace I have received the greatest name in existence – the holy name of Krsna, the divine mantra, the service to the son of Mother Saci, the association of Svarup Damodar, Rupa Gosvami and his elder brother Sanatan Gosvami, the supreme abode of Mathura, the blissful abode of Vraja, the divine Radha-kunda, the best of mountains Govardhana, and the desire within my heart for attaining Sri Sri Radhika and Madhava's loving service."

Thank you for being exactly who you are. Thank you for working so hard, so hard, in the past as well as now, and are always willing to do more, to offer the best to Krsna and Prabhupad, and to serve all others and touch as many lives as possible by example of successful life in Krsna consciousness.

From all of my heart I wish you a happiest birthday and to see fulfillment of all your desires. I also wish you a good health and pride in your disciples. May we honor you to the best of our abilities, always deeply appreciative and grateful.

With so much respect and affection,

Your servant,

Ānanda Vrindāvan Dāsi

Anasūyā Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.
All glories to you!

Guru Maharaja, this year you told me that you were not poetic, but on this auspicious day of your appearance I would like to express that to me your whole life is a great big Krishna conscious poem and of the best kind- one that never ends and is filled with incomparable devotion, the Holy Name and of wonderful pastimes with devotees and journeys to Vrndavana-dhama...I am forever wanting to hear more of it.

What is the use of a poem if it is written by an unworthy person? And in comparison, how can one possibly measure the wonderfulness of a "living" poem, which is constructed purely by the existence of a great soul, a mahatma, who writes true glorification of Krishna with the meters, rhythms and rhymes of genuine ecstasy and devotion?

A mundane poet, she may speak of Krishna in carefully composed rhyme and even embellish glorification with sweet metaphor and detail, yet if there are no nuances of truth within her devotion, what is the use of her words?

Indeed, in Caitanya Caritamrta it is written that, “Only hearing the words of a devotee [such as yourself] fully absorbed in ecstatic love causes great happiness".

I know for a fact, Guru Maharaja, that I am not the only one- there are countless individuals who are endlessly inspired by you and your magnificent "living poem"- and it is the kind of inspiration that thankfully keeps on going; burning like a small bright fire in the hearts of all your disciples, well-wishers and associates.

Every morning we sing:

mahaprabho kirtana nrtya gita, vaditra madyan manaso rasena
romanca kampasru taranga bhajo, vande guru 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 a 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" and to me, Guru Maharaja, you are always the epitome of this verse and I am forever thankful because without you being my spiritual master, and such a spiritual master, I truly do not know where I would be and dread to think of what I would be doing.

You often say that guru means heavy. This heaviness is indeed needed to shake this wayward soul out of her gross, misconceptions. Jiva Jiva Jago! Wake up sleeping soul! In this way, Guru Maharaja you recently taught me two things: that by my own choice I am a fool and that by my own choice I can courageously be a devotee and that even if I have nothing, like absolutely nothing- no reputation, no money, no family, not even a place to stay- I have your instruction, your chastisement and when I deserve it your blessing and the endless depths of your care and that is the sole reason why I am still here among all these great vaisnavas.

So thank you for being poetic Guru Maharaja, for being your magnificent, transcendental self and showering us all with the waves of your pure devotion and more personally for consistently holding a mirror to my face and exposing my inadequacies at the same time as showing me a better way.

Not long ago you told me that the only time I am to say "I will try..." is on my deathbed, so now Guru Maharaja I will not try to do anything but I am making it my responsibility to "make a good go of it" as they say in Australia (down under!) "do you proud".

The debt to the spiritual master is so great that it can never be repaid, yet one can begin by following his instructions. I am no brahmacari and I am no brahmana, but somehow Guru Maharaja in the way that you see fit, I must join that great line of your sincere disciples and well-wishers going back home (and taking the whole world with them).

If you think that I am capable Guru Maharaja, and that eventually I will be truly Krishna conscious, with two feet in the spiritual world, fool as I am, then with your blessings I will. In fact, only with your guidance Guru Maharaja can I do anything...

But as you know as well as I, these are all just nice words - thoughts even - and you will see Guru Maharaja when I do it - when I do something valuable, and make a real contribution.

They say that there are many who can take you back to Godhead, that everyone qualified can, but I am absolutely sure Guru Maharaja that you are my only spiritual master and I pray that for endless lifetimes I will be able to serve you in your association.

Thank you for having confidence in me Guru Maharaja,
Thank you for understanding,
Thank you for remembering me and looking after me in endless ways - some I don't even know of.

Thank you for appearing here.
Thank you for everything, from the bottom of my heart...
All glories, all glories to you!

Hare Krishna,

Your disciple,
Anasūyā Devi Dāsī

(Bhaktin) Annie

Dear Maharaja,

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

It is a miracle that you have come into my life. It is a miracle that I am now seeking shelter of you.

I could have gone on for many more births trying to find a place to belong to. What a relief to finally be able to say: "I belong to you and to Krishna!" What a relief to know that none of my many disqualifications can separate me from the breadth and depth of your mercy. What a relief that I am no longer alone, and that my home is your lotus feet.
Dear Maharaja, despite having your association for so long, my journey with you is only just beginning. Thank you for not giving up on me. Thank you for your persistence that makes me trust that, no matter what, I'll always be on your list.

The trip to Radhadesh was such an enlightening experience for me. In that serene yet blissful environment, I was able to appreciate a little more how eager you are to bring all of us closer to Krishna. It was there that I saw how you genuinely care for your disciples and how they care about you. I see how deep your compassion is and how personally involved you are in all our lives - a true friend and father to so many.

I pray that someday I will be able to properly appreciate the great gifts you have given me. May I serve you eternally in the ways that please you most?

Your aspiring servant,
(Bhaktin) Annie

{ I see how deep your compassion is and how personally involved you are in all our lives - a true friend and father to so many. }

Antardvīp Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please let me offer You my humble obeisances.
All Glories to Srila Prabhupada and Jayadvaita Swami!
All Glories to You!

With all my heart, I wish You all the best at this opportunity of Your Vyasa Puja. I am very grateful that I am allowed to take part in such an auspicious celebration and that I can help a little with my negligible contribution my wonderful God siblings with glorifying You our kind and loving father. Without any doubt You are pleasing Lord Gauranga to a maximum extent and He is already bestowing all His mercy and blessings upon You. What value then have wishes of such insignificant fallen soul as me? Still, please kindly accept this offering as a pitiful attempt to express my gratitude and respect for You.

While listening to Your lectures daily I'm fascinated how much knowledge You've acquired, and that, how You sometimes say, there is even a lot more to learn. With my poor memory and slow thinking, such mental capacity, which You manifest, is simply unimaginable for me. With my dull mind I cannot even remember what I have just read or heard few minutes ago. But You are able to recall and explain the slightest details of our philosophy, cite slokas, tell stories from scriptures, present practical examples or enlightening and humorous anecdotes from daily life. You know the answer for every question. I am often amazed how deep Your knowledge is. How is this possible? Pure devotee has pure intelligence which comes from Krishna. The Bhagavad-Gita (10.10) states:

tesāṁ satata-yuktānām
bhajatā prīti-pūrvakam
dadāmi buddhi-yoga tam
yena mām upayānti te

"To those who are constantly devoted to serving Me with love, I give the understanding by which they can come to Me." Krishna says: "One who is satata-yuktā, constantly engaged in My bhajana with prīti, with love, I give him pure intelligence."

{ Without any doubt You are pleasing Lord Gauranga to a maximum extent and He is already bestowing all His mercy and blessings upon You. }

Dear Guru Maharaja, I still have so many material attachments and I'm constantly engaged not in Krishna's bhajana but in various nonsense activities. I'm so much covered with low qualities and my intelligence is everything else but not pure. With such limited capacity of my intellect and knowledge, I cannot find an appropriate way of expressing my gratitude for everything what You do for us. I can just offer You that little insignificant service which I am able to perform in my wretched condition. Please bless me that my service always expands and my surrender to You only increases.

Your thankful servant,

Antardvīp Dāsa

Arundhatī Devi Dāsī

Hare Krishna dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances.
All glories to your Lotus feet.
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami!

Another year has passed by and luckily I had the possibility to get a short dharsan before we left the Holy Dham-Mayapur.

The last year Istvan and I put all our endeavour to develop the Govindas Restaurant in Gṭteborg. The preaching in our centre is cause of different reasons not so intense. At least we could help to spread Srila Prabhupada mission here in Sweden by distributing prasadam! Our 5 Christmas tables were really very successful and the sankirtan devotees from Hungary helped to distribute thousands of flyers in the city centre. With the Christmas tables we reached all kinds of people, it was really a great atmosphere!

I personally feel sorry for not doing better in my saddhana and the japa! I ask for your blessings for improving my spiritual practice and following your instructions, which you give in your lectures. Please give me your mercy that I will be able to be a better disciple and serve you better.

Unfortunately I cannot come to your Vyasa Puja this year because I am expecting and the travelling is right now too risky. I really hope to get the possibility to have more contact with you and devotees.

Yours

Arundhatī Devi Dāsī

Bahulāśva Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja!

Please accept my humble obesiances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami.
All glories to you

My meditation is very much concentrated on devotional service. I just think of how I can make my life favorable for that purpose, how I best can support and have strength to continue that through my whole life. Strength comes from guru and parampara by following their instructions, so I am very concerned to have your protection in that way. And I know you are my well-wisher all the time.

So I think we have to serve although we may have so many disqualifications. Although our capacity is small, although our intelligence is little, still we have to serve on that strength of faith that comes from guru.

In this spiritual path we make so many mistakes, but actually there is just one maha mistake that we have done, and that is that we have left Krishna although he loves us and we had a loving relation with him. But we should not look at our mistake rather we should fill our lives with devotional service. Or as you use to say fill the well with stones and sand of devotional service until there is no more place for material attachment. So I will continue this path and I don't want to stop half ways.

We can't be satisfied until we are fully engaged in devotional service. We don't have to change our self, just our orientation. If our consciousness is absorbed in how we shall do our service, or how we shall make progress, or support our devotional life, then we are liberated already. I just want to be an instrument to you and guru parampara, and stay in the association of devotees, trying my best to cooperate with them.

Your servant,

Bahulāśva Dāsa

{ We can't be satisfied until we are fully engaged in devotional service. }

Bali Mardan Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami.

I am still listening to your classes and I get inspiration to carry on in my Krishna Consciousness further. Without the spiritual master one does not make any real spiritual progress. I am amazed by your determination to preach and spread Krishna Consciousness in spite of so many difficulties like bad health.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in the UK soon.

Your humble servant,

Bali Mardan Dāsa

{ Without the spiritual master one does not make any real spiritual progress. }

Bhadra Balarām Dāsa

Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami.
All glories to your Lotus feet.

Where to begin!!!

This chance that I have had been given I really got to see the real and true Kadamba Kanana Swami. Maharaja you were the most loving, personal, kind, caring and the most sweetest person I have ever met. Thank you very much for showing me this wonderful soul that you are. (And the hard side well I say leave it in the hard side, but even then still the most soft).

There was this one time when Pradyumna was with us in Mayapur and he had a meeting the day before you, so he had taken the recorder, and the next day you had a meeting, so you wanted the recorder back. So the next morning after puja I had called Pradyumna and asked him, “Where is the recorder?” And he said, “I gave it to Maharaja.” So I cut the call and go to Maharaja and said, “He said he gave it to you.” You said, “No, no he didn’t, just check if this flaming Pradyumna left it on the bed or something.” And we didn’t find it, I called Pradyumna again and said, “Maharaja said you didn’t give it to him, where is it?” I said, “Please check in your house.” And he takes his bag as he said, “Oh it is in my bag.” And I’m like,
” Oh Krishna.”

I go to the room again and open the door very slowly just to find you searching like a mad man, and all I do is stand there very quietly don’t know how to say he has the recorder after watching you search like that, then you go, “Do you have the recorder do you? Do you? And I say, “Yes Maharaja it was in his bag.” You were like, “This flaming Prayumna how can he be so crazy? Oh you two DEMONS!”

And also there was this one time,

I think you might have come back from Noida and the next morning you wanted to do puja late so you left a note on your door saying you wanted to do puja late. Usually we would do puja at six. So I came to the room at seven and knocked on the door, and you never answered. Then I said to myself, “Okay he must be tired when he gets up we can do puja.” You ended up getting up at seven thirty and immediately opening the door. And the first thing you said was, “You stupid bum, why didn’t you knock? “And I replied,”I did, you did not answer.” And then you said, “Well you should have knocked until I got up.” Then I said, “Well what if you said, “Get out of here you rascal.”

Then I came into the room and you laughed and said it would have been one of those things. So I sat to do puja and began to make the chandan and you said to me, “You do not even repent.” Then I said, “Well once you said that saying sorry doesn’t help, so I was trying to think of a way to say sorry, and in my mind I want to please you by dressing Giriraj very beautifully.” But anyway, I said, “Well I am trying to think of how to say sorry.” And then you said, “I am four rounds behind because of you, what shall I do to you?” And I said, “Get up and kick me.” And you at once got up and said, “You rascal,” and kicked me. I thought to myself and said, “Wow what mercy,” and laughed when you kicked me.

I hope to have this chance once again and this time I hope to be a better servant.

Thank you for all
You have done a lot for me and,
You basically “Raised me up to more than I can be”.
Thank you.
I pray to have you as my master life after life.
If been grateful had and action I will definitely act in such a way.
But I really do appreciate what you have done.

Your Most Fallen Servant,

Bhadra Balarām Dāsa

Bhagavati Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

Every morning when I wake up, I think of you, my Guru Maharaja, because without your grace I would not be waking up at such an early time to chant my rounds. After I've bathed and dressed and I am walking to the temple, I think of you, my Guru Maharaja, because it is by your grace that I am able to live in this wonderful place, surrounded by so many amazing devotees.

Then, when I sit down to chant my early morning rounds I think of you, my Guru Maharaja, for you are also chanting your early morning rounds somewhere and you have inspired me to do the same. When I go to Mangala Arati and I sing the samsara prayers, I think of you, my Guru Maharaja, because it is by your grace that I am saved from burning fire of material existence, and it is by pleasing you that I will get Krishna's grace. Then when I do my morning worship I think of you, my Guru Maharaja, because it is only because of your grace that I have developed a desire to welcome salagrama sila in my home.

During the day, when I do my service, I think of you, my Guru Maharaja, because it is by your grace that I am able to do this wonderful service for Sri Sri Radha Gopinatha, Srila Prabhupada and the devotees instead of having to serve a karmi boss in exchange for money.

At the end of the day, when I am ready to go to sleep, I think of you, my Guru Maharaja, because it's by your grace that I was able to spend this entire day in the service of the Lord instead of in the service of the Lords material energy.

Dear Guru Maharaja, my entire existence is made of your grace. Without it there would be nothing to live for, nothing to aspire for; without it, I would be a useless, hopeless wretch.

Your ever-grateful servant,

Bhagavati Devi Dāsī

{ Every morning when I wake up, I think of you, my Guru Maharaja, because without your grace I would not be waking up at such an early time to chant my rounds. }

Bharadvāja Dāsa

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami.

With deep respect and humility, I bow at a dust of Your lotus feet.
All glories to Your Divine Grace.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Your spiritual master Jayadvaita Swami.
All glories to all devotees of Krishna.

Please let me thank You, by this offering, and express my deep reverence to You on the occasion of Your Vyasa Puja, for that You have given me a new hope and that You have penetrated deeply into my heart. By strength of Your own example and preaching, where You have sown precious seed of devotional service and that You have taught me how to take care of it to evolve to a plant of devotional service. Your sacrifices for our rescue are the most valuable gifts that I can get from You. Thank You many times for this perfect inspiration on which base even I could progress in Krishna Consciousness.

I hope that, by sincere following of your instructions, you will be pleased. Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami, please give me your blessing that I could henceforth continue in my devotional service, distributing prasadam at Govinda`s, and so I could become a servant of your servant.

Thank You. Srila Prabhupada ki-jay.

Your insignificant servant,

Bharadvāja Dāsa

{ Your sacrifices for our rescue are the most valuable gifts that I can get from You. }

Brhat-mrdanga Dāsa

"What can I say in the English way,
that won't make the value go away.
It would make it cheap if I tried to
speak
and reveal the contents of my hearts'
seat.
I am impelled to try to tell
what I feel under your merciful spell.
Please bear with me; I am sure you will
see
something that you fancy.

I appreciate your casual smile
and how you're easy to address
It's not difficult to get your mercy,
if one is eager then "bless bless".

You never seem dissappointed
at what I say or do
Although I'm always lacking
and often have no clue

You're always so supportive
and put things in your hat
Every little thing I do
You give a little pat

I want responsibilty,
more I want to take
I know you're always happy to see
us put our lives at stake

I want to see devotees happy
and fully satisfied
It tears my heart on two
when another's happiness is denied

Please empower me to serve those dear
to Krsna's Lotus Feet.
To always reach out to everyone
from the university to the street

Please bless me with full satisfaction
and that I may attain
Pure, unalloyed, devotional service
and lots of Krishna prema

I wish that I could give you more
then what I already gave
Please accept this and be satisfied,
it's all that I have.

With love

Your servant

Bṛhat-mṛdaṅga Dāsa

Candrabhānu Dāsa, Indumati Devi Dāsi and Candrāvali Dāsi

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept our obeisances.
All glories to you, Jaiadvaita Maharaja and Srila Prabhupada!

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

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

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

"By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Krsna. 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."

Very often we remember these verses. Actually every day. This is what you mean to us, and more. Yes, without your mercy there is really no way. The spiritual master is like God. You are His representative, and we thank you that you represent Him in this way. Srila Prabhupada says in one of his lectures that we have to somehow catch the attention of yourself, the spiritual master so that you notice us and we may get your mercy. How to do that we still do not know, although we are gradually attempting for it. Please allow us to keep serving you and to attain this mercy. The only thing we know is that we are tiny nothing. We are very foolish and fallen living entities. Please forgive us and allow us to serve you. Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Ráma Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare.

All glories to you and the service you perform!

Your humble and insignificant servants,

Candrabhānu Dāsa, Indumati Devi Dāsi and Candrāvalī Dāsi
Hare Krishna.

{ Yes, without your mercy there is really no way. }

Candraśekhara Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami.
All glories to you.

A few months before my initiation in September 2011 I had a dream of you. The dream was of an initiation ceremony you were conducting where somehow or other I was to be initiated. I nervously approached you, and while looking at me you said with a strong tone, "You know that you do not deserve this initiation. But I am going to give it to you anyway." And then you turned your head away from me, stretched out your hands and handed me my beads.

Those words of yours were true……
I don't deserve this great mercy you have given me. I am one of those strugglers, struggling along in spiritual life hoping against hope that one day I could be a real sincere devotee.

Even though unworthy of this mercy, I am so grateful that you have given it to me….because it binds me. Binds me to something real, binds me to you.

My senses want to enjoy this material nature – the pushings are strong- but because you believed in me I try hard to keep on the straight and narrow path. I do not want to disappoint you.

2013 has been a rough year for me – I was exposed to the "fall down" of a friend. I was so scared by the whole situation because I could see that Krishna Consciousness is not so easy anymore. It seems easy in the beginning, but as time moves on we hit hard walls in which we have to deal with our anarthas or fall prey to them. I am hanging on to you for strength so that I can deal positively with my anarthas. I do not want to disappoint you.

Most people have heroes in this world – I've had a few too. But they've fallen short in some way. And now after futile searching Krishna has sent me a REAL HERO – you. You exemplify adherence to the straight and narrow path that I am supposed to keep on. You exemplify the service attitude that I am supposed to adopt. You exemplify deep diving into the scriptures that I am supposed to do. You teach me by example how to be a devotee.

{ Even though unworthy of this mercy, I am so grateful that you have given it to me….because it binds me. Binds me to something real, binds me to you. }

So a few years down the line from initiation, my tests are increasing. The struggles are there – more and more I am being faced with the reality that my demoniac side wants to break through and join the party. And so naturally my dependence on you is increasing – I look to you for strength and as a role model.

Thank you for believing in me and for always being there for me even though I do not always say it. Thank you for being so approachable and for being my perfect Master. I pray to Krishna that I can be of some benefit to you in your amazing preaching initiatives.

Your unworthy son

Candraśekhara Dāsa
Sasolburg, South Africa

Citraketu Dāsa

Dear Gurudeva!

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Jayadvaita Swami and to Srila Prabhupada!

On the day of your glorious appearence it is not difficult to remember the way you are, because you teach society by your personal example. All the stories, lectures and efforts make an imprint on the mind of the people and on the heart of the devotees. The qualities of elevated personalities like you light up the hearts of the hungry like a torch. I am unqualified to glorify you, my senses are imperfect, and I do not love even myself - if I'd love myself I wouldn't cause so much trouble for myself. Your life is full of meaning, and it is not about what not to do. You not only try, but you do. So whatever I would emphasize, it is all glorious and full of love and devotion.

On the appearence day one thinks back about the way that had led here. I think I must remember those people in your life who loved you and served you selflessly and in a natural way. You once spoke about your grandmother whom you loved. She always had a big bag and she always had chocolate in it. And she gave you butter in that time when margarine was advertised as a key to a healthy diet. Why did she love you? Because this was her nature. She didn't know how beautiful - and, in the same time, difficult - life you'll have; she loved you for what you were.

I offer my full respect to those who were part of your life in some way. I beg for their blessings so I can understand your divine personality. If they help, maybe I'll be able to write an offering worthy of you. Until then I got to stick to just words composed according to the rules of etiquette. I try to express my gratitude for caring for me without any conditions. I'd like you to spend yet many more years in this world. The world and I need you much. You show the teaching of not being identical to this body by your personal example. You endure the difficulties created by your body heroically, and you give tirelessly because this is the way you are. What could I give to you? I am the last one in the queue, and all I've got is envy for those who stand before me. All glories to you - all auspiciousness and flower rain from the higher planets where you are properly appreciated, unlike how I do.

The last, envious one among your servants,

Citraketu Dāsa

Dahani Devi Dāsī

My dear spiritual master,

All glories to you on this most auspicious day.
All glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami,
All glories to His Divine Grace Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada!

There is an endless sparkling ocean of mercy whose steady waves carry me in the right direction even though I myself have no faith that I will get there.
That's what you are for me.

There is one magical ray of moonlight that shines soothingly upon me even when I am hidden in the darkness of my heart.
That's what you are for me.

There is that divine healing voice that makes all concoctions of my mind disappear the moment it starts with its first tune.
That's what you are for me.

There is one sincere family, where everybody encourages the best in others, where all care for you and believe in you, even when you don't believe in yourself.
That's what you and your disciples are for me.

Very often I catch myself wondering
Is this really happening to me?
I don't deserve a minute of your attention.
How can I be so lucky?
Still, you took me onto your ship
And I better deserve my ticket for the trip within this lifetime.

Lord Caitanya's hand -
That's what you are to me.

Your humble unworthy servant,

Dahani Devi Dāsī

{ Lord Caitanya's hand - That's what you are to me. }

Dāmodara Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

All glories to Jayadwaita Swami.
All glories to Prabhupada.

I feel very blessed and fortunate to have met you by the mercy of Krishna. Every time I hear your kirtan, I feel purified. Every time I hear your classes, I learn something new and get more inspired to continue practicing Bhakti Yoga.

I am very happy that you are committed to preach in Africa. When you had physical inconvenience last year, you still came to inspire us. This showed that bhakti is not dependent on material condition. I am still involved in the food for life program. There is a committee of four devotees and together we are trying to maintain the program and expand it.

I pray that Krishna gives you a long life so that you continue to inspire us.

Your servant,

Dāmodara Dāsa

Dharmānanda Dāsa

Hare Krishna your Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami,

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

May I wish you a happy birthday and may Krishna shower His blessings upon you for all what you have done for me which I cherish for my entire spiritual life. You have been there for me when I needed you the most. Thank you for showing the the light at the end of the tunnel. I wish I was there to celebrate it but you know my problems. Please remember I am there in spirit.

I offer my prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet and I always think of you and always pray for you everyday.

Haribol from your loving servant

Dharmānanda Dāsa

(Bhakta) Dominik

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Vancha-kalpatarubhyas ca
krpa_sindhubhya eva ca
Patitanam pavanebhyo
vaisnavebhyo namo namah

Nama om visnu padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
Srimate bhaktivedanta-swamin iti namine

Namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pra-carine
Nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-de-sa-tarine

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami!

Hare Krishna, by mercy of Krishna and devotees I got the chance to write you few words.

I am extremelly lucky to be somehow engaged in devotional service however I am still absorbed in illusion of material existence. I have a great desire to correctly understand this sience of Krishna Consciousness.

The Bhagavad Gita 4.34 says:

Tad viddhi pranipatena pariprasnena sevaya
Upadeksyanti te jnanam jnaninas tattva-darsinah

"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."

I am not your disciple yet but I am aspiring to get this special precious position and with all my heart I hope that your kind heart will accept this living entity.

Hare Krishna

(Bhakta) Dominik
Nova Ekacakra, Slovakia

Doyāl Govinda Dāsa

Hare Krishna dear Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada
All glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita Maharaja.

Thank You very much for having again the opportunity writing some lines of gratitude for Your Vyasa Puja. Hope you are physical well and highly inspired in preaching the message of Lord Caitanya and Srila Prabhupada.

In 2012 I was writing that I cannot see any changes in my behaviour and in my environment but due to Your mercy things are happening for which I am very grateful.

Finally after 15 years your expressed desire came true that we left the Emmertsgrund at Heidelberg. You could even visit the opening day of our new temple at the border to Heidelberg on August 25th 2013. Like our Ratha Yatra in 2013 this day was also a rainy day but due to your presence many guest came and listened to an inspiring class where you mentioned that the new place is at the border to Heidelberg but also at the border of the spiritual world so that people should make the sacrifice driving a few minutes longer for coming to the Sunday feast. Also Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai are on their way back to Heidelberg too.

Now we have to meditate on the outreach aspect which you desired because also Srila Prabhupada mentioned Heidelberg to Sivananda in a letter written on 12th December 1971. Here His Divine Grace said that the university is our best field of preaching and that we should get very convinced about Krishna Consciousness and contaminates the whole thing. There are about 30.000 students at Heidelberg, but we still need some preachers and a possibility of maintaining devotees.

I depend on your mercy because you are an incredible thinker and manager with so many exhalted visions, so that I can also find ways how to create possibilities for keeping devotees in Heidelberg, then we can really start spreading the mission. If you have devotees in mind who can support us, please send them to Heidelberg.

At Mayapur you mentioned that management is for younger devotees in their mid thirties. The age I have but for fulfilling the rest I again depend on your mercy because for effective management a pure heart and strong character is required and this is what is missing in myself. Not for nothing we met during an evening walk around the temple campus and you figured out that I am on PURIFICATION there in the Holy Dhama. Many aspects in my life are missing and only with your blessings and goodwills I am able to contribute some valid results.

I always want to accomplish big things but Lord Krsna reveals that this desire is only supporting my false ego, so may the Lord reveal how I can serve him the best, how I can serve you in the best possible way. For now I would like to become finally a caring husband and father, an open and respectful god-brother, a humble temple president and an obedient disciple. May we all come closer together in serving you better and in serving you in your project in advertising the TOVP. This project needs a combined effort of all devotees around the world and as you have taken this mission, all of your disciples should combine their abilities in supporting you wholeheartedly. If I can be of any help, please let me know!

Thank you so much for caring for so many disciples, so many people in general and still maintaining such a high standard of Krishna Consciousness and many thanks for being completely convinced in the message of Srila Prabhupada and in the editing work of His Holiness Jayadvaita Maharaja.

Your disciple and servant,

Doyāl Govinda Dāsa

(Bhaktin) Elisha Patel

I offer my humble obeisances to Srila Prabhupada

I offer my humble obeisances to you

All glories to Srila Prabhupada and to you too!

Dear Kadamba Kanana Maharaja,

I bow down to your lotus feet, and pay my respects to you. I miss you and look forward to seeing you in England in May. I enjoy listening to your kirtans and your lectures and find them very uplifting. I wish you all the best on your special day.
Your servant

(Bhaktin) Elisha Patel (Daughter of Harsa rani Devi Dasi)

(Bhakta) Fil

(Bhakta) Fil

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obiesances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayavaita Swami.
All glories to you.

You are wise.
You are funny.
You are a visionary.
You are my loving father.
You are wonderful and loved.

You help me strengthen my connection with Srila Prabhupada, the lovely devotees and the Krishna Consciousness movement.....You are wise.

You make me laugh like no other has ever made me laugh before.. your sense of humor is off the charts.....You are funny.

You help me see when I am too blind to see what it is that I am meant to do with my life.....You are a visionary.

I look up to you and respect you in the highest regard. I pray that I will always be a good son to you...You are my loving father.

You are who you are and because of that..... You are wonderful and loved.

I prayed for you and you came. Thank you for wanting to give me your shelter.

Your aspiring servant,

(Bhakta) Fil

Gauravāṇī Dāsī

Hare Krishna my dearest Guru Maharaja,

I pay my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to his Holiness Jayadvaita Maharaja.
All glories to you.

Today is the auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja and I love this day. Someone very important in our sampradaya (I forgot who) said: that on a day of "Vyasa Puja" the person is 100 times more merciful. This day I am bowing down at your lotus feet. (Not that I do not do it on the other days.) This day you are showering us more with the holy name and your vani - you are telling us what is important for being a good disciple. Actually you are giving us everything what we need to know. We have heard it so many times - but repetition is the mother of wisdom and we are usually just thinking about it and not following.

Thanks to this occasion I can every year realize how I am happy to have such amazing person in my insignificant life, and I can have wonderful association of you and your wonderful disciples.

You are already more then 10 years one of the most important people in my life. I can see through those years what a difficult work you had with me -call your time, toil etc and you did change me. Still I am big rascal but I am trying to be better. I really sincerely appreciate how you are inspiring us, always gave us good advice. Sometimes you can be very heavy but always you are the man of truth. With you around I can always feel the truth in the air and I love it, even it's sometimes hard for my ego.

You are always so caring and you are always looking after me like after a small child who goes to the wrong direction. And how you love us. Once you wrote me a message that made me cry. You wrote "I will come. I love you all so how can I stay away?"

I have to say I couldn't choose better. Krishna sent you in my life to save me. For me you are the best spiritual master, best father, best friend, best person in my life who is perfect living example teaching me how to be a better person, better devotee, better disciple, to be always sincerely engaged in Lord Caitanya's and Srila Prabhupada's mission.

I hope that one day you could be satisfied with me.

Forever in the dust of your lotus feet

your rascal daughter

Gauravāṇī Dāsī

Gītā Govinda Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

Songs of the Vaisnava Acaryas, hymns and mantras for the glorification of Radha and Krishna can lead me to the state of unconsciousness, especially songs of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura, more specific my most favourite song : Ohe! Vaisnava Thakura.

(4)

Krsna se tomare, Krsna dite paro,
tomara sakati ache
ami to kangala, "krsna" "krsna" boli
dhai tava pache pache

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!"

Realizations, due to the great treasure of the Holy name of Krishna, which you gave me and due to your mercy, confirm that Bhaktivinoda Thakura's words are not simply empty. Recentely I experienced this so intense during the last days of my mother, before leaving her body in February this year. You supported me, gave me instructions and empowered and encouraged me to maintain steady despite the circumstances. You also instructed me how to guide my mother till her last breath, in such a way that I at that moment could really feel the presence of Sri Krishna, moreover His mercy and shelter upon her.

In these hard days you were so close to me and my family and it really felt like Krishna Himself was there. Actually a great part of my family is – on the contrary - not a Krishna devotee and so during the cremation I didn't expect Krishna to be a central part of this ceremony, however I sincerely hoped this while intensily praying to you for the mercy of Krishna upon my family, my mother. Yes, Krishna is yours, you are able to give him to me, such is your power. You did not only give Krishna to me, but unexpected to my whole family.

On the day of the cremation Krishna manifested himself by the words of my family's home priest, who – totally unexpectedly, because he never did before - started reciting from the Bhagvad Gita and explaining the essence of life, to become a servant of Krishna. His preachings melted the heart of my brothers and sisters. I became totally overwhelmed, by seeing how Krishna acts, by getting aware of Him to be the ruler and the planner. At the end of the ceremony the priest asked my family to sing the Hare Krishna mantra. How silly, this never happened before in the 20 years being our family priest. What a great miracle! Answers to my prayers to you.

Yes Gurudeva Krishna is yours. You are able to give him, and so you did, to me, to my godbrothers and godsisters, and what to think of my family, my brothers and sisters. On this particular day of my mother's last farewell, the darkened eyes of my brothers and sisters became opened. And now for most of them their search for spirituality and the essence of life has started. You were so close to me, to us in this proces, you made Krishna also entered into their lives. You brought them this gift despite the "sad" circumstances on this particular day.

How to thank you dearest Gurudeva! May Srila Prabhupada and all the previous acharyas bless you forever. And please help this fallen soul to become the one you want me to be.

Still trying to become Your servant,

Gītā Govinda Devi Dāsī

Gopālī Devi Dāsī

Hare Krishna my dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami.

Again we have this wonderful opportunity to express our feelings and love towards you. Though I do not possess capacity to understand or describe even a particle of your glory and contribution towards Lord Caitanyas's wave of mercy consisting of preaching ecstatic love to Krishna still as a tiny being I will try to from depth of my heart cry out my appreciation and thankfulness.

Thank you for showing me the path with torchlight of knowledge. Thank you for pulling me out from the darkest regions of ignorance. Thank you for not compromising, not flattering and showing me the highest ideal of being a devotee by your example and teachings. Your are surrendering whole your being, your life, health, energy, all you have to please the Lord. Your behaviour does not show a trace of desire for name of fame.

You are radiant, radiant and blissful in spiritual consciousness and one would have to try very hard not to notice it. It is very obvious. I approached you several times hoping you would help me to solve my internal battles. You would not search the case for finding who is right or wrong instead you offered a spiritual solution by simple advice like, "Just forgive." Or "Become a sadhu." Or "develop humility." Immediatelly my consciousness was brought up to another level and who was right or wrong did not matter anymore. You always saw the problem in the light - how can it bring us closer to Krishna. We may be caught up in limitation of our own covered consciousness and see only 1 or 2 possible ways of solution but you, the spiritual master, dissipate our coverings of darkness with torchlight of realized transcendental knowledge and thus show us a way we would never find on our own. And that way is leading to the supreme happiness.

My dear Guru Maharaja, thank you for being here even thought physically you may be far. Recently I had a dream how I was sitting with you on the beach and you would chant in kirtan. All of a sudden a filthy dog came and I thought: "Oh my God, somebody should send him away otherwise he can attack Guru Maharaja." But he did not attack you he went directly to me and attacked me. I fought with him in pain and agony, he was biting me and I was full of disgust that this filthy dirty dog is touching me. Meanwhile you would just continue kirtan as if nothing happened. I thought to myself "Oh my God, is Guru Maharaja not going to do anything?

Is he just going to continue chanting here while this filthy dogs is tearing me apart?" Then you turned to me and as if nothing was happening you said: "Don't move. Don't fight with him. Just tolerate." So I tried to endure the pain but when it was too much I hit the dog and in turn he bit my hand. Then he went away. I came to you and you said: "Show me your hand. See, he has bitten you. I told you not to move. Now I have to take you to a doctor."Then I woke up with such a strong impression left by this dream. I realized my consciousness was preparing me for what is to come. The dog of misery and material distress can attack us anytime.And he surely will. And you just sat there and chanted Hare Krishna and told me just to tolerate it.

Similarly we just tolerate material distress and continue with spiritual activities no matter what is happening on external level. I realized that you are with us even though you are far away. That you watch us and protect us by your prayers and instructions and that your chanting of Hare Krishna is as beneficial for us as your direct presence. And I understood - I am weak and material distress may shatter me in pieces anytime. I realized that by your mercy, your prayers, your thoughts I have survived all Krishna's tests so far and furthermore somehow I am still stumbling on the way towards Krishna. Though there may be no real qualification on my side, I have faith that you will surely bring me there. And it is already happening with all of us. You are leading all of us, your disciples back to the supreme abode where everything is full of loving exchange with Krsna.

Your servant

Gopālī Devi Dāsī

{ You are leading all of us, your disciples back to the supreme abode where everything is full of loving exchange with Krsna. }

Gour Mohan Dāsa

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami.
All glories to you on this auspicious day.

Being right here in Mayapur the center of the universe is very enlivening and simultenously revealing the impurities of my heart. Seeing your great atraction for the holy dham and in comparisson my flimsy awareness makes me humble and aware of my neophyte position. Your greatness is purity of desire. Your desire and devotional service has amalgamated to one.

Your thoughts always dwell how to push on the movement. And your actions proof the prior two. All your actions are directed cent per cent to satisfy the the desire of Krishna.
This kind of purity in action is for the benefit of the whole world. And this kind of action will be glorified by the whole world. Krishna's nature is to be the most famous. So beceause the actions of the pure devotee are not different from Krishna, the very same actions will carry the same qualities like the supreme Lord. Therefore your actions are complete in themselves.

This very statement I can prove. While wishing you farewell you were busy with so many people and you handled everyone according to your relationship with him in such a perfect way. That meant dealing with ten men simultaneously in such a way that not a single one of them felt they were short of your attention. Because I can see your actions are so pure, I wish that your orders will be nondifferent from my life.

Awaiting your orders.
The dog of the master

Gour Mohan Dāsa

{ Your greatness is purity of desire. Your desire and devotional service has amalgamated to one. }

Govardhaneśvarī Devī Dāsī

Hare Krishna Dear Kadamba Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja.

One year ago I have received my hotly desired initation. What has happened since that time about which report? Mistake; progress; thanks to or praise to you?

Today Krishna has given me a lesson. And now where this has understood, I can also laugh at it. And now I will write this story:

Recently I have read in Facebook of an approved and long already, besides, devotee a sentence basically: Krishna, smartly to me still many defeats, so that I can learn from it.
To me came in addition to the sense, this is typically a old women's thinking and passed in the world of the fanaticism.

For some weeks I reconstruct my flat to do here a more or less useful temple space in my 38 m ² big flat. If was a challenge, but, in the meantime, the thing approaches the end.
Besides, for my culinary niche I have bought a shelf with Ikea. Made in Denmark, quality is made okay and after one sawing in half for his application useful in 2 smaller shelves.
If top looked and I was enthusiastically of it. Thick cookbooks on it; heavy vedic literature - also for mine present Bhakti-Sastri course.

Today half with the books with a loud noise fell down. It met the table under it and the glass top has broken; it met me. For a moment I looked at the empty wall surface and thought that I believed, it goes towards to the end with the reconstruction! Krishna why?!

While I gathered now the books, my head examined for a possible bump, excused me with Bhagavad-Gita and they and the other important books in reach, indeed deposited ones I imagined so okay, happen.

Then I examined the possible cause and got angry with myself. A heavy shelf, books on it and with only 4 piece 6 mm of rawl plug and too short screws secure this might not have happened, because my father has taught me once rather well. I thought, in any case.

How can one still save the situation? What I can make, so that is to be seen with the next attempt no tracks by the "accident" and which holds it with the next spot very good.
There the sentence of the devotees came to me to the sense: smartly I still much more defeats, so that I can learn from it I understood and had to laugh at myself. The woman was right and I have been "punished" here for my arrogance.

Now wish I do not do to myself such kind of breakdowns also furthermore. If once again an older devotee writes similar sayings, I will practice myself, however, first of all in humility. Krishna to me furthermore lesson is sure given anyway.
Besides, nothing is better than the community with devotees and a teacher like you.

Thanks for the community. Thanks for every thought, prayers, lessons, songs, simply thank you for everything.

Hare Krishna

Your servant

Govardhaneśvarī Devī Dāsī

Gurudāsa

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

there is a saying
'man has sold his soul to the devil'
you too have sold your soul
but a complete another level
Prabhupada bought your soul with inspiration
you sold your soul without hesitation
full of dedication you are sold out
no doubt no messing about no regret
your heart is set on Prabhupada's mission
you have a vision and remain faithful
like a loyal pet
you have taken a bullet and drew blood
for the mission you have daily given
buckets and litres of blood and sweat
you haven driven and flown millions of kilometres
inspiring many and managing leaders of leaders
you remain steady as a rock
but are ready to flow like water to extinguish
the burning slaughter of your every son and daughter
that burns in the material existence
convincing and caring with persistence and insistence
sharing your consistent deep spiritual experience
If I had the sincere attempt to be trying
to measure your dedication
to Krishna and the Mission
I would be outstanded and crying
calculating how many hours you are flying
in airplanes and how many hours emailing
disciples to get them self sailing
and giving fine energy and time
encouraging disciples when they are failing
you are travelling teaching and inspiring
people to be dovetailing their propensities and abilities
you are never rejecting or neglecting

I am reading Prabhupada's letters and
I see he loves every disciple truly
and you too are sincerely and faithfully loving us
you are giving more than plenty
you are a Saint if I really understood I would faint
you are underrated you are a walking Bhagavatam
if contemporarily translated
each page would translate to:
“Sold out Sou”
you are bold, your heart is pure gold
the list goes on.....
pages and pages would not be wasted
by describing your Glories
You are heavy weighted first star Uttama Graded
I have calculated you have dedicated in this life
approximateley half million hours of pure bhakti
let me place some mental petals of flowers
at your lotus feet
and with the core of your heart
and pure spiritual powers
please shower me with mercy

your disciple,

Gurudāsa

Hamsa Avatar Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisance onto your lotus feet.
All glories to your Divine Grace.
All glories to His Divine Grace Jay Advaita Swami.
All glories to the most merciful His Holiness Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to all the vaisnavas. All glories to the ISKCON.

bhajahū re mana śrī-nanda-nandana
abhaya-caraṇāravinda re
durlabha mānava-janama sat-sange
taroho e bhava-sindhu re

“O mind, just worship the lotus feet of the son of Nandha, which make one fearless. Having obtained this rare human birth, cross over this ocean of wordly existence through the association of saintly persons.”

Thank you very much, dear Guru Maharaja, that you engage me in the most auspicious devotional service to the vaishnavas. Their life and soul is to worship the lotus feet of the son of Nanda Maharaja.

Recently I heard very nice story about Abhay Caran on a lecture of Prithu Prabhu.
When Srila Prabhupad was member of movement for independence of India, before he met his Guru Maharaja. His friends in school were joking, that someone would establish Indian national flag (like a flag of freedom) on Victorian monument which was, just at that time, built in Kolkata and was sixteen meters high. Srila Prabhupada said, “I`m gonna do it,” and he did it. He climbs all the way up and fixes the flag on a top, which was extremely risky. Not just it was very high monument, but if he would have been caught, he would have been hung immediately for high treason.

What to speak of what he did later, when he alone cross the ocean with seven dollars in a pocket. Only he out of 60 thousands of disciples of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Maharaja fulfilled the desire of his Guru and established the Krishna`s flag not just in English speaking countries, but all over the world.

You also fearlessly, like an acharya, very strictly follow the footsteps of this pure soul, Srila Prabhupada. Carry the flag of ISKCON everywhere you go. You utilize your human life and health in the divine sacrifice to spread the biggest wealth and fun, Harinama sankirtan. Thank you for the sweet divine melodies that you spread. It pleases the soul and increases unaloyed love, the goal of life.

Thank you that you give me the association of the saintly persons. Although I have not seen you personally for quite a long time, by your mercy, electronic potency, I could find your lectures and thoughts on the net or a blog. By this I have received a lot of bliss and inspiration. By your mercy I could dive into the nectar of the personal pastimes of the Lord, six Goswamis and life of Srila Prabhupada. Your vision and pure conclusion enable me to really be with this transcendental family.

That is what I should always say, every year and every day: “Thank You.” and pray for the mercy of all vaishnavas, that one day, I will also fearlessly swing after your footprints back home back to Godhead.

I wish you all the best.
Your small servant,

Haṁsa Avatar Dāsa

Harināmānanda Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

I do not know how to write an offering, so I'm trying make every endeavor to push the harinama sankirtana my offering to you. I know it's not very worthy, but I know you accept it because you are so merciful onto fallen souls running away from Krishna. You'll do whatever it takes to bring all conditioned souls back to Godhead. That's why I always want to stay in your service.

My imperfect service to you is a life that I'm now living. I could never ever dream of experiencing a fraction of the happiness of the life I'm living now. I could never imagine doing Harinama everyday, let alone all over the world. This can only happen by your mercy. I know I cannot do any of this stuff.

Thank you so much for engaging me in assisting you to make harinama big. Please bless me so that I can one day become perfect in my service to you.

your servant,

Harināmānanda Dāsa

Harśarāṇī Devi Dāsī

Harṣarāṇī Devi Dāsī

All glories to Srila Prabhupada
All glories to you
I offer my humble obeisances to Srila Prabhupada
I offer my humble obeisances to you
Dear Kadamba Kanana Maharaja,

I eternally bow down to your lotus feet again and again, and take shelter at your lotus feet and place some dust from your lotus feet onto my head for extra protection. This is my offering to the most extraordinary personality - you! First of all I apologise for not being able to make it on this auspicious day. I wish you all the best on this very special occasion.

I am totally indebted to you, Lord Krishna and the vaisnavas. Looking back over the year so much has happened. I was on the verge of a breaking point a while back, for which I am still trying to get this bodily strength back, and at the same time trying to make my saddhana strong. Without your support and blessings, Krishna's mercy and the vaisnava's support I would not have been able to survive it. So thank you for helping me, giving me your blessings, your time which is very valuable and I really do appreciate it.

I recall you stating in a lecture that when a disciple is not in the presence of the guru then the disciples needs to think of what they can do for the Guru in his absence. Whilst meditating on this part of the lecture it has made me reflect on what I should be doing for you dear Gurudev. Well apart from following your instruction, I can start by taking Krishna Consciousness more seriously and do my best in gaining knowledge from the vedic literature, which is why I have decided to do the Bhakti Sashtri course, since I realized when speaking to you last year that I lacked in vedic knowledge, due to not being able to answer your questions from the Bhagavad Gita.

I am continuously learning from the vedic books, and from the vaisnavas, from you and Srila Prabhpada (through his books and his lectures). But I realise that just learning on its own is not sufficient enough since I also need to put what I have learnt into practise. You have so much intelligence, wisdom and pure love for Krishna which emanates from your lotus mouth whilst singing kirtans and giving vibrant lectures.

{ You have so much intelligence, wisdom and pure love for Krishna which emanates from your lotus mouth whilst singing kirtans and giving vibrant lectures. }

Somehow I do not feel that I am doing enough for you, Lord Krishna and the vaisnavas. You are very tolerable and so merciful. I have yet to master the art of humility and tolerance, although I cannot be like Jada Bharata, I am continuously trying to develop myself internally and externally via devotional service. I want to please you and the vaisnavas, and treat you all like royalty for the pleasure of Lord Krishna.

It was good to see that you have been spending time in Mayapur instead of travelling rigorously. But somehow I could not imagine you to be just sat there and relaxing since Maharaja is very active and likes to be doing things which really is inspiring, seeing this extraordinary personality using all his strength and stamina conducting the Mayapur project even though he is in great bodily pain.

In your physical absence I shall do my best to be spiritually strong and try to set a good example to those that I encounter. There is so much that needs to be done within this mission of Krishna Consciousness but this material body is letting this soul down, due to there not being much strength to cope with it all. I look up to you and the immensity of spiritual strength that emanates from your lotus body which inspires me and enables me to carry on in this spiritual life along with my faith in Krishna who has always been there for me. I owe you and Krishna this life time. May Krishna look after and nurture this spiritual father who has been so kind to us and is foever spoiling us with his endless blessings!

Lastly I would like to end this offering by some more light reading from what I have learnt so far. It is not much but I would like to share it with you.

Enter the colourful and exhuberant life of the spiritual world:
King Pariksit's inquisitiveness bears a realised soul,
Truth and knowledge is magnified by Sukadeva Goswami,
The remorseness of King Citraketu projects not to lament,
Narada's instructions inspires us to detach from this material world,
Ajmila's sinful actions teaches the existence of hell,
Mother Parvati's cursing dissipates uncontrollable anger,
King Indra's egotistic outbursts is crammed with pride,
Vrtasura's external features conceals purity within.

Your insignificant spiritual daughter

Harṣarāṇī Devi Dāsī

Hemānga Caitanya Dāsa

Dear Srila Gurudev,

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

On this auspicious day of the divine appearance of my spiritual master, who is always extremely kind, a true well-wisher of all of us, I humbly beg for more of his mercy as without it, not only in theory but in reality, it feels like there is no other true shelter. It's so hard to just to survive in this dense forest of material existence where life is just full of turmoils and astonishments – so many things passes through our day to day life and we just witness the vast and strong ocean of material existence and really feel like a small tiny insignificant being in front of it, who is just left there on its own, completely helpless and just dependent on mercy.

You look at Krishna and can clearly see how Krishna is the only controller and we are really just like puppets in His hands. It's so hard to comprehend even the slightest of His plans and the way He executes them, is mostly, far from the reach of any normal or abnormal mind. We think, we know, we can deal with it, we have good plans (at least in our definition) but one senior vaisnava was saying – "If you want to make Krishna laugh, you tell Him your plans." The waves of material existence just slaps on our face, just to reiterate. "Now you surrender to Krishna. Now you surrender to Krishna," But we still don't learn and still hope, this didn't work but may be the other thing, other plan will be successful and that hope, internally keep pushing this point down that Krishna is the ONLY source of happiness and we still continue to have hope from our material possessions, relations, our intellect and what not, but then Krishna, very kindly, makes arrangement just to destroy our material hopes and then when you have no other choice except to look for a true shelter, then we look towards spiritual master, who looks like the only one giving you hope for true happiness, the one on whom you can completely rely on for true guidance, true mercy and true support.

{ You look at Krishna and can clearly see how Krishna is the only controller and we are really just like puppets in His hands. }

My spiritual master is extremely kind and loving. He is constantly engaged in the mission of Srila Prabhupad to uplift conditioned souls - by his own personal example and by his tireless preaching efforts. I beg him for a drop of mercy for myself as well - even while I am struggling with my mind, my senses, my conditioning so that I can continue in my devotional life forward and the little desire somewhere in the heart to serve my spiritual master in some way, can be nurtured and developed.

I can get determination to keep following his words, always uphold his instructions in my day to day life, in my dealings with others as well as myself, on the bodily platform as well as on the spiritual platform. I pray to Krishna for his good health and all that is required, so that he can continue to push this movement in every corner of the world and make every soul Krishna conscious and one day I can become his true humble servant and nothing else.

your aspiring servant,

Hemāṅga Caitanya Dāsa

Indrabhatta Dāsa and Gokula Tarunī Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept our humble obeisances.
All glories to his Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to your Divine Grace, Maharaja.

We are indeed grateful for this opportunity to make an offering on this auspicious occasion. Our joy emanates from the thought that you, Maharaja, are in our midst, ever vibrant , kind and loving, and that we can continue to take shelter at your lotus feet. The Vyasa Puja also serves as a reminder for us to assess our own spiritual growth - how we have done so far and how we can make even greater progress.

It is true that we have offered our services to the temple in various ways and we have preached to young and old in the hope of sowing seeds of Krishna Consciousness in their hearts and minds. We must admit, however, that not all our efforts have met with success. We are also keenly aware that we can do much more. To this end we are determined to try harder - not so much to improve the quantity (as natural constraints are there) as quality.

It is our fervent prayer that the celebrations at Radhadesh will be a memorable experience for all those who attend.

Your humble servants

Indrabhatta Dāsa & Gokula Taruṇī Devi Dāsī

{ Our joy emanates from the thought that you, Maharaja, are in our midst, ever vibrant , kind and loving, and that we can continue to take shelter at your lotus feet. }

Jada Bharata Dāsa

Nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale srimate Kadamba Kanana swam iti namine

Nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale Gurudas Jay Advaita Swami iti namine

Dhyana Moolam Guru Murti
Puja Moolam Gurur Padam,
Mantra Moolam Gurur Vakyam,
Moksha Moolam Guru Kripa

“The Guru's form is the best to meditate upon; the Guru's feet are the best for worship; the Guru's word is the mantra; the Guru's Grace is the root of liberation.”

Dear Guru Maharaja,

All glories to Jayadvaita Swami.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to you on this aspicious day of your Vyasa Puja.

It is exclusively by your mercy that I could accept this techings. My heart was polluted by mayavada before and although I had a desire to practice spiritual life it was impossible for me to overcome my nature. But from the first moment I have met you I started to turn to Krsna and started to walk in the right direction. At that time something changed inside of me. Now I know that this change was possible only by your mercy.

mukam karoti vachalam
pangum langhayate girim
yat-kripa tam aham vande
shri-gurum dina-taranam

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

Your are coming in disciplic succession and you are very carefully distributing nectar which you have received from your spiritual master.

Your humble servant

Jaḍa Bharata Dāsa

{ But from the first moment I have met you I started to turn to Krsna and started to walk in the right direction. }

Janamajaya Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my respectful obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja.
All glories to you.

Another year passed and I am again trying to write Vyasa Puja offering for you. When I look into my mind there is nothing and my intelligence is dull. Perhaps you will forgive me as an unworthy disciple.

I remember your tireless preaching and long kirtans on the previous Queen's Day. So many people received the grace of Krishna. So many times we heard that this year it will be the last Queen's Day harinama, but instead of ending you continue tirelessly year after year in sowing the seeds of devotional service into the hearts of the innocent living beings all over the world.

There is one more advantage that you engage us in the devotional service and so I can realize what great mercy I had received. What used to be heaven for me has become hell and as I walk through this hell I chant the holy names and I'm in paradise.

During that last Queen's Day harinama happened a special thing. You led the group of the devotees to the bus through an unusual route and part of the devoteees separated and went to the temple instead. At that moment I was bewildered and did not know what was going on and where you are, and so I decided to go to the temple where it turned out that it was wrong. In my mind I reproached myself why I did not follow you. And then I lived with this fear the whole year. The fear that I will not follow your advices and instructions which help me so much and are so valuable.

Dear Gurudeva, thank you for leading me in the spiritual life and giving me greatly valuable advices and inspiration. You often say that preaching is life. You preach and so you live. During kirtans you throw away the cane and leave the sweaty brahmacaries behind.

Every day I think of your instructions and try to follow them to purify myself and to please you and Krishna. Dear Gurudeva, on the occasion of your Vyasa Puja, I beg you to continue leading me back to the spiritual world or to that place where is the mission of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada because you will surely be there.

Your eternal servant

Janamajaya Dāsa

Jay Gopīnāth Devi Dāsī

Hare Krishna dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada, all glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja. All glories to you.

Guru Maharaja, there´s no bigger treasure than you are. You´re really the best I have in my life. You gave me everything. There´s the proverb: "First-deserve, then desire". But this is not my experience with your causeless mercy. I surely don´t deserve your attentive care and what to speak about the desire? My dreams used to be my anarthas and thus were just covering me in ignorance. Then you taught me to distinguish what´s really worthy to desire. And you made me a happy person, a blissful soul.

Guru Maharaja, how could I ever be able to thank you? I wish to be a disciple you could be satisfied with. Maybe one day, till then I have to work hard on my character, saddhana and approach to Krishna Consciousness. It´s such a big task for me but you´re giving me everything what´s needed – inspiration, courage, knowledge, your own example, guidance and Krishna´s holy names. When I see how you offer all your life to us, I feel a deep gratitude. You´re a kalpavriksha tree, able to deliver anybody in theuniverse, so whenever one´s meditating upon your holy feet sincerely, and somehow gets your mercy, then one can see how everything is directly controlled by Sri Krishna and life flows smoothly and everything seems to be the right time and right place. I wish I´ll be able to keep such strong connection with you not only during difficulties but always.

Please Guru Maharaja please be still merciful to me and please, try to tolerate me further. I desire the dust of your holy feet always.

Your servant

Jay Gopīnāth Devi Dāsī

{ Guru Maharaja, there´s no bigger treasure than you are. You´re really the best I have in my life. }

Jay Keśava Dāsa

The bright sun of Kadamba Kanana Swami has risen on the horizon of dark sky of my heart. I pray only that it would glow more and more.

We are bewildered people of this material world and our only hope it the effulgence of your mercy, when you kindly instruct us about the final goal of life. Our destination is Goloka Vrindavana, the land where every step is a dance and every word is a song, where the soil is made of purpose gems, where there is no anxiety and the bluish cowherd boy Sri Krsna Govinda stole the hearts of all. That realm, is known to only a very few self-realized souls in this world. “To such a souls as you are, Guru Maharaja. In rig veda there is a mention of you in
1.22.20 – 21:

om tad visnoh paramam padam
sada pasyanti surayah
divīva caksur-atatam
tad vipraso vipanyavo
jagrvah sah samindhate
visnor yat paramam padam

Just as those with ordinary vision see the sun's rays in the sky, so the wise and learned devotees always see the supreme abode of Lord Visnu. Because those highly praiseworthy and spiritually awake brahmanas can see that abode, they can also reveal it to others.

That you are always doing in your lectures and kirtans. You always endeavour to uplift our minds a consciousness toward Krsna and make our so called problems much smaller then they seem to be. When I hear your kirtans, the whole atmospehere of spiritual world manifests and Vrindavan descends just there.

The spiritual master reminds the living being of its real glorious position of the eternal servant of servants of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. We are rotting in the material world and very kind servant of the servants of Krsna is walking through this world of darkness and invites the fallen souls back home back to Godhead and therefore he is very dear to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. We don't want to stay in this world, as you told me, and therefore we have to get somehow the mercy of those self-realized souls. Because when the spiritual master is satisfied, then also Lord Krsna is satisfied. We are really foolish and idiots, but if we stick to the instructions of the spiritual master, we can progress in Krsna Consciousness.

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances in dust of your lotus feet, which are the source of all auspiciousness. I am a rascal and first class fool, who does not know what is good, but I pray for your mercy, because I know, as it is mentioned in Vedas:

mukham karoti vacalam
pangum langhayate girim
yat krpa tam aham vande
sri gurum dinataranam

By your mercy even a dumb man can speak and a lame man can walk and a foolish disciple can get the intelligence and progress in the spiritual life and on the way back to Godhead. Therefore to satisfy the spiritual master is the perfection of life.

With awe your foolish disciple
Jay Keśava Dāsa

Jay Nitāi Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Jayadvaita Swami,
All glories to you.

Lord Nityananda is known as the most merciful and there is no doubt that he is acting through you. Nityananda Prabhu went from house to house and asked everybody to chant Hare Krishna and even when he was insulted he didn't reject anyone, but was acting for the wellbeing of everyone.

You are very humbly tolerating my shortcoming and despite all of them give me so much love. When I turn to you, you are ready to accept me. I am losing so many opportunities of accepting the mercy by not turning to you. Instead I'm doing many mistakes in our relationship out of ignorance and kripana tendencies. What a fool I am that still I don't take full shelter in you, far away from being like dough in your hands. Still I'm not ready to become whatever you make out of me and still I don't understand that my identity is to be your servant. Nothing else is more desirable in the life of a devotee than to become a tool in the hands of the guru. The mood of ignorance has a strong influence on me, my mind is restless and therefore I'm far away from being a servant. But you are there for me, tolerating the disturbances and my uselessness and still you give me affection and attention. I pray to become purified to become more like the dough, even if it takes many years or birth, what else in the world is worth to hanker after.

This relationship between guru and disciple is the most precious jewel of our life. The Caitanya Caritamrta states that through the mercy of Krishna we get a guru and that through the mercy of the guru we get Krishna. I can understand that it was not by chance that you picked me up, this homeless boy who forgot his father. Krishna has sent you out of His mercy and out of your mercy you pick me up and connect me with Krishna.
I'm grateful to you, because through your instructions, lectures, association and bhajans my ability to understand the greatness of Krishna grows and attraction for devotional service arises. And I am grateful to Krishna, that he has sent me you as my spiritual master. Whatever you do, if you just sit and talk with us, if you give lectures or if you sing bhajans, your depth in Krishna Consciousness is obvious. It is great to have your association, the mind becomes peaceful and calm and Krishna consciousness becomes easy. Big problems become small because spiritual bliss is real and strong through your presence.

All the questions I have, you never fail to give a satisfying answer. I never saw that you failed to give an answer which connects a doubtful speculator with the supreme truth. Therefore I feel safe at your Lotus feet, but also because by following your instruction I become stronger in spiritual life. You present us the supreme happiness by living it as an example and your desire is to share this happiness with others. How great is my misfortune that I just taste it in small portions, why not jump into the nectar ocean?

I can understand that you are a real friend. Many times I see that your first concern is that devotees are happy in spiritual life. That is the sign of a real well-wisher and I am very happy to have your well wishes and concern for my happiness. That is another reason why I feel safe at your Lotus feet and why I have faith in you. My desire is to learn from your perfect teaching and example to be a sincere servant of Krishna and a real friend to others.

I have hope against hope that once I can become more useful for you, because I can see you have a lot more service for all of us to spread this movement and the mercy of Nityanan-da Prabhu. And it is clear that this is the greatest mercy and the greatest nectar. I would like to follow more sincerely the example you give and become a tool in your hands. Let that be my meditation that my existence becomes of any value.

Dear Guru Maharaja, thank you very much for everything and for not giving up on me,
your servant

Jay Nitāi Dāsa

{ I can understand that you are a real friend. }

Jay Rādhikā Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

It´s another year again and I´m realizing how merciful you are that you allow me to fulfill the vow I gave you last year. Thank you for your mercy that I can go deeper and deeper into Krishna Consciousness. I feel like being a honeybee looking for nectar. Some time she flies around the nectar and is unable to perceive it. She thinks the nectar is there or there and finally she finds out that the nectar is just at her feet. When she finds it and tastes the sweetness of the nectar than she wants more and more.

I´m lucky that Krishna opened my eyes and gave me to taste the drop of nectar. With a deeper study of vedas and with upcoming realisations, I´m finding more and more nectar than in the beginning. Although maya is still attacking us, thanks to the knowledge and association of a pure vaisnavas and following of varnasrama culture, one has a power to fight with her.

Thank you very much that after all my shortcomings you´re taking me out of maya everyday.

With respect and humbleness,
your fallen servant

Jay Rādhikā Devi Dāsī

Jñāna-Samudra Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami!
All glories to you, Maharaja!

I cannot believe it's almost a year already since I received first initiation from you. Krishna knows I did not deserve it – but as Lord Nityananda's mercy knows no limits, neither does yours. I have been trying to follow all your instructions Guru Maharaja – but as you know, "trying" to follow actually means "failing" to follow. I thank you for your practical advice and guidance in my spiritual life and I pray that the regular cultivation you last mentioned becomes more and more prominent in time.

In the last year I think I have learned a lot more about the love and genuine care you have for your disciples and I am truly grateful to also fall under that care. I am really proud to be called your disciple – I just love it when I'm asked who my spiritual master is! Although, soon afterwards I often feel embarrassed as I reflect on what a poor representative of yours I currently am. I hope that one day I will grow to become a disciple that you could say you're proud to have. Until then, please do not give up on me! I beg that you continue to try and engage me in your service.

your servant,

Jñāna-Samudra Dāsa

Kalāvatī Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most respectful obeisances.
All glories to you.
All glories to Jay Advaita Maharaja.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

Glory is due to noble personalities as yourself, who are fully surrendered to the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord. Krishna is the proprietor of everything - fame, beauty, knowledge, wealth and renunciation and as a proprietor of these elevated atributes he generously distributes these qualities to those who are most dear to him - devotees who dedicated their lives to spreading the glories of the Holy name of the Lord. These devotees, you dear Guru Maharaja, are our saving angels. You are sustaining our lives, awakening our desire to serve the Supreme Lord and nourishing our determination to come to him already in this lifetime. For this one can never thank enough or repay this debt. Nevertheless I thank You a million of times that You are keeping me "alive" in my life that could maybe long ago lead me to hell. Only thanks to you I am still trying to live a life with Krishna Consciousness.

You are saying that we should live with the vows because they are uplifting us to a higher level that is not natural for us. May this become my life - to live til the end of my life with the vows I gave you, never forget them and hope for your causeless mercy and compassion. How amazing is your power that even such a poor conditioned soul as myself is trying to live with such noble vows. All glories to you, all glories to you, all glories to you.

Your poor soul

Kalāvatī Devi Dāsī

Kasturī mañjarī Dāsī

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your feet!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Srila Jayadvaita Maharaja.
All glories to you!

Krishna Consciousness is the best gift I have ever got. There is no doubt about it. I do not even realize fully how wonderful it is, but I am 100% sure it is the best thing in my life. In fact, without Krishna, my life would be unbearable. Now it is bearable and sometimes even blissful. In kirtan, there are no problems. On the street with a book in my hand, there are no petty personal problems. On every step, I can see and feel Krishna's hand. I'm still surprised! He really cares for me, in spite of my misbehaviour, my limited dedication, my weak effort...it must be not due to my devotional credit that He does not forget me, it surely must be due to your prayers, your mercy. You are serving Krishna perfectly and full time and that is why He is willing to glance mercifully upon your disciples. Thank you so much Guru Maharaja!

This year, I realize more than ever how impure I am. It was tough and it still will be, but there are some good things in this struggle - one gets so many realizations and one takes shelter at Krishna and His devotees. I am actually grateful for this experience. I may just wonder why doI have to choose the more difficult path, but if at the end there is Krishna, then no matter how difficult the path is. I pray I will be able to please you. I do not want to be the cause of your worries! Giving pain to the devotees is serious, what to speak of giving pain to one's spiritual master! I want to continue forever in this most amazing devotional service to the most amazing Lord and His servants! There is nothing sweeter... All other temporary temptations are just a toy for a short while, but what is left of it at the end?

Thank you for being so guru. You are a peaceful and stable island in the wild waters of the ocean of nescience. I take shelter at you again and again.

Your still childish servant

Kasturī mañjarī Dāsī

(Bhaktin) Klara

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaj.
All glories to you.

The year has passed so quickly again and we have another opportunity to celebrate Your Vyasa Puja. I'm starting to find out that it is really truth – our lives are so short and we have to use our time meaningfully, which means doing service for you. In the past it was all little bit theoretical for me and I couldn't really understand it. I thought that I will be young for a long time, that I never can be old :-D I always remember that you told something like this last year at the Czech farm to Jananivas, who is in my age, and I have to smile.

I also realized how important the association is. Last months I have had mainly association of my schoolmates and unfortunately I can really see its influence. It is difficult for me to keep my standards when I am eight hour a day with them and two times a week with devotees. So I pray for blessings of all vaishnavas that I can always stay in their association as much as possible.

During times when I am uninspired your association is the only thing which can light up at least a small flame of inspiration and desire to serve. I am always so happy for Your personal association and when you are not present personally, then for your amazing kirtans and lectures. Thanks to you I can sometimes little bit remember Krishna in the fire of material existence, especially at school.

Only one meeting with a pure devotee can change our whole life. And I am so foolish that although I have met You several times, still I am not able to be your real servant and follower and give up my material desires. I wish as much your association as possible. I wish to go deeper and deeper in Krishna Consciousness. I wish to do what Krishna wants. I wish I would live how you want me to live. I wish to feel more and more love. And I wish to become a devotee, or I want to wish all that. There are present all good qualities of a great pure devotee in you! Thank you for being the embodiment of compassion, mercy and knowledge for us.

It is so uplifting to write this offering and to become absorbed in thinking about you and our transcendental family, that I do not understand why I do not practice it every day. I will try it.

Your trying to be servant

(Bhaktin) Klara

(Bhakta) Kody and (Bhaktin) Nicole

Dear Guru Maharaja,

oṁ ajñāna-timirāndhasya
jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmīlitaṁ yena
tasmai śrī-gurave nama

Please accept our humble obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami.
All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja.

Your spirit of devotion to this movement of Lord Caitanya never ceases to amaze and enliven us. And even more so, your love of chanting the holy name is ever more attractive. With so much conviction, with so much love, and with so much urgency you go around the world to spread the holy name. We pray that Krishna continues to supply you with the energy to keep doing this. The world needs great vaisnavas like you very much. We need your mercy, your straight-talking wisdom and your guidance.

Although thank you does not suffice, we would like to express our gratitude to you, Guru Maharaja, for all your blessings and mercy that you that you have bestowed upon by giving us your association and instructing us in our Krishna Consciousness even though we are completely and entirely unworthy. Without your guidance and support, this past year would have been very bleak for us. Knowing that you had given us your blessings for our marriage gave us the strength we needed during very difficult times. Even so, we have still not done anything to deserve it and are still nowhere close. We pray that now that we are united in Krishna Consciousness, we can serve you better.

{ The world needs great vaisnavas like you very much. }

We have had the good fortune of associating with many of your disciples in South Africa over the course of the last few years. We see the dedication, determination and commitment with which they all serve you and it inspires us to take action in our own spiritual lives as well as to render such sincere service unto you also.

Being in Manchester is very different from our experiences in South Africa. Although we have not had your vapu association for some many months now, we are able to associate with you through your recorded lectures as we wait anxiously for our next meeting with you. Your words are ever-inspiring but, to borrow from your "step-by-step" metaphor, there is still so much weight on our back foot of material attachment. We are trying to shift all our weight onto the front foot of spiritual life yet we are still far from achieving this. But still, through your encouraging words, we are able to increase our appreciation for Srila Prabhupada and we pray that we will be able to overcome this. Any advancement that we have made or that we are to make in future is due to your mercy.

We pray for your good health and that we will be able to serve you in every way that we can.

You aspiring servants,

(Bhakta) Kody and (Bhaktin) Nicole
Manchester

Krishnasmaranam Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my full humble obeisances.
All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

“Before awakening pure devotional service, we must certainly learn of our relationship with the Supreme Lord. The spiritual master alone is able to bestow such knowledge. Therefore the root of devotional service is firm faith in the transcendental spiritual master. This faith is the first principle on the devotional path. Disciple must reject the path of argumentation and maintain faith in his spiritual master's auspicious instructions. Faith means full confidence in Sri Gurudeva's words. We cannot rely on the words of wordly persons but trust only Gurudeva. Everyone else is pretender. Therefore we should give up all worldly topics and have complete faith in the spiritual master's words. We cannot find succes in any other way. By the spiritual master's mercy, our anarthas will be destroyed, our desires fulfilled, and we will certainly attain the Lord's mercy and darsana."

With deep meditation about those instructions.

Aspirant for being Your real servant

Kṛṣṇasmaranam Dāsa

Krishna Caitanya Dāsa

Hare Krishna dear Guru Maharaja,

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

Although I'm the greatest fool and rascal, in your presence you always reciprocate so friendly and personal that I have no doubt that you are really seeing everybody on the platform of the soul. You don't take my faults so serious, rather you always encourage me to find some taste in spiritual life and to go on increasing the service in the preaching mission of Srila Prabhupada.

I want to let you know that especially in the last months your commitment and dedication towards a poor unqualified so-called "disciple" like me has uniquely touched my heart and left a great feeling of gratitude and indebtedness within me.

Recently life has become indeed a little intense for me, but I can see Krishna's caring and intelligent arrangements behind all the hassle and your stalwart support is very significant and meaningful for me. I like to thank you for that and will endeavor to genuinely take more shelter of your association for the upcoming year.

When will that day be mine, when I will stop telling you about my great problems but will start telling my problems about the greatness of Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai, Srila Prabhupada and your Holiness?

Falling into the dust of your holy feet.
Your aspiring servant

Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Dāsa

Madhukānta Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most respectful obeisances.
All glories to you.
All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

(Bhagavad-Gita 4.11) *"As all surrender unto Me, I reward them accordingly. Everyone follows My path in all respects, O son of Pṛthā."*

The Supreme Lord fulfills desires of all the living entities and awards them the results of their activities. To the fruitive workers the desired fruits, to the yogis the mystical powers, to the jnanis the liberation. But a devotee of the Supreme Lord does not hanker for any of these things. His only desire is to engage himself in the loving devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Although I have this knowledge from the books of Srila Prabhupada and theoretically I know what is right, under the pressure of the mighty waves of the illusory energy I am not able to focus firmly my mind on the final goal of life. But by following in the footsteps of great personalities who have firm conviction and clear goal, even an ordinary person can gain success on the path to the self-realization. Krishna has sent us you by His unlimited kindness, so that we could have an example worth of following.

Often times you are encouraging us and showing us the goal that is being lost from the vision of fools enchanted by the illusory energy. You remind us of the vows that we gave you, but under the influence of the fate we are not able to keep them. But these vows and instructions are what creates a strong relationship between the disciple and the spiritual master. Without the disciple following the instructions and keeping the vows he pronounced in front of guru, sacrificial fire, deities and vaisnavas, he cannot progress on his way to God. I thank you for constant inspiration by your instructions and deep realizations with the process of Krishna Consciousness.

I'm a grhasta now and as you used to say "With one leg always in the material world", so I have to remind myself all the time,"You fool, don't forget what you have promised to your spiritual master long time ago, many years ago! Never forget it!"

Your humble servant

Madhukānta Dāsa

{ Krishna has sent us you by His unlimited kindness, so that we could have an example worth of following. }

Madhu Pandit Dāsa

Hare Krishna my dearest Guru Maharaja!

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita Maharaja!
All glories to your Holiness!

This year more than any other years before I feel how much I depend on you, your instruction, your example, your mode of mercifulness. How your way of life in which you selflessly follow the desires of senior vaisnavas is really such an example that can change even in my stone like heart. How much you are so kind and prepared to help your disobedient disciples find the right path to blissful Krishna Consciousness.

It is no doubt, that I cannot glorify your merciful nature like you deserve. I am like the small spider building the bridge to Lanka next to Hanuman like god brothers and senior vaisnavas. You are such great fearless preacher and at the same time sensitive personal spiritual master. I honestly bow down before your holiness and pray to your lotus feet to always follow in your footsteps and never sadden you.

On this occasion I wish you to hear and see as much as possible only about spiritual progress of your disciples.

Your insignificant servant

Madhu Paṇḍit Dāsa

Maithilī Devī Dāsī

My Dearest Guru Maharaja,

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

'So every moment with the spiritual master is a precious moment even if nothing much transpires, even if no big dramatic statements are made.' I know this is so true when I think back of your last year's Vyasa Puja in Europe, and we were there. I treasured those ten wonderful days we had with you, Guru Maharaja, I have to admit, it was priceless. I wish everyday could be like that but the usual saying is, all good things must come to an end. To top that off, you gave me my second initiation. I am eternally grateful for that. The more we associate with you the more we understand Krishna Consciousness, that's all it takes association.

Atma Karpanya – I am nothing but a fallen helpless servant of my spiritual master. How could I deserve all this, you just been too kind to me. But then at times I sense that you are with me, wherever I find myself, as I try to carry out your instructions. It is not that the spiritual master is just authority, he is our well-wisher, and because he is our well-wisher, he has no other interest than to see that we are doing well. I sincerely thank you for your love and interest you have shown towards us, you have made this hard wave of this Kali Yuga seems so smooth. I thank you for inspiring me on my journey in the book distribution.

We've had an energising book distribution last year, and no doubt it was all your blessings. How could I repay you for this? Your mercy is my only remedy, through your causeless mercy you have facilitated me access to the transcendental art of book distribution, which is in the mood of Caitanya Mahaprabhu. I hope I could cultivate better service attitude and by doing that I could leave the anarthas of my heart behind.

On this very auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja I wish you have a long life of spiritual happiness and success in the service of your spiritual master.

Your servant

Maithilī Devī Dāsī

Mani Kundala Devi Dāsī

Hare Krishna dear Guru Maharaja,

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

Every year comes this special opportunity to glorify the glory and devotion of our spiritual master. And I also have the opportunity to look deeply into my consciousness, mind and heart and to resume the last year. Here is the result:

Again I have not done anything special by which I could please you and deepen our relationship between a disciple and spiritual master or a daughter and spiritual father. I consider myself to be a heavy weight at your lotus feet, which only restrain your return to spiritual world.

Often I am thinking how to please you and what to do for you. Daily hundreds of your disciples are on a street to preach the glory and teachings of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada. I am just a homemaker, not a sankirtan devotee. But at least I tried to distribute during the Prabhupada´s marathon with a purpose to please all the parampara ending to Lord Krishna Himself.

Is it enough to just every day chant my 16 rounds, read for an hour, keep the 4 principles and offer obeisances to you three times a day? For me it seems to be only a minimum after which I can call myself a “devotee” and slightly Krishna conscious soul. Maybe my time will come and I will be able to serve you really and to help your mission.

mukam karoti vachalam
pangum langhayate girim
yat-kripa tam aham vande
shri-gurum dina-taranam

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

This verse gives me the hope that maybe I´m not so useless. By the mercy of Krishna and spiritual master the abilities are developed in me which I can engage in a service for deities.

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

Through dressing them to beautiful dress which I can design, sew and decorate for them.
Although I do not do much for you, I try to keep what you gave me as a precious plant which I try to care about, but it does not go very well.

After all what I do or how I am, I feel your protective hand above me and infinitely amount of mercy and hope that also I can achieve it - to go back to Krishna in this life.

Thank you many times,
your servant

Maṇi Kuṇḍala Devi Dāsī

(Bhaktin) Manuela

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at Yyur lotus feet.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami!
All glories to you!

I am so much happy, that we can see you again on this glorious day of your appearance! Let me wish You all the best!! :) May Krishna protect you, and give you His unlimited mercy.

I am very gratefull, that you accepted me as a disciple out of your great mercy. Therefore I can see Krishna's kind, loving protection upon me. And this helps me overcome fear, because I know, that you and Krishna will allways be with me. It's a great fortune I have!
I like to listen to your lectures and try to understand the message in them. Thank you very much, that you always remind us what is the real goal of life! Your preaching has a great power to purify our hearts. Lust is actually only overturned love for Krishna. So why should Krishna Consciousness be anything complicated? Krishna Consciousness is the most natural for everyone. This message you are giving us is a priceless treasure and it is inspiring me the most.

Your further quality which I appreciate very much is the way you deal with people and your disciples. I even love the way you are smashing people (Mayapur has narrated it to me:)). Because you are always acting like our loving father and you are also smashing us in this mood.

In our several first meetings I was very diffident, because I was thinking, that as a mataji I am not qualified to be in association of such a pure sannyasi like yourself. But after a few meetings with you I understood that this is not your mood. You see soul in everybody and you are just thinking, how to give mercy to everyone. I have full faith, that you are the best spiritual master I could ever have and I would be grateful for every advice and every instruction.

It may be nice to write you a few words how we carry on. Since we moved to Harinam Mandir, there are some positive changes. Mayapur thinks how to better please our Deities LaksmiNarasimha. It's super, that he allowed me to assist him in everyday worship. Now I do sankirtan as my main engagement (it was my dream!).

Although we may have some difficulties, we read sastras and do some sravanam, kírtanam everyday together. I must praise Mayapur, because he is increasing his determination to serve Krishna.

Dear Guru Maharaja, thank you that you took time to read this offering.

Your aspiring servant

(Bhaktin) Manuela

Māyāpur Chandradoya Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my respectful obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
His Holiness Jayadvaita Maharaja and your Divine Grace!!!

Please let me glorify you on this auspicious day and brief you about news which I hope will be pleasing to you.

From the time we moved with Manuela to Harinam Mandir I feel that our opportunities to engage together in devotional service are much much better. We live here in the association of a few other nice devotees. Each of us having small apartment. Sharing with them all responsibilities connected with maintenance of the place as well maintaining of preaching activities. Nila Madhava keeps reasonable mood here. Im grateful to him for giving us a chance to participate in preaching activities again.

As Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Maharaja said:

"prán ache yar sei hetu prachar"
"One who has life, he can preach."

So naturally I feel enlivened.

It is very inspiring to experience again morning programs, kirtans, classes on more regular basis. We hold preaching programs regularly every Tuesday in restaurant Gauranga. Where Bhakta Robbie and Bhaktin Denisa kindly provided us nice and suitable place. Plus we do twice a month programs directly in Harinam Mandir. We would like to do more of course but there are also some limits due to our work duties etc.

We will be very happy to welcome you here and provide you a room to stay and organize a program with you while you will visit Prague again!

I thought that maybe Krishna reciprocated your prayers for my fallen soul, since my japa is again more fixed and relishable. At least 16 round everyday. Plus we read daily from Srimad Bhagavatam and other scriptures. Nonetheless I am aware that there is always plenty of space for improvement to progress futher.

Still I feel so much mercy. I owe all mercy I received to you. I am made out of your mercy. I think that if I would not meet you I would propably leave association of devotees long time ago.Since You are a powerful spiritual warrior able to convince Lord Krishna to shower His mercy upon fallen souls as me. I am still here!

You mentioned sometimes that you pray for us, and I feel it really works! So thank you very much for your concern and loving care. I pray to the Lord too.

I pray:"Please Krishna give our beloved spiritual master strength, protection and health so that he may bless us by his wonderful association long time and be always happy within himself. Please give us strength to please him by our service too."

I am fully aware that my prayers do not have so much potency as prayers of advanced devotees nonetheless my intention is sincere. So I believe that Krishna reciprocates them too.

The last thing I wanted to share with you is my realization of how important is for every devotee to know himself and be his own self otherwise it is very difficult to engage in devotional service and dedicate our hearts fully and feel happy in long term. One of the titles of Srila Prabhupadas books calls devotional service accurately as "The Science of Self Realization." So it is about knowledge of Krishna but also about the knowledge related to our spiritual identity and our conditioned nature (guna and karma) and proper engagement according to our guna and karma.

Once you told me:"You have to find out your own juice in spiritual life to be happy in devotional service in long run." Over the years I feel more and more how releiving is to be just my ownself without trying to be someone I was told to be, or someone I wanted to be. Please do not misunderstand me. I really do not want to excuse my anarthas in this way. I rather noticed that you helped me and some other good friends helped me to understand better my position. Many things I had to understand myself individually too. In this situation is more easy to feel natural in my devotional life nowadays. Although I am still very much on the way discovering Krishna, others and my own self everyday.

Dear Guru Maharaja, please excuse all my offenses I might commit. Please excuse me if I ever misunderstood you out of ignorance or if I ever worried you. Certainly your transcendental glory can not be fully expressed. I am sure that other Godbrothers and Godsisters are serving you much better. Still I always pray to you to not forget me and accept my service too.

Please let me finish by wonderful quote from your favorite book (CC Madhya 23.39)

yanra citte krsna-prema karaye udaya
tanra vakya kriya mudra vijneha na bujhaya

"Even the most learned man cannot understand the words, activities and symptoms of a person situated in love of Godhead."

Thank you very much.

Your servant

Māyāpur Chandradoya Dāsa

Merumālā Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my heartfelt obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami!
All glories to you!

Happy appearance day! I pray that you have a blissful day and years more ahead with excellent health, devotional service and blissful chanting at the lotus feet of Sri Guru and Gauranga!

I had the great fortunate of meeting you in Durban just before your 60th Vyasa Puja in Radhadesh. One question that burned in my flickering mind was whether you would accept someone as lowly as myself as your disciple. I carried this doubt with me to Radhadesh, amidst a family of amazing disciples that huddled around you during Vyasa Puja and you were right because I felt humbled listening to their heartfelt offerings. Here I was among great vaisnava's who live and preach ISKCON every day with such faith and determination, trying their best to fulfil your mission and I hesitated that I would never fit in because I'm nowhere as sincere. Yet one of the highlights of that great spiritual adventure occurred when you referred to me as your disobedient disciple and I am eternally grateful for this most rare opportunity.

I glanced through some old photos I had taken of you during the 2005 Durban Ratha Yatra and felt saddened to have hid behind a lens of maya! All those years squandered away of not having met you sooner felt like a great loss of time. It made me realise that I must make the utmost best of every opportunity to grab hold of your mercy.

A close devotee friend mentioned that the past year had been a prosperous one; I received initiation, had opportunities to travel and was fortunate to visit the Holy Dham for the first time. I immediately thought of you since all these spiritual milestones are a result of your blessings. Previously, devotional service was like stumbling across an oasis in a desert but after just one meeting with you, it now flows like a cool, steady stream from the Lotus Feet of Srimati Radharani.

In the short time that I've known you, there has been a great leap in my spiritual path. I also see that your blessings extend to my family as well. Here are just a few drops of unlimited nectar that I could put into words of what you mean to us.

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At work, we are often confronted with materialistic, mundane nonsense but we only need to plug in our headphones to be transported to the spiritual realm while listening to your far-out tunes. It brightens our day and material woes just fade away!

When we are down and out on our luck, just one glance of your youthful smile melts all our fears away and when we dance to your jubilant kirtan, we recharge our spiritual batteries for the weeks ahead. It helps us power on and try to follow your instructions with firm faith. Your lectures and literature are the torchlight of knowledge which melts our stubborn, stone-like hearts, allowing us to realise our natural position as servants of the servant.

I read part of the Sri Guru-astaka prayer in Srila Prabhupada's Samadhi that reminds me of you, "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."

I do not know how to be a good disciple but somehow you still accepted me as yours so I pray that I may someday conquer your heart as you continue to conquer mines each time. I am talentless, I cannot sing, paint or play a musical instrument but whatever devotional qualities I obtain please may I offer it all to you.

Your disobedient disciple and servant of the servant,

Merumālā Devi Dāsī

Mūrti Sevā Devi Dāsī

Dear Gurudeva!

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.
All glories to Srila Jayadvaita Swami.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Giriraja Govinda.

As an aspect of your divine mercy and care, so many things have happened in my spritual life during the last year. This impelled me to dig even deeper into it.

For a short time even my false pride disappeared as I've realized how much all my deeds, thoughts and feelings are still shallow and selfish. When I first heard about what real love is, I just couldn't imagine it because it was so much over everything I've experienced. Real love means to give up one's own desires and goals and to replace them with the desires and goals of one's beloved. Back then, as a young wife and mother, it was painful to accept that there is no pure love in this world - but deeply analyzing it, I again and again reached the same conclusion. This was a real shock for me, because then it became clear for me that I've never loved anyone and I haven't been loved either. All the thoughts entertained so far about me loving others quickly fell apart and I could finally see myself as I was, with my selfish desires. From that day onwards I saw the whole life differently. Every weekday was a new evidence.

As years have passed, I slowly began to understand that only one with love for God can love purely. One who has love for God will automatically love God's whole creation and all His creatures. This develops in the heart as the byproduct of love for God, just as like the rosebud opens due to the effect of light, thereby perfecting the beauty of the whole bush.

Meeting you always makes me remember this:

Your compassion and love I feel infinitely deep and sincere. Your desire to lead all souls to the lotus feet of the Lord is the most magnificent possible goal in this world. The example of selfless, high-class care and perfectly pure love. This is such a wonderful and elevated position and still You come and go around ordinary people as if you were just one of them. Even humbly and modestly wherever you go in this world, your beneficial presence is the greatest gift for everyone. I cannot imagine a life more valuable than this as all your deeds serve the eternal welfare of others. You are sharing and explaining the secrets of devotional service. Even the Lord of the universe, Sri Krishna glorifies you when He tells his friend: "There is no servant in this world more dear to Me than he, nor will there ever be one more dear." There is no safer place in

this world than the shadow of your lotus feet. Everyone who falls to these lotus feet becomes fortunate. I thank Krishna for giving me the possibility to serve you.

Dear Gurudeva!

Sometimes I feel I love everyone but then I again realize that from my mouth this is just a worthless and cheap word. Because love must be like as you love others. I am still the same worthless and selfish person as I was before. I need you greatly to lead me out if my shallow feelings.

For your birthday I wish you good health. May all your desires be fulfilled.

In your eternal service,

Mūrti Sevā Devi Dāsī

Nāma-rūpa Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

Whenever I get the opportunity to glorify you I wish I could present to you better results of my saddhana, truer humility, deeper realizations, and ultimately show you that my heart had started to melt and true love of Godhead had started to develop there…

Unfortunately I still just pretend to be a true disciple. But you know better than I do what I am made of.

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

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

So again I am back to where I started: just like a kid who has bought a present to her father after saving the pocket money given to her by father.

Often I wonder why this wonderful thing has happened to me that I am allowed to train in devotional service. My only answer is your compassion which is in perfect line from Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu handed down by Srila Prabhupada! I feel hopeful and fearless under your guidance!

To glorify you I have to borrow Krishna's own words:

nimajjyonmajjatāṁ ghore
bhavābdhau paramāyaṇam
santo brahma-vidaḥ śāntā
naur dṛḍhevāpsu majjatām

"The devotees of the Lord, peacefully fixed in absolute knowledge, are the ultimate shelter for those who are repeatedly rising and falling within the fearful ocean of material life. Such devotees are just like a strong boat that comes to rescue persons who are at the point of drowning." (Srimad Bhagavatam 11.26.32)

santo diśanti cakṣūṁsi
bahir arkaḥ samutthitaḥ
devatā bāndhavāḥ santaḥ
santa ātmāham eva ca

"My devotees bestow divine eyes, whereas the sun allows only external sight, and that only when it is risen in the sky. My devotees are one's real worshipable deities and real family; they are one's own self, and ultimately they are nondifferent from Me." (Srimad Bhagavatm 11.26.34)

Guru Maharaja all that I have and all that I am belongs to you!

Your servant and your mercy case

Nāma-rūpa Devi Dāsī

Nayanābhirāma Dāsa

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

namah om visnupadaya
krsna-presthaya bhutale
gurudasa jayadvaita svamin iti namine

namah om visnupadaya krsna-presthaya bhutale kadamba kanana swami iti namine

Dear Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada and his mission!

I wrote to you from the road contemplating the difficulties, stress, the aches and pains, the frustration, the agitation, the mind and ultimately the tiredness that travelling sankirtan brings to you as the grind sets in.

In all of this I consider your unique and tireless contribution to Srila Prabhupada's mission. Year in and year out, day in and day out, in sickness and in health, alone or with many, house to house, program to program, lecture to lecture, kirtan to kirtan, Country to Country. Sometimes the orange is squeezed to its last drop and sometimes the candle is being burnt at both ends, but it doesn't matter, onwards to the next engagement like a blazing fire You surrender and give, more and more of yourself to the mission and to your disciples always ever increasing and new limits being pushed in a whirlwind of preaching, Chanting and dancing! Deeper and deeper into the holy names!

Real Sanyassa.

Your amazing ability to know and adjust to individuals is amazing and true sight to see in action. Like an old dear friend coming home is the feeling you give us all when you visit us. Caring, welcoming, selfless, raising a smile and fanning the flames in the heart of all devotees with your friendship, smile and instructions you plant in our hearts so much.
Devotees, first timers, long timers, old, young, big and small. You connect us all to the lotus feet of your spiritual master and Srila Prabhupada's and ultimately the lotus feet of Radha and Krishna. Like Lord Nityananda your giving the mercy out freely to all regardless!

As the years go by and realizations and insights gain more maturity I can only pray to follow in the fine footsteps of such a spiritual master like you, like Prabhupada your mine and everyone else's ever well wisher!

I feel very blessed and fortunate to have you as my spiritual master and my lasting desire is to be always at the dust of your lotus feet.For being with you and serving you is like being home already.

Your Unworthy servant

Nayaṇābhirāma Dāsa

Navadvīpa Dāsa

oṁ ajñāna-timirāndhasya
jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmīlitaṁ yena
tasmai śrī-gurave nama

Dear Guru Mahârâja,

Please accept my sincere obeisances.
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami.
All glories to Srîla Prabhupâda.

In "The meaning of Vyâsa-Pūjâ" Kavicandra Swami stated: I decided to compile some of Srila Prabhupada's statements of the issue. His authority must be superior, and his explanations are always pleasing to all.

Dear Guru Maharaja, let me offer three of them that are the closest to my heart.
Practically just like a vagabond I came. But I had full faith that 'my Guru Maharaja is with me.' I never lost this faith, and that is a fact. If anyone wants to understand Krishna while jumping over the spiritual master, then immediately he becomes a bogus. Therefore, Caitanya Mahâprabhu says, 'guru-kṛṣṇa prasade pâya bhakti-latâ bîja' [Cc. Madhya 19.151]. That is the vedic injunction: 'tad vidhi pranipâtena pariprasnena sevayâ' [Bhagavad-Gita 4.34]. Nobody can understand Krishna without going through his most confidential servant.

We should always pray, 'yasya prasâdâd bhagavat-prasâda,' [Srî Srî Gurv-astaka 8]. Yasya prasâda: only by the grace of the spiritual master can we achieve the grace or mercy of Krishna.

This is the meaning of this Vyâsa-Pūjâ offering obeisances by the paramparâ system.

[His Divine Grace Śrîla Bhaktisiddhânta Sarasvatî Gosvâmî Prabhupâda's Appearance day, Lecture Atlanta, March 2, 1975, 750302BA.ATL]

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Krishna appeared in the Vrsni family, and our business is to understand Krishna. Krishna, we cannot understand Krishna fully. He is unlimited. But still, by following the footsteps of great mahâjana, great devotees, personalities, we can understand to some extent what is Krishna. So we may not understand fully. If we simply take it for granted, even without understanding Krishna, that Krishna is the Supreme and our business is to love him. Real our aim is how to love Krishna just like the gopîs. They did not know that Krishna is God. Or the cowherd boys, they did not know. Even mother Yasodâ did not know that Krishna was the Supreme Personality of Godhead. But their love for Krishna was spontaneous. They did not know anything beyond Krishna. If you come to that stage, that is perfection. Not that we want to know what is god. What you will know? What knowledge we have got we can understand what is god? But we can see by god's activities. [Srimad Bhagavatam 1.3.23, Lectures 19720928 Los Angeles].

Devotional service, or engagement in Krishna Consciousness, is the direct method, and all other methods, although recommended, are indirect. In this age of kali the direct method is especially more feasible than the indirect because people are short-living, their intelligence is poor, and they are poverty-stricken and embarrassed by so many miserable disturbances. Lord Caitanya, therefore, has given the greatest boon: in this age one simply has to chant the holy name of God to attain perfection in spiritual life. [Srimad-Bhagavatam 3.21.7].

Dear Guru Maharaja, I was given from you the most valuable thing - the Holy Name of the Lord. I cannot express how I feel grateful that you are giving me everything. I have no idea that there is a way how can I repay my debt to you.

Thank you for everything.

Your humble servant,

Navadvīpa Dāsa

Nityā-manjari Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you and all glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami.

With another year behind us I am wondering what could I offer for the auspicious event of your Vyasa Puja day that would please you. I did not do anything amazing. The only thing I can say is that I will go on trying to become a devotee.

Living here in Simhachalam could at times be challenging. Nrsimhadeva, by His presence, reveals our shortcomings. It is obvious that there is a long way to go. But although we have so many faults, He is allowing us to serve Him, and is accepting no matter how imperfect and whatever little we do. I am grateful for this.

I know even if my service is insignificant, by the mercy of the Spiritual Master, The Lord will accept it like a mother who appreciates the Krickel-krakel painting of a three year old, telling the child how wonderful it is. In this way the child is encouraged to continue, and is able to grow by the loving care of the mother. In the same way I hope I can somehow grow and one day become your serious and useful servant.

Before we moved to Simhachalam you told me that I would have to learn to be tolerant. Several times in your lectures you mentioned the story of the noble bear who remained fixed in his principles of goodness and tolerated the evil hunter who was chased by a tiger. You want us to make that commitment, to become sadhus in our hearts, to purify ourselves, and to ultimately go back to Godhead. You also want us to be exemplary, and to try to help others and inspire them in their spiritual life.

Today I pray to become one of your bear-like servants, and in this way make my life successful.

Your servant,

Nityā-mañjari Devi Dāsī

Nrsimha Caitanya Dāsa

nama om visnupadaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate kadamba kanana swamin iti namine

nama om visnupadaya krsna presthaya bhutale
gurudasa jayadvaita swamin iti namine

nama om visnupadaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bhaktivedanta swamin iti namine

namaste sarasvate deve gouravani pracarine
nirvisesa sunyavadi pascatya desa tarine

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

Since the deadline for sending the offerings comes always around Gaura Purnima time, which for last two years was the busiest period of year for me, I find it quite difficult to express what I would like to express and to do it in an appropriate way. Especially now, an year after my initiation, I feel like I should come up with something meaningful, some realisation, but the only thing that comes to my mind, are your words during the initiation lecture, where You said, that actually the life will go on pretty much in the same way as before. But not just exactly, because your prayer to Krishna for our spiritual wellbeing will be there.

Although since the last Vyasa Puja I saw you maybe two or three times, and I wrote much less letters compared to last year, I could feel your presence and your prayer. In one lecture you said that the spiritual master is watching over the disciple in one of three ways. In a way of bird, constantly flying around the nest with his fragile younglings. Or as fish, whose eyes are always wide open and watching over the offspring. Or as a tortoise, who leaves the eggs in the sandy beach and goes back into ocean and stays connected with the eggs by her meditation.

This year I felt like in the tortoise and egg relationship because of your apparent physical distance. Nevertheless I made it through only by your mercy and grace. I see no other explanation for it.

I would like to present a prayer with this offering. In the relationship between Guru and disciple, the essential thing is Guru's instruction, and disciple's obedient following of it. While in Mayapur for Kirtan Mela I wanted to ask you for a specific instruction for me. It seemed to me that everything I was doing, harinams around the world, Padayatra, even worship of Lord Nrsimhadeva, came before I met you or it was my idea,

which was sanctioned by you and although you always encouraged me in my service, I felt like I am missing this connecting point of the one instruction for life. Something like, go and preach in Antarctic - something of that kind.

I could see you were very busy with meetings and kirtans and somehow or other I could not find an opportunity to speak with you. Then at one point I started to rethink the whole purpose behind my intention to meet you. If you would really send me to some place like Antarctic, would I really go? Probably I would present hundreds of reasons why I can not do this. Do I have not enough of beautiful service? Maybe, if you really have this one instruction for me, I should first show my competency to follow it by doing all those things I am doing now, but offering it to you with my full heart, without any second thoughts and regrets.

Sanatana Goswami prayed to Lord Caitanya: "Let these instructions be manifested in my heart." So today I am also praying like that, although I can not even dare to compare neither myself nor my petty service to that of Sanatana Goswami. Let all this service - which in the first place was maybe not given directly by you, but in which you support me and which I hope you like - let all this service be manifested in my heart. Let me accept this service as my heart and soul, not just mechanically carrying it out, but wholeheartedly diving in the thick of it for the pleasure of Your Holiness, Srila Prabhupada, and Lord Caitanya.

Your humble aspiring servant,

Nṛsiṁha Caitanya Dāsa

Padmanābha Dāsa

Adelaide, Australia, 9th March 2014

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Happy appearance day.
Then came the day to write something for the Vyasa Puja book.
All glories to your lotus feet and how we can improve to be your servant.
Hey, All Glories to your Lotus Feet and how can I serve you! Like, now!

That is your spirit. How can we serve more and more, better and better, purer and purer.
By looking at your example we can see how you are very kind, very tolerant, very inclusive and very patient. Not really with yourself but with us certainly. Or even when you're not that patient with us you are still very tolerant.

When you are dealing with people it is of the utmost import and to try and understand someone, where they are and where they are coming from. At the same time you want to know or see where they can go. This would be true for a manager but obviously also for a spiritual leader. I can say that in both respects you are very qualified, as manager I have heard you did amazing things and achieved unbelievable results and as spiritual leader also you are very qualified to strike a balance between accepting where a person is coming from and where you can take them. Which is of course very delicate business because we are all so sensitive and hung up. But it doesn't seem to take you much effort to achieve this either.

At the moment there is a debate going on about Krishna West and how it is being hampered by some unthoughtful decisions made by the Governing Body Commision.
You don't necessarily take a position as in Krishna East or Krishna West but rather 'Krishna for all', an approach that also Hridayananda Maharaja could appreciate. Krishna really is for all in your mind and as such you are happy to bring Krishna to temples, to yoga schools, retreat centres, universities or wherever you go. Though you might for example have mainly one style of dress, you dress Krishna up in ways that your audience can appreciate him easy and quick. Having said that... actually no, I heard you at Govinda's Sydney one year, when you were supposed to do all kinds of sing along songs, you just gave the hipsters Krishna straight and straight away, you took them from the land of Down Under into the land of Vrindavan.

As conclusion I can say that you are indeed very tolerant very kind and very merciful. I am grateful to have you as my spiritual master and I hope you are somewhat happy with the service I do for Gaura Nitai's sankirtan movement.

Your servant,

Padmanābha Dāsa
Govinda Valley retreat
Heart & Soul Cafe
Sydney Australia

Padyāvalī Devī Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

The celebration day of your Vyasa Puja is coming and I´m thinking how to thank you for your care and protection. Although I don´t have enough opportunities for your personal association, I feel a safeness that you´re my spiritual master.

You are my hope that one day I´ll get the relationship with Krishna. Even though this goal seems to be unattainable, you are here and I believe that you don´t leave me, despite the act that I´m not the proper disciple. You are giving me the chance again and again and through you I´m reminding the importance of Krishna Consciousness.

As it is amazing that Krishna sent us Srila Prabhupada, I also feel happy that to my life Krishna sent you. There´s a many great spiritual masters who are leading their disciples to God but by you becoming my spiritual master, I feel Krishna´s personal care and that´s a wonderful feeling.

I know I have to endeavour myself but I feel the assurance that you will always help me and will not leave me. I beg for your blessings to never do anything what would dissapoint you and to be able to please you.

Your servant

Padyāvalī Devī Dāsī

{ You are my hope that one day I´ll get the relationship with Krishna. }

Pancajanya Dāsa

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami Maharaja,

All glories to your divine personality guru maharaja.
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami Maharaja.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

On this truly auspicious Vyasa Puja of your holiness. I wish to offer my insignificant offering to you this year by firstly appreciating your preaching efforts throughout the world, and being such a great source of inspiration for dedicated, enthusiastic, unmotivated and uninterrupted execution of and complete surrender to the process of bhakti to so many devotees in this ISKCON movement. Your exceedingly merciful sacrifice to inspire and bring devotees closer to the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada and Krishna, even through health and other difficulties, is truly a wonder and can only come from real deep and caring compassion for us suffering souls who have forgotten our eternal relationship with Krishna. I'm truly grateful to have met your divine grace in my otherwise lost existence.

Throughout the sastra it cannot be stressed enough the importance of satisfying the spiritual master. Indeed it is the secret of secrets to the advancement of yoga practice:

The secret of success in spiritual life is in satisfying the spiritual master and thereby getting his sincere blessings. Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Thākura has sung in his famous eight stanzas on the spiritual master as follows: "I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master. Only by his satisfaction can one please the Personality of Godhead, and when he is dissatisfied there is only havoc on the path of spiritual realization." (Srimad Bhagavatam 1.1.8, Purport).

Those on the path of spiritual life have as their ultimate goal to please the guru by whose grace only can we attain the lotus feet of Radha-Krishna. By the mercy of the spiritual master the disciple develops a desire to somehow attain the lotus feet of the Lord by hearing about the Lord from the guru, who is himself absorbed and is relishing transcendental mellows of pure devotional service to Sri Krishna. By the mercy of the spiritual master a struggling disciple can get the Lord's mercy by the compassionate well-wishes of the spiritual master.

{ Throughout the sastra it cannot be stressed enough the importance of satisfying the spiritual master. }

At least that is how I always feel. Even though you're traveling all over the world I always feel that by your well-wishes and acceptance of me as a disciple I'm receiving so much shelter and protection. I wish to better myself as a your servant by sincerely endeavouring to advance in spiritual life in order to show my deepest gratitude, appreciation and understanding of the wealth and wonder that is devotional service. I have heard that Srila
Prabhupada had expressed that if he could have just one pure devotee then he would consider his preaching efforts successful. By your graceful mercy and our sincere service to your and Prabhupada's lotus feet, your preaching efforts will surely be successful Maharaja.

I wish you a wonderful Vyasa Puja and may you please excuse our short-comings in glorifying you more adequately. Praying to be always a humble and surrendered servant,

your disciple,

Pañcajanya Dāsa

Parama karuna Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

I pay my respectful obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to his Holiness Jayadvaita Maharaja.
All glories to you.

It is ten years now, since I have been initiated by you. Thank you for the patience you have with me and for all the mercy you bestowed upon me. In the beginning there were just few initiated disciples and you were traveling more intensively than now. We could see you several times a year and when you came there was quite enough time to speak with you. I practically took it for granted and most probably didn't appreciate it properly.

Things have changed a lot from that time. Now I must build and maintain the relationship much more on basis of vani-your instructions then vapuh-your physical presence.

Recently one devotee said during the lecture that, "There is always some senior devotee around whom we can ask for advice." After the lecture I privately asked him "Do you really think so?" And he said: "No. It's actually terrible, because most of the time there is no one to ask." I asked you once about this and almost complained about the situation. Finally I said almost desperately, "It seems that we have no choice but to become mature" You smiled and said, "You got it" So this is the situation. It is said that vani is more important than vapuh. So I have to practice it.

You are my spiritual father. As I myself became a father recently I start to figure out what it is like to be a father. Father always wants the best for his child. He wishes the child will prosper and do the right things in life. Father always tries to protect his child from anything what hurts. He is always ready to become a shelter of his child. And yet he gives a freedom to the child because of his causeless love. I think it will help me to know the point of view of father. I hope it will help me to become a good son.

The path of Krishna Consciousness is given. Srila Prabhupada and previous acaryas revealed it to us. They paved the path and cleaned it nicely and all we have to do is walk the path. But still we sometimes think: "It is too difficult for me to walk the path." or "Do I really want to walk?" As you always walk the path tirelessly and very enthusiastically, you also enthuse countless devotees including me to do so.

You are always absorbed in the ocean of nectar of harinam sankirtan. You always engage yourself and others in chanting of Krishna's Holy Names and in this way you make everyone happy all the time. Let me follow in your footsteps because it is the perfection of life. In this age there is no other way to succeed than chanting of Krishna's names. There is literally no other reasonable activity than harinam sankirtan. Lord Himself appeared as Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to teach this simple method of self-realization and then He sent His empowered devotee Srila Prabhupada to spread this message all over the world. And for me you are the living example and the personification of His orders.

Your insignificant servant

Parama karuṇa Dāsa

Pārijāta Devi Dāsī

Hare Krishna my dearest Guru Maharaja, my father and my friend,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita swami.
All glories to ou

Dear Guru Maharaja when I see or just thinking to you I am immediately in Vrindavan, in spiritual world, you are completely immersed in love to our beloved Krishna and I am so happy when I see you in this ecstasy. You are like garden of wish ful-filling desire trees and you gave me this the biggest mercy and that I can worship deities and every day I can beg for your blessing for this service.

sri guro paramánanda premananda phala prada
vrajanánda pradánanda seváyám má niyojaya

My dear spiritual master, who give the fruit of the highest bliss - the bliss of love of Godhead - please engage me in the blissful service of Sri Krishna, who gives bliss to the land of Vraja.

I am just begging for your mercy again and again, which came to me as a result of some unimaginable good fortune. How also I recite every day and meditating, that only through your mercy I can know who I am, just eternal servant of Krishna. Every day when I say that prayers I just thinking, as we could lost really lot of time here in this world and to be even inimical to this unimaginable loving and the most kind person, to our the most merciful Lord Krishna. How is writing in that text bhúta-suddhi. Why we were identifying with our body and mind.

Therefore I am so so grateful, that Krishna sent You to me and I know who I am and I can go finally back to Him. Thanks your presence in my life I realized,that here is somebody, who loves us so much and he does not want from us back nothing, then only our pure love, and that he patiently waits for our purification and when we want to give up to everything and than we want just his love.

Thank my dearest Guru Maharaja for your patient love with me. I looking forward, when I will be more and more pure for you and for Krishna and then I will be able to accept this full love of our dearest Lord Krishna.

Thank you
Your humble servant

Pārijāta Devi Dāsī

(Bhakta) Petr

Dear Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances and great respect to your service.
All glories to beloved Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami!
All glories to you!

Today it´s just exactly one year when I arrived in Vrindavan last year on Shiva ratri day. I remember it very clearly, it was three thirty and I caught the mangala arati yet and saw my very beloved Krishna-Balarama after long time again. It was really the best period of my present life. I know that it was your mercy and desire to push me back to Vrindavan. I will never be able to pay you for all of this, even if I would become a billioner. Thank You very much for your mercy Maharaja!

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami, you are the light of my life and my big inspiration in devotional service. All glories to your wonderful kirtans and preaching trips! Let your mercy be spread for more and more suffering souls in this material world.

I pray to Jayadvaita Swami, to Srila Prabhupada, to Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Maharaja and all Parampara for your protection and help in Your devotional service. I pray to Srimati Radharani to be always favourably hung to you. I pray to Krishna and Balarama for your health, protection and happy return to Vrindavan.

Your low humble servant

(Bhakta) Petr

Prema-vanyā Devi Dāsi

Hare Krsna Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my sincere obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories and gratitude to you Maharaja, Krishna's dear servant.

"Lord Caitanya then touched the cows with His lotus hand, and the cows all began to dance almost like gopis. Seeing the dancing of the cows, He was inundated with love. He chuckled and danced like an intoxicated person."(I-bid.)

In the beginningI used to ask myself how far down the rabbit hole will I have to go, to only find what I'm not looking for! And to my surprise! Kadamba Kanana Swami the Dutch guru who rocks the kirtan. It was here that I finally understood this concept that, "You are not the body." I can only genuinely get to know you through your lectures, which have been a great source of inspiration. Your classes quench my desiring thirst. Through your lectures, I can feel how convinced you are about Krishna Consciousness, and that convinces me about the purpose of life.

Your qualities are so inspiring, how perceptive you are, your love and enthusiasm, your perseverance and broad mindedness, your witty spirited humour and your soft heart. Your mission in setting up preaching centres in South Africa to make Lord Caitan-ya's mercy easily accessible, and you so kindly engage us in helping in His mission.

Thank you for giving me shelter of the Holy Name and the association of gem like God family. It is by their kindness I am able to express my gratitude to you. Love comes from love and you are the ocean of love.

I sincerely pray that my love and service will continue to grow and that I can remain at your lotus feet by your instructions.

Your servant

Prema-vanyā Devi Dāsi

{ Through your lectures, I can feel how convinced you are about Krishna Consciousness, and that convinces me about the purpose of life. }

Purusottama-ksetra Dāsa

Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble dandavat at your lotus feet.

It´s impossible to get Krishna Consciousness without a service to the lotus feet of a genuine spiritual master. Spiritual master keeps a spiritual treasure - he rescues conditioned souls from capture of ignorance and carries them back to the lotus feet of Sri Krishna. Spiritual master is always our worshipable master. Sri Krishna says: “Devotee of my devotee is my devotee.” There´s no higher goal in life than to serve to instructions of the spiritual master. Everyone who has serious interest to attain Krishna´s association, must accept the words of spiritual master deep into his heart and consider them to be his life and soul.

Guru makes us eligible to see spiritual reality. Effulgent realized knowledge coming from your heart, Gurudeva, destroys reactions caused by our sinful activities. When I am realizing my debt to my guru, the only reality is to serve him with love and devotion, patiently and determinedly. I live in illusion, guru defines reality, by his mercy all my desires are filled. Devotee is pesimistic regarding the scrapyard of material world but is always spiritually fresh regarding the mission of spiritual master.

The way back home to Krishna is not a child game. With a spiritual master is life much more easier. When a devotee pleases a spiritual master, he pleases Sri Krishna. When a devotee displeases a spiritual master, no one knows where he´s going. I commited many offences at your lotus feet. I beg you Gurudeva for forgiveness and for spiritual strength to get off my anarthas. I beg for forgiveness to all the devotees whom I also commited different offences. Offences against devotees are the biggest obstacle on the way to obtain Sri Krishna in this very lifetime. Please Gurudeva, save my life and bless me in my effort to come back to Sri Krishna. I will be happy to see you along side Sri Krishna.

I thank you many times for everything you did for me and for what you´re still doing.

Aspiring servant of your servant

Puruṣottama-kṣetra Dāsa

(Bhakta) Radek

Hare Krishna.

Please accept my humble obeisance.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I am glad that you are my guru, because I believe that you can bring me home back to Godhead. Where I want to help you and your servants with your service to Krishna.
I hope and I wish that you will be always before me with saddhana, knowledge, spiritual advancement and with all good qualities of vaisnavas and devatas. And in this way you will always show me the path of liberation, service to Krishna and personal development.

I wish to be your servant, but till now I did not do nothing important for you. I think it is not so easy to be servant of somebody. To be good servant its quite high position, it involves some hurt or inconvenience. Because I do all for my master and nothing for me. So how can I call myself as your servant? I think I am only your disciple. But my desire is to be your real servant. My desire is to give everything to you.

I wish you happy birthday. Please stay with us as long as possible.

“Both by rising and by setting, the sun decreases the duration of life of everyone, except one who utilizes the time by discussing topics of the all-good Personality of Godhead.”
(Srimad Bhagavatam 2.3.17)

Hare Krsna,

(Bhakta) Radek

Rādhādyuti Devi Dāsī

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

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

Belonging

Recently, someone asked me, who are you? My answer was immediate. I am spirit soul. This was quickly followed by; I am a disciple of His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami. A deep smile entered my face. I realized, I belong. Last year, you accepted me as your own and welcomed me to this grand parampara. For this, I am indebted lifetime after lifetime. I found a place where I belong, where I can follow and submit without question.

Velvet bag of stones

Sometimes, when I see you in my mind's eye, I see you walking down a road, the weather over cast, and the earth smelling of freshly fallen rain. Along the road, there are these puddles. And in these puddles, little pebbles. Little pebbles, screaming pick me, pick me! And as you go from place to place in this over cast kali-yuga world, you bend down and pick up a little pebble, and placing it in a little velvet bag, in your pocket. These little pebbles, your disciples, rub against each other in this velvet bag. Together we recall and share your words, instructions and teachings, thereby shedding off the dust and dirt we have collected over the lifetimes, and slowly these pebbles shine and reveal their true nature. And all this is possible because you bent down, picked us up, and plopped us in this bag. And where ever you go, you carry this bag, protecting and shielding this bag from whatever storm may come, this bag gets bigger and heavier, but you never complain, you just pick us up and protect us. You show us, that we need each other, to purify ourselves by keeping each other close, under your shelter and guidance. You are selfless.

Courage. Patience. Determination.

You told me to remember this, and to apply it. I see you apply this is everything you do. I see how patient you are with me. How long it has taken me to come around, and be serious. I see how courageous you have been to travel non-stop and preach to those

who do not even want to hear. And I see how determined you have been to spread the Holy Name. And I realise, that that is all you require from your little pebbles. To develop some faith, surrender, and spread the Holy Name, even to those who do not wish to hear. You personify mercy.

Sweet Surrender

Through your ever fresh preaching, you have shown me how sweet surrender can be. How there is nothing to worry about in this material world, I must just have faith. You have taken this movement of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada to heart, and with an unwavering spirit spread the Holy Name. Every moment, class, discourse, melody and mood reverberates with your love for your Guru Maharaja and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, because you have surrendered to the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada.

Guru Maharaja, I have heard, that home is not a place it is a feeling. Thank you for bringing me home and taking charge of my soul. I pray I may be of some assistance in spreading the Holy Name. You are my Lord and Master lifetime after lifetime.
All glories, all glories, all glories to You on this most auspicious Vyasa Puja!

Your aspiring servant

Rādhādyuti Devi Dāsī
South Africa

Rādhā-kānta Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

Narada muni while traveling through the universe once saw a hunter. The hunter was engaged in most sinful activities. Narada muni out of compassion told the hunter about the reactions for his activities.

I was also very sinful person. Then I met you and you spoke about things as they really are. I got worried about my unavoidable future. The hunter then fell down at Narada's lotus feet. I fell down at your's. Narada told the hunter to abandon sinful activities and adopt a life of a saint and promised him to send food for his maintenance.

Your words inspired me to change my life completely. When I saw your dependence on the Lord, it gave me strength to quit my former job and join the temple. Narada then gave the hunter instructions how to execute the spiritual life and thus make an advancement to attain the final goal of life.

You are mercifully instructing me. Whenever I turned to you with my questions and doubts, You always gave me an answer, which carried me over the difficulties. When Parvata Muni saw the transformation of the hunter, he told Narada, 'Certainly you are a touchstone.'

Dear Guru Maharaja, thank you for being similiar touchstone and saving me.

Your fallible servant

Rādhā-kānta Dāsa

{ Your words inspired me to change my life completely. When I saw your dependence on the Lord, it gave me strength to quit my former job and join the temple. }

Rāgalekhā Devi Dāsī

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories unto You!

My ever well-wisher! My one constant who has always been there even when the whole world has let me down. How can I ever repay you for all that you have done and still do for me!? Thank you for the kindness that you bestow upon me. No matter what happens in this world and if I lose everything, as long as this relationship stays, I'll be alright!

Recently, I visited Gita Nagari and my entire time there was a learning experience of the Guru-disciple relationship. The message came through so strongly that one should always have implicit faith in the instructions of the Spiritual Master and this is never considered to be blind following. The disciples of Bhakti Tirtha Swami emphasized these points so much. They were sharing with me memories of Maharaja and how whatever he said, proved to be prophetic. Sometimes, what they considered to be just a passing statement from their Spiritual Master later on had so much significance. I pray that I can always remember and abide by this principle.

You are so committed to your role as a Spiritual Master. In December, in Mayapur, we were talking about the service that you were engaged in, at that time. Since you are so expert at construction management, I asked you if you would consider staying on fulltime in Mayapur and seeing the project to completion. You said no because you have disciples now and you have to care for them! Thank you for always putting us first!

You spend so much time and effort in helping us groom our life so that we do not deviate from our ultimate goal. Recently, I was offered what can be described as a "dream job". My big break – a ten year jump in my career trajectory but this meant moving to a new city where there isn't an established Iskcon congregation. You allowed me to go for it but was very strict that I have to live as a devotee – no compromise! You wanted to know who my friends in the new city were; I had to give some description of each one and you approving if they were okay to associate with!

{ You spend so much time and effort in helping us groom our life so that we do not deviate from our ultimate goal. }

One day, I had a direct experience of how much comfort comes from just hearing your voice. From last year, my health took a downward turn. I never thought that I would have so many health issues, especially at a young age, considering that there was a ten year period when I never consulted a medical doctor even once. Somehow, the mind is stronger than the body. Mentally, I can usually cope with so much but the body cannot keep up. Just a few weeks ago, I was experiencing intense pain and I just managed to get through the day at work. Afterwards, when I got to the car, I had to take a few minutes to gather myself again. As I started to drive-off, the music came on and it was the "Nothing but the holy name" cd, track one. It was such a powerful kirtan. Suddenly, you were there and all the hell I was feeling just faded away!

I am so grateful that Krishna has sent you. I pray that He protects you and that your health remains good. Thank you for allowing me to serve you, even though incompetently. I pray that I can get better at it.

Your aspiring servant,

Rāgalekhā Devi Dāsī

Rāghava Caitanya Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

In recent times, I have come to understand, so much more, that mercy, devotional service and happiness are very closely related, and that the most important link is mercy, which comes from you in so many subtle ways. Only after being in your association, together with your disciples and associates all over the world, have I come to realize the true meaning of happiness and the privilege of devotional service.

For this rare opportunity, I am immensely grateful.

Your loving servant,

Rāghava Caitanya Dāsa
South Africa

(Bhaktin) Reena Rathod

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

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami.
All glories to you on this auspicious day of your appearance.

I wrote a letter first time in February 2013 but you never accepted me as aspiring disciple until June 2013 for various reasons I was begging and praying at your lotus feet to accept me. After your email of accepting me as an aspiring disciple in June my life really changed. I see the influence of your blessings as my current life situations are being transformed.

Because of your blessings Radharani gave me permission to enter in Vrinda-van dham where I wanted to go from many years but could never. Opportu-nity to serve in Vrindavan (Lalita Kund) made me understand the real meaning of verse:

mūkam karoti vācālam
pangum langhayate girim
yat-krpā tam aham vande
sri-gurum dina-tāranam.

"By the mercy of the guru, even a dumb man can become the greatest orator and even a lame man can cross mountains." I am very very insincere and fallen, but on this auspicious day of your appearance I promise that under your shelter I will try to take up Krishna Consciousness more seriously and serve your lotus feet. Please forgive this fallen soul for the offenses which I might have done and am doing at your lotus feet out of my ignorance.

Because the blessings of your divine Grace, Sri Sri Radha Londoniswara allowed me to serve Him in various ways. I still remember a senior mataji asking me various questions which was natural if someone is coming for the first time in the deity room but the prabhuji present there said, "She is aspiring for His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Maharaja. Don't, let her serve." This really moved me. I am not at all eligible but just because I am under your shelter I have been fortunate. I can see how the obstacles are getting removed in my life.

Your kind and patient replies to my worthless material problems assures security and peace in life. It was my first time to meet you in Mayapur. Thank you for allowing me to come and take your darshan.

All glories to you on this auspicious day!!

Your insignificant servant,

(Bhaktin) Reena Rathod

Revatī Devi Dāsī

Hare Krsna, my dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Srila Jayadvaita Maharaja.
All glories to you!!!

āsraya kariyā bando srī guru carana
jāhā haite mile bhāi kṛṣṇa-prema dhana

Taking refuge of Śrī Guru, I bow at his feet. Oh brother, by this the treasure of kṛṣṇa-prema is attained.

guru mātā guru pitā guru hana pati
guru vinā e samsare nāhi āra gati

Śrī Guru is our mother, father, lord and master. Without Śrī Guru there is no other recourse in this world of transmigratory existence.

Since so many years you accompany, support and lead me on my spiritual path. Reflecting on this year's, I am surprised on one hand, how time was flying by. On the other hand, surprised about all the things that happened. Boring times were rare throughout my life, but I would never have expected, that at the very moment, when I expected my life to continue in a rather calm way, it would be turned upside down again and again.

You have always been the pole of stability. Whenever I needed some support, some advice, some help, I got it from you. It was not like your were always referring to the external situation, You always made me understand, that there are more important aspects than the actual, external circumstances.

Some weeks ago I was thinking about all the good things I was allowed to learn from you. I know many devotees who are not as fortunate as I am. Who were (and are) only infrequently able to contact their spiritual master, if at all. And many of them have to struggle very hard for their spiritual life, to leave their old life style behind. Because there is no one to tell them from time to time what to do and what not to do and how to do it.

How fortunate I was and still am. Sometimes I can hardly believe that this happened to me. Your example, your classes, all Your directly given advices and orders, all this made it so easy for me. Even if sometimes I did not really understand the deeper meaning, I just accepted it according to my understanding. I made many mistakes, had to experience ups and downs and learned from all of this.

Today I want to say "Thank you" for all the comprehension you showed. I am so grateful for everything I learnt from you. For your patience when again and again I presented the same problems to you (even if the outer packaging might have been different). So many hours I was stealing your valuable time and only one time you said, "But this not a spiritual question!" For me everything seemed to be spiritual somehow or other. I did not understand how my mind was putting me into traps again and again.

Some time ago, in February, I was in Goloka dhama to help for some time. Because there had been a lot of rain the small stream there had become raging and wild. When I was on a japa walk I stopped for some time at the water and observed small pieces of wood and similar things, floating in the water. Some of them remained in the middle of the current, and quickly the water carried them away.

Others were driven into some type of bay, were the water was peaceful. They did not come in contact with the current anymore, still moved on, but backwards and then, again and again they turned around in big cycles. Until finally, sooner or later, they got stuck in between some twigs and branches which were hanging in the water. I could understand, after some days, when the water level would be lower, they would not have any chance anymore, to continue their journey, but just rot in the mud.

This stream reminded me of the sankirtana movement which is like a large river of mercy and bears us away, as long as we commit ourselves to the flow. Sometimes however it might happen that we consider the current to be to wild or even dangerous. There might be rapids and cataracts. We might be worried about the speed of the changes in our life. And then we keep "a little bit" aloof from the strong current, we might even long for calm waters. And before one can turn around one bobs up and down in such a calm comfortable bay. Somehow it's going ahead, but we just move on in cycles, without being aware what is going on. And even if we see it we don't want to understand, because it is so peaceful. But there is the constant danger to get stuck.

Once you said, at the point of initiation metaphorically speaking you put us into our own boat to head towards our goal, Krishna. This analogy came to my mind when I was standing there at the water and I understood how important it is for our spiritual journey, to commit oneself to the current. This might seem to be more dangerous, but still it is the best and safest way.

Because first of all we don't loose sight of you, who is always well ahead and in this way, by just observing Your doings and following your example we will be able to survive unharmed. We will not even have to row or paddle but mainly just to steer the boat a little bit, and that is not that difficult, we just follow you and the flow.

Otherwise, by choosing the more safe alternative, there is always a risk to loose sight of you and of our goal and to get stuck in some sidings. And there we would have to wait for an unbearable long time for the next flood of mercy, to carry us away, back to the flow.

Last year I was blessed with a lot of service. All of a sudden there was more than I could manage. This situation confronted me with my mind. And by trying to find a solution I came across answers to almost all the question I had about the mind. I think more or less I finally understood, how the mind is working. And the resulting consequences seem to confirm this. My physical condition is much better now and the understanding of the functioning of the mind gave me an instrument to properly deal with stressful situations. And the most important point: I came closer to Krishna.

There are still ups and downs, but the overall trend is positive! I am curious now, how far I can go uphill again. To "pace myself", as you advised me, that is still difficult for me. Because at the same moment you told me I should do all the things I mentioned as options. And as long as some energy is there I want to utilize it. One never knows, what will be tomorrow. To assess my situation properly, to stop in time – I still have to learn this. Is this passion? Or pride, based on the motto: "I can do this" Is it just habit? I do not know since you told me to do it, I will have to find a way!

Right after writing this I read the latest 'Daily News' from the blog where you said: "This should be our constant meditation: Why I am not a pure devotee? What is in the way? And how long am I going to take? Slow and steady wins the race… very slow. I mean if you calculate the average lifetime and how many years we have left, and how much have we already achieved so far, then at this pace, are we really gonna make it? Then we are going to go a little bit of the way and we need a lot of mercy to make up for the rest. That is risky, to rely that much on mercy." And this confused me even more. So, what should I do? Is it possible to pace oneself without taking the risk to get stuck in some peaceful, comfortable bay beside the stream of mercy? How do you manage this?

Śrīla Prabhupāda was still so active! And I should ask myself, why am I not a pure devotee? Am I still to much concerned about externals? It is interesting, while I am reflecting on this, so many things I heard from you are coming to my mind. But it is still unsorted I cannot figure it out, what it means for me. But somehow it must be possible to square the cycle. It looks like I need some time to sort it, and I hope, I will find the time to do this!

Please help me to become a pure devotee, a real servant.
Your somehow "unsorted" eternal servant

Revatī Devi Dāsī

Rukminī Devi Dāsī

My Dear Spiritual Master

Please accept my humble obeisances
All glories to Srila Prabhupada

Once a god-brother was mentioning how he was caught between deciding which temple he should join. He had a preference to one and you to another. I was just cuttingly cynical and said something like, 'Of course you should just do what Maharaja wants. That's obvious. Why are you even thinking about it.' He paused and said, 'So if Maharaja asked you to go to China you'd go.' I already had one foot in, I was too proud to back out. 'Yes,' I said. The next day at breakfast you said, 'So I hear you want to go to China.'

I knew in life my words would catch up with me. I felt it. And maybe if you ever asked me to go to china, I'd go. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread. I'm nañve. I'd do something so crazy. But I have learned in life that China is not just a country in Asia. Everyone has to face their own China. Now my China has come very close and it leaves me shaky, not so confident and cocky.

For years your travel intinery was our scripture and we were ruthless in doing anything to be in your association. Anything. And least externally my life was moulded according to your words. Yet those same instructions now seem so far away. I call you my spiritual master, but I have to wonder who I am really accepting as a master, you or my mind.

'The relationship of guru and disciple is so sacred. Even the destruction of the universe cannot separate them. Always remember this.' [letter by Tamal Krishna Goswami]

It may survive the destruction of the universe, but will it survive me?

So many priceless moments you've lavished on me. So many unforgettable memories. How many deep, life changing instructions? How much you have taught me by giving your personal example. How many emails have you painstakingly typed two alphabets at a time? Now at the borders of China my true discipleship is tested and even I am shocked that for all your offerings of love how shallow my reciprocation is.

I can't offer you guru-bhakti. Love I don't I have.
Can I offer you affection? If I was affectionate I wouldn't make you suffer.
Maybe gratitude? But how can I be grateful and selfish at the same time.
At least I should offer you respect. If I was respectful I wouldn't be negligent to your words.
Is my offering then empty, devoid of any substance?
I try to shade it in with honesty and my half-baked attempt of service – and even that flows thinly.
Yet despite all of this, I still find myself sitting outside your door in Srila Prabhupada's room. And maybe this year that's all that I can offer.

Your servant
Rukmiṇī Devi Dāsī

Sadbhuja Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada, Jayadvaita Swami and you

A fear slowly arises inside of me. There is this small boy, he is known as a big thief. Maybe he is the biggest of them all. And he is not alone. Although he seems so innocent and unimposing he has arranged for his agents in this world. And they have a trick. Knowing that everyone loves music and food they disguise as great wellfare workers but truly they are about to do a big scam. I'm feeling how this small boy increases the pressure on me, forcing me to get rid of attachments and false ego. I try to escape, try to get around it, but this clever fellow knows many tricks and has a lot of influence, too much if you ask me!

I try to get away from this whole scheme again and again but I'm always pulled back in. And the worst thing is you even help him in this! You are the most dangerous agent by far, executing his mischievous scheme. This boy has sent you for me. Bound by the robes of affection and by you as a person I'm helpless.

Normally for a person that is very passionate, dedicated and focused it is not so common that they are compassionate, patient and tolerant at the same time. For one who is very successful and famous, is usually lacking humility and he is difficult to approach. But in you I can find all these opposing good qualities. My observation is that it is long years of work and cultivation that bring out this beautiful combinations. Bound by your affection and being attracted to you as a person, it's simply too much for me. What to do, this small little thief knows his business.

So the fear I have is, that it is too late! It's too late to get away from it! After a year of purification and reflection I more and more realize how much of a walk I still have to go. Finally seeing you again after four months in Mayapur immediately brought me to a higher standard, just some words, and your association was enough. In a lecture you explained, that normally we think that after some years of Krishna Consciousness we need and have to give less and less effort, but the opposite is true. Krishna wants us to more and more surrender unto him.

I knew it! He is a cheater. In the beginning he makes it all seem so easy but then he comes back and wants more and more! But that's not all, no, now you even want me to become one of his agents as well. This is really too much! Where will all the enjoyment go, how can I keep my laziness and attachments? Oh no!

Wherever I go with my thoughts and ideas, you have been there already, long ago. So not only you can understand, relate to it but can guide the way further. Now it's on me to accept, become humble and surrender to this guidance. The mind will revolt; it feels like a dying, like giving up once life again and again. But you are simply too much patient and merciful with me. This is conquering me. There is no way out!

Taking shelter of your lotus feet in hope for a change of heart so at one point I will be able to really please you,

your so called servant

Ṣaḍbhuja Dāsa

(Bhaktin) Sandra

Dear Gurudev,

Please allow me to pay my obeisances to you and tell you how much I am inspired by your service to your gurudeva.

I am only a beginner in devotional service to Your lotus feet but certainly I want to say that you are the only being in this world that gives me everyday inspiration to serve Krishna and to continue even in spite of all obstacles.

When such an obstacle appears I remember you and slowly the obstacle disappears as a bad dream. Spiritual master is a big diamond in the heart of every disciple and it needs to be protected and honoured because it is more precious than anything else in the world.

Therefore I want to be a better devotee every day and I want to please you. I wish you lots of spiritual strength and health so you can spread Krishna's glory all over the world.

Your servant

(Bhaktin) Sandra (Bratislava)

(Bhakta) Saurabh Agrawal

Dear Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.
All glories to Śrīla Jayādvaita Maharaj and all glories unto you Maharaja.

I was thinking how Śrīla Prabhupāda is so attractive to everyone. How everyone just give their life to Śrīla Prabhupāda? People from all over the world were giving their life to Śrīla Prabhupāda. I mean Prabhupāda was just an old man from India. And it was not that because he was having Vedic knowledge he was able to do that. Everyone was from such a different background, different upbringing, their whole culture and lifestyle was so different. But still how was it possible that Prabhupāda was so attractive to everyone?

Finally I got the answer. Because Śrīla Prabhupāda's love for them and everyone of us were unconditional. Everyone understood Śrīla Prabhupāda's love for them is unconditional. And it attracted them, inspired them and gave them the strength to give their life unconditionally for Śrīla Prabhupāda. This is evident from following excerpt of your offering to Śrīla Prabhupāda:

You never gave up on anyone. When one of your leading disciples in Calcutta was having difficulties and fell back into smoking undesirable substances, you told your secretary Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Goswami to get him on the phone. With the devotee of Calcutta on one end of the line and you, in your room on the other side of the world while Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Maharaj was holding the phone,"Tell him, that if he doesn't give up this nonsense than I will reject him," you said. Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Maharaj passed on the message and put down the phone. Then with a state of shock about what had just transpired, Tamāl Kṛṣṇa Maharaj asked, "Prabhupāda, would you really reject him?"

"Of course not,"you replied, "I'm just trying to scare him."

Maharaja it is evident from your life how you gave your life unconditionally for Śrīla Prabhupāda and his mission. When you were in your vānaprastha ashram and you decided that you and your then wife will not meet with each other. Afterwards you were shot with gun, and you declined the request of your then wife to serve you. You said that, "I cannot risk this mission." Maharaja recently I heard in a lecture that one has to carry out the mission and at the same time take care of the missionaries. Many times it happens that in trying to carry out the mission, one spoils the relation with other missionaries. And in the name of good relationship we forget to carry out the mission of the spiritual master.

Maharaja even when you are taking care of the mission so strictly as evident from above example, at the same time how you are taking care of the missionaries so nicely. It is evident from this example - When you chastise the devotees or correct them, in the end you so humbly with your palms joint together you say “I am sorry”. It is said in scriptures that one should be friend of spiritual master and also accept spiritual master as “as good as God”. Maharaja you also exemplifies this by your personal example.

How you are so friendly with your spiritual master. But how you, who is also a spiritual master of entire world, are so humbly washing the feet of your spiritual master.

Maharaja you are also attractive like Prabhupāda because your love for us is unconditional. I pray to you so that I also become unconditional in my surrender and love to you, to this mission and to all the living beings.

Servant of your servant,

(Bhakta) Saurabh Agrawal

(Bhakta) Shiv Shingdia

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please Accept My Humble Obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada.

mukam karoti vachalam
pangum langhayate girim
yat-kripa tam aham vande
shri-gurum dina-taranam

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

I will never be able to justly glorify you, but here is my attempt to
show some appreciation. A son often looks at his father for inspiration, character,
encouragement, a lifelong friend through the good and bad times and the father attempts to shape him for the best.
Each year when I reflect back the thought comes that this year will be the beginning of my spiritual journey, assessing my last year's poor attempts. Missing key aspects I was living a dull and deluded, black and white life.
Then you came and threw the colours of the Panca
Tattva at me awakening devotional life within my heart. You've clarified that each year has actually been a stepping stone getting me ready for the next step.

You are a dedicated servant of Sri Vrindavan dhama, CaitanyaCaritamrta and Srila Prabhupada. This is crystal-clear as it glows ecstatically in your character. Your example plants with me the desire seed for such determined and dedicated loyalty. You are a continuous source of inspiration for me and I am grateful that you pass me the relevant quantity of water and nutrients required for my progressive welfare. Therefore, for me you are the embodiment of causeless mercy.

Your compassion is endless. I was lost, wondering through the quarrelling streets & You opened the door to an eternal family. I was lost in a dark exploitive arena then you came and gave me a safe shelter, and most importantly when the ocean tides confuse and daunt
me, you the captain of this ship guide us onwards to the Supreme treasure chest.

I have a long way to go and only by your mercy is it possible that my dumb mind will transform into an eloquent chanter and my lame consciousness cross beyond all these mountain like anarthas into Krishna Consciousness. You are teaching me by your divine example, guided teachings and transcendental vision, a vision that I will never fully
understand but always have faith in. You have changed my journey into one of great importance and deepened willingness. Now I must become a loyal son, and try to please and be of some use to you, my amazing spiritual father.

Begging for your empowerment. Thank you for everything Maharaj.

Attempting to become your servant,

(Bhakta) Shiv Shingdia

Sudama Dāsa, Rupa Manjarī Devi Dāsī, Sri Vibhu

Dear Srila Guru Maharaja,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada
All glories to you on this auspicious day of your vyasa puja

yasya prasadad bhagavat-prasado
yasyaprasadan na gatih kuto 'pi
dhyayan stuvams tasya yashas trisandhyam
vande guroh sri-charanaravindam

By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Krishna. 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.

guru-kṛṣṇa -prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja

“By the mercy of both Krishna and the spiritual master, such a person receives the seed of the creeper of devotional service.”

Since my childhood I have visited quite a number of temples. Since my childhood I have heard so many pastimes and glories of Gods, Goddesses. Since my childhood I have read so many sacred verses mentioned in various scriptures. Since my childhood I have attended yoga/meditation programs. If I recollect correctly, nothing gave me that special experience when I first time heard your roaring voice singing the maha mantra on a ratha yatra in Koln in 2007, ofcourse in rock style (new for Indian ears).

Then, I opened my checklist, checklist of what lakshana my Guru should have.
Yes, In Caitanya Caritamrta Madhya-lila Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu authorized Sanatana Goswami to write Vaishnava Smriti and first thing Mahaprabhu asked is to compile symptoms of guru and sishya.

guru-lakshana, sishya-lakshana, donhara parikshana
sevya -- bhagavan, sarva-mantra-vicarana

Then, before accepting a spiritual master, one can be assured of the spiritual master's position. Similarly, the spiritual master can also be assured of the disciple's position.
I was astonished to see that you have exhibited symptoms above my imaginations.
Test passed, but there was next the test: Sishya lakshana: And I became ashamed of not even getting mere points on the scale to be qualified as your disciple.

You are all-merciful that you didn’t care how fallen I am and so easily gave initiation. But Then you named me Sudama dasa. Sudama dasa: humility personified. How to live up to those expectations? It was a very heavy duty. I felt your mercy very heavy. But then,

I could see especially after initiation how your blessings brought changes in my life and me. I could feel your presence in every service I was rendering. mukam karoti vachalam I do not have any qualification to render service if you weren't my spiritual master. I am a fool would have stated so. It is just due to your causeless mercy I am getting opportunity to serve.

We realize day by day the importance of our divine relationship. Your firm position in practicing Krsna Consciousness always kept us inspired. Your Krishna kirtans, Krishna kathas is always filled with nectar, which when falls into our ears gives extraordinary spontaneous taste for hearing names and pastimes of Krishna.

Maharaja, we are still engrossed in the material sense enjoyment, old conditioning, and still struggling to become your sincere disciples. Please bless us that we can take shelter at your lotus feet birth after birth and fulfill your mission just by rendering service without duplicity. Whichever way you shall handle us please proceed so that we can fit in this wonderful god family.

I would like to take this best opportunity to sing a poem for you:

namas te priya ācharya
sudāmāhlāda dāyine
mama ahaākāra bhanga kāraye
ito guru kṛpā parato guru kṛpā
yato yato yāmi sarva mayam sri guru kṛpā
bahir gurur raksha hṛdaye gurur śikṣā
Srila Gurudevam ādim śaraṇam prapadye

I offer my obeisances to dear spiritual master, who gives joy to his servant Sudama dasa and who is the destroyer of my false ego.

Guru's mercy is here and also there. Wherever I go throughout is Guru's mercy. His instructions are in the heart and His protection is around. I surrender to my spiritual master, the ultimate supreme refuge.

tava kara kamalavare mukham adbhuta tejah
dalita bhava lunthana kovidah
keshava darsi bhāgavat svarupa
jaya guru deva hare

O spiritual master ! who shows Lord Keshava ! who is complete personification of (devotee) bhāgavat .. All glories to you.

We whole-heartedly pray Lord Krishna to bestow His unlimited mercy and give you a very very long, peaceful, prosperous Krishna conscious life.

pada-kamalayor dāsa-dāsānudāsah

Sudama Dāsa, Rupa Mañjarī Devi Dāsī, Sri Vibhu

Śukadeva Dāsa and Satarūpa Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

Sukadeva and I thank you for giving us the gift of faith and blessing of hope. They are the things that make our life worthwhile. The feeling of being loved is the greatest feeling. Since we met you and received initiation our life has changed so much. I wish you all the peace of Krishna's love now and always.

Your servants,

Śukadeva Dāsa and Satarūpa Devi Dāsī

Sukhayanti Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

March 9th, 2014

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

I have been leaving the actual act of writing of your Vyasa Puja offering to the last minute, but in my mind I have been writing it over and over again. I have been thinking of how from passing to the other side of the street and making a snobbish face every time the Hare Krishna's would be doing sankirtan, so they might not approach you, how from that you have become a leading figure in the same movement that you so much tried to avoid.

It is amazing. It is amazing to think of all the vast kinds of services you have done throughout your Krishna conscious life. From managing a restaurant, to being a temple commander and having to miss mangala arati while waking everybody up, to doing sankirtan in Australia, to managing the construction of Srila Prabhupada Samadhi, to being Vrndavan's temple president and to so many other services that I am probably not even aware of. Your devotional life is characterized by a series of management services, and it continues to be so, because maybe before you have managed projects but now you manage hundreds of devotees' lives by taking on the roll of an initiating spiritual master. You manage our lives in such a transcendental way, by helping us progress in our own practice of Krishna Consciousness.

You inspire us, your disciples, as well as many others by your inspiring and down to earth classes, by these classes you make Krishna Consciousness become so very practical that there can be no excuses left to why one cannot just do it. You enliven us with your rocking kirtan. You save us and touch our hearts with your personal attention and care. And all you ask of us in return is to please take to Krishna Consciousness seriously. You ask us to make special endeavors and at the same time you inspire us to by showing us how such special endeavors are made by your own example. You took Sanyassa in your forties, an age where usually one is still raising children, you left everything behind and started travelling the world, preaching. Daily you give so much from yourself to those who constantly surround you wanting your attention. You sacrifice your own comfort health and life for the sack of helping others achieve success in their search for Krishna.

Now you are more than a manager, you are our father. You are a preacher. You are a perfect example of a true follower of Srila Prabhupada and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.
Let me be selfish and ask you to please take care of yourself, because we need you around for quite a number of more years. It is by your support alone that I am still surviving in this society, and somehow or other still chanting my rounds and trying to become a better devotee every day, because you inspire me to want to do better by your example, by your words and by your love.

Your servant,

Sukhayanti Devi Dāsī

Surabhi Devi Dāsī

Dear Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
Jai Srila Prabhupada.
Jai Jaiadvaita Swami!

Srila Prabhupada writes in the book "The Nectar of devotion," that here in this material world, full of miserable conditions, there is no real happiness is to find, and he explains that the only way out of this misery is to seek shelter unto the lotus feet of the spiritual master.

I found myself so fortunate to get your shelter, even I`m not qualified nor I have any capacity to fulfill your instructions. All the time taking your association and your mercy for granted, constantly I forget that the relationship with the spiritual master is not cheap to take. It is something special and a gift from Krishna.

Your lotus feet are my only hope and day by day I have to hardly learn that I'm alone completely helpless and dependent on your mercy. I don't know when the time will come, to give up my own plans and my selfish desires for personal honor, to take complete shelter unto your lotus feet and start to serve you with all my heart.

Looking up to you, I`m seeing the perfect example of selfless surrender. You gave your whole life to the service of the Lord, not expecting anything for yourself in return. All you energy you invest for the mission of Srila Prabhupada, you change the hearts of the people and give them Krishna without any restrictions.

You also changed my heart. I'm praying to never leave your shelter and be able to continuously be engaged in your service and beg for your mercy to always hear and follow your instructions.

Your servant

Surabhi Devi Dāsī

{ Looking up to you, I`m seeing the perfect example of selfless surrender. }

Sutapā Dāsa

Dear Maharaja,

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

I imagine that being a guru can be a thankless task. The spiritual master offers bucketloads of inspiration, support, mercy and guidance. In return, disciples can often be irresponsible, ungrateful, flickering and uncommitted. It may be insincerity, but often just a case of human weakness. We are living in Kali-yuga after all. Through all these ups and downs the guru remains positive and encouraging, always ready to offer another chance. While most would have given up and turned away in frustration, the guru determinedly honours his commitment. This is true compassion.

Genuine gratitude, however, calls for reciprocation. Along with the transcendental gifts of your association, you are also challenging us.

You challenge us to become vaisnavas of saintly character.
You challenge us to dive deeper into our spiritual practices.
You challenge us to look beyond our own comfort and sacrifice for others.
You challenge us to develop a vision for our life and not just go with the flow.

The spiritual wealth you have given me is too great to be taken lightly. What can be more valuable than having someone in your life who has faith in you? It's too uncomfortable to sit back and take it easy when you are calling for so much. My greatest fear is that I won't be able to live up to your expectations. My greatest joy, however, is that I know what my spiritual master wants of me. I will do everything I can to become the vaisnava you want me to be.

Begging to remain at your transcendental disposal,

Sutapā Dāsa

{ My greatest joy, however, is that I know what my spiritual master wants of me. I will do everything I can to become the vaisnava you want me to be. }

Svāhā Devi Dāsī

Dear Maharaja,

My obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupa.
All glories to your lotus feet.

I bet you didn't expect this, I'm still alive!! I wanted to say thank you for all the "good years" 2002-2006 were the best years of my life. In fact, I cannot even remember what my life was like before then. You just came into my life and took over and guided me, it was really nice. My father passed when I was in my early teens and since then I was always looking for a father figure everywhere and you came at the right time, thank you for that.
I'm waiting for that "miracle" that you said will take to save me this lifetime....if guru desires, then it will happen I have faith in that, even if it means I have to come back a million lifetimes. Thank you and may Krishna continue to bless you.

Always endebtored

Svāhā Devi Dāsī

Svayam Bhagavan Das

Dear Maharaj,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaj. All glories to unto to You Maharaj.

Thank you very much for giving us shelter. For a child, mother is the doer, arranges everything for her child. Maharaj, for us You are the doer. Whatever intelligence we have and whatever achievements we did all are arranged by You. You are the one guiding us in every step of our life from within and personally.
Maharaj, there is no limit for the fortune which we got by Your causeless mercy. By Your unlimited magnanimity saved so many fallen condition souls like me.

One time Srila Prabhupada said "The spiritual master accepts the sinful activities of his disciples from the first initiation. I may give initiation very easily, but what can I do? I am prepared to go to hell for the service of Lord Chaitanya".

Of course pure devotee of the Lord has power to deliver millions of hell. Where is the question of going to hell? But still by this we can understand Srila Prabhupada's mood of magnanimity like Vasudeva Datta.
Maharaj, You are the personification of Srila Prabhupada's mood of magnanimity.

This time when I met You in Mayapur I was lamenting that day by day culture of the students are going down and it is becoming difficult to preach them Krishna consciousness. And the students who already practicing Krishna consciousness are also struggling because of so many obstacles in the form of their future career and other allurements.

Maharaj, You said with full of magnanimity "It is alright. If they do not make it in this life time, they will make it in next life. So there is no loss. We cannot calculate everything by immediate results. This is the way our movement works".

As soon as I heard Your magnanimous words I felt so much relief and so much happiness that I am also doing some useful service by giving Krishna consciousness to others.
In the purport of Bhagavad Gita 9.28 Srila Prabhupada mentioned "Even the most intelligence person cannot understand the plans and activities of pure devotee".

Maharaj, I am a fallen condition soul with full of bad qualities how I am going to understand Your greatness fully and take shelter of Your lotus feet eternally. Your causeless mercy is the only hope for me.
Maharaj, I sincerely beg for Your causeless mercy and please save this fallen condition soul.

Hare Krishna Maharaj,

Your eternal servant,

Svayam Bhagavan Das

Śveta Gangā Dāsī

om ajnana-timirandhasya jnananja-na-salakaya
cakshur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gu-rave namah

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja.
All glories to you!

Guru Maharaja,

The time has come again to put down on paper what I meditate internally on everyday. It seems like only yesterday when I was able to glorify you at your sixtieth birthday celebration in Rad-hadesh.

There is no other sense of fulfilment other than having a thought of you, or being in your presence. I can only imagine this is what it feels like when we return to Krishna. As I mature in Krsna Consciousness, I realise your position more and more. I admire you in so many ways – You are patience and tolerance with me, the personal relationship you have with your disci-ples, well-wishers and friends, how people can approach you and the kindness you show them, the way you make every one jump up in ecstasy and chant the holy name with so much love, how you continue on when your health isn't the best, how you can offer something Krishna Consciousness to everyone, how you travel all the way to Australia to see rascals like myself, and the precious gift you give by connect-ing us with Krishna.

I look at all these things and find so many faults in myself, but I can only aspire to have these qualities and humbly follow in my spiritual masters footsteps. This is why I am eternally grateful to have you as my spiritual master. Thank you.

Your servant and spiritual daughter,

Śveta Gaṅgā Dāsī

{ There is no other sense of fulfilment other than having a thought of you, or being in your presence. I can only imagine this is what it feels like when we return to Krishna. }

Śyām-Krishna Dāsa

It is he who is the King of my world

His effulgence shines from miles away. Without him in my life my air is taken away. Astray from him my true purpose would not unfold. It is he who is the king of my world

Finding me all lost you took me into your care. Imagining my life without you is one big scare. Showing me truth so honest and bold. It is he who is the king of my world

Draped in saffron so magnanimous and strong It is you and only you to whom I belong. Your golden voice takes me into a dream world. It is he who is the king of my world

Feeling like a fish out of water when out of your sight. A father's love you give me with all your might. In your kirtans we have all twirled. It is he who is the king of my world

Like a beacon of light he stands high and exalted a great vaisnava who has never defaulted. Helping this blind soul see, pulling me from the place that I am whirled. It is he who is the king of my world

My Guru, my Light, my Saviour my King

I bow to thee for all the blessing that you bring my father, my shepherd, my guide my gold. It is he who is the king of my world

Happy Vyasa Puja Gurudev

Śyām-Kṛṣṇa Dāsa

Tulsi Dāsa

Nama om Visnu padaya Krsna prestaya bhu tale
Srimate Kadamba Kanana Svamin iti namine

Nama om Visnu padaya Krsna prestaya bhu tale
Guru dasa Jayadvaita Svamin iti namine

Nama on Visnu padaya Krsna prestaya bhu tale
Srimate Bhaktivedanta Svamin iti namine
Namas te Sarasvate deve Goura vani pracarine
nirvisesa sunyavadi pascatya desa tarine

Dear Guru Maharaja,

On this most auspicious day of your appearance I want to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you are doing for me to help me in my spiritual quest. All that I have achieved in my spiritual life, although it is very small, is just by your mercy. You are giving me enthusiasm in my spiritual life, good instructions, you are like my father. You also correct me when it is necessary.

Recently I learned a verse that I like very much. This verse describes the glories of the Guru: Mukham karoti vacalam pangum langayate girim, yat kripa tad aham vande, Sri Gurumdina taranam. "By the mercy of the spiritual master even the dumb can become an eloquent speaker and even the lame can cross mountains." There is no wonder in this because the Guru is non-different of Krishna, he is an external representation of the Lord. He is as powerful as the Lord and has the same mercy and compassion as the Lord.

As conditioned living entities we have the tendency to put ourselves in the center with the idea to gain some personal benefit. The spiritual master is so merciful that despite of all our shortcomings and selfishness he continues to give us more and more mercy. I am slowly growing in Krishna Consciousness because of all the mercy I got from you. To reciprocate with your mercy I want to change myself and my mentality. As a grown up son, I want to serve you more and more and not just take from you. Not that I am already grown up in Krishna Consciousness, but I desire this to happen by your mercy.

All of us we have so many plans on how to arrange our lives comfortably in the material world. We are trying to fulfill all these material desires. But if one puts the desire of his Guru in the center in his life then miracles can happen.

This year you stayed more time in Mayapur and we had extra association with you. I am very grateful for this opportunity.

Please bless me so that I can serve you more and more.

Your insignificant servant:

Tulsi Dāsa

Ter Kadamba Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

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

This year has been amazing on so many levels. Any time spent in Srila Prabhupada's movement should be understood as amazing. Any time spent in the holy dhama should also be understood as amazing. Finally, any time spent in the association of Guru should be understood as amazing. This year I got all three; a grand slam if you will.

Many things happened during this year, much more than I can fit into this offering. Most notably, in the beginning of the year, I humbly received second initiation from you. I remember how I completely messed up the otherwise nice and intimate ceremony, because I tried to unravel the brahmana thread beforehand. This resulted in a completely entangled thread, that proved impossible to straighten out. I was quite embarrassed looking at this mess of a thread, thinking to myself, "This is my mind I am looking at."

Finally it was decided to put the whole event on a halt, while I ran in despair to purchase a new brahmana thread. Well done Ter Kadamba das, well done indeed. To say I felt unqualified would be an understatement. But as always you are most merciful, and we carry on. By now it is second nature for me, and has become a part of my identity. The purport is, that I am cent percent dependent on you in my spiritual life. Without you I am lost, and with you I exceed my own qualifications.

I remember one morning during mangala arati, the devotee came and offered the lamp to you. After he was going to offer it to me, but you stopped him and pointed to a Prabhupada disciple nearby. Then you said to me, "With me you will always be the fool" and we both laughed. A great vaisnava recently told me, the difference between humility and low self esteem is, that one is "happy small", while the other is "unhappy small". In your association I am always happy small. Thank you Maharaja.

Your happy small servant eternally,

Ter Kadamba Dāsa

Tukaram Dāsa

Hare Krishna Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga.

Again is here Vyasa Puja time, time when Kadamba Kanana Swami family is meeting together, not only in Radhadesh but also in our meditation about our unique, incomparable, beloved spiritual master.

I am now meditating only about your presence in Mayapur. This year you spend few months in Mayapur Guru Maharaja. I could get more opportunity to offer my tiny unimportant service to you, spend some time with you while you had breakfast or lunch. I am so grateful and fortunate for this year because I have never been so close to you before as this time in Mayapur. Few days before you left I started to feel sad that you leaving and that few months became just a few days, that I will not see you here walking in temple during morning programs, that we will not run from our service to cook for you and be on time in your room with prasadam, that I will not come to your room another time during lunch time, to see you, to hear your voice full of transcendental knowledge, your smile and laugh full of transcendental imperishable Krishna conscious happiness, to hear your mellows after lunch.

I just remember from one class, you told us that we have to become sadhu. Bhakti Tirtha Maharaja used to say, "Walk your talk," and that is what you are exactly doing - you walking your talking. You are telling us to be sadhu, while you really are a sadhu.

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."

I will never forget this time in Mayapur, in the most auspiciousness place of all places, with you and for a while also with Jayadvaita Maharaja. Somehow Gauranga gave me this year ability to see at least a tiny glimpse of unlimited mercy which I am getting. I have no credit, no material, not even spiritual, but actually I getting so much mercy that sometimes I just asking "Why? why? why?" Answer is that just because of your credit and credit of our Srila Prabhupada. That is all what I have.

More and more I am just getting to know that I can be only beggar near your lotus feet begging for forgiveness, service, mercy and little taste for singing holly names.

I don't have much to offer to you, I can just try to deeply meditate about your presence in Mayapur and your presence in your orders and advises.

Thank you for everything.

your unqualified beggar

Tukaram Dāsa

Uddhava Dāsa

Please accept my humble obeisances,
All glories to you
All glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami
All glories to Srila Prabhupada

Visakha Devi Dasi, ACBSP traveled to India in 1971, where she met His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, read his Bhagavad-gita As It Is, and eventually became his student. She traveled with and photographed Bhaktivedanta Swami and his students in India, Europe, and the United States.

Last year Visakha Devi Dasi presented her latest project. The title was "A Bumpy Journey Toward Harmony with the Bhagavad-gita" and it is an autobiographical film. She used photographs that she made during her life. Visakha Devi Dasi is an excellent example of someone who uses her talents and relates it to the Bhagavad-gita. You always comment in your classes that the Bhagavad-gita is not about life, it IS life.

I spoke recently with Jananivasa and he explained vividly how you are an ocean of knowledge about Lord Caitanya and the Sri Caitanya Caritamrta. This is acknowledged by the fact that you are often asked to speak on those scriptures and are working towards publishing a book about it.

Even though Visakha Devi Dasi met Srila Prabhupada personally and got direct instructions from him, you are exemplary in showing us how to take indirect instructions and the love for Prabhupada and apply it in yours and our spiritual life.

You use your talents and engage them in your service like Visakha Devi Dasi.

You use your musical experience to enliven innumerable people with your energetic bhajans.

Let us never forget what you are doing for us. Let us never forget what Visakha did for Prabhupada. And hopefully we can also add something useful.

your servant

Uddhava Dāsa

{ You always comment in your classes that the Bhagavad-gita is not about life, it IS life. }

Vaibhavi Devi Dāsī

Hare Krishna,

I am thankful for the fact that it´s you to whom I can offer humble obeisances and I am thankful that I can glorify the glory of Srila Prabhupada. Thank you for your lifelong sacrifice for which you have surrendered to Krishna to help us to go back home. Thank you for our love to Krishna which is growing only by your mercy. I am thankful that you are a part of my life. I am thankful that this life is so short, but also so long so you can guide me through everything what´s needed.

Thank you for your time and patience which you´re giving me and even so you don´t give up on me. Thank you, for that you are such a treasure and thank you that you´re giving me the chance to realise it. Thank you for the wonderful warm and bliss in my heart when I chant the holy name and think how you lead me in a spiritual life in the way you wish to. I thank you for your purity which is like a mirror for me and shows me everything what else I have to clean in my heart. Thank you that you are shaping me to who I really am.

Thank you that I can serve you and be anxious for Krishna.

Forever your servant

Vaibhavi Devi Dāsī

Vasumān Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja!

Please accept my humble obeisances at Your lotus feet!
All glories to you!
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

nama om visnu-padaya krisna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate kadambakanana-swamin iti namine

nama om visnu-padaya krisna-presthaya bhu-tale
gurudasa jayadvaita svamin iti namine

The year has passed so quickly. One day I just connected to the internet and saw that Uddhava Prabhu was writing about another upcoming Vyasa Puja and about deadline for sending our offerings for Vyasa Puja book. And I told myself that it seems like the last Vyasa Puja was only yesterday.

So I want to write a new offering to you, but it is quite difficult for me to write something new. Every time I write the same things. I do my service at Govinda's restaurant, I try to chant sixteen rounds and to follow the four principles. There is nothing new happening in my life unlike in yours. You travel all the time and every day brings many new things. It is my pleasure to read on the blog excerpts from your lectures in various parts of the world and it is very powerful and inspiring for me. Just recently I read how in the presence of our spiritual master we should try to hear and ask questions, and in his absence we have to put into practice what we have heard.

Guru Maharaja, you have my deep admiration. You travel all the time like Narada Muni and inspire Krishna's devotees. Not only that you also patronize various projects, arrange festivals, encourage farm communities and even personally support your disciples financially. Under normal circumstances common person is not able to manage so many things at once. I am sure that Srila Prabhupada is very satisfied with your service and so he bestows so much his mercy on you.

With all my heart I pray sincerely to Krishna that He blesses you with health and long life so that You would have the opportunity to spread the mission of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and inspire the devotees all around the world.

Your servant

Vasumān Dāsa

{ You travel all the time like Narada Muni and inspire Krishna's devotees. }

(Bhakta) Veshal Inderjeeth

My dearest father,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Jaiadvaita Swami. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I am the type of person who is not expert in formalities and poetic words so I will just say what is in my heart. My Vyasa Puja offering to you is just something from my contaminated heart, what else can a wretch like me offer?

There were many times when I said to myself "I will never forget this day", but to no surprise I have forgotten most of them. But there is one particular day that I surely know that I will never forget and that is the day that I was accepted under the shelter of your lotus feet.

I recall that Wednesday evening at Sri Sri Radha Radhanath temple perfectly. The ecstatic Gaura aarti kirtan that, as usual, made us all dance like mad and also your class on your life story. You also read from Hansaduta. I was attracted to your lotus feet for some time but I wasn't really sure if I should rush in and take the plunge of committing, and so I played it safe for a few years. But that particular evening I was convinced and I accepted you as my master within my heart.

It just so happened that after the class I got the opportunity to speak my heart to you. And when I told you that I want to take shelter of your lotus feet, you responded by saying "Welcome to the swan family." At that moment I wanted to jump up and do a dance, but I held my composure and we continued chatting. Guru Maharaja, I can honestly say that from that day onwards I have been under a lot of pressure to make sure that I please you and not let you down in any way. I consider this a good thing because it keeps me on my toes and fixed in Krishna consciousness always thinking of wether my actions will please you.

Your instruction to me of just continue with my service of harinama and book distribution is what I will try to do for as long as I possibly can for your pleasure. I may not know much philosophy but I do know that Krishna and Krishna's names are non-different and this is my dharma. I know that I will never be able to repay the debt I owe to you for accepting an unworthy, egotistic wretch such as me, but as an offering on the most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja I offer my commitment to distributing Srila Prabhupada's books and Krishna's holy names.

Hare Krishna

Your unworthy servant

(Bhakta) Veshal Inderjeeth
South Africa

Viśvambhar Caitanya Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Jayadvaita Swami.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

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

"I was born in the darkest of ignorance, and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torch of knowledge, I offer my respectful obeisances unto him." Not knowing what to write I pray to you for inspiration. It is like praying to the Ganges for inspiration, to offer something to the Ganges. Resulting in offering the Ganges unto the Ganges.

Simply the word Ganges ignites in you a tumult of feelings, having served in her proximity for an extended period of time. Crossing her to go to Mamgachi or Nrsimha-pali.What to speak of the Yamuna, I cannot relate. Regardless I sometimes try to put you in a material box so to speak, Dutch, elderly, sannyasi. But you defy those Upadis I try to place upon you. This you do through the show of qualities such as patience (especially with me), a show of immense gratitude for the littlest effort on my part, positivity (especially with me), fearlessness, knowledge, maturity, rigid in your spiritual practices, sensitive, expert. It is hard for me to understand how you got all this and more together in the short span of a human lifetime.

Another year has gone, but you have not decreased to shower me with service opportunities, like massaging you, serving you prasad all for my benefit. You know my mercy pot has a large crack, yet you keep on giving me mercy. How kind you are to let a miser partake in such intimate services.

I am growing fond of my name. I was hesitating to bother you with another superficial two faced Vyasa Puja offering of mine, but then I realized, its not my decision, I represent my wife, my god family and you. You symbolize duty and dedication; this is also perceivable in your relationship with your Jayadvaita Maharaja. And my god family does not consist of wimps, rather stalwart devotees of their own right. Here in the United Kindgom your disciples are also very qualified and welcoming to me.

You are impatient with me but I cannot handle it, so then you are patient with me. You are demanding with me but you see it will take a while for me to understand, and so you turn the tables and give so much tender loving care to me.

Indebted to your kindness,
Your fallen disciple,

Viśvambhar Caitanya Dāsa

Vrndāvana Vilāsinī Devi Dāsī

Hare Krishna Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja and all glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja.

I would like to thank you for being like a friend to me and my family. Thank you for always pushing us to new heights, showing us that spiritual life is limitless. Thank you for allowing us to do devotional service and establishing a bond with the deities. Thank you for such an amazing God family, which remind us of you in your absence. Thank you for investing your time, patience and energy in us and our menial problems.
Thank you for tolerating me and for being my constant link to Iskcon and Srila Prabhupada. Thank you for everything that you do, that most of us don't even know of.

Your servant always,

Vṛndāvana Vilāsinī Devi Dāsī

{ Thank you for always pushing us to new heights, showing us that spiritual life is limitless. }

Yamunā Devi Dāsī

Hare Krsna dear Gurudeva,

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

On first darshan I had with you, I told you that I am inspired by you. And I want to be your disciple. You told me: "I will never come to Croatia!" You were angry on me because I waited last moment to talk with you. You were very harsh with me that time.
And I cried few hours after that.

Dear Gurudeva, that was only time you were harsh on me. You know how big ego I have and how broken I will be if you will be harsh on me. Thank you for being so gentle and caring all the time. Like Surabhi Devi Dasi told me in Mayapur: "Look, there is our Papa." Yes, I can feel that you are caring like a real father. Like my ever well wisher and thank you for coming every year in Croatia.

Last year Tridasa Raya and me organized harinam tour on Croatian coast. And it was very successful. I am sure because you prayed for us. Nothing is possible without your mercy.
We want to do that service permanently. Please give us your blessings to continue. And that we can engage our life according to that service.

On many occasions you speak about ticket for going back to Godhead. You said that you have yours. But I don't have mine. And I am not sure if I will have it. What will happen when you go back to Godhead and I am still here? Who will take care of me? You will send someone to pick me up?

I am praying to Krishna and Srimati Radharani to give me mercy to have you always in my mind, to remember you, your life and your instructions. Like you are always remembering Srila Prabhupada.

Happy Vyasa Puja dear Gurudeva!

Please keep me in your prayers.
Forever your grateful servant,

Yamunā Devi Dāsī

Yaśodādulal Dāsa and Aniyora Devi Dāsī

nama om visnu-pádáya krsna prestháya bhú-tale
śrímate kadamba kánana svámin iti námine

nama om visnu-pádáya krsna-prestháya bhú-tale guru dása jayadvaita svámin iti námine

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

This is my first official written offering to you, so please overlook many shortcomings that will appear here. To be honest, I do not like doing this, I prefer other kinds of offerings but this was one of your little instructions you gave me so I am finally writing this offering to you.

Why? Because you are my inspiration and example in doing things that one also does not like. In one lecture you said that you somehow or other got used to taking responsibility for doing something even if you do not like it, when someone asks you. In the same lecture you said it´s good for the spiritual progress of disciple when he or she writes an offering every year.

Of course, I was quite desperate of what to write but then Krishna helped. While wondering what to write, I was listening to one of your lectures and there it was. You said that a disciple should say how fallen he is and simultaneously he should praise and appreciate his spiritual master.

I am definitely fallen, there is no doubt about it, recently I discovered another symptom of my fallen state – I am getting old and gradually lacking the eagerness to do anything, becoming more and more lazy and indolent – but I think it´s more important to do the second part, to praise the spiritual master.

You are an extreme example of eagerness to serve Krishna and devotees. At the expense of your health and comfort you still continue with neverending and exhausting travels around the world and showing the selfless attitude while performing devotional service. In this way you are the great follower of Srila Prabhupada who also disregarded His comfort and preached all over the world.

You are a wonderful example of kindness and considerateness. In those rare and precious moments me and my wife spent with you, I never forget your ability and willingness to tolerate my strange nature, disregard my shortcomings and – despite all the important services you have – spend some of your precious time with us.

You are a wonderful example of using your skills and abilities. Everyone knows about your perfection in leading kirtans. I just want to mention here one of very deep and unforgettable moments during our stay in Mayapur. On 8th February, while you were leading one of your ecstatic kirtans,

Jayapataka Maharaja suddenly appeared to honour your kirtan. He stood up from His wheelchair and started dancing with help of his disciples. It was so deep and moving, we will never forget it.

You are also the master of lectures. Your deep knowledge of scriptures and ability to apply them in lives of your disciples and audience are also to be mentioned here. Your lectures literally accompany us almost every day of our lives and helped solve us many problems just by hearing it.

You are a deep knower of psychology and relationships. You helped us and, as far as I know, many devotees to identify their problems, gave advice how to deal with them and helped to overcome the problems in relationships. I still use your kind and very smart advice regarding dealing with relationship-problems with some devotees.

These are just a few glimpses of the ocean of your good qualities and only the lack of my knowledge, purity and devotion prevents me from going on describing them. Let me end this offering by mentioning our stay in India this year. By Krishna´s divine arrangement we happenned to be in Mayapur while your Holiness was also there. Your kirtan mentioned above, your lecture for Russian devotees and your personal association were the best and the most precious moments for us in India. We feel a deep gratitude for this and everything else you did for us.

We will try our best to please you so that you can be satisfied with our service.

Your insignificant servants

Yaśodādulal Dāsa and Āniyora Devi Dāsi

Yogeśvara Dāsa

Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Jayadvaita Swami.

samsara-davanala-lidha-loka-
tranaya karunya-ghanaghanatwam
praptasya kalyana-gunarnavasya
vande guroh sri-charanaravindam

Do you know Gurudev why I have chosen you? To be sincere, even it might be hard to believe, I am very extremely immodest. I want to have everything, as much as it is possible, I want to feel love of God and because there is a piece of woman in me I want to have it as fast as possible. Therefore I have carefully chosen you and asked you for spiritual guidance.

The higher peak the cliffhanger choses the more realized guide he searches in order to be guided. On the rock cliff they put all their abilities together with the consciousness that the first one on the way unselfishly finds the way, puts the buckles in the ice and binds the ropes with his mind constantly attached to the peak. And he knows that if his followers follow his instructions that they will surely find the buckles he left for them and they will move to the top, following him. Even thought I am in the end of your rope I have not even a trace of doubt about the correctness of my choice and I fully trust the buckles you left for us. Unlike the cliffhanger's buckles yours grow stronger with the amount of disciples that go through them. You are trying to teach us to be able to help ourselves which gives me determination and Krishna Consciousness.

I thank the Lord you are here and I thank you for your mercy. I wish you a lot of Krishna's mercy.

Eternal servant of your servants,

Yogeśvara Dāsa

Yudhisthira Dasa

My dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Jayadveita Maharaja.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

As Vyasa Puja approaches, I recognize an urge to reflect on the past year in the service of guru and Gauranga. In many ways like one would be in the mood of new years eve, looking back at past pledges and experiences, considering now what has been learned, so that one can chart out a new course for continued engagement. Actually, Vyasa Puja is the real new years eve, signifying an annual recommitment to ones vows of initiation by a bonafied spiritual master.

This year, then, has been one of many big changes in my life, the high lights being my wife and I having a child, and as a couple taking on the responsibility of starting a preaching centre, full time. Being inspired by your enthusiastic preaching spirit, one of it's manifestations being your uncompromising honest approach to Krishna consciousness, I am trying to dedicate my life to that same mission: Harinama Sankirtana.

Especially, I must admit that the spirit of focus on kirtan, chanting in the streets of cities, or getting together as devotees for sankirtan yajna, was my initial attraction towards the shelter of your service, and that which also remains as a continually easy and available process of devotional service. When I get into the mood of this seva, then life becomes just like the pages of the Caitanya Caritamrita, with trials and anxieties, as well as victories and ecstasies of devotional life in Krishna consciousness.

Although I struggle in my childlike state, I remain, desiring nothing else in the core of my heart then to prove myself to be of some positive and practical service to the mission of Lord Caitanya, as given to us by the kind mercy of Srila Prabhupada, coming down in the end as practically applicable, day to day devotional service under you shelter and guidance.

Thank you for taking the time.

Always your aspiring servant,

Yudhisthira Dasa

{ Actually, Vyasa Puja is the real new years eve, signifying an annual recommitment to ones vows of initiation by a bonafied spiritual master. }

Australia (Melbourne) preaching report

Guna-Mani Nitai Devi Dasi

There is so much that can be said about "Kadamba Kanana Swami in Melbourne," but we will highlight only the main points.

Kadamba Kanana Swami first blessed Melbourne with his presence in the 1983/84. Maharaja was a grhastha then and was sent by his spiritual master to recover from a disease contracted in India. To repay for his airfares and other expenses Maharaja had to join the local sankirtan crew who went out every day to sell paintings. Many of such expeditions saw Maharaja collecting lakshmi at the most awkward places, including slaughterhouses, pubs and brothels! Maharaja still maintains a deep friendship with his sankirtan partner back then, Jnana Samudra Prabhu. Maharaja then worked on the Melbourne farm for some time where he recalls having to turn thousands melons every day in the fields so they would all be evenly ripened by the sun! In all Maharaja spent approximately 1 year at that time.

He returned to Australia shortly after taking sannyasa and has been a regular visitor of the Melbourne yatra; he is one of the main initiating Gurus here. Maharaja has started giving initiation here in February 2009 and now counts 24 followers in Melbourne: 14 initiated disciples and 10 aspirants.

Maharaja's preaching programs in Melbourne are:

Urban Yoga- Krishna Fest,
Kirtan in the Royal Botanical Gardens (where Srila Prabhupada would have his morning walks)
Bhakti Vrksha gatherings & other home programs
Harinamas & street kirtans
Seminars & various temple lectures
Kirtan sandhya
Bhakta Bhavana gathering
Hall programs
Melbourne University: Bhakti yoga club

Australia (Sydney) preaching report

Smita Krishna Devi Dasi

So in modern times we also have what people call 'the buzz words', we have our favourite words now, I don't know whether I should mention any, (Laughs…) may be not, it gets too touchy but someone stated that the person who had the greatest influence on this age was apparently Sigmund Freud, on the surface it is certainly so. We are living in the age of psychology and now all the terms that are entering, are also psychological like "sharing". I was somewhere and there was whole debate, "You can't say Preaching, na, that's not like this age you don't say it, it's all Sharing now", Of course, Srila Prabhupada said: "PREACHING", and definitely didn't say "Sharing" although he was very kindly sharing many things with us……
(Kadamba Kanana Swami, 1-5 July 2003, Candranaya Nataka-Part 2)

It is this word "PREACHING" that is in the foreground of the life of His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami. It is the very same reason why His Holiness is continuously and tirelessly travelling around the globe since last 20 years engaging his whole existence in delivering Lord Caitanya's process all over the world. It is said that whoever sees or hears the madness of Lord Caitanya, uproots the disease of repeated birth and death. Whereas the other's madness is disease but the madness of the kirtan of His Holiness removes the influence of passion and ignorance of the conditioned soul and bring then to the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada and Krishna.

Australia appears twice in a year in the itinerary of His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami. The first visit would usually be around in March and second would be in October. The following report is a humble attempt, like a drop of water in a great ocean of mercy, to describe the preaching activities of maharaja in Sydney.

Temple Programs, Hall Programs and Home Programs

Sydney is very big city and divided in to South, West, Central and North regions. There are 6 major hall programs in Sydney every month, conducted by local ISKCON temple, besides many home programs and obviously many other temple programs.

His Holiness visit is always booked on Saturday evening with one of these hall programs, and Sunday he may do a seminar in the temple or do a home program at one of the prominent devotee's house. Maharaja pours his heart out in his long kirtans, which sometimes lasts up to 3 hours. After that there would be inspiring class presented in a humorous way. Everyone just loves Maharaja. The programs

conclude with Maharaja's sweet association, meeting with different devotees and of course tasty prasadam.

Besides regular morning Srimad Bhagavatam Class on Saturday and Sunday, Maharaja makes sure he gives Sunday Feast class at the temple. Temple room is packed with many existing congregation members as well as newcomers who relish their experience in Krishna Consciousness with perfect class, enthusiastic 7 pm aarti and then another kirtan by His Holiness, which sometimes may last till 9.30 pm. Maharaja makes the whole evening a wonderful and unforgettable experience for the devotees, so that they become more and more inspired in their service to "Sri Sri Radha Gopinath".

Yoga School Programs

In South Sydney, Maharaja has been a great source of inspiration for the students of Cronulla Yoga School, which is owned by devotee, who is very dear friend of Maharaja. Maharaja works as a great inspiration for the yoga school students to take their spiritual life a level up. He usually does a full hour of meditative bhajans, followed by a down to earth talk - generally establishing Vedic culture as being very natural and effective approach to a life of goodness and spirituality.

Heart & Soul Yoga Studio and Cafe is run by the disciples of Maharaja near Cronulla Beach. It promotes vegetarian culture among local Australian and great place to meet up and make new friends. In the recent visit to Australia, Maharaja recorded his latest CD - titled as "Heart & Soul Yoga". The voice of His Holiness roared and broke the layers of the universe to touch the lotus feet of our beloved Lord Sri Krishna. It is now available on kksblog.com.

Programs at Other Preaching Centres

Govinda's has been a well-established preaching centre located in the heart of Sydney City for last around 40 years or so. They run programs almost every day of week. It is very well attended by many local Australians who come to enjoy prasadam, meditative kirtans and vegetarian cooking classes. Maharaja has been regularly visiting this centre since last so many years and inspire local Australian people to take up spiritual life through his wonderful kirtans and thought provoking classes at Govinda's.

Govinda valley is a beautiful retreat venue located at the south of Sydney hosts over 80 groups per year. Retreat with Maharaja is usually conducted at this venue and is always very well attended by devotees from all over Australia.

Belgium (Radhadesh) preaching report

Kumari Kunti Devi Dasi

Guru Maharaja spent a total of a few weeks last year in Radhadesh during his world tour and here are some of its highlights:

Guru Maharaja's Vyasa Puja event was a very special one last year, marking his 60th birthday and everyone who was present was extra enthusiastic to be a part of the celebration. There was also a noteworthy turn of events, as the yearly "Queensday" ceremony in Holland that is the stimulus (with its sea of orange backdrop where Guru Maharaja surely fits in) of the enormous harinam party, became "Kingsday." This was due to a change in monarchy for the first time since 1890 (that is more than 123 years!), and the King of our hearts was there leading the holy name through the massive crowds.

Guru Maharaja returned quickly to Belgium in the middle of May, not to Radhadesh this time, but to the Kirtan Fest in the Flemish city of Antwerp. Where the Benelux yatra gathered to revitalize their spiritual senses. Guru Maharaja held two large slots in the 12-hour kirtan, bringing everyone on their feet on his second slot.

The Summer Festival, in the last weekend of July could again rely on their special guest, Guru Maharaja. He held a by now well-established tent where he attracted people through kirtan, followed by discussions and Katha. And repeating this process multiple times throughout the day, only to be interrupted by kirtan followed by a lecture in the main festival tent. In the late afternoon a special darshan with the 30 "gurukul" youth of the ISKCON Youth Ministry's "European Bus tour" in the rose garden. There under the cherry tree (or climbing it) some of the youth who had never really "met" a sannyasi before listened to his stories and experiences of making the decision to become a devotee (something many of them are themselves going through) while biting on blood red cherries freshly fallen on the ground.

During Radhadesh Mellows kirtan event at the end of January this year, Guru Maharaja was a kirtan explosion as usual, uplifting the entire jam-packed room into a spiritual hot-air balloon, in the middle of winter.

Czech Republic preaching report

Gopali Devi Dasi

In February 2013 Kadamba Kanana Swami made his way from Germany to the Czech Republic where he was warmly welcomed by an enthusiastic harinama party at the Prague temple. The visit began with the weekly Sunday program. Maharaja started-off with an ecstatic kirtan, which was followed by a lecture on the Caitanya Caritamrta where he told wonderful stories about Lords Caitanya and Nityananda. He also described Krishna's intricate nature:

"Krishna is playing – He plays flute, He plays with minds, He plays with hearts and feelings. Krishna is the original cheater! With Krishna, you are therefore never sure. Sometimes He appears to be the most honest person that ever existed, the most sincere and the most saintly and in the next moment, He appears to be the biggest cheater…"

A few days later, Maharaja took a one-hour drive to the nearby farm-project called Krishna Dvur. Situated amidst nature, the devotees at the farm produce their own grain and maintain a beautiful temple with a set of extraordinary Gaura Nitai deities. Upon arrival there, devotees were already immersed in an ecstatic guru-puja kirtan. The Srimad Bhagavatam class thereafter described the glories of the great devotee, Prahlada Maharaja. Kadamba Kanana Swami expertly added flavour to the pastime:

Prahlada Maharaja was asked, 'But my dear Prahlada, when they threw you in the pit of snakes, where you not afraid of all these snakes?!' And Prahlada said, 'No, I was not afraid.'

'But how come you were not afraid when they threw you into all these snakes? Everyone would be afraid!'

Prahlada said, 'No, you see, Lord Vishnu, He is my father and He has a bed of snakes. So when the son plays on his father's bed, will he be afraid? So no, I was not afraid.' When we are devotees of Krishna, we are not afraid; Krishna will protect us!

Later that day, another steaming kirtan session took place, after which Maharaja gave the devotees the opportunity to clarify their issues in Questions and Answers session.

On Wednesday (6 February), Kadamba Kanana Swami once again attended the regular preaching program that is held at the Govinda's restaurant, in the city centre. The venue was so fully packed that devotees had to stand at the back of the hall. Maharaja, seated on a stage and surrounded by expert musicians, led a spectacular kirtan which inspired the crowd to the maximum, and it was followed by a humorous class. One point of the class was that to be a master in this world is not easy, since we all naturally rebel to authority. The

person being a master must thus be a wonderful person, a person like Srila Prabhupada, who was "just tirelessly working for the well-being of all living beings." He was serving the most, and that was his secret, "By serving the most, then one can become master."

On his second visit of Czech Republic, Maharaja attended the "tabor", the summer camp, which gathers the whole Czech yatra at a holiday village near the City of Brno, which is also located close to the Slovakian border hence many devotees from Slovakia joined in as well. Kadamba Kanana Swami gave several lectures – two Srimad Bhagavatam classes and a seminar. Although the title of the latter was the six Goswamis, the focus fell more on Krsna Dasa Kaviraja Goswami and his taking shelter of the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha Madhana-mohan in order to be able to write about Caitanya Mahaprabhu's pastimes. On Sunday (23 June), Maharaja, together with Danavir Goswami, held an initiation ceremony outdoors, where Kadamba Kanana Swami initiated one disciple from the Prague temple, blessing him with the name Balarama Dasa! For the rest of the summer camp, it was kirtan, kirtan and kirtan!

England preaching report

Krishna Kirtan Dasa

E - Ever wondered what life would be like here in England if Kadamba Kanana Swami would have become temple president of the London Soho temple rather than going to South Africa, after the infamous Vrindavan incident? Maybe we would have London Queensday! Or a large Prabhupada Samadhi besides Buckingham palace! Either way we are still very fortunate to have Guru Maharaja visit us in England over the last 10 years. Remember he took sannyasa here in 1997. So here is a quick synopsis of his preaching and travels here.

N - Nelson is a tall lonely figure standing proud over the capital in Trafalgar Square. But who really notices him and knows much about him? Well they certainly take note of him when the enormous and glamorous chariots of Sri Jaganatha Baladeva Subradhra stand beside him on Ratha Yatra. Guru Maharaja had the pleasure of leading the kirtans, which empowered the crowds to pull The Lord back home to Vrindavan. Guru Maharaja spoke at the foot of Nelsons column about the temporary nature of material success and fame in comparison to the eternal fame and glory of God, Krishna and his pure representative, Srila Prabhupada.

G - Giving is the secret of receiving. Our scriptures illustrate the importance of being generous and noble. Guru Maharaja is a living example of such qualities, which are foundations of his contributions in Bhaktivedanta Manor. From seminars on Higher taste to animated Caitanya Caritamrta classes, meetings on management and training, enlivening kirtans, university Krishna Consciousness society programmes, festivals like Ramanavami and Gaura Purnima and especially investing in relationships with friends and disciples. He is a local favourite due to his humorous, approachable and generous personality with a voice that gets everyone dancing for Krishna.

L - Leicester is home away from. Just like Sanatana Goswami was the village guru of Vraja, our Guru Maharaja is the beloved uncle of the Leicestervasis. With his Godbrother Pradyumna Prabhu they work together to inspire a close community of care and cooperation creating the right ingredients for organic growth and expansion. With the new large temple, Krsna Avanti Schools and disciple base, Leicester will surely be seeing more of Guru Maharaja in upcoming years.

A - A star like ups at Kirtan events is incomplete nowadays without Guru Maharaja. Birmingham 24 hour Kirtan has been taking place annually for over a decade and Guru Maharaja has been participating for 5 years now. Shortly after the big Sunday lunch feast Guru Maharaja helps the fire of digestion with the melodious yet rip-roaring Kirtans. As Guru Maharaja said once "for me...raga turns into rock."

N - Never say never. Although Guru Maharaja often visits England after a busy period of preaching, travel and stretching his voice: sometimes he visits the most beautiful Sri Sri Radha Londoniswara in downtown London. He never fails to impress the devotees and public here, be it a Sunday feast program making Krishna Consciousness relevant to the modern man or giving the clubbers and lost souls tunes to dance for on Saturday night harinama. Everyone loves to party, especially Londoners.

D - Daring to go where no one else would go is a trademark of Guru Maharaja. From being Vrindavan temple president in the 1990's, finishing the Mayapur Prabhupada Samadhi in the 1980's, and African preaching in the fragile community of South Africa. Likewise in England Guru Maharaja has made the long travel up north to Newcastle to compassionately quench the intense desire for sadhu sanga and inspiration.

We would like to thank Sruti Dharma Prabhu, Pradyumna Prabhu and Sutapa Prabhu for continually inviting and looking after Guru Maharaja in England. We hope that we can continue to cooperate nicely to fulfil the desires of Guru Maharaja in England.

Your servant
Krishna Kirtan Das

Germany preaching report

Sadbhuja Dasa

Although Maharaja was not physically present so much in Germany this year, still he visited the three main Festivals: Nrsimha Caturdasi, Janmashtami and Kirtan Mela as well as two Ratha Yatras. Also he was present for the inauguration of new temple in Heidelberg.

Always concerned with the developments of the Yatra and caring for the well-being and advancement of the local devotees he stays in contact and meets them inside and outside of Germany. For example while staying in Mayapur, when he saw he temple president of Berlin, which has no temple at the moment, he insisted, “I want a temple in Berlin! I want to go to Berlin, but I have no place to go there!” In this way he makes sure things are going in the right direction.

Mayapur preaching report

Ter Kadamba Dasa

Dear Guru Maharaja and disciples of Maharaja. Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Kadamba Kanana Swami. All glories to Jayadvaita Swami. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

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

This year our beloved Guru Maharaja spent around four months in Sri Dhama Mayapur, an unusual amount of time for Maharaja, who has been touring the world, spreading Krishna Consciousness for 16 years straight. I was asked to write a small account of his activities while he was in Mayapur. This is my humble attempt to do so.

His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami arrived in Mayapur Dhama in early November for Kartika festival. His grace Bhadra Balarama prabhu from South Africa was serving Maharaja during his stay.

In November the Vyasa Puja day of His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami took place, which, as has become accustomed, was actually two days. First a private function in honour of Jayadvaita Swami, with only Jayadvaita Swami, Kadamba Kanana Swami with their disciples present. Then two days later, a feast for all Jayadvaita Swami's God-siblings present in Mayapur, with the obligatory bathing of the guests' feet. This always results in funny moments, when we more or less force the guests to sit down and accept our service by bathing their feet. Only a few very cunning and persistent guests escaped. It is quite amazing to witness the profound appreciation Jayadvaita Swami and Kadamba Kanana Swami have for the disciples of Srila Prabhupada. A very moving display of pure vaisnava behaviour.

In the months of December and January Kadamba Kanana Swami directed his focus towards one of his main services to the Dhama this year, namely the production of a report on the management structure of Mayapur as a whole, now and in the future. As we all know, Maharaja is the born leader, and as Mayapur Dhama transforms from a temple structure to a city structure, Maharaja's expertise was called upon to outline the ideal managerial setup, in order to secure a smooth transition phase. The report was very well received, and many of his points were implemented immediately.

During the same period Maharaja was also teaching bhakti sashtri and bhakti vaibhava at the Mayapur Institute. He also found time for a trip to South Africa in December, and a trip to Abu

Dhabi, South Africa and Radhadesh Mellows in January. Besides that, he was the spiritual head of this year's Kirtan Mela festival in February. At one point I saw him half way running, straight from leading kirtan in the temple, directly into the Governing Body Commission meeting room to present his Mayapur report. Maharaja also gave classes at the new Mayapur Kirtan Academy; he did house programmes, a parikrama to Mamgatchi, Srimad Bhagavatam classes at the temple and many other things... As always Maharaja is going full speed ahead, pushing the mission of Srila Prabhupada.

On March 5th Maharaja travelled from Mayapur to Australia, where he was going to, in his own words, crash for a while. This was most certainly well deserved. I was personally struck by the love and appreciation the entire Mayapur community has for Maharaja. I know for a fact, that both the management and the community would prefer, if he just stayed in Mayapur and devoted his time and energy fully to the Dhama. But as Maharaja described on one of his last days in Mayapur, he sees himself a bit like the character Lucky Luke, a lone ranger who is faster than his own shadow, and who rides into the sunset when the job is done. Needless to say, the job Maharaja did was beyond exemplary.

Thank you. Your humble servant,
Ter Kadamba das

Netherlands preaching report

Uddhava Dasa

A Born Preacher in the Netherlands.

Although his spiritual roots lay in India, it was the Netherlands that welcomed Guru Maharaja in this world. In the upper class village of Heemstede, directly below Haarlem, he appeared in the well-established Kok family, who were traders by nature. It was a family of five with his sister and brother. His father was trading internationally so Guru Maharaja was introduced to foreign languages from an early age. A trade that became very useful during his international preaching later in his life

Destined to take over the family business but maharaja had other plans. He was a globetrotter by nature and therefore dropped out of college to travel the world. In 1975 he and his former wife, Isani Devi Dasi, made their first trip to India by bus. These buses were called the Magic Buses and were leaving from Amsterdam and travelled to different countries and capitals. Later on Maharaja visited Vrindavan on a friend's advice for the third time. He and his brother went to Vrindavan, doing service in the temple by collecting donations. Maharaja returns to Holland after he fell ill with Hepatitis B.

Eventually Maharaja and his former wife move to Vrindavan and settle there. After 5 years in Vrindavan Maharaja travelled alone with the Chapatti express bus back to Germany. During this trip Maharaja encountered many adventures including the firing squad in Afghanistan that he often speaks about during his classes.

In 1994, on Baimi Ekadashi, Vrindavan, Maharaja and his former wife advanced to vanaprastha ashram and in 1997 he received sannyasa initiation at the Bhaktivedanta Manor and became the spiritual globetrotter that he was destined to become. In the Vyasa Puja book of 2013 Gopali wrote about the Czech Republic and how it became the first Country that Maharaja visited as a sanyassa. And naturally he would visit the Netherlands over the coming years. It proved to be an important preaching destination.

It is said that a sannyasa should only stay for a short period in any one place. But the Netherlands had the good fortune to host him for some long periods at a time. The Netherlands have always been an integral part of his preaching efforts. He has been part of the Amsterdam Ratha Yatra´s and since time immemorial Maharaja has been coming to join the Queensday harinam. And this year will mark his first Kings Day. Maharaja has been preaching in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and different house programs all over the Netherlands and of course Belgium. From 1997 and following years Maharaja has served the Belgium yatra mostly as a teacher in Bhaktivedanta College and serving the Radhadesh Summer festival.

In 2003 he received permission to initiate disciples from His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami and among his first disciples were four from the Netherlands. And continuing his service as a Guru he has initiated many more disciples from all over the world. So his preaching became less prominent in the Netherlands only to increase internationally. Maharaja always lovingly speaks about his past in cold & wet Holland during classes. And all his disciples remember those times fondly.

Currently Maharaja has the following disciples in the Netherlands & Belgium

Rupa Sanatana das (His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami)
Vasudeva das (New York)
Uddhava das
Visakha Devi Dasi
Campakalata Devi Dasi
Jagadisa Das
Padmanabha Das (from the Netherlands, but based in Australia)
Astha Sakhi Devi Dasi
Hari Bakti Devi Dasi
Gita Govinda Devi Dasi
Ravindra Svarupa Das
Sri Ji Devi Dasi
Rohini Nandana Das
Maharani Devi Dasi
Nadia Mani Devi Dasi

Slovakia preaching report

Gopali Devi Dasi

In early February 2013 Kadamba Kanana Swami visited Slovakia and stayed in the house of Paramesvar and Gopali for few days. A program in Bhaktiloka, a newly established centre in Bratislava, was held. The temple room was packed with guests eager to hear Maharaja's kirtan and lecture. Maharaja started the program with powerful kirtan session and the audience was dancing joyfully. After long and blissful kirtan he gave a lecture explaining how taking responsibility is the way to freedom. He blessed the centre saying: "In this Bhaktiloka centre you can perform bhakti and thus go straight back to the spiritual world."

During his second visit, in June, Maharaja was interviewed on Radio Slovakia International. The reporter, young Australian man, asked several questions like: What is the allure of the Hare Krsna movement? How do they compare to the Catholic majority in Slovakia? How are they perceived in this comparatively conservative nation? With friendly mood Maharaja replied all questions of curious reporter, told stories of his recent visit of Bangladesh and taught the reporter couple of Bengali words. After taking rest Maharaja continued in his travels towards Czech where many of his Czech a Slovak disciples and devotees waited for him.

South Africa preaching report

Rukmini Devi Dasi

In 1652 the Dutch came upon the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. It was their pit stop en-route to India where spices were the hot commodity of the day. They came armed and dangerous, exploited the native people as slaves, and conquered in all directions.
Over three centuries later, a single Dutchman ventured towards that same eastern horizon. He uncovered with deep relish the genuine wealth of India that his ancestry had flouted. With such celestial bounty, he turned to the shores of South Africa, not to hoard but to share; a conqueror of hearts.

One may think it sheer irony or cosmic karma. I see it as Krishna's smile.

South Africa is a flavourful medley of colours and cultures and Kadamba Kanana Swami fits straight in like a designer made glove. He is more Dutch than the Dutch, more Indian than the Indian and to gel with the Africans you don't need to know the lingo if you know the moves.

With a Ratha Yatra for every season, and a few more in between, Maharaja always has a reason to return. Indeed over the last nineteen years you can probably count the ones he has missed on one hand. He is the life of the kirtan on the South African streets. Yes, you may have seen Queen's Day but if you haven't caught a full-blooded South African Ratha Yatra, Kadamba Kanana Swami style…

With the launch of Bhaktivedanta Book Trust Africa, Maharaja has spearheaded the shock therapy to revive the book distribution heartbeat across South Africa. Dedicating a large chunk of his December schedule to personally set the example, he frequently features prominently on the marathon score chart.

Yet if all eyes were on Africa, what would be Kadamba Kanana Swami's legacy. The first wave of devotees was the pioneers who tilled the African grounds sewing spiritual seeds. The second wave dug in and got their hands dirty, establishing a temple in Durban of which there could be no replica. A yatra of significant stature emerged. The third waves of devotees are the living history. They chase the vision that Krishna consciousness can only survive if it surpasses the Indian frontiers and embraces all people. In this wave Kadamba Kanana Swami is undoubtedly a stalwart. Therein lies his South African legacy.

In a yatra of such maturity there are many high-flying gurus and throngs of senior devotees, what makes Kadamba Kanana Swami stand out in this third wave? It goes beyond the managerial, financial and structural support that he offers to fledgling centres such as Umlazi, Soweto, Mafikeng and long-term support in Pretoria. 'I invest in people,' he once conceded. That burden of love, that is sometimes misunderstood and is often

inconceivable, has made his contribution to the South African Yatra literally incalculable.

In a spontaneous Vyasa Puja celebration in 2010, Maharaja mentioned: "If I would have to choose at some stage to give up some Countries…if I would have to stop travelling and bring it all down to one Country, I guess it would have to become South Africa…" As a yatra, we humbly beg to hold him to his words.

In the mood of Lord Caitanya, we bow down to the land of Holland and place its dust upon our tongues.

We bow down to the holy dhama of Vrindavan who donated to the world its adopted son.
We bow down to Mahavera Prabhu, whose human kindness put Maharaja in Africa's debt.
We bow down to Kadamba Kanana Swami, with gratitude.





“Let us always be positive and glorify the vaisnavas and in that way, automatically, offences are avoided.”

“We, ourselves, must be very Krishna conscious otherwise how can we really give Krsna with love. Arguments don’t convince so deeply.”



“Tribhuvanatha said that Prabhupada made the statement once, in an arrival address, that Krishna consciousness is so simple, you might just miss it. I really find that a very profound statement.”

“If we are very tolerant, patient and positive, I think that we can deal with a lot.”





> Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur said that in Krishna consciousness, one must be prepared to change his life and not just a little, not just partial but rather that this Krishna consciousness is a total revolution. So, it means that we have to be prepared to change completely and there is nothing in us that cannot be changed. We cannot say, "This is the way I am." The total revolution does not have to be made in just one day but ideally speaking, it must be made in one lifetime – that is our aim!



> There are many 'how to' questions in Krishna consciousness, "How to be humble? How to be determined. How to keep a balance? How to do all these things?" The only answer to that is to become independently thoughtful; Krishna consciousness is never just about blind following, "Maharaj, please give me an instruction that I can apply in all places and all times?"



> We have to be ready to be changed by the vaisnavas, by the directions of the vaisnavas. We have to be ready to give up our own ways, our own ideas and so on. We have to become soft!

> Empowerment is not that you say, 'Okay Krsna, I am waiting. Can you please empower me and make me fly? Just make me fly?' We have to try by ourselves to go up. When we try then Krsna lends us energy but we have to make the endeavour.





> Everything is bound by time but the maha-mantra is eternal. So many things change in our life – it's just amazing what can change – but somehow or other, this chanting never changes. It is constant because the name is Krsna himself who descends from the spiritual world and is not bound by time; therefore this is the one constant thing in our life, the one thing that stays!