# Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā

## April 2011

The Appearance Day of Our Beloved Spiritual Master
His Holiness Kadamba Kānana Swami

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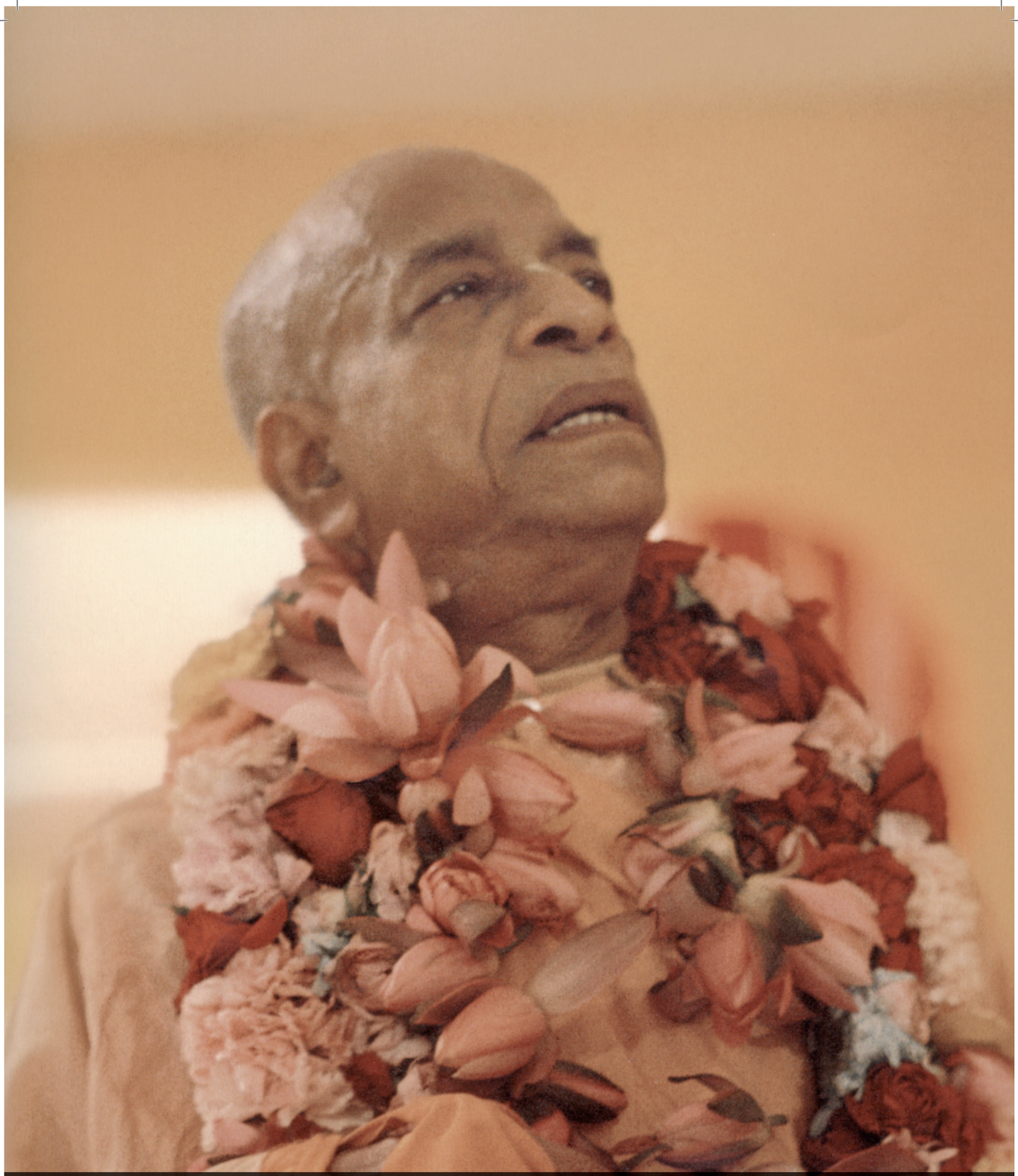
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**His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada**

Founder-Acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

*He lives forever by his divine instructions, and the follower lives with him.*

# “On My Order…”

*His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda,*
Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 3.25.32, Bombay, December 2, 1974

Guru means who follows the predecessor, authorized predecessor. He is guru. Not that everyone is guru. So therefore we have to follow the superior order. Then we become guru, not that by cheating others we become guru. No. That is cheater. That is not teacher. Guru means who is following the superior order. The superior order is Kṛṣṇa or His representative. So Caitanya Mahāprabhu is Kṛṣṇa. He is ordering, āmāra ājñāya, “By My order,” guru hañā, “you become guru.” “Sir, it is very difficult to become guru. I have no education. I have no culture. I am not born in a very high family. I am very low.” A devotee always thinks like that. He never thinks that “I have become very great man.” Just like Caitanya-caritāmṛta, author of, he says, purīṣera kīṭa haite muñi se laghiṣṭha [Cc. Ādi 5.205]. Purīṣa, purīṣa means stool, and there are worms in the stool. So Caitanya-caritāmṛta author is saying that “I am lower than the worms in the stool.” That is Vaiṣṇava conception. Tṛṇād api sunīcena. He is very humble. He never says, “Oh, I am the Supreme. I have become God.” A most rascal, foolish. So that is not... Therefore we have to follow.

If we actually want to become guru, there is necessity of many thousands of gurus to teach this cheated public. But how to become guru? That is... Caitanya Mahāprabhu says, āmāra ājñāya: “By My order.” “What is Your order, Sir?” Yāre dekha, tāre kaha ‹kṛṣṇa›-upadeśa [Cc. Madhya 7.128]. Then you become guru. You simply advise people to follow Kṛṣṇa›s instruction. Then you become guru.

So that is our mission. This Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is that we are simply trying to convince people what Kṛṣṇa has said, that›s all. We are not manufacturing anything. So that is our business. Kṛṣṇa says, man-manā bhava mad-bhakto mad-yājī māṁ namaskuru [Bg. 18.65]. We are training our disciples “Just always think of Kṛṣṇa, chant Hare Kṛṣṇa, and become Kṛṣṇa›s devotee, offer Him prasādam, dress Him nicely.” Man-manā bhava mad-bhakto mad-yājī: “Worship Me.” Worship Kṛṣṇa, the same thing. Kṛṣṇa says, “Worship Me”; we are saying, “Worship Kṛṣṇa.” Kṛṣṇa says, “Surrender unto Me”; we are saying, “Surrender to Kṛṣṇa.” So we have no difficulty. To become a guru there is no difficulty, provided we repeat the same thing as Kṛṣṇa says. And if you say something more or less, then you are not a guru. Very simple thing. Very simple thing.

# The Meaning of Sri Vyasa-Puja

By Partha-sarathi Dasa Adhikari

The Vedas discusses and describes many forms of worship, or puja. Most types of puja of superior personalities or demigods are conducted with a material motive. Most perform the puja for a quick tangible result. Vyasa-puja is unlike such worship. The Vyasa-puja is conducted without any material motivation. The disciple humbly and sincerely worships Vyasadeva's representative in a joyful mood, as an expression of love. In this way, the Lord is very pleased to see His devotee, the bona fide spiritual master, being glorified, and in essence the disciples of the spiritual master are given an opportunity to practice glorifying Krsna by glorifying His pure devotee.

The appearance day of the spiritual master is not just any other day. It is a chance for disciples to come together and glorify the spiritual master, not because the spiritual master likes to hear the praises; but because the realizations heard by one's god brothers and god sisters penetrate the heart and strengthen our devotion and faith. These feelings of love for the spiritual master can conquer the heart very quickly.

rajas tamaś ca sattvena sattvaṁ copaśamena ca
etat sarvaṁ gurau bhaktyā puruṣo hy añjasā jayet

One must conquer the modes of passion and ignorance by developing the mode of goodness, and then one must become detached from the mode of goodness by promoting oneself to the platform of śuddha-sattva. All this can be automatically done if one engages in the service of the spiritual master with faith and devotion. In this way one can conquer the influence of the modes of nature. (SB 7.15.25)

The Spiritual Master is our well wisher, and gives us our connection to the parampara. Bhaktivinode Thakúra has said, "Gaudiya-vaisnava-siddhanta is the opinion of all gaudiya-vaisnava-acarya-mahajanas. Whatever gaudiya-vaisnava-siddhanta we have received, that is guru-varga-dhana --- the merciful gift of all the gaudiya-vaisnava-acaryas. That is their lila-vaisistya, the wonderful characteristics of the lila of that guru-vaisnava-acarya. "Gaudiya-vaisnava-siddhanta is the krpa-vaisistya, the special characteristics of their merciful lila. If we do not observe this festival, if we do not remember and glorify the gaudiya-vaisnava-acrayas, it will be a great disservice towards them. If we do not discuss their vaisistya, their wonderful characteristics, if we remain inactive, not observing the appearance day and disappearance day of such acaryas, mahajanas, then it will be an anyaya, a great injustice. Without their mercy we cannot understand this gaudiya-vaisnava-siddhanta. Through Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is wonderfully merciful, indiscriminately living Krsna-prema, still, we cannot have it without their mercy."

Srila Prabhupada has said on the disappearance day of his Spiritual Master; "Yes. So we shall discuss again. So the same thing, it is chalked out by Krsna, and by parampara system we have understood this philosophy. Evam parampara praptam imam rajarsayo viduh (BG 4.2). So keep this parampara system.

This Vyasa-puja is parampara system. Vyasa-puja means to accept this parampara system. Vyasa. Guru is the representative of Vyasadeva because he does not change anything. What Vyasa-puja... What Vyasadeva said, your guru will also say the same thing. Not that "So many hundreds of thousands of years have passed away. Therefore I will give you a new formula." No. There is no new formula. The same Vyasa-puja, the same philosophy. Simply we have to accept it. Then our life will be successful. " (SP Lecture: 10 Dec. 1976)

The appearance day of the spiritual master is a day not just focused on external practical sevas like cooking, foot bathing, bhajans, large cakes, and gifts. It is a day when we look internally and reconfirm our commitment to the mission of the spiritual master. To say to him, "Yes, from today forward, I will accept your mission as a jewel and carry it upon my head." This jewel will become our life and soul, and our reason for existence. We can see this from the example of Gopa Kumar in the Brhat Bhagavatamrta. He was given a simple order by his guru; given a simple mantra, which became his whole existence. The spiritual master has given us a great gift, the gift of the mercy of Caitanya Mahaprabhu. His mercy is available to us all, and today as we look at one another and meditate on our relationship with the spiritual master, we can only ask that he blesses us to take advantage of the mercy.

nāma śreṣṭhaṁ manum api śacī-putram atra svarūpaṁ rūpaṁ tasyāgrajam uru purīṁ māthurīṁ goṣṭhabāṭīm rādhākuṇḍaṁ girivaram aho rādhikā mādhavāśāṁ prāpto yasya prathita kṛpayā śrī guruṁ taṁ nato›smi (4)

I bow down to my blessed Śrī Guru, by whose grace I have received the greatest name in existence, the holy name of Kṛṣṇa, the 18-syllable Gopāla-mantra, Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the son of Mother Śacī, Svarūpa Dāmodara, Rūpa Gosvāmī, his elder brother Sanātana Gosvāmī, the great city of Mathurā, the pastures of Vraja, Rādhākuṇḍa, the best of mountains Govardhana, and the hope of attaining Rādhikā and Mādhava. (Śrīla Raghunātha Dāsa Gosvāmī's Muktā-carita)

# Kadamba Kanana Swami offering to Srila Prabhupada 2010

oṁ ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmīlitaṁ yena tasmai çré-gurave namaḥ

Dear Srila Prabhupāda,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace!

You once mentioned that the key to your success was that you "cent percent surrendered to your spiritual master." We are by no means of that caliber, since our percentage of surrender remains on the meager side. But we cannot forget you and sink back in ignorance—or ignorance, as you would pronounce the word, revealing that it had its roots in the verb "ignore." We can never ignore you, because you have awakened a spark of hope in our hearts, a hope that perfect happiness can actually be attained in this life through devotional service to Kṛṣṇa.

Even though it may be of poor quality, our connection with you is actually producing wonderful results in our life, as little by little we learn what it means to give ourselves in service. The vows of initiation are like the pearls that Kṛṣṇa planted and that produced bushes with many more pearls.

We cannot imagine how widespread the effect of this movement is. You once mentioned during a lecture that you didn't need a microphone but that you were using the microphone to purify the microphone's maker. Imagine every screw, every gadget, all the clothes, and even the children's tricycles - anything used by devotees puries their makers. Smita Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja once mentioned that you said, "When the harināma party goes through the street, it doesn't just transform the people in the street, but it also transforms the street itself, so much so that even when people go later through that street after the harināma party has already left, they still become puried."

And how deep does this transcendental knowledge enter into the heart? In your Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 1.195) we read a verse that Rāmānanda Rāya recited to describe Rūpa Gosvāmī's poetry: "What is the use of a bowman's arrow or a poet's poetry if they penetrate the heart but do not cause the head to spin?" How deep are the qualities of kṛṣṇa-prema? We are simply watching in amazement from the sidelines—sidelines that are already wonderful—waiting for what more there is to be revealed.

In your "Concluding Words" to the Caitanya-caritāmṛta you mention that not only is Kṛṣṇa present in the heart of his devotee, but He is there along with his full entourage, and thus the spiritual master is also present there. You are the spiritual master for all generations of ISKCON devotees, and therefore we are certain you are present in all of our hearts. For those who are not your direct disciples, the current spiritual master reinforces the connection with Your Divine Grace in devotional service.

Praying to remain always engaged in your service,

Your servant,

Kadamba Kānana Swami

# Offerings

## (Bhakta) Aatish

One may sceptically ask me: “Why does one need a Guru.”

I may give that person a philosophical answer and back it up with quotes from the sastra and also give different logic. But the truth is my realisations about this matter are small, my faith in general is weak and my knowledge is tiny and mundane.

…but one thing I do know in my heart is … ‘I need this one person in my life more than anyone. He is Kadamba Kanana Swami.

Without Him my life is empty. He is my Guru and I am His servant. He is my well wisher. Lots of people have had an impact and influence in my life but they all fall short by miles and miles when compared with Kadamba Kanana Swami.

My parents want what is best for me but they don’t know what is best for me.

But My Guru not only wants the best for me but also knows what is best for me and on top of that makes the best of me.

My doctors over the years have tried to take care of any bodily illnesses, sometimes they can and sometimes they can’t. Most of the medicines they give have side effects and taste bad.

But My Guru is taking care of all my illnesses. He is ensuring I make full use of this present material body in the highest service. He is guaranteeing I don’t have to take up a material body again to suffer. He is taking care of my mental illnesses and He is taking care of my spiritual illnesses. He is a real doctor and all his cures work perfectly as long as I take the prescribed medicine He gives. Also, the medicine he gives has advantageous side effects and is sweet.

My teachers and professors over the years from primary school, secondary school, college and university have tried to educate me. A very small amount of knowledge they gave has ever been useful. A lot of it was extremely boring and most of it was a big waste of time and energy. At university while studying genetics I simply learned that modern science doesn’t answer any real questions of life. To make matters worse university has left me in debt of over £10000.

But my Guru only gives me knowledge that is all useful. The knowledge he gives me was useful then, useful now and will be useful in the future. The knowledge he gives has unlimited capacity and is always interesting and full of nectar. All the knowledge he gives answers the real questions of life and He gives me the full practical application of how to use all this knowledge. And regarding leaving me in debt, the university only left me in £10000 debt but My Guru has left me in unlimited eternal debt!!!”

Like these couple of examples one may get a little glimpse of why I need this person. In this way I can carry on comparing him with all the people that have had an impact and influence in my life including; actors, rock stars, friends, idols and relatives…etc. One thing is for sure without a trace of doubt; My Guru Kadamba Kanana Swami is light years better than all of them!!!!!

So why do I need a Guru: ‘This I really don’t know, but one thing I do know is that I really need this one person in my life: Kadamba Kanana Swami, My beloved spiritual master

Thanks for everything

Your useless servant

(Bhakta) Aatish

## Acyutānanda Dāsa

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

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

The more we associate with you, the more we understand Krishna Consciousness. That's all it takes, your association.

At every turn you plead insignificance. That is just one thing that makes you great. I pray to live up to my vows and beyond, more and more as time goes by. You make it clear that we want to get out of this contaminated material sphere. Our intelligence concurs, and yet we resist. The desire for sense gratification still persists. You encourage us really well, by your bhakti swell, and eventually, time will tell... One day by your grace, we'll meet face to face. Our beloved Lord in that spiritual place.

Hare Krishna. Your servant

Acyutananda Das

## Ādikartā Dāsa

Lieber Guru Maharaja,

*nama om visnu-pádáya krsna presthája bhú-tale*
*srímate Kadamba Kánana Svámin iti námine*

*nama om visnu-pádáya krsna-presthája bhú-tale*
*guru dasa Jayadvaita Svámin iti námine*

*nama om visnu-pádáya krsna-presthája bhú-tale*
*srímate bhaktivedánta-svámin iti námine*

*namas te sárasvate deve gaura-váni-pracárine*
*nirvisesa-súnyavádi-páscátya-desa-tárine*

Nehmen Sie bitte meine achtungsvollen Ehrerbietungen an. Alle Ehre sei an Ihrer Heiligkeit. Alle Ehre sei an Ihrem Guru Maharaja Srila Guru Dasa Jayadvaita Swami. Alle Ehre sei an Sri Gauranga. Alle Ehre sei an Srila Prabhupada. Bei der Gelegenheit Ihrer Vyasa-Puja habe auch ich, Dank Ihrer unendlichen grundlosen Barmherzigkeit, die wertvolle Mṭglichkeit ein Offering zu schreiben.

Wie beeinflusst der Spirituelle Meister unseres alltägliches Dasein? Durch Seine natürliche Gnade, die von der Krischnas abgeleitet ist, lautet die kürzeste und schnelle Antwort. Seine Güte kann man Wort wṭrtlich wahrnehmen auf jedem unserem Schritt und Tritt. In dieser materiellen Welt gibt es unter anderem eine unendliche Menge von allerhand Schwierigkeiten die uns auch plṭtzlich sehr überraschen kennen und deren Lṭsung aus der Regel in einer materiellen Lebensauffassung eigentlich unmṭglich ist. Dazu gehṭren auch manchmal grundsätzliche Hindernisse die durch unseren materiellen Kṭrper zum Ausdruck kommen. Es kann sehr leicht vorkommen, dass man durch allmṭglichen Umständen plṭtzlich in



*"So every moment with the spiritual master is a precious moment even nothing much transpires, even if no big dramatic statements are made"*

unseren eigenen kṭrperlichen Fāhigkeiten grundsātzlich eingeschrānkt wird, doch das alles ist weit kein Grund dazu, man hātte sich ūber etwas zu beschwṭren. . O mein Meister, Sie machen mir allmāhlich die Augen auf und so kann man zur Erkenntnis gelangen, dass auf der unmateriellen Ebene all diese Unbequemlichkeit keine Wirkung hat. Im Gegenteil, das alles kann man unter gnādiger Fūhrung Ihrer Heiligkeit-des Echten Spirituellen Meisters-als groḶe Barmherzigkeit wahrnehmen. Wie ist das mṭglich? Materialistisch angesehen ist es rein unmṭglich, jedes Leiden fūr Gnade zu halten. Auf der materiellen Ebene, wo man sich mit unserem Kṭrper vereinigt fūhlt, gibt es keine andere Auswahl. So wie das Lebewessen unter der Fūhrung des Echten Spirituellen Meisters-vorausgesetzt es folgt auch dem Hinweisen seines Spirituellen Lehrers nach-leicht den Ozean des materiellen Daseins ūberqueren kann, so kann es auch alle materiellen Dualismen , zu deren alle mṭgliche Schwierigkeiten innerhalb des Universums untrennbar gehṭren, ūberschreiten. Demūtig nehme ich die Tatsache an dass ich im Schatten der LotosfūḶe Ihrer Heiligkeit die Zuflucht weiter suchen darf. Ein fūr allemal mṭchte ich den Abdruck der LotosfūḶen Ihrer Heiligkeit in meinem Herzen tragen.
Mit groḶer Dankbarkeit und Demut mṭchte ich ununterbrochen Ihre LotosfūḶe verehren und daher verneige ich mich vor Ihnen und bringe Ihnen mṭglichst aufrichtig stets erneut meine achtungsvollen Ehrerbietungen dar.

In Ihrem Dienst Ihr ewiger Schuldner und unansehnlicher Schūller

Adikarta Das

## Ananya Devi Dāsī

Dear Kadamba Kanana Maharaja!

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

I bow at your feet with gratitude and devotion. I am happy that I can join your other disciples and address you at this occasion of your Vyasa-Puja. On this day of your appearance, I remember when you appeared in my life. When I heard your first lecture and kirtan, I immediately knew that I will strive to become your disciple.

You are my dear Spiritual Master who helps me to overcome maya. When I remember you and listen to your lecture tapes, I feel like I am still in your presence. On this day of your birthday, I wish you that Krishna gives you good health and satisfaction, so that we your disciples, could benefit from your presence for a very long time

Thank you from the core of my heart!

Hare Krishna

Ananya Devi Dasi

## (Bhaktin) Anita Rajkomar

Dear Maharaja,

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

Maharaja, on the occasion of your Vyasa-Puja, I will like to wish you the best of everything. May Lord Krishna always allow to us have your kind

association. Thank you for being so inspiring, gentle and kind.

Maharaja I just wanted you to know that when I am depressed, I listen to your CD's, which really uplifts my spirit. There are times when I just feel like giving up and suddenly you make it seem all so easy, to glorify the Lord and to go on. I am looking forward to meeting you again.

Your most unworthy servant,

Anita Rajkomar Durban, (South Africa)

## (Bhaktin) Annie

Hare Krishna, Guru Maharaja

Please accept my obeisances. Please accept this humble offering at your lotus feet.

You make everything possible. Finally, you are residing in my contaminated heart by purifying it all the time. Even though I am puffed up, and although I resist your mercy, as well as questioning your authenticity, you still remain there. Although I am full of material desires, and am always calculating how to get the best out of any situation, even though I am a great pretender, you still shine your light on me and illuminate me even when I wish to remain in darkness. Although I am miserly, selfish, and cowardly, but I still want to be the queen of the universe - you still do not leave me. Who needs mercy more than I do? Who would have thought that I would someday take shelter of the Holy Name? It is always a privilege to have your association, and a joy to be engaged in your service. Thank you, dear Maharaja, for your deep insight, your unfailing patience and your genuine kindness, which makes everything possible. May your mercy continue to rain down on me and the other fallen souls in this universe.

Your servant

Annie Durban (South Africa)

## Arjuna Dāsa

Lieber Guru Maharaja,

bitte akzeptiere meine demŸtigen Ehrerbietungen. Alle Ehre sei Srila Prabhupada, H.H. Jayadvaita Maharaj und natŸrlich Dir.

Ich mšchte Dir zu Deinem Geburtstag gratulieren und mich bei dir fŸr deinen wundervollen Dienst den Du darbringst bedanken. Du bist eine gro§e Bereicherung fŸr alle und Lord Krishna sehr lieb.

Auch ich denke oft an Dich, wie ich Dir am besten hingebungvollen Dienst darbringen kann. Durch Deine Segnungen kann ich Fortschritt machen. Bitte Segne mich, da§ ich das Krishna-Bewu§tsein nie verlasse.
Ich wŸnsche Dir das Beste.

Dein Diener

Arjuna Das

## Arundhatī Devi Dāsī

Lieber Guru Maharaja,

bitte akzeptiere meine demütigen Ehrerbietungen. Alle Ehre sei Jayadvaita Swami. Alle Ehre sei Srila

Prabhupada!

Deine Vorlesungen treffen bei mir immer direkt den Nagel auf den Kopf. Oft kann ich in Deinen Vorlesungen herzhaft lachen, aber nur aus dem Grund, da Du mit Deinen Worten direkt in mein Herz schneidest und die Unreinheiten mit Deinem bezaubernden Lachen und Charm aus mir heraus “operierst”.

Dunkle, verstaubte Ecken sind plțtzlich in Deiner sonnengleichen Ausstrahlung offensichtlich “zugānglich” und ich muss sie nicht mehr peinlich verstecken. Ich kann sie bewuĻt wahrnehmen, mich darūber amūsieren und sie mit Hilfe meiner Intelligenz und Deiner Barmherzigkeit hinter mir lassen.

Immer wieder wird der Spiegel meines Herzens verunreinigt, stehe ich am Abgrund und immer wieder fāngst Du mich mit Deinen Worten auf, erinnerst mich an Krishna, an die Mission an das Ziel meines Lebens. Krishna zu dienen, Liebe zu ihm zu entwickeln, die Vaisnavas zu ehren und selbst eine Vaisnavi zu werden. So eindringlich und verstāndlich erklārst Du uns, wie sich ein Vaisnava benimmt, seine Qualitāten, die Kultur.

Lieber Guru Maharaja, fūr mich bist D u der rote Faden meines Lebens

D a s Leitbild fūr spirituelles Leben,
D e r Helfer in schweren Situationen,
an D i c h kann ich mich immer wenden,
an D i c h kann und darf ich immer denken
- ohne das Gefūhl zu haben, D i r zuviel zu sein oder blțd zu handeln.
D i r kann ich vertrauen,
D i r mțchte ich dienen.
Mit D i r bin ich nie mehr allein!

Ganz besonders, wenn ich Deine Anweisungen ausfūhre....

Die Harschheit von der Du so oft sprichst ist noch so tief in meinem Herzen, so viel Hārte, Faulheit und Lust haben sich da angesammelt, dass ich oft ārgerlich mit mir selbst bin. Lieber Guru Mahraja dann hțre ich wieder Deine Worte zu meiner Einweihung und ich bin von Deiner Barmherzigkeit mir gegenūber berūhrt, dass mir gar nichts anderes ūbrig bleibt, als Wege zu finden, wie ich Dir und der Mission am besten dienen kann. In Selbstmitleid zu versinken, das war frūher, jetzt heiĻt es aufstehen und aktiv in Liebe und mit offenem Herzen zu handeln - auch wenn ich dabei oft auf die Nase fliege...

Ich bin sehr dankbar Deine Schūlerin sein zu dūrfen. Besonders dankbar bin ich fūr die vielen Gottbrūder und Gottschwestern, die so bedingungslos freundlich und herzlich zu mir und bei denen ich mich so aufgehoben fūhle.

Deine Schūlerin

Arundhati Devi Dasi

## Atulya Devi Dāsī

Dearest Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All Glories Srila Prabhupada.

I would like to take this opportunity on your Vyasa-Puja to thank you wholeheartedly for your mercy upon us all and for your dedication to the service of Sri Sri Gaura Nitai. It is stated that Sri Krishna is visaya-vigraha - the object of love and

guru-vaishnava is asraya-vigraha, the abode of love. This is a statement that with time spent in your service and your association for which I have come to truly understand. You are always so approachable and supportive with your determination and dedication to Lord Sri Caitanya. These examples, are inspirational and motivating towards my journey home. I pray that your preaching and kirtan will continue to touch the hearts of many more, and that we your disciples, whilst in your service, follow your example and together continue to freely distribute the mercy of Lord Caitanya.

Your Servant

Atulya Devi Dasi

## Bahulāśva Dāsa

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami.

*nama om vishnu padaya krishna-prestaya bhu-thale srimate Kadamba Kanana Swami iti namine*

*nama om vishnu padaya krishna-prestaya bhu-thale gurudas Jayadvaita Swami iti namine.*

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

This winter has been like a very long sleep. I only wake up in between, and that is when I have association with devotees. So I take every chance that I can in between work and family life.

In one hand, I am just a like a conditioned soul knowing the big goal and the high ideal for a devotee, and at the same time facing everything that is lacking for that high ideal. As soon as I read, than my consciousness is so much better, but I have been so tired and have the lack of energy this winter.

Of course, it was a boost to come to Mayapur in November last year, and I had a good consciousness after having been there. When winter comes than I struggle on the strength of duty and the instructions given by you. I also know that you want me to be more aloof from my family and I know that I am a bit insecure when thinking of living more without them. But, for the future I need to focus more on daily remembrance of Krishna, and what would be pleasing to him, and pleasing to you! I have not given up all materiel attachments and that it may not be possible either in this life. But, at least I will reduce them with the best of my ability. I have attachment for Krishna, hearing about Krishna and his devotees. I still have an attachment for enjoyment in the material world and I am aware that I have to find the ultimate path of spiritual realization.

I am a slow person, and maybe it will take more than one lifetime to fully surrender to Krishna. Although, I have accepted to surrender to the process of surrendering. To surrender according to this, means for example to not have any interest separate from the Lords interest, and to always feel low and humble, which is not an easy thing.

“Spiritual life is difficult, but material life is impossible” as quoted by Srila Prabhupada. That of course is true - so I won’t give up, but how far will I come? I don’t know. After this weekend, I may be more optimistic.

Maharaja, I know you are impatient when it comes



*"So we must do something about that relationship. Not hesitate. We must go forward and give ourselves in the relationship with our spiritual master and the more we do so, the more we rise above the modes of material nature and the more we actually become close to Krsna"*

.

to pushing this movement forward, and you also want your disciples to move forward. So I pray to you that you don't give up on me, and to Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

It's said that even a person who is totally without knowledge, can immediately get all the knowledge by getting Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's blessings. So I pray that he will give me his causeless mercy in that way.

Thank you Maharaja for your everlasting spirit of always trying to help your devotees, who are entangled in this materiel world. I don't think I ever will forget what you have done to always encourage me on my spiritual journey. I am not in the right stage of my life, to be able to actually understand the blessings that's comes from you, but I hope I will in the future. It's a great blessing to be your disciple.

Thank you, Maharaja.

Your servant

Bahulasva Das

## Baṭu Gopāla Dāsa

Hare Krishna Dear Guru Maharaja, Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Jayadvaita Maharaja and to Srila Prabhupada.

I am just so glad to be your disciple. No words can express my feelings, as you have done so much for me and I have failed to live up to your expectations.

I remember listening to your lecture, which you mention that Vyasa-Puja is not meant to be a big party with a big feast, cake and so on, but it is meant to re-establish our connection with our spiritual master and our vows. By being so fallen, I have been naturally keeping Krishna seated in the back seat of my car, but here this year with this new responsibility of the BBTA and the Pretoria temple, I again promise that Krishna will be in the front seat and others will be in the back seat.

I now realise that these services that you are giving me is to strengthen my spiritual life and not make a big hole in my sadhana, which has happened a many of times. I have tried very hard to get that hole filled with more and more reading and hearing, but it has been futile. Henceforth I will not allow that hole to start. You might be thinking that how can I say this so confidently, but the fact is that I am still not confident, but I remember another one of your lectures by which you mention, "If you say I am trying, which means you are still not doing it" so I have given up trying and started doing things at the best of my abilities.

Please keep on showering me with all the unlimited mercy in any form.

Trying to be your servant

Baṭu Gopāla Dāsa

## Bhagavati Devi Dāsī

My beloved Guru Maharaja,

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

Last year my offering was about gratitude for all the things that you have given us. But, lately I've come to realize just how much mercy and blessings I've been receiving over these past five years and how these have changed me and helped me as a devotee. I cringe at the thought of what my life would have been like without them. While writing this, I think back of the day in 2006 when I realized that after having waited for so many years, Krishna finally sent me to my Spiritual Master. The exuberance I felt at the moment of that realization is still with me now and has only increased.

Since, then your mercy and availability of guidance has helped me to do things that I would never have thought possible before. It has helped me become more like the person I always wanted to be. Knowing that the service I am trying to do has your blessings, which strengthens me at moments where I would normally have run the other way and given up; it gives me enough conviction to overcome any difficulties when they arise.

We often hear you tell the story of the man dangling from the gutter, asking Krishna to catch him, but not willing to let go of the gutter. You have told this story so often and in so many different ways that this must be a point that you really want us to understand, that we can only become truly Krishna conscious once we let go of our own desires and learn to rely on Krishna. Again and again you show us by your personal example how to let go of any personal considerations and to just work for the benefit of this preaching mission that Srila Prabhupada has given us. This is the same mentality as Srila Prabhupada had expressed in his Markine Bhagavata-dharma: "Oh Lord, I am just like a puppet in Your hands. So if You have brought me here to dance, then make me dance, make me dance, Oh Lord, make me dance as you like".

As long as we're not able to let go of our personal considerations, of our gross and subtle sex desire, we will never be able to really serve our Spiritual Master and surrender to his instructions. So let me pray to Sri Sri Radha Gopinatha to for the strength and intelligence to let go of this gross and subtle sex desire, to let go of all my personal considerations and to just trust on your and Their mercy, so I can truly become your instrument, for you to use in whatever way you desire.

Your very insignificant and ever-grateful servant,

Bhagavati Devi Dasi

## Bharadvāja Dāsa

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami,

Please accept my respectful obeisance at the dust of Your lotus feet!
All glories to your divine grace! All glories to your Spiritual Master Jayadvaita Swami! All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to the movement of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

I'd like to thank you, by this homage for anniversary of your Vyasa-Puja and for everything you have done for me. Please allow me to express my deep gratefulness to you, who has opened up these blind eyes. You lead and inspire me by your preaching. By this, you have deeply infiltrated into my heart and have given me a new hope -that my life has finally some meaning.  I Thank you many times for your mercy for spreading the sankirtan movement all over the world.

I beg for your blessings that I should always stay in the association of the devotees and continue with a devotional service via means of distributing mercy in a form of Prasadam at Govinda, as well as trying to detach from this material world and to make another progress on the way back home back to Godhead.

I wholeheartedly thank you for everything. As a mere beginner in the devotional service, I wish you a lot of firm health and endless mercy.

Servant of your servant,

Bharadvāja Dāsa

## (Bhakta) Bhupendra

Dear Guru Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances, All glories to Srila Prabhupada

In the last year I have been listening to your classes more and more. Through the process of hearing, I feel very close to you, and also feel more hope and confidence in spiritual life. Without the mercy of a spiritual master, practicing Krishna Consciousness is very difficult.

When you feel that I am ready, then I look forward to becoming your initiated disciple. Relationships with my god brothers also helps me to continue on in spiritual life.

My son Darpan, who is still only 12 years old, is also attracted to You and would like to aspire to take shelter of you in the future. He is chanting 12 rounds every day. Last week he even chanted 32 rounds in one day! This is only possible by your mercy Maharaja.

I hope to continue to serve Srila Prabhupada's mission under your guidance,

Your servant,

(Bhakta) Bhupendra

## Caitya-guru Dāsa

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami,

Please accept my humble obeisances!

I was born in the darkest ignorance and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torch of knowledge. I offer my respectful obeisance unto him. Rendering service in the pastimes of Sri Krishna-Caitanya is your great desire and your vital force. Through serving the vaishnavas you must have entered Jayadvaita Swamis heart and therefore found your powers of vision. You surely received the blessings of the line of the vaishnava acharyas and the favour of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu – how else would you have rendered so much outstanding service? Or be so inspired and awakened in Krishna Consciousness? You accept responsibility for the devotee's mercy upon you.

You told us how Maha-Virya fasted for three days in the Amsterdam temple to get you to come back to the association of devotees – with success. His sacrifice obliges you and you accepted it as your duty to pay it back. What honest and triumphant perspective! By your vigorous preaching in South Africa, you flood the atmosphere with divine sound and pass on opportunities for being saved

from the most dangerous tendencies of materialistic human life. Your appearance is always full of consciousness, natural and energetic. You are attentive to each person in your presence.

You are competent to emphatically connect with every mood and attitude of a mind of persons you are communicating with. No one surpasses your youthful energy.

In your lectures and commentaries you reveal precise, direct and often unexpected the true core of a topic. Thereby, you surprise and delight your audience with transcendental taste. I think this is because you are so surrendered to and guided by the Supersoul. Your kirtan gives me a sense of the divine names, and offers a sweet taste of an ecstatic reality. You know the art of dancing – just like a puppet in the hands of Krishna – eagerly offering your every thing to Him. Seeing you act like this is the highest treasure and very sweet nourishment for your disciples. Longing to become a true disciple I am already so much indebted to you

Your Servant

Caitya-guru Dāsa

## (Bhaktin) Cameel Baichan

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

During a series of Srimad Bhagavatam classes you recently gave in Melbourne from the 11th Canto Chapter 25 titled Material nature and beyond, a person in the audience asked you to comment on devotees in Iskcon who have either left or committed suicide due to being completely overwhelmed by their fall down or offenses.

The closing words of your answer were as follows:

"Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur explains that we are on the one hand, dwelling on how we are fallen, but on the other hand, we are dwelling on the amazing mercy, and if we keep that in mind then that guilt will not overwhelm us to the point where we say, "I may as well jump off the bridge because I've blown it I have made such an offense that I have spoiled my chance. I have spoiled my chance by my gross misbehaviour. I have spoiled my chance to be successful in spiritual life." False! False! The power of devotional service is so great. It is the gift of our Spiritual Master. This mercy is so great that nothing we can do can spoil that mercy. Nothing! So simply turn back - yes with a few scars and so on….with a few dents…..and turn back and take it up again, and we will be successful."

My struggle with material desires and the senses have been wearing me down, but these priceless words of Yours have been my saving grace through tough times. I had hoped to offer you something substantial, but all I have is my sincere thanks for helping me not lose hope and for helping me see past my narrow vision. Your lectures, wisdom, time and mercy have been a constant source of shelter and I am looking forward to rummaging through your lectures (past and present) in search of these helpful treasures. Finally I see light at the end of the tunnel! I pray that by yours and Krishna's mercy, that I have something substantial to offer you next year. Thank you again for everything.

Your insignificant servant

(Bhaktin) Cameel Baichan
(Sasolburg, South Africa)

## (Bhaktin) Cecilie Herrem

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swamiji,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. All Glories to Vaishnavas

I just sat down to chant my last rounds, 5 to go before I hit 16. Although I'm not initiated yet, I've made a promise in my heart to Srila Prabhupada, that I will chant 16 rounds no matter what. I'm an aspiring servant of Kadamba Kanana Swami, and I try my best to hold on to Prabhupada's dhoti every day. I was not sure if I'm qualified to write an offering, but my husband encouraged me, and suddenly I felt the inspiration.

I first came in contact with Maharaja around 7 months ago, I met my husband who is a disciple of Maharaja. He always spoke so warm-heartedly about Him, so I started feeling closer to Maharaja. Listening to the stories, the travels my husband had with Maharaja, how strict and so humorous He can be. I liked that. I like strictness; I like the Vaishnava regulations, so I started to listen to Maharaja's classes. He grew more and more in my heart, and I started feeling closer to Krishna.

That was the sign. I knew from Bhagavat Gita, that one should approach a Spiritual Master for progress and advancement in Krishna conscious life, and now I finally felt that urge inside.

I wrote an email to Maharaja, telling him about how I wanted to move to Oslo to enter grhasta ashram, I told him about my life as a devotee so far. He replied with warm words and nice guidance. He gave his blessing on our marriage and said Yudhisthira Prabhu would be a good husband for me. It felt so calming and warming to get His blessing.

Coming to Vrindavan winter 2010, I met with Maharaja's ex-wife and I got a really nice sadhu sanga from her. She told me so much about how they first joined ISKCON and all the way to how He took sannyas.

I kept on writing to Maharaja with updates, and I felt stronger and stronger that I was an aspiring disciple of His. One night I had a dream about Maharaja, which I was telepathically travelling around Mathura, and in one place I was sitting next to Maharaja at a yajṣa. Somehow we made a spiritual bond there. When I woke up I knew that I had to ask Maharaja for initiation.

So while my husband and I was in Vrindavan, having our marriage yajṣa there, I wrote to Maharaja, asking him what I needed to do to become an aspired disciple of his It was a big, but comfortable step to ask for that, because how do I know I'm qualified?

I feel very ready to be a servant of Maharaja. To help Him in any way I can. To follow His instructions and to be a good wife for his disciple. Doing what I can for Prabhupada's mission and serving the devotees.

I'm looking forward to this celebration in Radhadesh, my first Vyasa-Puja. The first of many to come!

Your aspiring servant,

(Bhaktin) Cecilie Herrem
Oslo, Norway

## (Bhakta) Chris

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada, HH Jayadvaita Swami Maharaja, and to Your Lotus Feet.

In life, and most especially in spiritual life, the realization that nothing is truly in one's control, quickly becomes apparent. The need to bring the negative influences of material creation under control, though illogical to the modern self-centred psyche, can only be realized through further humiliation and supplication. A proper authority as confirmed in the scriptures and by the general body of devotees, is inspiring and certainly a blessing, but in order to fully comprehend these sentiments and take them to heart, unfortunately the pain and agony of both humiliation and tribulation are sometimes necessary.

I cannot offer much to you on the day that you offer us so much. So I simply pray to become a better servant day-by-day. Krishnadas Kaviraja tells us that:

*tinera smarane haya vighna-vinasana anayase haya*
*nija viṣchita-purana*

"Such remembrance [of the Spiritual Master] destroys all difficulties and very easily enables one to fulfil his own desires." (C.C. Adi 1.21) Keeping the ultimate goal of remembrance of Krishna in constant focus serves to increase my desire to serve and my eagerness for prema. I keep these verses with me so I can remember what it means to be devoted and surrendered:

*eka bhagavata bada — bhagavata-sastra*
*ara bhagavata — bhakta bhakti-rasa-patra dui*
*bhagavata dvara diya bhakti-rasa*
*tanhara hrdaye tanra preme haya vasa*

"One of the Bhagavatas is the great scripture Srimad-Bhagavatam, and the other is the pure devotee absorbed in the mellows of loving devotion. Through the actions of these two Bhagavatas the Lord instils the mellows of transcendental loving service into the heart of a living being, and thus the Lord, in the heart of His devotee, comes under the control of the devotee's love." (C.C. Adi 1.99-100) I simply pray that you will help me turn my crocodile tears into tears of true bhakti and that I may continue forever in service.

Your aspiring servant

(Bhakta) Chris

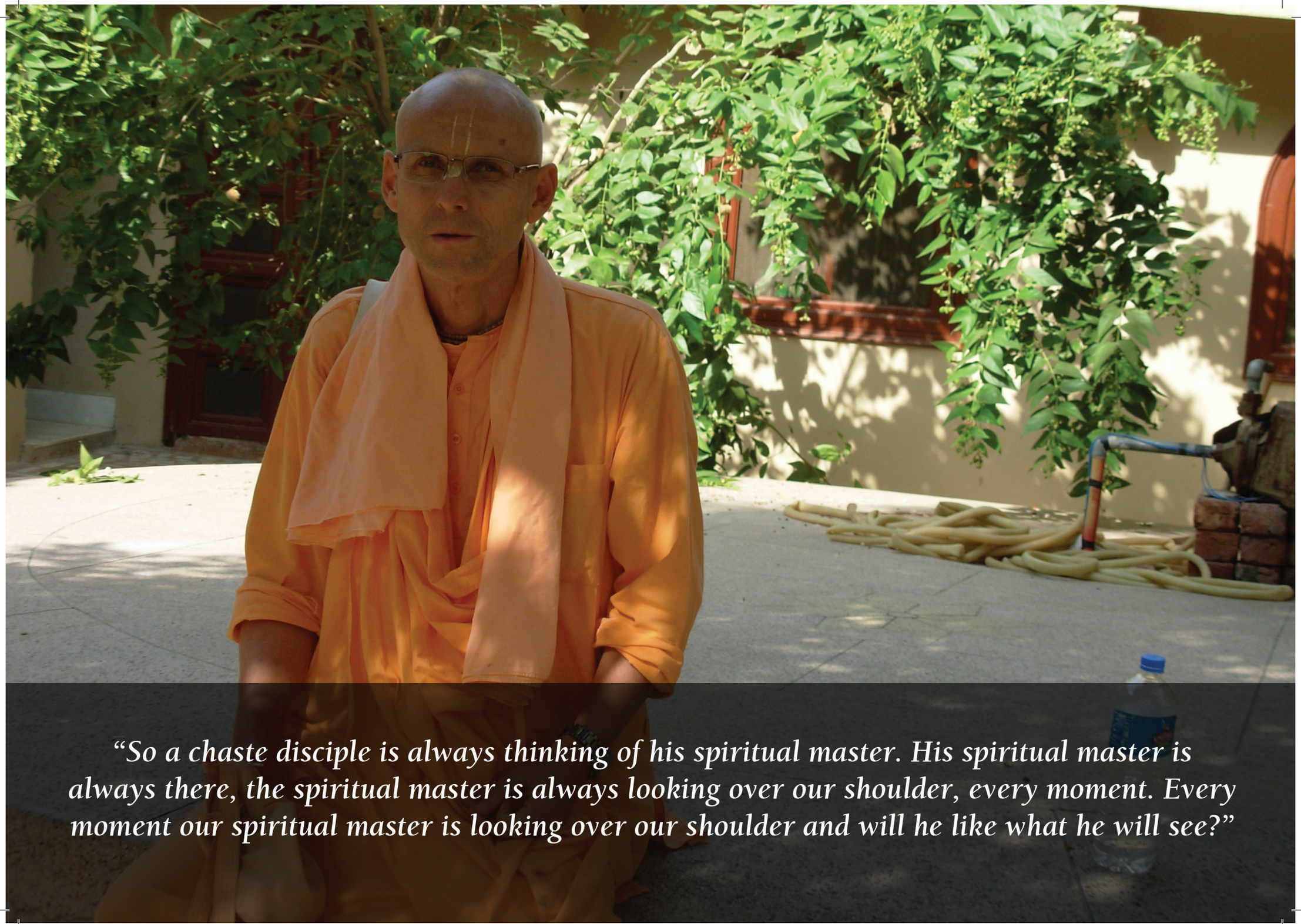
## Danca

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swamiji,

All glories to Your Divine Grace, who so kindly opened our eyes and by Your nectarian kirtans, You show us the sweetness of chanting the Lord's name. Thank You for everything,

Your hopefully future disciple

Danca and family from Neratovice, Czech Republic.



*"So a chaste disciple is always thinking of his spiritual master. His spiritual master is always there, the spiritual master is always looking over our shoulder, every moment. Every moment our spiritual master is looking over our shoulder and will he like what he will see?"*

## Doyāl Govinda Dāsa

Hare Krishna Dear Maharaja,

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

Once again the time has come for that wonderful writing opportunity of my offering for Your divine appearance day.

The last deep impression I got from last years Vyasa-Puja celebration was the fact that it is a very special gathering and even more special is reading to You an offering. Well, it might happen that, during the celebration, I will spend some time with my son Vijay, who by the way always tells me in our car, that he wants to listen to Your bhajans - hopefully Your future disciple, so I might not be able to read directly to You, for this I will send You this offering so that You can at least read it.

Meditating about a possibility of becoming a true and dedicated servant of Yours, for which I have found a source of inspiration in the diary of His Grace Srutakirti Prabhu "What's the difficulty?". Here he describes his experiences with His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

Although, it seems that I will not ever become Your personal servant while travelling with You, I like to establish Your desire in my preaching field and yes it will only be possible by Your mercy and Your blessings and then whatever You wish let me take it to my heart and fulfil it, since I simply want to do something for You. Like Srila Prabhupada explains in the purport to Bhagavad-Gita (4.42) "That one is advised to study Bhagavad-Gita, or any other scripture, under a bona fide Spiritual Master, with service and surrender". Seeing You as a bona fide Spiritual Master, as a true follower of Lord Caitanya's sankirtan movement and as a true follower of Srila Prabhupada - I hanker to be instructed by You. Some instructions my wife and myself received for Heidelberg and we are currently working on those. This year, we do have the procession Ratha Yatra, and through Your lectures I receive many more hints of what You like and dislike, but I am sure that You are not satisfied yet. So let me know if I can do more for You. From my point of view, the time has not yet come of leaving my home, but only that You know - the suitcase is packed.

Still there is a long way to go and without Your mercy it will not be possible for me executing devotional service or any service. So please accept this humble attempt and help me in my way back to Godhead. The prayer below has not been composed by me, but it is a wonderful opportunity to express my feelings on how important Your divine lotus feet are.

HH Kadamba Kanana nistha

1) The lotus feet of HH Kadamba Kanana Maharaja are a shelter where one will get the soothing moonlight not only of one, but also of millions of moons. If the world wants to have real peace, it should take shelter of HH Kadamba Kanana Maharaja. Unless one takes shelter under the shade of the lotus feet of HH Kadamba Kanana Maharaja, it will be very difficult for him to approach Srila Prabhupada, Lord Caitanya and Radha-Krishna. If one actually wants to enter into the dancing party of Lord Caitanya's sankirtan movement, he must firmly catch hold of the lotus feet of HH Kadamba Kanana Maharaja.

2) Anyone who has not established his relationship with HH Kadamba Kanana Maharaja is understood to have spoiled his valuable human birth. Such a human being is actually an uncontrollable animal. Because he never uttered the Holy Name and he has become merged into so-called material happiness. What can his useless education and family tradition do to help him?

3) Being maddened after false prestige and identification with the body, one is thinking: “Oh, who is HH Kadamba Kanana Maharaja? What can He do for me?” I don’t care. The result is that he is accepting something false to be truth. If you actually want to approach the association of Srila Prabhupada, Lord Caitanya and Radha-Krishna, you must first achieve the mercy of HH Kadamba Kanana Maharaja. When He is merciful towards you, then you will be able to approach Srila Prabhupada, Lord Caitanya, Lord Nityananda and Radha-Krishna. Therefore, you should firmly grasp the lotus feet of HH Kadamba Kanana Maharaja.

4) The lotus feet of HH Kadamba Kanana Maharaja are not illusion; they are a fact. One who engages in the transcendental loving service of HH Kadamba Kanana Maharaja is also transcendental. Always try to catch the lotus feet of HIM. This Doyal Govinda Das is very unhappy, therefore I am praying to HH Kadamba Kanana Maharaja to make me happy. My dear Guru Maharaja, please keep me close to Your lotus feet.

Your servant

Doyāl Govinda Dāsa

## Dayānanda Dāsa

Meine Demūtige Ehrerbietungen

Jaya Jayadvaita, Jaya Prabhupada

O Gurudeva, Ospirituellen Meister, du bist zu Jedem Barmherzig und besitzt kein Funken falsches Ego mehr und so kann Krishna voll durch dich wirken.
Du wūrdest mit Stārke verliehendas du allen umstānden gleichmutig bleibst, und bist frei von persṭnlicher Verehrung, du opferst alles dein Spirituellen Meister.

O Mein Herr und Meister, du hast die Kraft,allen Lebenwesen gebūhrende Achtung entgegenzubringen. Du begehst nie ein Vergehen dadurch und bist dadurch imstande, das Glūck des heiligen Namens zu besingen.

O Mein Herr und Meister , du bist durch Jayadvaita Swamis Barmherzigkeit gesegnet worden.

Du bist sehr erhaben und besitzt viel Stārke und Intelligenz. Du wūrdest zu Jayadvaita Swamis geliebten Diener gemacht. Immer wenn du uns besuchst, und ich Dich betrachte sehe ich einen Strahlenden Perfekten Diamanten der so rein ist das durch seine gegenwart aller einfluḶ Mayas von uns weicht, so wie es bei Srila Prabhupada der Fall war.

Weil du so voller guter Eigenschaften und Barmherzigkeit bist, ist deine Barmherzigkeit unentbehrlich fūr mich geworden, daher bitte ich dich: „Bitte sei mir auch so Barmherzig wie dein Spiritueller Meister es zu dir war. Wenn du mir nicht deine Barmherzigkeit gibst, hab ich Angst das mich Maya ergreift und ich verrūckt werde.

Ich mṭchte mich auch von Herzen her bedanken bei dir fūr alles was du getan hast und noch tuen wirst.

Dein zu FūḶen fallender Diener

Dayānanda Dāsa

## Dharmānanda Dāsa

My dear Spiritual Father

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

I wish you all the best on Your special day. May Krishna shower You with many years to come. I must thank you for Your kind love towards Your loving son Dharmananda Das, and by showing me the sparkling light at the end. Your sparkling light rekindled my soul towards Radhe Shyam and Your lotus feet.

Haribol with love

Your loving son

Dharmānanda Dāsa

## Dwarkadīśa Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

PAMHO. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Jayadvaita Swami. All glories to YOU!

Your moonlike appearance in my life as all the wonderful qualities manifest naturally in a devotee who serves Krishna in all circumstances, at all times, wholeheartedly and without deviation, they are blossoming in You. The Vedic literature poetically praises the spiritual qualities, compares them to the moon or the lotus flower, because they are the personification of beauty. So real beauty is not a matter of flesh but spirit. All the energy people invest building up a attractive image is nothing but a waste of time. But You are very cleverly investing on the stock market of Goloka Vrindavan and cultivating the lotus like qualities of a devotional teacher. As a garden is full of variety, Your character is rich of charming aspects and inspires me all the time. I am still wandering through that garden, amazed like a little child - mouth wide open, wondering, stumbling from time to time - and feel so unqualified to describe the scenery. Everything I can do is follow in the footsteps of devotees - offering Ganga water, to praise the Ganga, to thank the Ganga and to beg for mercy...

So I am taking Your lotus like way of living and offering it back to You - everything accomplished in my life is just because You are ... a teacher, a preacher , and a everlasting moment of clarity! :-)

All what is left - the misgivings, the hidden agenda, the lost chances, the dark moments, and the unwanted drive, which I declare to be my full accomplishments - or better, I sadly admit due to foolishness in not following You.
Thank You Maharaja, for being so compassionate and tolerant, who's always there as the person and guides me as well as at the same time pats me softly.

I wish to make it meaningful. What You generously gave to me. As sign of causeless mercy.

Your eternal servant

Dwarkadīśa Dāsa

## (Bhaktin) Gabi

Dear Gurudev,

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

The Spiritual Master represents Nityananda and therefore You, as my Spiritual Master, are non different from Him. *śrī-caitanya—sei kṛṣṇa, nityānanda—rāma nityānanda pūrṇa kare caitanyera kāma* "Lord Caitanya is the same Lord Krishna, and Lord Nityānanda is Lord Balarāma. Lord Nityānanda fulfils all of Lord Caitanya's desires." Lord Caitanya's desire is to spread the holy name and to give everyone love of God; and similar to Nityananda You are preaching the message of Lord Caitanya:

*Bolo 'Kṛṣṇa', bhajo Kṛṣṇa, loho Kṛṣṇa nām Kṛṣṇa mātā, Kṛṣṇa pitā, Kṛṣṇa dhana-prāṇ.*

"Chant Krishna, worship Krishna, and accept Krishna's holy name from others. Krishna is your mother, your father, and the treasure of your life-breath."

Coming in the parampara of Lord Caitanya, You are empowered by Him and the Vaishnava-acharyas. As sunlight is coming down through different layers of the universe, the empowerment of Krishna and the mercy of the acharyas is coming through the parampara down to us, dissipating the darkness in our hearts and awakening loving devotional service. By initiating us in this line, You empower us as well to preach love of God, Krishna Consciousness:

*Jaya Jaya Nityānanda, Nityānanda-Rāma yāṅhāra kṛpāte pāinu vṛndāvana-dhāma*

"All glory, all glory to Lord Nityānanda Balarāma, by whose mercy I have attained shelter in the transcendental abode of Vrindavan!" Only by Your mercy we can approach or even enter Vrindavan. By spreading the sankirtana movement, you expand the glories of Radha-Krishna and of Vrindavan because wherever Krishna is - there is Vrindavan. Let my mind always reside in that holy land. All glories to You, whose presence is cooling as the moonlike appearance of Lord Nityananda. In your presence, all material desires become insignificant because it is like standing directly in front of Krishna, who is effulgent and illuminating. It makes us realize of our remaining material habits and the smallest impurity in our hearts. Shining like the sun, You make us see these impurities and allow us to change. You melt our hearts, which are hard like iron, with love of Godhead. Thank You for being a surrendered and inspiring devotee of the Lord. Krishna's mercy most definitely shines through You!

Your servant

(Bhaktin) Gabi

## Gaurāṅga Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

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 mood of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

I therefore, beg You humbly to empower me to serve You, by spreading the glories of Gauranga Mahaprabhu and to inspire many souls to take up the harinama sankirtan movement as a life project. Maintaining the wish to further serve You in this field of preaching, I ask you to give me access to the transcendental realm of this sublime service.

Please be so kind to accept this humble attempt to serve you.

In hope to conquer someday your heart I, Gauranga Das, humbly bow down at your lotus feet.

## Girivaradhārī Dāsa

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

All glories to Srila Kadamba Kanana Swami !!

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

*namas te sarasvate devi gaura-vani-pracarine nirvesesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-desa-tarine.*

On this most auspicious day of your appearance, we offer You our humble obeisances. You have given us an ocean of knowledge to dive deep into. We are blessed to have you as our Guru and have your association and to listen to the most amazing lectures given on various occasions, and especially for the powerful "Hare Krishna" Mahamantra, which makes all the misery go away. Thank you for showering your mercy. Your guidance has shown us how to be more tolerant in the material world. In our most difficult situations in life you have always been with us and guided us in the right direction. Without Lord Krishna's and Srila Prabhupada's mercy and your blessings, we would have been in total darkness.

Thank You once again. Your humble servants

Girivaradhārī Dāsa and Family (Pretoria, South Africa)

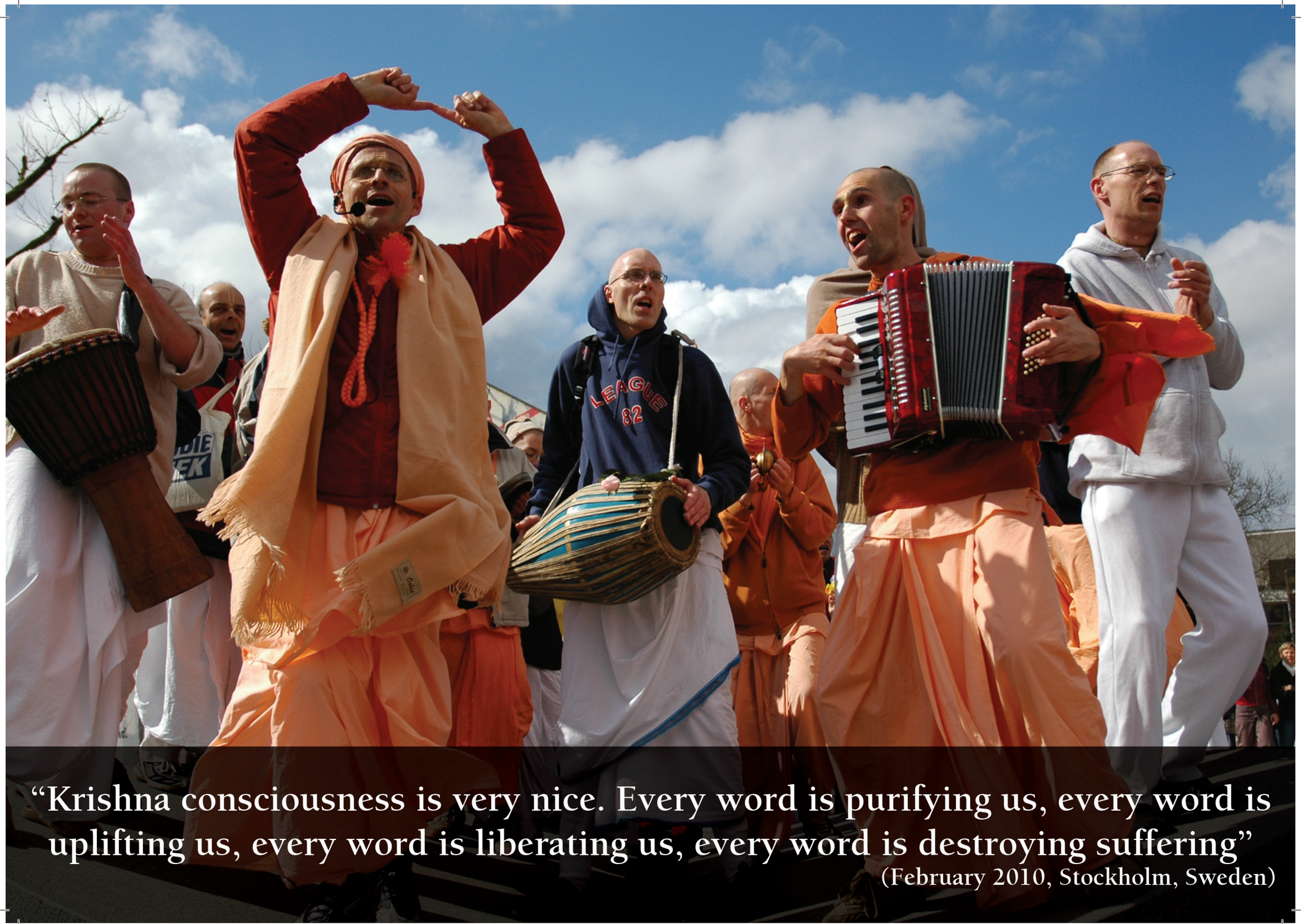
## Gopālī Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja

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

This year I will not be able to take part in celebration of Your Vyasa-Puja. So at least this way, through an offering, I would like to write few words. First of all I would like to thank You for taking care of us, You are sustaining force in my spiritual life. If you were not present than my life would probably be a catastrophe. I think of you daily and dedicating my activities to You and Krishna which gives me inspiration and power to go on and delve deeper. I always pray for your presence and at to catch few moments with you. These moments touch my heart and remembrances of them nourishes my existence. Maybe you do not realize how a little word, advice or gift from your side can change one's life.

In Caitanya-Caritamrita, we can read about significance of Ratha Yatra. That pulling Jagannatha's cart is actually how gopis are trying to bring




"Krishna consciousness is very nice. Every word is purifying us, every word is uplifting us, every word is liberating us, every word is destroying suffering"

(February 2010, Stockholm, Sweden)

Krishna back to Vrindavana. I do not know anything about these topics but sometimes I think of my feeling of trying to pull you to our home into our presence. You may come just for one day but we spend ecstatic few days or even weeks absorbed in planning, arranging the festival, buying foodstuffs, engaging people in help, cleaning, decorating, cooking, thinking of what preparations would please you and what else we could do to make you feel satisfied. Then the D- day comes and you arrive and everybody is just completely melted in your presence, and the programs with other guests - we always try to do to best of our capacity, but I must admit there is a calculation behind my action. I do not think so much to please the other speakers but I serve them best as I can and do extraordinary arrangements just because I hope that maybe they meet you somewhere, tell you about our programs and you will be attracted to come again. Unfortunately, I am not a speaker and cannot write a nice offering which would be worth reading. I can offer just broken sentences hoping that out of your mercy you accept them.

Thank you so much that you are taking care of my husband, my daughter, and me because of that our life is happy. My heart is made of stone, I am arrogant and certainly the worst of your disciples, but still I hope that I can be change due to your merciful care. I pray to you and Krishna that someday or somehow I will be able to serve you purely and to satisfy my most beloved Guru.

Your servant

Gopālī Dāsī

## Haṁsa Avatar Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your divine grace. All glories to Srila Jayadvaita Swami. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to all Vaishnavas.

The water of the Ganges is offered to the Ganges. A Spiritual Master is an ocean of transcendental qualities. Vaishnavas are all trying to take up at least a little nectar of Guru's qualities to their hands and offer it. This nectar manifests in activities they perform during a year. I thank you that we can be here with the other devotees who are trying to also offer something by small attempts.

*tad viddhi praṇipātena*
*paripraśnena sevayā*
*upadeksyanti te jnānam*
*jnāninas tattva-darśinah*

"Just try to learn the truth by approaching a Spiritual Master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth."

The whole society is on fire of the material existence. Most of them do not know about that blaze. A few who are more intelligent, try to save the others with their two hands or with their wives and neighbours. In a jungle full of trees and bushes in scorching heat, there is no hope for anyone - there is no escape. As Lord Krishna advises the only help for me is rain. Rain from a cloud who is our merciful Spiritual Master.

Although, we fortunate souls are just trying to

learn the truth, still unfortunately we are only trying. As you said that we should wear a t-shirt with the sign "Chant, chant, chant. CAN`T, CAN`T, CAN`T!" I am trying to chant and listen to Srimad Bhagavatam but how much and how sincerely I am able to do that? I have no qualifications- I was born lower than a Sudra.

I thank you for enabling us to perform a service in this greatest family of the greatest persons. "How are we able to make a progress without a service to the Vaishnavas?" As advised by Srila Narottam Das Thakur. Nevertheless I cannot appreciate that fully. I ask Krishna for service, but when it comes I am making so many excuses not to serve. Yes, I am mad since, I know the things that I should be doing but I am not doing it.

Spiritual master is like a captain of a boat. The boat can cross an ocean of material existence. How can anybody sail without captain who can take the helm? We could have a good boat, with a good wind blowing and with good desires but without captain…?

People are trying to knock on the heaven's door, but they don't know, what real heaven is, and through which door they can use to gain access. This is a world of darkness, only a Spiritual Master with the torch of knowledge can illuminate the path to that door, and he has the key for opening it. Thus, we can enter the spiritual world where is no need for light.

Dear Guru Maharaja, thank you that we don`t die in the fire don't founder on the ocean don't fall down in the darkness. Thank you that we can furthermore reach the final destination - the spiritual world and furthermore we can light our small candle from your fire of knowledge and show the tiny light to others.

You are the manifestation of the most merciful Nityananda Prabhu, who gives the pure love of God to everyone, since he does not care for any qualifications -he gives it for free. The only price is sincere ness. I see that I am so useless and you are so kind. My only hope that I ask again and again:

"Please accept my respectful obeisance at your lotus feet and I beg for your mercy".
Thank you for inspiring me!

Your small servant,

Haṁsa Avatar Dāsa

## Harināmānanda Dāsa

Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances, All glories to Srila Prabhupada
You are so merciful to so many conditioned souls. Constantly preaching and giving Krsna to everyone no matter what pain you face. Such tolerance! It is amazing! So now your wide spray of mercy has shower me and I've become your disciple.
I feel like there's no qualification on my part at all. No touch, tinkle or tinge. I was just fortunate enough to be constantly trying to be convinced by so many great devotees to accept your mercy.

Externally I look like this fixed up brahmacari that thrives on service but internally I feel so proud that I think I'm doing so much service that I deserve heaps of respect and recognition. Please I beg you to destroy this from my heart.

I have faith in your words but it seems so hard to fulfill. I need taste for the holy name. I need to serve the devotees in a humble mood. This addiction to harinama is getting worse and I want to put the holy name as the focus, but all I'm focused on is my glorification and for people to recognize me. Please keep me at your lotus feet. Please keep me at the lotus feet of Sri Sri Gauara-Nitai. Please keep me at the lotus feet of Sri Sri Jaganatha, Baladeva, Subhadra. Please keep me at the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha-Vallabha. Please keep me at the lotus feet of the holy name. Please Please Please keep me on the harinama!! No matter what happens in this world all

I want to do or know is to fulfill your desire.

your worthless servant

Harināmānanda Dāsa

## Hemāṅga Caitanya Dāsa & Smita Kṛṣṇa Devi Dāsī

Dear Srila Gurudev,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet, all glories to Srila Prabhupada and all the Vaishnavas.

*nama om vishnu padaya krishna-prestaya bhu-thale srimate Kadamba Kanana Swami iti namine*

*nama om vishnu padaya krishna-prestaya bhu-thale srimate Jayadvaita Swami iti namine.*

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

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

Today, on this very auspicious day of your Vyasa-Puja, I would like first of all like to say "Thank you" – Thank you for everything – everything you did for us in guiding us in our spiritual life at every step and by very patiently trying to offer us the service of Krishna.

It is said that the Spiritual Master is the external manifestation of Krishna Himself. He comes in the material world just to spread the glories of Krishna and distribute mercy to all the conditioned souls and that's the only reason for his appearance. He pours the mercy on all of us and saves us from the burning fire of this material existence:

*saṁsāra-dāvānala-līḍha-loka-*
*trāṇāya kāruṇya-ghanāghanatvam*
*prāptasya kalyāṇa-guṇārṇavasya*
*vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

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

We have practically seen how you are endowed with all these qualities, and how you are saving the conditioned souls from this blazing fire, regardless of your personal situation. Recently you took a trip to Australia and you were not well enough to travel or to do any programs – (in that sort of situation, most of us would just stop all the other activities and would just look after our

body) but in your whole tour of 3 weeks, you kept struggling with the body but never cancelled any program whether it was locally or across the Cities, since you just kept on going with your preaching mission without any halt.

Your determination was very strong and enthusiasm was roaring. No matter how much the pain was, you were just tolerating – you always kept a humorous atmosphere around you. You kept giving us Krishna in every possible way to as many as possible and teaching us by your personal example how to be Krishna Conscious during every moment, no matter what the external circumstances are. You are always nurturing us is a proper way so that the covering of our material conditioning can be removed and we can be reinstated in our real constitutional position, which is to become the servant of the servant of the servant of the dear servant of Krishna. You are a very dear servant of Krishna and we wish to become your dear servant.

Although, we have no qualifications for this and we are far below than the standard of being called as your disciples, but I humbly beg to all the vaishnavas present here and even to those vaishnavas, who are not physically present here, to shower mercy on us, so that we can get proper service attitude towards you, all the vaishnavas, and Krishna. Somehow, we may be able to render some service to you and please you and this way, we please Krishna too! Although, we have no taste for Krishna, his holy name or towards any other devotional service, but somehow or other we are here. So please allow to remain here and to serve you, because you are our only hope. Without your association and kind guidance, we will be lost again in the darkest region of ignorance. We are very weak and are prone to fall at any moment, but by seeing your activities, we get so much inspiration to do something to please the vaishnavas, and to do something to please Krishna and you.

Please keep us close to your lotus feet, irrespective of our innumerable faults in our service to you and to other vaishnavas. We pray to Sri Sri Radha Gopinath to give you good health and everything which is required to help spread the mercy of Lord Gauranga.

His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami Maharaja, Srila Gurudev Ki Jay.
His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami Maharaja, Vyasa-Puja Mahamahotsav Ki Jay.
Srila Prabhupada Ki Jay.

Aspiring to be your servants,

Hemāṅga Caitanya Dāsa & Smita Kṛṣṇa Devi Dāsī

## (Bhaktin) Hina

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swamiji,

Please accept my humble obeisances onto the dust of your Lotus Feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada, all glories to you. All glories to all the vaishnavas.

Swamiji - You are feeding us all with lots of transcendental knowledge, which is penetrating straight into our hearts. I would like to thank you for inspiring me with your lectures and kirtans, which are both equally ecstatic, full of bliss and sweet nectar.

My 9 yr old daughter really enjoys listening to parts of your lectures and kirtans and we are looking forward to seeing you in Leicester this year – we hope!

The mercy that you have given me throughout last year will last for a very long time, for which I am eternally grateful. My current aim is to continue to remain firmly fixed in Krishna Consciousness, and by doing as much devotional service as I can, but not to overdo it - as kindly advised by you!

After having transcribed your 2010 Vyasa-Puja lecture -You had inspired me to write poetry. I have written a poem about you, and would like to share it with you:

**Food For The Soul**

Your transcendental sound echoes into my ears,
It vibrates deep into the heart and soul,
Your lectures just overflows,
Sweet with serious and mellow notes,
Slowly absorb the nectar from your lotus mouth
This is what I have been craving for,
Nourishment from the pure soul,
Thank you for feeding this soul,
Which needed it so many lifetimes ago.

I hope that your very special day is filled with lots of ecstatic chanting & kirtans, and apologise that I cannot be there, due to my present circumstances. Lastly, I would just like to say that I hope that Krishna gives you the strength, lots of energy and power to continue with the mission of converting the entire globe into a Krishna Consciousness world which we really need in this age of Kali!

Your Servant

(Bhaktin) Hina

## Ikṣvāku Dāsa

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami!

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

How is it possible to find the appropriate words of glorification to such a rare and beautiful soul as you, dear Guru Maharaja? I feel like a crow trying to sing opera.
You are indeed like an oasis in the desert of this misleading world. Everyone can read the Vedas, but only a few can really understand it. Every time your transcendental sound vibration unfolds the science of Krishna Consciousness - a spiritual peace and direction is thus established.

You truly do dispel the darkness of ignorance and give access to the sweet service of Radha and Krishna and Their devotees. I know that the department between the Spiritual Master and disciple can never be repaid, but by constantly endeavouring to try to serve you with faith and love, so that hopefully I will one day be eligible to approach your lotus feet.

In the Caitanya Caritamrita, Madhya Lila (22.51) it is said:

*Mahat -krpa vina kona karma bhakti naya*
*Krsna- bhakti dure rahu samsara nahe ksaya*

Unless a pure devotee favours one, one cannot attain the platform of devotional service. To say nothing of Krishna Bhakti, one cannot even be relieved from the bondage of material existence.

The purport to this verse Srila Prabhupada says:

"Whatever one may be, one must take shelter at the lotus feet of a devotee mahatma and treat him as the most exalted well wisher of all human society. We should take shelter of such a mahatma and ask for his causeless mercy. Only by his benediction can one be relieved from attachment to the materialistic way of life. When one is thus relieved, he can engage in the Lords transcendental loving service".

Guru Maharaja through your causeless mercy, you have given me this opportunity to perform devotional service, but due to my powerful mind I have taken this opportunity so lightly.

Please grant me the shelter at your lotus feet. Service to you is my only solace.

Your servant

Ikṣvāku Dāsa

## (Bhakta) Jan

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

The more I am able to associate with you, the more I realise, the amount of your glories. Every time that I develop doubts or false attachments, you seem to cut them right down. I have prayed to Krishna to take me out of my condition of foolishness and ignorance and I am sure that he answered through your very self. You are teaching me everything I need to know, just at the right time. You are giving me a greater vision towards Krishna Consciousness. You are broadening my horizon. You accept service from me, even though I am as qualified as a trained monkey. You allow me to make spiritual progress by being in your presence. You inspire me to preach, just through setting your personal example, because you are such a strict and loving follower of Srila Prabhupada you make me relish him more and more. You inspire me to chant the holy name with more and more endeavouring and it makes me realise, that this is my most important service. You help me to see Krishna in so many ways. You make me realise that I really need the mercy of Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda and without that very mercy, I am lost.

If you weren't there, than I would probably be somewhere in Egypt, taking LSD and thinking it to be spiritual and slowly becoming insane. I therefore, understand that you really are my rescuer, my Spiritual Master and my ever well-wishing friend! I am not a good writer Maharaja, which hinders me to express my gratefulness for what you are doing for me, and for what you are doing for so many other devotees. Also I am unable to repay you for all you are giving, but please, please, o please just engage me further to somehow or other help you in your extraordinary service to Srila Prabhupada, Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Lord Krishna himself. I am convinced that if I just follow in your footsteps, you will take me with you, back home, back to Godhead. Thank you very much. All glories to your Lotus Feet!

Your servant

(Bhakta) Jan

*"Pure thoughts are producing pure actions and pure actions further purify the thoughts"*



## Jarda

Dear Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. I am grateful for your mercy. I trust that by your mercy I will be able to continue in the devotional service.

The mercy of a Spiritual Master changes the dumb to become a speaker and allows the lame to overcome the mountains.

The Spiritual Master is our biggest benefactor, and we cannot repay him, for what he is doing for us. We can only try to continue life after life in the service to His lotus feet. We need your mercy to be able to do it. You are very kind because you have accepted this service.

You travel and preach and lead others in their spiritual life, which is surely to give great pleasure to Krishna, your spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada and every our spiritual teachers.

Thank you.

Candidate to be your servant,

Jarda

## Jai Nitāi Dāsa

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami,

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

Being honest, I have to admit that I have a little understanding of the Spiritual Master's position, but one thing I realised through Your association in the last year, was that the value of having a relation to a pure devotee of Lord Krishna cannot be compared to anything else - no material relation and no wealth on earth (or anywhere else).

Through Your causeless mercy of offering me, (a fallen, unimportant soul with material desires) Your valuable time and energy, by accepting me as Your disciple. You offer that incomparable treasure of Krishna Consciousness to me.

This offering is not contaminated by material motives. You just want to serve me without expecting anything in return, which is such an exalted standard and cannot be found anywhere else.

The Guru-disciple relationship is the greatest relationship. The Guru offers the disciple to teach him in the science of Krishna Consciousness which is the highest science - without any self- motivation or not expecting anything in return, but just for the pleasure of Krishna and out of mercy for the conditioned souls.

How can a condition soul ever repay its debts to the Spiritual master? Never. I can never repay You and all the service I'm doing is very insignificant. But, still I beg You to be allowed to eternally serve Your Lotus feet. This is the only way I can learn how to act out of devotion and become free from illusion. Otherwise, I'm imprisoned in the world of duality and suffering.

Dear Guru Maharaja, I thank You for offering this gift of devotion of Lord Krishna to us.

You give guidance with love and care, showing your mercy and tolerance. You give realised phi-

losophers, which defeats all nonsense arguments of a doubtful mind. You give Your association in which You display all good qualities of a devotee and teach devotional service for all circumstances. You give Your whole life by preaching, offering everything to Krishna and proves that Krishna takes care for everything, if we take shelter as You do.

Seeing Your pleasure in different aspects of devotional service, in preaching Krishna's glories, chanting Krishna's holy names, associating with devotees and reading - one gets infected and eagerness arises - eagerness to become a Krishna bhakta.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to take shelter at your Lotus feet at any time. It is up to us to do so, but your offer is there.

If I was humble than I would inquire from you. If only I was eager for service and self- realized, and if I was more personal than I could accept much more from You and at the same time do much more for You. I promise I'll work on that.

Can you imagine a greater gift, then to have association with a transcendentalist? It can't be compared to anything else - no other relation or material wealth, because he acts above the moods of material nature with no other motive, just for the eternal consorts pleasure.

Thank you Kadamba Kanana Swami -You are a friend to everybody!

Your most fallen servant

Jai Nitāi Dāsa

## Jirka

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

In this temporary world, you are the representative of Lord Krishna. The scriptures hail your character. You distribute the mercy to us conditioned souls. When you give the lectures, then ignorance steps back. When you chant then my heart trembles with joy. When you are near that's when the obstructions seem to disappear. Please be near.

Your servant

Jirka

## Kalāvatī Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

Guru Maharaja, a year ago You were so merciful to me and gave me a new birth. Since that time, I am thinking about how can I as Your disciple repay You the incredible debt I owe You. Often it is happening to me that during a daily routine I am forgetting that I have to serve to Your lotus feet only, and that my body, words and mind I have to give to Your instructions so that I can purify my heart Fortunately, the purest Srimad Bhagavatam is allowing me to remember this. To remember who am I? Who is Guru and Krishna? Remember

that I have to serve You, but still – I do not want much, and the price seems to be too high…

However, I do believe that there is no other way except to satisfy the Spiritual Master, and so I pray to Your lotus feet, so that You will kindly accept me as a disciple without any qualifications - who has only a possibility to ask for Your mercy to help him/her in this effort.

I wish that my commitment to You grows every day, that my mind will bid matter farewell and that I will eagerly follow Your example, example of Srila Prabhupada and all vaishnavas. I feel that these lines are nothing because I am thinking just about myself and I can not glorify enough to my Guru Maharaja, but please accept my respect, gratefulness and appreciation for You at least through these few lines of Srimad Bhagavatam, which has inspired me to sit down and to write.

Srimad Bhagavatam (4.21.40)

'By regular service to the brahmanas and vaishnavas, one can clear the dirt from his heart and thus enjoy supreme peace and liberation from material attachment and be satisfied. In this world there is no furtive activity superior to serving the brahmana class, for this can bring pleasure to the demigods, for whom the many sacrifices are recommended.

Purport (part): …Unless one is self-satisfied, he cannot be free from the miserable conditions of material existence. Therefore, it is essential to render service to the brahmanas and vaishnavas to achieve the perfection of self-satisfaction. Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura therefore says:

"Birth after birth I desire to serve the lotus feet of the archaryas and live in a society of devotees."

A spiritual atmosphere can be maintained only by living in a society of devotees and by serving the orders of the acharyas. The Spiritual Master is the best brahmana… One must therefore take shelter of a bona fide Spiritual Master and his associates and should also render service to them, for such activity will greatly help the neophyte in attaining full satisfaction'.

Thank You for everything. All glories to Your service!

Your servant

Kalāvatī Devi Dāsī

## Kasturī mañjarī Devi Dāsī

GURUDEV!
(LOVING ALARM)

Tinkling...wake up sleeping friends!
Destroy this old deadly fence!
That lies between God and you,
...Who does it sing, tell me who?
Gurudev, that's you, my Lord,
You save us and show how we're bored,
With all this chewed rotten trash,
Smash it with love, really smash!
Our illusion is so steep,
But Your compassion is so deep,
That it surpasses all the snags
And hangs out Krishna's winning flags,
Krishna is our only goal
That's what you live, You're a pure soul,
And You let us taste the same,
This sweet endless Godly game

Thank you, thank you for that all,
With Your care we'll never fall,
But we'll be lifted to real life,
Spiritual realm, with no strife.

Your humble servant

Kasturī mañjarī Devi Dāsī

## (Bhaktin) Kiki

Dear Maharaja

Maybe you do not remember me but, I remember you everyday of my life. I forget all materialistic things, when I listen to your sweet kirtan Thank you so much for the Love that you have given me. You are so inspiring and you bring Krishna closer to my heart. This time I'm in Vrindavan and I hear so many wonderful stories about you Maharaja. Thank you so much for coming to this material world. I would love to serve your lotus feet, so whatever I can do for you, than please let me know.

From Kiki (Germany)

## (Bhakta) Klaus Mulvad Nielsen

To His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami Maharaja

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

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna presthaya bhu-tale*
*guru das Jayadvaita Svamin iti namine*

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

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

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

I read my first Srila Prabhupada book a little more than two years ago. The message transformed me completely and I decided to drop everything to try and become a devotee. By Krishna's merciful arrangement, I was invited to take bhakta training at Bhaktivedanta Manor. This is where I met you. I was always writing notes in my diary in Bhagavatam class. After each class I would write a number from 0 to 100% depending on how much I liked the class and the speaker. In my neophyte stage, this helped me to make sense of all the new input that I was receiving. After your class I had put down 99%. The last percent I saved so our relationship could grow. I was so nervous when I knocked on your door to ask for Darshana. I think we spoke for almost a hour that day, although it felt like only minutes. Some devotees say that you know immediately when you find your Spiritual Master, which In my case they are right.

Since then things have happened so fast - travelling with you through England and Scotland, almost hiding from you sometimes, because I was so nervous that I would disturb you in some way. You gave me so much mercy on that trip.

Now, I am living most of the year in Sri Dharm Mayapur and studying the scriptures. Again this is purely Krishna's arrangement, as I would never be able to make that happen myself. And I would

never be able to do it if it wasn't for you. Whenever things are happening too fast, or the cultural differences bewilder me, I think of you and say to myself: "What would Guru Maharaja do?" Then you appear so vividly in my mind, making everything easy again. Sometimes it feels like I am pushing the limits for happiness that is contained in a material body. So how do I repay you for this limitless mercy? In the words of Srila Prabhupada: "Not possible". You put your trust in me, so that I can become a servant of the servant of the servant. How do I explain what this mean to me? I cannot put it into words, so I humbly aspire, somehow, some day, by your mercy and by Krishna's, to put it into action.

I trust that you will have a wonderful Vyasa-Puja day.

Your humble aspiring servant,

(Bhakta) Klaus Mulvad Nielsen

## Krsna Kirtan Das

Dear beloved Guru Maharaj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada, Jayadwaita Swami and your kind self.

Listening to your Candradoya Nataka seminar, I heard one statement that got me thinking a lot. The personification of bhakti, or devotional service was revealing to the personification of renunciation, how she was flourishing so much in every home within Navadwip Dham, whereas renunciation was becoming only an external decoration elsewhere. She explained that bhakti was initiated there by the presence and mercy of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

At the same time, in London's Bhaktivedanta Manor our senior vaishnava friend HG Harivamsa prabhu has just left his body. During the remembrances, many friends and people who took shelter from him were describing how he was the first guru, the one who brought them into Krsna consiousness and devotional service. Again this got me thinking about the three different types of guru one engages with. Firstly one who introduces you into the process, then the diksha guru followed by the siksha guru who maintains and inspires you.

Then as I reflected on my personal journey in relation to your divine grace, I had a question to myself - Who is Kadamba Kanana Swami to me?

I was introduced to Krsna consciousness by someone else. I was inspired to perform devotional service before I met him. I was somewhat taught the philosophy by Srila Prabhupada and others before I met him. I was given service and responsibilities within Krsna consciousness before I met him. I thought I was content before I met him.

So Who is he to me? Then as I began to chant my rounds with this question in my mind, Krsna from within reminded me: He is my role model and petrol station!

A role model is someone who inspires you to follow them by the power of their exemplary words, actions and motives. He is an exemplary disciple, spiritual master, preacher, servant and above all a perfectly kind and caring person full of transcendental wealth. So this treasure house of bhakti and kripa is what keeps me going similar to how

bhakti was enlivened in Navadwip by the presence of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. His words are like my fuel that keeps my engine going. But there is one problem in this dynamic. One has to endeavour to go to the petrol station to re-fill the tank with fuel; in this case kripa and vani. One has to be humble enough to understand that they cannot do it on their own strength, but need to be dependent on the mercy and advice of the guru. It is the false ego, pride and envy that clouds my vision of the flashing red empty fuel sign of my depleted and desperate bhakti tank.

You often speak about performing devotional service on either taste or duty. You remind us duty is not enough for most people for any long term survival - there must be some taste. But I am so dried up with anarthas that I cannot retain your inspiring words in my heart and intellect. Thus on this auspicious occasion I have a humble request - please grant me residence at your petrol station, where my devotional creeper can blossom with your vani. This is fuel for my soul and today I tell you - I'm hungry - Please bless me to serve you in such a way that pleases you. Hopefully in return you can fill me up to allow me to taste the nectar of serving Krishna's Holy Name.

Jaya Gurudeva means all glories to Guru, none left for me. I aspire to live this reality.

Begging to remain in your service,
Krsna Kirtan Das (Bhaktivedanta Manor, UK)

## Kṛṣṇasmaraṇaṁ Dāsa

Hare Krishna Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my dandavats and prayers.

There are some points for my deep meditation and application...

By taking shelter of the Spiritual Master's lotus feet, we can attain everything including Krishna's holy name and mantras in relation to Krishna, but unless we have strong service attitude towards our Spiritual Master's lotus feet, than we cannot realize these transcendental topics. Unless we take shelter of our Spiritual Master with firm faith and devotion and proceed on the devotional path under his order, we cannot attain real auspiciousness. If we do not take shelter of the Spiritual Master and execute devotional service under his guidance, then we cannot properly utilise our own good intelligence.

A sincere disciple serves and worships his Spiritual Master as if he was God. Those who do not follow this principle fall down from their position as disciples. Until we see the Spiritual Master as a manifestation of and non different from the Supreme Lord, then we will not able to chant the Lord's name purely. A genuine disciple must possess firm determination and faith in his Spiritual Master, and then by the strength of his instructions, the disciple can destroy the current of mundane thought. The nature of egoism is such that you will not be able to find out your own defects. Just as a man cannot see his back, and he cannot see his own errors. He must live under a Guru for the eradication of his evil qualities and defects. As a good doctor does not prescribe cures according to the patients' desire, a bona fide Spiritual Master does not falsely encourage or flatter conditioned souls (but usually conditioned souls are blocked by false ego from improper hearing).The Guru will be able to remove pitfalls and obstacles, and lead you along the right path. He will tell you:

"This road leads you to Bhakti"

I pray for the proper understanding

Your servant

Kṛṣṇasmaraṇaṁ Dāsa

## Kumārī Dāsī

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami,

My Gift

'Oh Guruji,
I searched through my closets, my life, everywhere and found----
I have nothing to give you on auspicious appearance day. When I look close than I begin to see that further, deeper; not into my past, not even my present, but somewhere in my future-there it was- my gift for you.

It is nothing special, however, when you came into my life, than it became worthy. Of course exploring even deeper I can see that you've really just been the light that has let me see this bow-tied box sitting in my heart, that has always been there, cobwebbed and dusty to say the least--- but neatly and patiently wrapped, just for you.

This gift of course has its smaller boxes inside, with my mother and Srila Prabhupada at the centre of the boxes, directing my path to the sandy shores of Krishna's dancing feet to the floor of Lord Caitanya's dropping tears. And now, you too are there and this heart of mine has become so overfull its only option is to spill over its love!

Guruji, you have accepted me as one of your disciples, and as one of your children. Now I am tied to you my Father who is leading way all the back to Krishna as the source; you dragging me along, you steering the boat and me and my God brothers and sisters are doing our best to paddle and pull our own weight.

There are no words (at least in my limited language) to express this feeling of gratitude—this ultra-special, unbelievable gift that you have given to me. This mercy is so undeserved. It is clear, yet you still released this handful of flower petals, this mercy is so pure and beautiful I'm surprised it doesn't repel off my head as it gently falls out from your hands.

But, this mercy has saved me and it has rescued me from my own mind, (who I once naively considered my friend) but now with your help truly moving back towards that direction.

Maharaja, you really have saved me, and now I am only a child in your lifeboat, still trying to dry from the fall into the whirl pooled ocean, but I am alive and ready to fight! Please put me in your service against this worldwide battle.

Thank you Maharaja! You are my saviour and I don't know how to thank you for this opportunity, for opening this door for which I would not have seen it without you. I guess I know that it was there, but never has someone given me a key before I met you.

On your Vyasa-Puja I would like to give you a gist, but I guess it is impossible to really give you anything, but maybe, just maybe, one day I will be able to re-pay you. (Or maybe one lifetime) but, that is not the point- serving you, serving Lord

Caitanya and Srila Prabhupada's mission is replacing my silly mundane dreams for those useful in this brigade- and that I can and will do my best to give to you.

Please make me useful.

Happy Birthday!

Your aspiring disciple and daughter,

Kumārī Dāsī

## Loka Sākṣī Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

No words could express the gratitude that I feel towards you. You mercifully offered the treasure of chanting the Holy Names to me, and by that you showed me the way back to Godhead. By your mercy I can now live with the association of devotees and at least slightly participate in the service in your matchless mission. Again and again I thank you for this boundless mercy. Again and again I offer my deep obeisances to your lotus feet.

Your insignificant servant

Loka Sākṣī Dāsa

## Madan Mohan Dāsa & Bhavtarni Devi Dāsī

Dear Gurudev Kadamba Kanana Swami Maharaja,

Please accept my respectful and humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada and Guru and Gauranga.

Our Guru Maharaja is so merciful that he accepted our request for our initiation to be in Vrindavan Dham for which we felt so fortunate and blissful. Then we went to Mayapur Dham after our initiation, in Mayapur we got the chance to participate in the celebration of Guru Maharaja's Guru Maharaja - Guru Dasa Jayadvaita Swami's Vyasa-Puja. It was a great honour to see how the Vyasa-Puja is conducted. We will never forget the memories we took away from Mayapur in the days we were there.

Next day, we got a chance of a lifetime to serve prasadam lunch to the disciples of A.C.Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada, hosted by Jayadvaita Swami and Guru Maharaja. I felt really humble when I got the duty to wash feet's of the highly elevated souls. All of this couldn't have been possible without the mercy of Gurudev Kadamba Kanana Maharaja. Than both of the Maharaja's feed us prasadam, which was truly a blissful experience and they gave special mercy to us.

They also accepted our request to participate in Chandigarh Rath Yatra and gave a class at our house. In the class they spoke in Hindi and everyone appreciated the program. After the program they asked us when my Maharaja is coming back. I hope that it happens again very soon with the mercy of Guru Maharahaja. Guru Maharaja WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH.

Haribol. Hare Krishna

Your servants

Madan Mohan Dāsa & Bhavtarni Devi Dāsī

*As soon as one acts on the order of the spiritual master, wherever one is, everything becomes transcendental. One can do anything in this world and when it has the blessings of the spiritual master it is transcendental!*



## Madhukānta Dāsa

Hare Krishna Dear Guru Maharaja,

Vrindavan, Radha Damodara Temple, 6th of April 2011

Please accept my most respectful obeisance. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja. All glories to You.

It was 500 years ago that Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu predicted that the holy names of Krishna would be chanted in every town and village throughout the world. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada appeared, just to fulfil this divine prophecy of Lord Caitanya. It was in 1959 when Srila Prabhupada moved into Radha Damodar Temple where he occupied two rooms. In one room he performed his bhajan and wrote his English translation to the Šrimad Bhagavatam. In the other he prepared and accepted prasadam while looking across the courtyard at the samadhi and bhajan - kutira of Srila Rupa Goswami. Here, he received the divine blessings of Rúpa and Jiva Goswamis, and the inspiration to start ISKCON, following the teachings of Lord Caitanya.

Supreme Lord entrusts His pure devotees with very important tasks, which are the biggest welfare activities for the whole society. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu sent Rúpa and Sanátana Goswamis to establish Vrindavan as a very important place of pastimes of Sri Krishna. Srila Prabhupada here acquired an inspiration to leave for West to spread Krishna Consciousness and You, dear Guru Maharaja after so many years in Vrindavan dham, are travelling throughout the whole world and You strive to fulfil a desire of Supreme Lord – that the Holy Name will vibrate throughout the whole planet. Vrindavan is really such a beautiful place, and it is not necessary to travel somewhere else. One can stay here and achieve a full satisfaction and a spiritual fulfilment, but great souls, real mahatmas, are not really satisfied, when they see others suffer because of their ignorance and misunderstanding of their original position as Krishna's servants.

Thanks to Your causeless mercy, and enthusiasm to spread the message of love to God. We are awakened from the dream in which there is a mixture of joy and suffering, just like when we are enjoying some good food without any restriction and than we are sick and we have to fast and take some bitter medicine. Now, thanks to this awakened state that now we can really experience true reality of being a servant of the servant of the servant of the Gopis of Vrindavan. Dear Spiritual Master, You are very merciful and therefore You acquaint us to this intimate knowledge which brings us in a mood of Vrindavan dham to places, where people are living in the darkness of forgetfulness of their relationship to Sri Krishna who is a source of all happiness.

Your humble servant

Madhukānta Dāsa

## Madhu Pandit Dāsa

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

*om ajnana-timirandhasya*
*jnananjana-sala-kaya*
*caksur unmilitam yena*
*tasmai sri-gurave namaha*

I was born in the darkest ignorance, and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torch of knowledge. I offer my respectful obeisances unto him.

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja. All glories to our Holiness. All glories to Guru Parampara!

Thank You for everything that gives meaning to my life, without which it would be only misusing the freedom of Krishna's gifts. By always encompassing with mercy I am vastly indebted to You and I feel safe only thanks to You. I feel safely connected thanks to You and previous Spiritual Masters with Acyuta. Although I am not at all special, by Your mercy only, I was able to be connected to this spiritual succession. By this You have renewed a bond in my heart and enlightened the darkness that was there for many lifetimes. I am infinitely grateful to You for all Your nectarean instructons that You are mercifully sending to Your disciples. Thank You and I promise I will try to do my best to please You and create something really beautiful from this most confidential connection.

Your servant

Madhu Pandit Dāsa

## Maha Lakshmi Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada

After 20 years of being in and I should say , not completely out of Krishna Consciousness, I heard a class given by Guru Maharaja at the Temple, which I felt that it had moved me closer to Krishna. In that particular class the words quoted were :

" There is nothing better than Krishna "

Somehow went deep into my being , and caused me to ask for initiation. Those words " There is nothing better than Krishna", still helps me to go back to the chanting of Hare Krishna ! Like Guru Maharaja says: "This is the beginning of the journey, it can be an adventure."

I will always treasure that Guru Maharaja had given me shelter and also treasure that I have a new spiritual family.

Your servant

Maha Lakshmi Devi Dāsī

## Mahājana Dāsa

Lieber Guru Maharaja,

bitte akzeptiere meine demütigen Ehrerbietungen! Jaya Jayadvaita Maharaja! Jaya Srila Prabhupada!

Ich wünsche dir zu deinem transzendentalen Erscheinungstag alles Gute und viel, viel Gesundheit.

Im 10. canto des Srimad Bhagavatam, Kapitel 87, Vers 1 diskutiert Maharaja Pariksit mit Sukadeva Goswami die Frage, wie die absolute Wahrheit durch die Worte der Veden (welche, wie im Srimad Bhagavatam 6.1.40 gesagt wird, direkt die hṭchste Persṭnlichkeit Gottes sind) ausgedrückt werden kann, da diese nur auf materielle Qual-

itāten limitiert sind. Da der Spirituelle Meister ein Reprāsentant der absoluten Wahrheit ist und eine Verkṭrperung des Guru Tattva, befindet er sich auch auf der absoluten Ebene. Wie also kann ich deine Herrlichkeit mit meinen begrenzten Worten und meinem sehr begrenzten Intellekt Glorifizieren?

Sukadeva Goswami antwortet Maharaja Pariksit, das die Veden mit allen Worten Krishna verehren, aber das Lebewesen, welches noch verlangen nach eigener materieller Sinnenbefriedigung im Herzen trāgt, kann diese Worte nicht verstehen, da es durch die Bedeckung seiner Sūnden nicht in der Lage ist die Transzendenz Wahrzunehmen.

Das ist mein Dilemma. Ich würde dich gern von vollem Herzen mit den angebrachten Worten verehren. Aber da ich aufgrund meiner lustvollen verlangen, die mein Herz anfüllen, nicht in der Lage bin deine ganze transzendentale Stellung zu begreifen, ganz zu schweigen davon sie zu beschreiben, kann ich mich nur für deine unbegrenzte Barmherzigkeit die du für jeden deiner Schüler zeigst bedanken. Ganz besonders für die Barmherzigkeit die du mir gegenüber zeigst will ich mich bedanken. Mein leben war leer, es hat keinen Sinn gehabt und auch keine Sinn gemacht. Du hast diese leere mit dem hṭchsten Sinn gefüllt, den es gibt und der jede Vorstellungskraft übersteigt. Ich mṭchte mich für deine Geduld bedanken. Denn obwohl du mir so viel gegeben hast, bin ich noch immer nicht in der Lage dir etwas dafür zurückzugeben. Das bedeutet auch das die Beziehung zwischen uns noch nicht richtig etabliert ist. Die Beziehung zwischen uns ist einseitig. Du gibst und ich nehme. Doch eine richtige Beziehung basiert auf gegenseitigen nehmen und geben. Dafür mṭchte ich mich entschuldigen.

Das was ich dir dieses Jahr Opfern mṭchte, ist der Wille und die Bemühung bessere und konzentriertere Runden zu chanten. Ich hoffe das ich durch aufmerksameres chanten weniger Vergehen und schnelleren Fortschritt machen kann, so das ich meinen teil zu unserer Guru- Schüler Beziehung dazugeben kann.

Ich werfe mich in den Staub deiner Lotusfüsse,

dein ewiger Diener

Mahājana Dāsa

## Maithilī Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

I somehow feel myself fortunate to be writing to you on your Vyasa-Puja. I thank you so much for making me what I am. I am such a fallen soul, but with your kind heart and compassion, you are slowly taking me out of the dirty mud. Through your mercy, I feel myself growing stronger and stronger in my Krishna Consciousness. My heart's desire is to make you happy by growing spiritually, by having some enthusiasm and advancing on the spiritual path.

Ever since I came in contact with you, my life has changed. I sincerely thank you for the spiritual guidance that you had given to me. I thank you very much for engaging me in your service in the holy dham of Mayapur. I have no idea how I landed there. I guess it was my strong desire and your mercy, Gurudev. I thank you for your count-

less blessings and I pray I can always remain at your lotus feet. I humbly salute you on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa-Puja.

Your servant

Maithilī Devi Dāsī

## Manadāyinī Devi Dāsī

My dearest Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja and to you to my dear Guru Maharaja.

You are caring for so many nice disciples and devotees. Still you care for me. I keep you in my heart as my most dear and confident Friend. There is no need for me to worry. While in Mayapur I am experiencing that every step taken daily is exciting enough to cause a heart attack. Anything that I possibly could desire, I already have, and still all this is a result of yours and Krishna's causeless mercy!

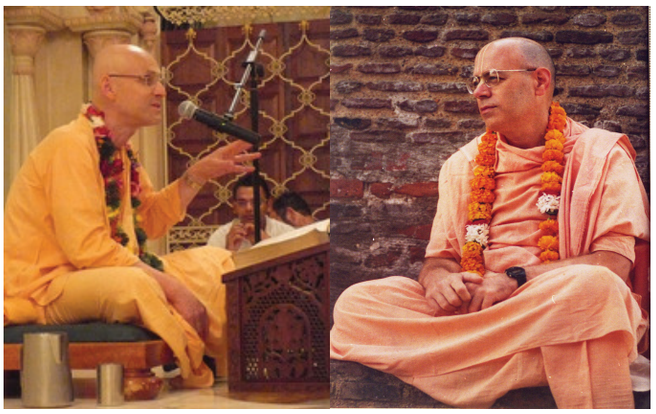
By allowing me space, you have firmly bound me to your lotus feet in heart deep affection and service desire. I am so deeply grateful to you, Guru Maharaja and so in lack of ability to express it - this is my sadness.

Thank you. Hare Krishna

Your humble servant

Manadāyinī Devi Dāsī

## Manasi Ganga dasi



"Putting a straw in my mouth, I fall down at the lotus feet of all the Vaisnavas. I hold on to their feet. Crying and crying, I say, 'I am the most fallen soul. Please teach me how to fully surrender to my spiritual master.'"

- Srila Bhaktivinode Thakura in Saranagati

My Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami, O Vaisnava Thakura,

Please accept my obeisances in the dust at your lotus feet. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada and His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami. All glories to ISKCON Guru Vrinda. All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Who kindly arranged for us to meet you in this lifetime

Since my day of good fortune, when you agreed to take me under your wing without "putting a label" on things, I have been feeling the current of your association sweeping me toward full surrender-saranagati. I am hoping that tide will eventually overwhelm my resistance and have been thinking recently about the symptoms of surrender in a guru-disciple relationship.

Atma-kārpaṇye: I Am Nothing but the Fallen, Helpless Servant of My Spiritual Master.

Without your influence, I have very little ability to perform sadhana or preach, but you are such a kind-hearted and tolerant master that you are patiently trying to engage me in devotional service of a better quality and quantity. I know you hope I'll see the treasure in service itself, and actually I am beginning to do so, but mostly my efforts are just to win a scrap of your affection. You, on the other hand, offer a real example of atma-karpanye- you speak of yourself as a reformed Kali-Yuga man who is simply the servant of your saintly spiritual master. Your humility and submission, even in taking on formidable and unconventional tasks, has allowed you to perform service that is so super-excellent that you stand out even among the Prabhupada-anugas: we remember Queen's Day, dozens of annual Ratha Yatras, constant travelling, enthusing devotees in kirtana and class, personally training devotees, managing "impossible" projects, cutting-edge scholarship, and more. Yet you don't demand respect or even comfort. All glories to your example of atma-karpanye, Maharaja.

**Rakṣiṣyatīti viśvāso:** I am Always Under the Protection of My Spiritual Master.

I sense that you are with me wherever I find myself as I try to carry out your instructions. So why should I fear material circumstances? Loneliness, weakness of heart, depression, intimidation, and despair have no place in the heart of a bold British soldier or a loving Bengali mother, and certainly not someone under your care! From the shelter of your spiritual master's lotus feet, you display a fearless example of uncompromising loyalty to his spiritual values. All glories to your example of rakṣiṣyatīti viśvāso.

**Goptṛtve varaṇaṁ tathā:** I Look Only to My Spiritual Master for Maintenance.

In my faithless condition I take shelter in many things to preserve my status in the material energy, but it's like trying to cross the ocean holding the tail of a dog. Money, family, friends, position- these fallible soldiers cannot protect me, so why do I turn to them? Seeing your renunciation of such false shelters, even your health and peace of mind, I see that your kind wishes are my real wealth, your instructions are my real friends, the shade of your lotus feet is my real position, your servants are my real family- let me never jeopardize them! Thank you for your example of goptṛtve varaṇaṁ tathā, Maharaja.

**Anukulyasya sankalpa:** I Accept Whatever is Favourable for My Spiritual Master's Service.

Whatever you think is fit for me- that should be my delight. You recommend cold showers, rising very early to perform deep and attentive sadhana, eating moderately, offering every act with love to the Lord, and taking responsibility for others. Sometimes I feel unwilling to accept those gifts but from experience I know that when I do, I can remember you more. Perhaps a reason for your unflinching loyalty to your spiritual master is that you see the gruelling tasks of initiating disciples and energising book distribution in Africa as great blessings and the sacred order of your spiritual master. All glories to your example of anukulyasya sankalpa, Maharaja.

**Pratikulasya varjanam:** I Reject Whatever is Unfavourable to My Spiritual Master's Service.

To execute your mission, I must give up my old habits of seeking personal sense-gratification, chanting poorly, eating without nicely offering the bhoga to Krishna, and wallowing in self-pity

and lethargy. The cultivation of a better service attitude will make it easier to leave those anarthas behind, even my stubborn independence. Your guitar-playing was a passion in your youth, but was easily dropped in deference to the opinion of your spiritual master. Now you say your taste rests in THE MANTRA. I wish I could begin to follow your strict example of prattikulasya varjanam..

**Atma-nikṣepa:** Everything I Have, Everything I am, is Only for My Spiritual Master's Service.

What is my purpose? What should be my focus? Service to Krishna and the Vaishnavas according to the directions of Sri Guru and Gauranga! Maintaining body and soul together is part of that purpose only. I have no other position to achieve, no other duty to perform. When I keep time and resources apart to enjoy separately, I am just a thief who cheats himself. When, being fully absorbed in service to Sri Guru and Gauranga, will I become as callous to separate enjoyment as your embodiment of atma-nikṣepa?

Srila Bhaktivinode Thakura writes that when we surrender in these six ways, Krsna surely hears our prayers. That thought is a good impetus for me to try for greater surrender, because along with all your disciples and friends, I pray today that you have a very long life, full of spiritual happiness and success in the service of your spiritual master, and that all obstacles in your path melt away. Also that I can eternally remain a part of your spiritual family and so never forget you or your service.

My Dear Maharaja, please forgive my foolishness and continue training me to be more pleasing to Sri Guru and Krishna. And please bless me with some of your enthusiastic full surrender to their lotus feet.

Your insignificant follower,
Manasi Ganga dasi.

## Maṇi Kuṇḍala Devi Dāsī

Hare Krishna Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances to your lotus feet.

I want to thank you very much for your existence. Thank you for your causeless mercy by pulling me out of the ocean of ignorance and helping me to open my eyes through the knowledge of The Bhagavad-Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam. Thanks to you, I can realise that my real life is full of devoted, loving service to the Deities of Sri Sri Nitai Gauranga and to employ in a lot of wonderful activities. My tiny little things may help you in some way, to spread this movement into the subconsciousness of more and more people. However, in preaching, you're the largest inspiration for me, since I admire the preaching in Africa, and I feel a natural affection for my spiritual brothers and sisters who reside there, even though, I've seen them only the once on Queensday festival and on Vyasa-Puja.

I may bring a devotee to Krishna Consciousness, and it's thanks to Krishna's mercy otherwise I certainly couldn't achieve it, but you can inspire hundreds and thousands of people around the world! You spread the message of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu to each corner of the world and you travel everywhere by giving out the mercy of the Holy Names and love of God. You don't differentiate anybody, and you accept them all by preaching very nicely about Krishna consciousness. You

*"It's not that the spiritual master is just an authority; he's our well wisher and because he's our well wisher, he has no other interest than to see that we are doing well"*



accept them as your family, by helping them on their way back home, back to Godhead. I am very happy that you accepted me as your daughter and showed me where to go and what is the right path through your lessons, lectures recordings, books of Srila Prabhupada, through darshans, and also by your personal example.

Thanks to you I can do such a nice service in the "Krsnuv dvur" farm for the Deities. Several times a week I do turbans for Them, clean up Their dresses and ornaments, style the vases, clean Their house and cook for Their devotees. I have a nice association of devotees around me, with the nice environment and a nice chance to live by Krishna's wishes, rules and guidelines.

Thank you again that you are here, I would also like to thank your Spiritual Master and to Srila Prabhupada and to all Parampara of Spiritual Masters, since it is them who have accepted the preaching of Lord Caitanya and decided to turn their lives into Krishna's hands.

I wish you a lot of Krishna's mercy and may you still please Him more and more with your preaching.

Your servant

Maṇi Kuṇḍala Devi Dāsī

## Manu Dāsa with family

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami,

*Mukam karoti vacalam pangum langhayate girim yat-krpa tam aham vande sri-gurum dina-taranam*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto my Spiritual Master, the deliver of the fallen souls.

His mercy turns the dumb into eloquent speakers and enables the lame to gross mountains. (Pancaratra Pradip, supplement to volume one, page 108)

Swamiji, I pray that by Your mercy, that my false ego will some day leave me alone, so that I can begin to understand Your greatness. Over the years, I have committed to so many offenses, due to my ignorance, lust and pride. My false ego and weak faith has often caused me not to realise that by my own effort I cannot do anything. The only hope is to take shelter of Your lotus feet.

Your unqualified servant

Manu Dāsa with family

## Manukanyā Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Gurudasa Jayadvaita Swami. All glories to your divine grace.

When writing this offering I was thinking of what to say in order to thank you or for you to bless me. However, I took a glance into my life from the day I realised that I was part of this world. I saw all the good and bad times of my life, the good and bad relationships I had, how nice they seemed and how much they meant to me. Although, they meant a lot to me, there is a particularly a year that I remember very clear in my life. I had just

turned 13 and it was some time around  when we where told of your arrival in our temple.

You came and stayed with us for a week and little that I knew that my life would change forever, due to that week. Since that week my life had changed from worst to better. It was not easy, but you were always there to assure me that everything would be ok. You made the harsh waves of the material world seem smooth. My relationship with you is the first real relationship that I had in my whole life. I do not know what I did to deserve all the love and care that I got from you. You are the only one who never gave up on me, even when I gave up on myself.

All I pray for now is that Krishna does not take all of this away from me, because it is the only thing that makes sense in my life and makes life worth living. I finally came to the realization that the goal of my life is please you. I know I am not doing such a good job. I am trying my best and hoping that one day I will be able make it and reach my goal by pleasing you. I have one request on this most auspicious day, that you never leave me. My life will be empty without you in it. It is a scary thought to imagine life without you.

Your daughter

Manukanyā Devi Dāsī

## (Bhakta) Marko

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Kindly accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and all glories to all his faithful followers.

Her Grace Narayani Devi dasi once told a story about Srila Prabhupada's true nature. She narrated that once Srila Prabhupada gave a talk in which he said:

"That in order to go back home, back to Godhead, one must be cent percent pure, cent percent free of material desires and attachments"

He then saw that the devotees were discouraged and therefore went onto say:

"All right, 90 percent."

Still they were dejected. Then he said:

"All right, 80 percent."

Still they were disappointed. Then he said:

"All right, 75 percent, but not less!"

After the talk, Srila Prabhupada commented:
"If you just hold on to my lotus feet, I will take you back to Godhead! I have the key to the back door!"

In the Bhagavad-Gita As It Is, there is an instruction that only by the mercy of a bonafide Spiritual Master who is coming in disciplic succession from Krishna can one receive the realised knowledge by which he can break his attachments to the material nature. Only by the realized knowledge of the Spiritual Master, Krishna says in Chapter 4 text 34 and.35) can one become self-realized and thus put an end to his illusory endeavours to become happy without Him.

I remember recently you gently told me:

"Surely you are an idiot... You are an idiot, because you are attached to the material nature."

These words I shall never forget, and also the love that came with it. Srila Prabhupada wrote that a bona fide Spiritual Master is by nature very kind towards the disciples and by calling me the proper name, by identifying my biggest problem, you were indeed very kind to me. Actually, by those words and the gentle compassion that came along, has caused me to understand that you were, almost trying to cry out to me:

"I am a doctor. You are a patient. If you just hold on to my lotus feet, I will take you back to Godhead! I know where the key to the back door is; it came down to me in the disciplic succession!"

In Sri Sri Gurv-aṣṭaka it has been said that the Spiritual Master is receiving benediction from the ocean of mercy. Just as a cloud pours water on a forest fire to extinguish it. So, the Spiritual Master delivers the materially afflicted world by extinguishing the blazing fire of material existence. Therefore, let me repeatedly offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my Spiritual Master, who is an ocean of all auspicious qualities.

This seemingly insignificant remark you have made a few months back, made me think of your auspicious qualities - those that I have been able to realize by my limited abilities. There are many of the auspicious, transcendental qualities in you, because it has been said that all the qualities of Krishna adorns His faithful servant. However, I have distinguished certain qualities by which you help others most, especially those in need of Krishna - whether they are aware of the fact or not. To think about your transcendental character as acknowledged with gratitude. The first of your qualities is enthusiasm.

The enthusiasm to serve the Spiritual Master and the mission of Lord Caitanya by travelling and preaching, proves the indisputable conviction in the message of the Lord, in the spiritual world and in the meaning of life. This point is emphasised in all of your lectures and it amazes me when I am listening to you. This astonishment developed during the first recording I have heard, around in the early summer of 2007. I even remember that at first I have spelled your name incorrectly. It has not been that long before I have been listening to two or three lectures a day, because I felt your enthusiasm and message broadcasted were purifying my fallen consciousness which was addicted to mundane enjoyment.

Years later, when I was been given the opportunity to spend some time sitting next to your lotus feet by attending your lectures in person, you had noticed and praised my enthusiasm to record everything there was. Dear Maharaja, whatever enthusiasm there may be in me, is just a shallow abhasa, a reflection of the ocean of your unlimited enthusiasm to serve the holy name which appears in me by your kind influence, and due to having simply spent some time with you.

Another transcendental quality I have been able to recognize in you is your patience. As the travelling preacher, I have noticed, you patiently come in touch with many different types of human consciousness. You are kind to everyone. You unselfishly and patiently give yourself to everyone, without thinking about yourself. I have seen this and I deeply admire it. You honestly try to spread the mercy of the predecessor acharyas throughout the world, and because the fault is on this other

end, you are supervising the application of the process with patience and determination, knowing that the message of the Lord and His qualities are so powerful that they will penetrate all the material coverings and contaminations which are present in the heart of the conditioned soul. Due to your mercy in the form of persistent patience I am finding that my true self will also wake up.

This logically brings up another one of your transcendental quality, which is confidence. Your confidence in Krishna Consciousness, in your Spiritual Master, in the movement and our founder-acharya can best be noticed by the attitude and advancement of your disciples. I have met you by the good will of the Providence. I have met so many of your disciples and I pray to be able to accept them all as my senior God brothers and surrender at their feet. My desire to be able to please you is ultimately dependent upon my God brothers.

Your confidence goes along with the specific determination you are emphasizing, which we all should further develop for our own benefit: the determination to perform activities favourable to devotional service. Once you told us that your strength to travel and preach so extensively, that your daily energy derives from the morning program. Indeed, the last time you must have missed the morning program, was surely on the last day of your very long service to ensure that everyone is attending the mangala-aratik. During the time that I have been personally close to you, I have noticed this determination and how you are benefiting the devotees all around with it. Krishna says:

“Whatever action a great man performs, common men follow”.

Lord Caitanya also explained that the teacher should behave properly before he begins teaching. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of Your Holiness, the Spiritual Master who is chanting the holy name, dancing in ecstasy, singing, and playing musical instruments. The sankirtana movement of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu always gladdens you, and I offer million obeisances at your lotus feet for feeling like this.

Another thing engraved into my memory, was that you had written:

“Whatever I am today, I have no qualification, I am a devotee of Krishna, but I cannot forget Him, because I am simply made of mercy.”

An example you are giving to us is that we should never fail to follow in the footsteps of predecessor acharyas. That is another of your transcendental qualities. By your own example, you are teaching me (who is the most sinful of all lusty and greedy sinners) how I should board on the safe boat of transcendental knowledge which will allow me to cross over the ocean of miseries, by your auspicious influence and steered by your firm command and  mercy.

In the purport n Srimad Bhagavatam (4.28.34) Srila Prabhupada writes:

“A verse by Srila Vishvanatha Chakravarti Thakur in his Guru-aṣṭaka is significant in this regard. Yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādaḥ. By the mercy of the Spiritual Master one receives the mercy of Krishna. A disciple should always remember that by serving the Spiritual Master, he can easily advance in Krishna Consciousness. All the scriptures recommend that it is by pleasing the Spiri-

tual Master and serving him directly that one can attain the highest perfectional stage of devotional service."

This quote is preceded by the statement that:

"Those who are very fond of family life should come forward in the service of the Spiritual Master and abandon the so called happiness afforded by society, friendship and love."

I find this very significant and directly applicable to my fallen self. In the purport to SB 5.14.41, Srila Prabhupada also writes:

"This is the same advice given by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Guru-Krishna prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja" (CC Madhya 19.151).

This is essential. One must come to Krishna Consciousness, and therefore one must take shelter of a pure devotee. Thus one can become free from the clutches of matter. So the instruction is there, and the mercy is there.

His Holiness Jayadvaita Maharaja also points out: "It all begins in the mind. The mind has so many engagements, but if we can only withdraw the mind from its too many engagements and fix it, concentrate on it, on the transcendental life and instructions of Srila Prabhupada. If we can make his instructions our life and soul - that terrible word „if! Can t we say, when? When we make his instructions our life and soul, then our life becomes successful!"

So, the practical application is there as well. Guru Maharaja, the words of Srila Prabhupada vibrates into in my mind:

"I am not a poor man, I am rich"

I have been given your association! I pray to always remember you and to never forget you. My connection with you, however poor in quality it is, as a matter of fact is cultivating wonderful results, to repeat your own words, as little by little I learn what it means to give myself in service.

"On my own, I find I have no strength to chant the holy name of Lord Hari. Please be merciful by awarding me with a particle of faith and giving me the great treasure of the holy name of Krishna". (Sharanagati, Bhajana-Lalasa 7)

"Gurudev! By administering a drop of your mercy make this aspiring servant of yours infinitely more humble than a blade of grass. Giving me the strength to bear all trials and troubles, free me from desires for personal honour". (Sharanagati, Bhajana-Lalasa 11)

Gurudev, please keep me near you and teach me how to serve submissively, and by your example inspire me to participate in the mission of Srila Prabhupada.

Your aspiring dog-servant, an idiot

(Bhakta) Marko

## Māyāpur Candradoya Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja!

Please accept my respectful obeisances! All glories to Srila Prabhupada, His Holiness Jayadvaita Maharaja and Your Divine Grace!!!

There is a proverb , 'A friend in need is a friend indeed'. For you have proved to be my best friend and a well-wisher at all times. Whether I was up or down, happy or distressed.

Your instructions have a certain potency to lead me out of the dark forest of material existence and back to Godhead. Yet I am so unfortunate and insincere to grab this chance fully.

I am going through the school of hard kicks and knocks. Still you will always be my Spiritual Master, my hero and an example which I want to follow.

I am praying to have transcendental intelligence to please you and to re build up my spiritual strength after having jumped into the icy waters of material association.

The times I had spent with you will forever be pressed in my memory, and I will guard them as my most valuable gems. Those memories are showing me how a pure devotee acts and interacts by conquering hearts of the conditioned souls by bringing them closer to Krishna.

Thank you again and again for giving me your mercy continuously. Although I squandered so much...you still haven't given up..and that is giving me hope. Thank you very much!!!

Aspiring to be Your servant

Māyāpur Candradoya Dāsa

## Nāma-rūpa Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

On this day I am reminded again of what my real position is. This is a good feeling and makes me spiritually healthy. I am reminded that although Vyasa-Puja is but once a year, I should make an offering to you everyday.

I am also reminded of the first time I met you. It was in the middle of my "good" material time, career plans... and I just walked into Govindas and there you were- talking to Nibia Mataji in front of the temple room. You did not judge me, but simply told me that you see me as a devotee, running around in sari, chanting japa, tilak and everything... and I told you that it sounds like science fiction and that I am far from being devotee at that moment. But Krishna had another plan, for He wants the words of His pure devotees to be true and therefore, He keeps His devotees' promises!

Everyday we chant in your mantra: krsna-presthaya; who is very dear to Lord Krishna. My spiritual life is a proof that you are very dear to Lord Krishna, and that He is keeping your promises and fulfilling your desires.

I am then reminded of the reasons which make you so dear to Lord Krishna. Your absolute dedication to Srila Prabhupada's mission and your amazing ability to serve everybody, including us, your disciples, are but some of the reasons.

I am also reminded of my desire to serve you - to serve you in such a way, but to really assist you.

I am standing in front of you as humble as I can be and I thank you over and over again for my



“Prabhupāda said if during this lifetime you follow four regulative principles and chant sixteen rounds, then you will go back to Godhead. Then he said: ‘I guarantee it! I guarantee it! I guarantee it!’”

(February 2010, Chowpatty, India)

spiritual life, for engaging me in services (and authorising my desires so they get connected to Krishna somehow or other!), for accepting me and all I attempt to offer to you. I feel like a child, who saves from his weekly allowance, given to him by a father, to buy a birthday present to his father. I am truly made of your mercy (and I just love it!)

Your servant and your mercy case

Nāma-rūpa Devi Dāsī

## (Bhaktin) Natasha Parmar

Dear Guru Maharaja,

I offer my respectful obeisance's unto the lotus feet of my Spiritual Master who is very kindly engaging me in his missionary activities of spreading the teachings of Lord Krishna and Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

I wish you a very happy Vyasa-Puja and many happy returns on this auspicious day. I was wandering here and there like a no man boat in the middle of the ocean just getting carried away in the direction of the wind, asking everyone who my saviour was? Until one day by listening to your lecture on Radha-ashtmi (2009) in Melbourne in Mahaprabhu temple hall - the bliss came from my heart with a feeling that you are the one I was looking for and we had a relation that is eternal.

From that day Guru Maharaja, I started listening to your kirtan and lectures every day. My parents said often said that I should stop drinking tea and coffee; start chanting 16 rounds, but I kept on giving them excuses. Then one day after listening to your lectures about how four regulative principles work and if we don't have a Guru, we can't go back to Godhead. I just started following regulative principles, 16 rounds or more a day and by thinking that 'It's time to surrender.'

Guru Maharaja, you have made all arrangements not only for your disciples but also for humanity at large, through your many innovative ways of getting your association via your lectures, ecstatic and unique kirtans, documentaries, live internet broadcasts etc. In every activity of yours, you never fail to strengthen our commitment to Srila Prabhupada and ISKCON.

I know Guru Maharaja, right now the main instruction for me is to settle down, that's what I am trying to do. There are many more instructions and chastisements on their way that will come from you to guide me the right path of my devotional life after life, and I am just waiting desperately to grab that special registered parcel.

Under your shelter

(Bhaktin) Natasha Parmar
(Melbourne)

## Navadvīpa Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada

*Om agyana-timirandhasya gyananjana-salakay caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

Lord Caitanya asked Isvara Puri for initiation, and He received the ten-syllable Gopala mantra. Lord

Caitanya then told Isvara Puri:

"I have surrendered My life to you. Please always look upon Me with a merciful glance so that I may always float in the ocean of love of God." (CB Adi 11/3)

Dear Guru Maharaja, You suggestion was for me to come to India to actually study Bhakti Sashtri there, and You revealed Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's holy dham of Sri Navadvipa to me. I know, you are always with me. Therefore, I fall at Your lotus feet and pray for Your causeless mercy. I offer all obeisances unto You and pray to become a perfect instrument in Your service.

Your humble servant

Navadvīpa Dāsa

## Nimāi Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

I ask for your blessings in order for me to write something that will be pleasing to you.

On this auspicious day, I would like to thank you, and glorify you, by showing you how much you mean to me.

I want to thank you for speaking to me accordingly to my level. When we first met whilst travelling from Vrindavan to Mayapur, you let me stay in the same room with you, instead of doing what you wanted which was mainly to stay in the same room with Jayadvaita Swami. I want to thank you for letting me serve you in Czech Republic, amongst so many of your most qualified and enthusiastic disciples, by giving me a chance in this way, since I happen to be an arrogant pupil of yours.

You always gave me more than I deserved. You so kindly let me serve you in Vrindavan and Mayapur last year, tolerating my familiarity and unexpertise. Above all, I am very grateful for the patience you have with me, when I become overly hesitant and doubtful. The way you write your emails towards your disciples, using mainly your index fingers, exemplifies how much you care.

As time goes on, I have come to appreciate you more and more. You have such an endearing personality, straightforward, yet sensitive and meaningful. You are strict with yourself, yet very tolerant with others. You give so much so quickly and are very patient in taking the yield. You act very transparently - grounding those who need to be grounded and electrifying those who need the spark.

You are extremely tolerant, and patient, listening to my mental stories and overseeing my childish mistakes.

My difficulty in writing this offering is related to my incompetence in following your instructions and pleasing you. Nevertheless I pray that I may write many such offerings, with more ease and expertise, achieving perfection in life.

May this desire prevail!

Your servant

Nimāi Dāsa

## Nṛtya-gīta Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru-Maharaja,

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

Let me bow down again and again to Your Lotus feet, and let me dive deep into that ocean of mercy, which is my only hope and the greatest fortune. I feel safe in the shelter of Your Lotus feet. There is also a huge ocean of nectar in the root of Your Lotus feet. With Your mercy, I have got some taste of it and those drops are something to go for! Thank You for giving me this addiction. It's the most sweetest taste that I have ever tasted! That is Your secret; You always find some way or other with Your kind heart to make us surrender more and more. Even someone like me, who is happens to be a stubborn person and has all the material attachments, but still You let me taste some nectar.

There are no words for the gratefulness that I feel for You Maharaja! You are doing such an incredible service which is empowered by Maha-Prabhu Himself. That service has saved me. How can I ever repay You? There is no way I could possibly repay You. I will pray, so that I can learn how to surrender, and to take Your mercy more seriously and pass it on. Thank You my dear Guru Maharaja!

Your servant

Nṛtya-gīta Devi Dāsī

## (Bhakta) Ondrej

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada! All glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita Maharaja! All glories to You!

On this auspicious opportunity of Your Vyasa-Puja, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for Your kind inspiration and guidance in our spiritual life. Thank You for Your selfless and tireless service to Your Guru Maharaja, by which You give us great personal example of dedication to Srila Prabhupada's mission. We are the most fortunate to take shelter at Your feet and thus receive the continuous shower of mercy, which allows us getting closer and closer to the ultimate goal of our life - pure unmotivated loving devotional service to the Supreme Lord, Sri Krishna!

Since time immemorial, we have been lost in the darkness of miserable material existence, but somehow or other, we have received the light in the form of the mercy of bona fide Spiritual Master.

According to the Caitanya-Caritamrta (Adi 1.45) which states:

*Guru krsna-rupa hana sastrera pramane*
*guru-rupe krsna krpa karena bhakta-gane*

"According to the deliberate opinion of all revealed scriptures, the Spiritual Master is non-different from Krishna. Lord Krishna in the form of the Spiritual Master delivers His devotees."

I pray to be able to serve You better and surrender

to Your instructions more, so that one day, I might attain the position as Yours and Lord Krishna's devotee.

Taking the dust from Your lotus feet on my head,

Your humble servant,

(Bhakta) Ondrej

## Padmanābha Dāsa

I felt a little down,
Felt I was on my beach,
Thought there was no one within reach,
You arrived in Sydney,
And we spend the day,
A little T-L-C, Tender Loving Care ,
Was all I need,
You gave it freely, a whole day long,
With it, I could face another day, now a bit stronger,
Whenever I feel now I am getting closer to my beach,
I move away from it, knowing your kindness is within reach,
Thank you Gurudeva for being my kindest friend, Master and help in need
Since you're representing Krishna that is what I want indeed!

Happy appearance day.

Your servant

Padmanābha Dāsa (Govinda Valley, Sydney, Australia)

## Pāñcajanya Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble and prosperous obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you. All glories to H.H. Jayadvaita Swami Maharaja. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I wish to offer my insignificant offering to you on the glorious Vyasa puja celebration of your magnanimous appearance in this world. The Spiritual Master is a very special manifestation of Krishna's mercy. One who is able to take shelter of such a Spiritual Master, which comes through an unbroken chain of bona fide spiritual teachers of pure devotional principles, is certainly very fortunate, because that most fortunate soul is eligible to perfect their very existence in this life, and go back home - back to Godhead. Indeed, I consider myself that most fortunate person. You are my Spiritual Master and a well-wisher! Having had the desire to have a Spiritual Master in the beginning days of serious spiritual life, Lord Krishna mercifully sent you! Now my greatest anxiety is, how to please you? Sot hat I may be blessed to advance in my devotion to you and Lord Caitanya's mission. All glories to you Maharaja! Thank you for being there for us when we are trying to be in Krishna conscious! May I someday please you and Prabhupada, so that I may be counted as one of your true followers.

Your disciple

Pāñcajanya Dāsa

## Parama karuṇa Dāsa & Gauravāṇī Dāsī

Our most dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept our humblest obeisances on the occasion of Your Vyasa-Puja! All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami! All glories to You!

This day is very glorious, because we can have Your transcendental association and swim in the nectar of holy name - Krishna katha and glorify You. On this occasion we would like to thank You for Your unflagging mercy, which is indescribable..

Although we are rascals, You are always sending rain of Krishna's mercy on such fallen beings. Our gratefulness and indebtedness to You is always increasing. We hope that one day we will at least bring ourselves closer to pure devotional service, which You are showing by Your own example, and thus it will at least lessen our debt by a little bit.

We meditate daily on the mercy, which You have given us in the form of Your instructions. We where thinking how to express our gratefulness for everything you do. Previously we were alone, and did not have anyone to rely on, but now we have You who is always beside us. It is such a good feeling to be seen, to be heard and to know that you understand us, even if we don't say a single word.

The others can see us in many different ways, but the consciousness that You view us as would be of the eternal servants of Krishna who gives us the strength to go on and that faith we can be unalloyed devotees.

Thank You Guru Maharaja for everything – for inspiriting us, giving us your mercy and most of all for Your guidance in our spiritual life. Therefore we fall to Your lotus feet and pray for Your causeless mercy.

With respect we pay the most humble obeisances

Your eternal and thankful servants

Parama karuṇa Dāsa and Gauravāṇī Dāsī

## Pārijāta Devi Dāsī

Hare Krishna

Dear Guru maharaja- my dear spiritual father. Please accept my most respectful obeisances! All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja. All glories to You!

I would like to thank You whole-heartedly for all that You have done for me, for us devotees and what you are continuously doing at the present, for this incredible inspiration through which You are leading us back home.

*Jive saksat nahi tate guru caittya-rupe siksa-guru haya krsna-mahanta svarupe (Adi 1.58)*

We are not able to perceive presence of the Supersoul through our sights since, He reveals in front of us in the form of a liberated devotee. Such a Spiritual Master is no one else than Krishna Himself. I am so thankful to our Lord, that He gave me this causeless mercy to meet You, and that He allowed me to serve You. It is a very powerful gift,

which I never want to lose. It is said in a verse, that such a devotee is Krishna Himself and I do not want to ever lose this service for our Lord.

You are always teaching us how to properly serve Krishna with love and and to find the ultimate happiness with this unlimited blissfulness of our soul which relates to Him.
Thank you Guru Maharaja. I would like to know how it is possible to please You again and again and be more closer to Your lotus feet and to lotus feet of Krishna. I thank You immensely my dearest Guru Maharaja and my dearest Sri Lord Krishna for serving you.

With love Your grateful servant

Pārijāta Devi Dāsī

## Pārtha-sārathi Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most fallen obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Srila Jayadvaita Swamiji.

*sutāt hitveti pativratā patyur iva guroḥ sevāyāṁ pravṛttaḥ śiṣyaḥ śravaṇa kīrtanādīnyapi bhogān tad utthāna premānandān api gṛhān tad ucita vivikta sthalam api naivāpekṣate. śrī guru sevayaiva sukhena sarva sādhya siddhyartham ityupadeśa vyañjitaḥ.....guru sevāyā eva vedena sarvādhikasyoktatvā*

“A devoted and chaste wife, while absorbed in the service of her husband, does not care even for her son. Similarly, a disciple deeply absorbed in the service of the guru does not even depend on hearing and chanting, knowing that by guru-sevā he can easily attain complete perfection in devotion. Just as a devoted wife does not want any sense enjoyment and home comfort, a disciple completely absorbed in guru-sevā does not seek even premānanda arising out of hearing and chanting nor even seek secluded places suitable to his bhajan. The Vedas say that service to the Guru is the greatest.” (Vishvanatha Chakravarti Thakura - Commentary on Srimad Bhagavatam)

Today many of your disciples will glorify your many wonderful attributes. Having witnessed you being completely absorbed in the service of your Spiritual Master, and completely surrendered to his order, has given me so much inspiration, and also set an example for me to aspire for in this life. A true Guru is also a true disciple. One, who claims to be a disciple, is one who understands the mood, and mission of the Guru, and centres his life on that. He takes the order of his Guru, as the essence of his existence, and molds and forms his life with his bhajans and by his preaching around this order. Maharaja over and over, you have shown me the meaning of the word disciple. If we simply take shelter of guru-seva, then advancement can be made very rapidly.

Baladeva Vidybhusana has written, When the practitioners heart is purified by the process of hearing and chanting, the loving devotion that is present within the Lord’s eternal associates descends to the phenomenal world through the succession of devotees (Guru Parampara) like the current of the celestial Ganges and eternally perfect love of Krishna appears in the hearts of the practitioner, blessing them forever with transcendental bliss. You’re pleasing the Parampara so much with your dedication to their teachings, by absorbing yourself in the writings of the Acharyas

and by dedicating your life to giving others the Holy Name.

Your taste for the Holy Name and your taste to relish the literature of the six Gosvamis can be seen in your lectures and in your kirtans. You have taken up the mission of Caitanya Mahaprabhu, who is like a lion, and have brought many souls to His lotus feet. Please allow me to stop being a burden on your shoulders, but instead to become a shoulder for you to place your burden upon. Please engage me in this wonderful mission of your Guru, our Founder Acharya and our Parampara.

*Tad vijñānārthaṁ sa gurum evābhigacchet samit pāṇiḥ śrotriyaṁ brahma niṣṭham*

"For the sake of acquiring knowledge, approach a Guru who is learned in the scriptures and fixed in spiritual consciousness, with firewood in the hand." (Mundaka Upanisad 1.12)

In Sri Bhakti Rasāmṛta Sindhu (1.2.74) Srila Rupa Goswami has described 64 limbs of bhakti, starting with taking shelter of the lotus feet of a guru, accepting an initiation-mantra from him, learning the intricacies of bhajana from him and serving him with love and faith. I have tried to follow from what Srila Rupa Goswami had written. I have attempted to take shelter of your lotus feet and I have tried to honour the initiation you have bestowed upon me, but I have not come to the level of serving you with love, and faith. Please look past my inaccuracies, and my shortcomings. Please look at my efforts and not the results of my bumbling attempt to serve you.

*ācāryo 'raṇir ādyaḥ syād*
*ante-vāsy uttarāraṇiḥ*
*tat-sandhānaṁ pravacanaṁ*
*vidyā-sandhiḥ sukhāvahaḥ*

The Spiritual Master can be compared to the lower kindling stick, whilst the disciple is the upper kindling stick, and the instruction given by the guru to be the third stick placed in between. The transcendental knowledge communicated from guru to disciple is compared to the fire arising from the contact of these, which burns the darkness of ignorance to ashes, bringing great happiness both to guru and disciple. (SB 11.10.12)

Today, on this most blessed and auspicious day, I prostrate myself at your lotus feet. I come as a beggar, and beg from you, that no matter what my external circumstance is, that my mind stays fixed at your lotus feet. I constantly meditate on your lotus feet on my head just like a crown. Allow me to gain the realization which is needed to understand the depth of the relationship between the guru and the disciple and the understanding that bhakti is a combination of the essence of the Lord's innate bliss and knowledge potencies. Allow me to start shouldering some of your burden in the mission of our Founder Acharya.

*mama śrī gurūpadiṣṭaṁ bhagavat kīrtana smaraṇa caraṇa paricaraṇādikam etad eva mama sādhanam etad eva mama sādhyam etad eva mama jīvātuḥ sādhana sādhya daśayos tyaktum aśakyam etad eva me kāmyam etad eva me kāryam etad anyaṁ na me kāryaṁ nāpyabhilaṣanīyaṁ svapne'pītyatra sukham astu duḥkam vāstu saṁsāro naśyatu vā na naśyatu tatra mama kāpi na kṣatir ityevaṁ niścayātmikā buddhir akaitava bhaktāv eva sambhavet*

"The devotional practice of glorifying the Lord, remembering Him and serving His lotus-feet, as it has been instructed to me by my Spiritual Master is my goal and my life. It is impossible for me to give this up under any circumstances. This is what I desire, and this is my duty. I have no other duty

than this, and I don't desire anything else, even in dreams! It may make me happy, it may make me unhappy, it may liberate me from material existence or it may not - that makes no difference to me at all" - such firm determination is possible in unadulterated devotion." (Srila Vishvanatha Chakravarti Thakura's comment on Bhagavad-Gita 2.41)

Your servant in this life and next

Pārtha-sārathi Dāsa

## Prāṇ Govinda Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and to your Spiritual Master - Jayadvaita Swami.

By your mercy again, enters into our lives the opportunity to express our devotion, gratitude and love on this day of your appearance. Your tireless service to Lord Caitanya, Srila Prabhupada, and your Spiritual Master - Jayadvaita Swami, the whole world but also to us, your disciples, is filled with loving qualities that purify everything and everyone with whom you come in contact with.

It is said, that you dispel with the torch of knowledge, our darkness which is born of ignorance and by your instructions, you guide and simultaneously protect us from snares of illusory energy. You tirelessly travel, preach the glory of the Holy Name and by your lectures you repeatedly motivate our spiritual standards and goals. From the moment of initiation my life changed, since at the present I can be fully engaged in the service of Vaishnavas, thus making the real sense out of my existence. While building the new temple of Sri Sri Nitai-Navadvipacandra and working on other devotee projects, I am engaged exactly according to your personal instructions to me.

I hope to please you by this service and from the core of my heart thank you for saving my life.

Your grateful and eternal servant,

Prāṇ Govinda Dāsa

## Premalatā Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja. All glories to the sankirtan mission of the Golden Avatar, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

When I think about the asset of a Spiritual Master (such as your asset to the lives of your disciples) I am able to see at least two priceless aspects that have given a new clear direction and wind into the sails n my life.

The first one is:

Since the time I have  Krishna's mercy the possibility to practice spiritual life under your direction, I am often surprised what kind of virtuous qualities I see in myself. I do not want to say that my bad qualities and habits have disappeared for good, but often at times I don't recognize myself at all. I have helped a devotee selflessly and was silent instead of eliciting a conflict. I gave precedence to others instead of caring about my own comfort. and conducted this service although

it was not my “duty”. I accepted responsibility, instead of making an excuse that I have “no capacity” for this service. Is it me who is really acting? I realize that in fact it is not my credit, my virtue, since all this is a treasure that was given to me by YOU together with a lending hand that kindly and tightly held me and connected me eternally with the succession of the true Spiritual Master with Krishna. I cannot pay off this gift by anything besides completely surrendering to your instructions and your will, which is what I want to work on now, with your help for the rest of my useless life.

The second one is:

Through your lectures and thanks to your personal association - I’m getting to know more and more of your wonderful and pure qualities, which causes me to meditate:

“Dear Krishna, when this servant of yours has so beautiful qualities as for instance:

Kindness – I remember when I finally overcome my shyness and I stepped towards you to have my first darshan, your servant Mayapur Candrodaya prabhu came to tell me that it is already late and you had to leave. You called him that you had a few minutes for me.

Mercy- Your eyes always shine so much when you lead kirtans or Ratha-Yatra harinams. You see how more and more conditioned ignorant souls join and ecstasy attracts them closer to Krishna and everyone is singing the Holy Names long after the kirtan had ended.

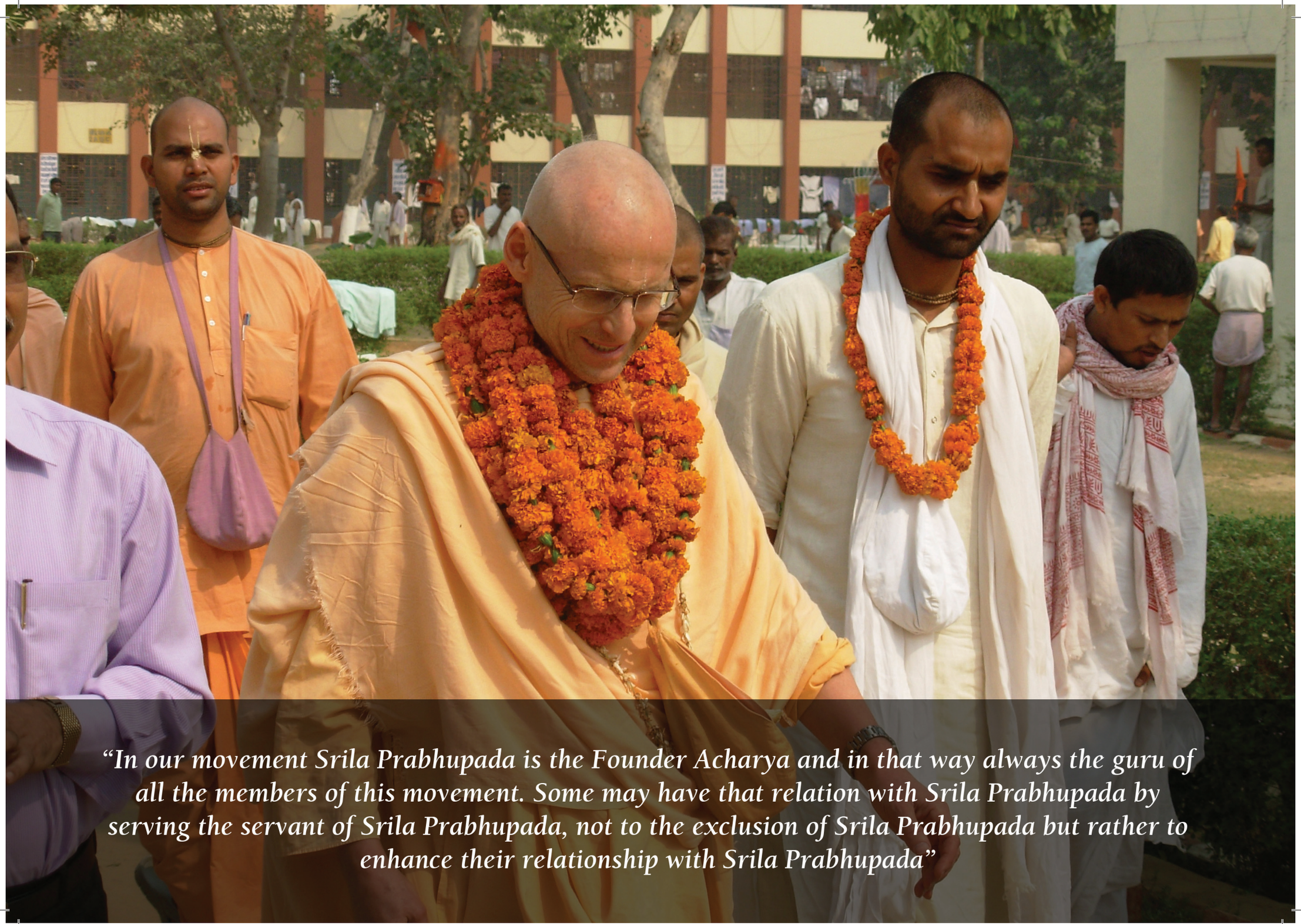
Benevolence- When you recommended me to go to live at the farm with my son, I wanted to carry out your instruction, but I had not enough courage and strength to do this and I wrote to you with great regret.. You wrote me back to me saying that you wanted to made my life easier and not more difficult, so if I will be happier there where I am, than I should stay there.

Patience- Once I complained to you that I chanted 16 rounds daily with difficulty and that I was unable to read attentively, neither could I even speak, studying or conduct any home programs as I did before... Your reply was: “Krishna sees your situation and he understands it...but at least one page daily you can manage to read, try to do it for instance in the morning before japa.”

Humility- When I again complained about my struggle with sadhana, you asked me whether I was listening to some lectures. I told you I was listening especially to your lectures and exceptionally to lectures from other Maharajas. You answered me: “Not just my lectures, listen to Srila Prabhupada’s lectures, every day.”

Surrender- I understood long time ago that when you accepted some gifts from a few of your disciples, the thing you actually accepted is the sincere desire to please you, even though it may sometimes harm your health. You prefer preaching and accepting your disciples than resting and caring about your health. Your eagerness to help fulfil the desires of your disciples and in that way it deepens and strengthens their devotional service which brings joy to their spiritual life – So I thank you for what you have done and are doing for me and my son...

Consistency - Even though you add humour to your lectures, there is a clear message in them, which relates to the seriousness of circumstances that we are situated in, and about the necessity



*"In our movement Srila Prabhupada is the Founder Acharya and in that way always the guru of all the members of this movement. Some may have that relation with Srila Prabhupada by serving the servant of Srila Prabhupada, not to the exclusion of Srila Prabhupada but rather to enhance their relationship with Srila Prabhupada"*

to accept responsibility. You say facts as they are, whether one likes it or not. You do not dilute philosophy.

Seriousness- I had the opportunity to see you from the lecture that was given by your Spiritual Master. You were sitting in the first row and was hundred per cent focused on his every single word, throughout the entire lecture, which is an ideal example  and worthy of following!

Courage -An interesting experience for me was when an aggressive drunkard attacked you two years ago during Queensday. I expected some transcendental peaceful intervention. Instead, I have seen fearless Nrsimhadeva supported by mighty Ananta Sesa in the form of the followers. You didn't recede even one step. My Lord!! What must You be like???

Dear Guru maharaja, only thanks to your sincerity, I begin to desire more and more to become a servant of the servant of the servant of Krishna, and gradually forget all worthless nonsense, because YOU have accepted devotional service as the only goal of life, and is the one who has all my respect and trust. Therefore I want to do the same with my life.

Thank you for everything.

Your humble servant

Premalatā Devi Dāsī

## Premāñjana, Vamśi Gītā and Bhakti-latā Paṇḍita

Hare Krishna Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa-Puja!

*Yasya prasadad bhagavat prasado Yasya prasadan na gatin kuto pi Dhyayan stuvam tasya yas as tri sandhaym Vande guroh sri caranaravindam Gurude*,

It gives me the greatest pleasure to kindly send our blessings, on this wonderful day of you divine appearance. I am so grateful that you have taken birth to save us fallen souls - to show us how to serve and love Krishna, so we can go back home to Godhead. You have shown us many wonderful ways of appreciating Srila Prabhupada. You have given so many useless rascals like ourselves hope to carry on in this Krishna Consciousness life. For me personally your wonderful smile, your sweet chanting, your most inspiring lectures or be it just an awesome thought or pastime we shared is enough to lift my spirit!

I am also sad that as I write this offering I know you are getting older, closer to death and this applies to all of us.

You live your life with so much faith in the Supreme Lord. Gurudev, you have given up your comforts and have taken to this taste for chanting. Your acceptance of Krishna in your life has shown us that nothing tastes better. He is your beginning, your middle and your end. The lord completes you the way you complete us! We really don't know what we would do without you. Although, we live in South Africa and you are not a resident

guru, your visits are short, we hardly ever write but still we know you are here, somewhere in the world preaching.

On this day, our prayers to the Lord is that we hope that he keeps you well, protects you as you are on the battlefield with maya, gives you good health and helps you maintain it. We pray for intelligence to help you in your mission, which will give you intense pleasure. Thank you for your mercy, your continuous blessings and abundance of love! We don't know Srila Prabhupada, what to speak of Radha Krishna. What we do know is that the sweet Lord has sent us his blessings in disguise to love! Thank you for your shelter, humility and faith in all of us. Forgive our offenses. You have always been that link in my family and we again thank you for your special blessings, Bhaktilata loves her granddad dearly.

From the three of us. HAPPY VYASA PUJA, WE LOVE YOU and beg to remain your eternal servants,

Premāñjana, Vamśi Gītā and Bhaktilatā Paṇḍita (Durban, South Africa)

## Puruṣottama-kṣetra Dāsa

Spiritual Master gets the blessings from the ocean of mercy. Let's bow down with respect to the lotus feet of our Spiritual Master. Our Guru Maharaja is handing over to us the message from the spiritual world. Spiritual Master is a representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and of the Supersoul. This systematic leading of Kadamba Kanana Swami - the guru of all of us, is directing us or does it via his assistants – the temple authorities. The devotional service in a temple, to Sri Sri Nitai-Gauranga, to the devotees, to the Holy Name and to the prasadam, is only thankfully possible due the mercy of our Spiritual Master. I bow down with respect before him. Our Gurudeva takes responsibility for our spiritual life. How can we repay that? Guru Maharaja has the answers to all our questions. He accepts our daily worshiping.

Gurudev gives the example of following and serving his Gurudeva. Let's cultivate the qualities of the pure devotees of the Supreme Lord. Let us attach to them and than once we will become the pure devotees, by the mercy of spiritual master we will get the Krishna's blessing! I'd like to be more humble than the grass-blade and not aspire for a personal appreciation.

Gurudeva, I asked you for the change of my recent condition, when I've got only a small desire and enthusiasm for service to the Supreme Lord and to His devotees. Please make me your servant. As far as the spiritual knowledge is concerned – I am not that experienced. During initiation, Gurudeva gave us the Hare Krishna Mahamantra, four regulative principles of freedom and the all life lasting service in ISKCON. I humbly appreciate our Spiritual Master and surrender to him. If Gurudeva did not come into my life to show me a different world, than I would surely stay entangled in a lot of life times in the dark well of material sense gratification. Now there is a hope by the Spiritual master who extinguishes the fire of the material existence by his personal example. All glories to our Spiritual Master. The Gurudeva´s association is extremely important. It works like a crystal, which reflects back on everything that is put in front of it. The Guru´s mission is to liberate the fallen conditional souls. We all are the spiritual entities, and by the listening and serving our Spiritual Master, we then get his mercy. Spiritual

Master is not an ordinary man, since he is for us a summary of all of demigods - the external manifestation of Lord Krishna. Gurudeva, please, help me to achieve the desired success in the devotional service, and do not let me to think that I'm this body.

I thank you many times.

Servant of your servants

Puruṣottama-kṣetra Dāsa

## Rādhā-kānta Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada! All glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita maharaja! All glories to you!

It is said that Srimad Bhagavatam became even more tasteful by emanating from the lotus lips of Srila Sukadeva Goswami. In a same way the teachings of the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya Sampradaya has become very sweet when presented by you. I am very lucky that I had an opportunity to be in your close association, while you were visiting our temple. I can see what I'm lacking inv It's among others your total dependence on the Lord and sacrifice your own bodily needs for others. Everything I read in Srila Prabhupada´s books - I find in you. When will I be able to follow your example?

Your preaching is uncovering the ultimate spiritual abode of Goloka Vrindavan which is here, there and everywhere (Krishna's gentle smile, cowherd boys fighting for Krishna's attention,  and the anxiety of mother Yasoda etc). Material world is a bleak place, full of frustration, but the picture of Krishna Consciousness you hang on our wall is a driving force for us and doesn't let us fall into a lethargic state. In the Nectar of devotion, Srila Prabhupada speaks of sharks in the great ocean of nectar - You are that shark!

Thank you for showing us little fishes a way into it.

Your insignificant servant

Rādhā-kānta Dāsa

## Rāgalekhā Devi Dāsī

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my respectful obeisances at the dust of Your lotus feet. All glories to You. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

The day of Your glorification has come again. What a simple yet difficult task it is! Simple in that You have an ocean of exceptional qualities to write about, but difficult to quantify in a little offering. However, it is an occasion of great transcendental benefit.

*śruto 'nupaṭhito dhyāta ādṛto vānumoditaḥ*
*sadyaḥ punāti sad-dharmo deva-viśva-druho 'pi hi*

Pure devotional service rendered to the Supreme Lord, is spiritually so potent that simply by hearing about such transcendental service, by chanting its glories in response, by meditating on it, by respectfully and faithfully accepting it, or by praising the devotional service of others, even persons

who hate the demigods and all other living beings can be immediately purified. (SB 11.2.12)

The past year has been one of deep introspection and my greatest wonder is how I became so fortunate in this lifetime. I know of many good-natured people who are ardently searching salvation of the soul. Yet, there I was, almost satisfied with material life but still You came to save me from a mundane existence. I remember my first darshan of You. Even though I didn't know You, I knew instinctively that You were extraordinary by Your deep faith and conviction in Krishna.

I don't claim to understand You now either, but gradually I can see Your exalted position as a pure devotee of the Lord.

*mahat-kṛpā vinā kona karme 'bhakti' naya*
*kṛṣṇa-bhakti dūre rahu, saṁsāra nahe kṣaya*

Unless one is favored by a pure devotee, one cannot attain the platform of devotional service. To say nothing of kṛṣṇa-bhakti, one cannot even be relieved from the bondage of material existence. (CC. Madhya-lila 22.51)

You have extended Yourself not only to Your disciples, but to society at large through Your innovative preaching. While listening to the Sacred Space seminar I appreciated how intelligent and systematic Your presentation was. You have assimilated years of sashtric studies and presented it with a contemporary approach. You began by giving practical tips for a spiritual life, and concluded by explaining how one's whole life should become a Sacred Space. Your tactful preaching also has been highlighted repeatedly in many university programs that I have been part off.

*śāstra-yuktye sunipuṇa, dṛḍha-śraddhā yāṅra*
*'uttama-adhikārī' sei tāraye saṁsāra*

One who is expert in logic, argument and the revealed scriptures and who has firm faith in Krishna is classified as a topmost devotee. He can deliver the whole world. (CC. Madhya-Lila 22.65)

I have also been contemplating on the title of 'your servant'. A servant is defined as a subordinate helper who exerts himself for the benefit of another. I realise very quickly that I am not worthy of this designation. I am neither submissive nor am I of assistance. During Your most recent visit to Cape Town, we went on a japa walk to Seapoint. A common sight on the promenade is dogs on leashes being walked by their masters. Two thoughts came to my mind (1) my master is also walking me through life and (2) the canine species makes a better subordinate than I do. Therefore, may I be leashed by Your blessings and mercy, never to deviate from the path of bhakti.

I once heard that the celebration of Vyasa-Puja is an expression of gratitude. From the bottom of my heart, I thank You for all that You have given me. I pray that I can always show love and respect by upholding my vows, chanting sincerely and appreciating the vaishnavas. You set a glorious example by Your mood of servitorship and it is my duty to follow forever in Your footsteps.

Your aspiring servant

Rāgalekhā Devi Dāsī

## (Bhakta) Raimond and (Bhaktin) Samira

Dearest Guru Maharaja

Please accept our obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada! All Glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja! All Glories to you.

This year we are not attending your Vyasa-Puja in our bodies but will be with you by heart and soul. We will be in Morocco to celebrate the birthday of my mother and her twin sister. We will be going to Casablanca and Marrakech (we will not go to the Rif mountains)

This is our little offering to you:

This year we were so fortunate to meet you three times. The first time in Radhadesh, we had the nice opportunity to have some personal association. We were again impressed by your wisdom and your practical approach in devotee affairs.

In February, it was the first time in years that you visited Rotterdam during your Mini Holland tour, and we were blessed to organize this special event. We learnt a lot during this adventure, so this was very special for us. The biggest thing that we require is the mercy of Krishna through the devotees. We hope that you had a good time, in spite of our out-of- tune harmonium and want to thank you for this opportunity to serve you and the devotees.

During kirtan weekend, we were enchanted of your bhajans and kirtans, although we were not present all the time, just like mangal arati.

We could write to you about all our wonderful, blissful and devotional activities in Krishna Consciousness, but that would be a very short list. We can better tell you about our slow boat to China and how this boat is still steering but we still did not find the engine. So we are still navigating without an engine and going forward on slow speed, fortunately we are still moving. Still going to China.

I read that you spoke about how Krishna \consciousness is not about lamenting on how fallen we are, and staying in our guilt trips, but taking every new day to start over again and making this day better than the one before. This is my meditation for now and every day, since I pray to Krishna to please guide me to learn to love Him. So every day I make a new start and try to do my best.

Maharaja, for us you are the greatest example, since you are a wonderful and inspirational. You are our navigator and a teacher which is displayed by your own example, via Your personality, your dealings with all people and from your life in Krishna Consciousness. We offer you our deepest love and respect and  you our humble obeisances.

Maharaja, we love you!
'Kirtaniyah sada harih'
Hari Hari

Your servants

(Bhakta) Raimond and (Bhaktin) Samira

## Rājaśekhara Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All Glories

to Srila Prabhupada. All Glories to Jayadvaita Swami Maharaja. All glories to You,

On this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa-Puja, during the Spring festival in Durban last year, You had very mercifully given me first initiation. This was certainly the most significant moment not only in this life, but also in all my lifetimes. For I had finally surrendered myself to a bona-fide Spiritual Master. It is said that by the mercy of Krishna, we get Guru, and by the mercy of Guru we get Krishna. Krishna has been so merciful in giving me You as my most beloved Spiritual Master, and You have selflessly been so merciful in giving me an opportunity to take to devotional service, and obtain Krishna. From this we see, that I am completely a "mercy case" and that nothing is done on my own strength.

Even when I make some small endeavours, which I see as big, it is always out of personal interest, and false ego. You are completely selfless, I see it more and more each time I have Your association. You do programs that finish very late at night, just to give pleasure to the devotees. With Your very busy schedule, You still always make time to speak to devotees. You give them all Your support in any way possible, whether it be doing a program in their community, or helping with a preaching project. Like this, You are fully giving Yourself to the devotees, and building strong relationships with them, and expanding Lord Caitanya's Sankirtana movement and pleasing Your Spiritual Master.

Whenever I approach You for guidance, whatever guidance You give me is always completely selfless, concerning Yourself with only what is best for Me, and thus as a Spiritual Master you are truly an ever well-wisher. Whether You are singing, giving class, or just interacting with the devotees, I always see You doing it as an offering to Krishna, and not just any offering, but with deep love and attention to detail, because You always want to give Krishna the very best.

As a Spiritual Master You are always giving us a vision, which is much greater than we could ever imagine. You always emphasise in class that all of us should perform pure devotional service, and we should all want to become pure devotees of the Lord. With Your greater vision, and the mercy that comes with that vision, we do much more than we would normally do, on our own strength.

I am currently doing the living in Krishna Consciousness course, with the Bhaktivedanta College, and I am enjoying studying "The Science of self realization" with other devotees, and being able to ask questions and have discussions. You are always encouraging us to read Srila Prabhupada's books, and always emphasising the importance of Srimad Bhagavatam in our lives. After reading Bhagavad-Gita for the first time, I started reading Srimad Bhagavatam this year. I am now beginning to understand why You are always glorifying Srimad Bhagavatam and Srila Prabhupada. Although, I only find very little time to read, whenever I do read, I find so much comfort in the words of Srila Prabhupada, and thus, the more reading I do, the more my faith increases, and the more I try to see everything through the eyes of Bhagavatam, since You are always glorifying Krishna and His devotees,

You are worshipable as the person Bhagavatam. My prayer on this most auspicious day is that I may become a humble servant and submissively hear from You, and follow Your instructions. I pray that I am able to follow in the footsteps of

my God-brothers and God-sisters, who are always engaged in devotional service, and always enthusiastic to try new ways to spread Lord Caitanya's movement. As a disciple, I will never be able to repay my debt to You. However, I pray that I may become completely surrendered to Your will. I understand that surrender is not a one off thing, nor is it a sentiment - it is a dynamic process, where again and again the disciple is submitting himself to the authority of his Spiritual Master. Thus, I pray that I may always act in accordance with Your desire.

Your servant

Rājaśekhara Dāsa

## Rāmakeli Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna -presthaya bhu-tale srimate Kadamba Kanana Sawwamin iti namine*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna presthaya bhu-tale guru dasa Jayadvaita Swamin iti namine*

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

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

Today is big and famous day when the demigods and saintly persons showered flowers, and sang holy names of Krishna, because today is day of appearance of our Guru Maharaja. This is a famous day because we would most likely drowned in the ocean of ignorance without our Spiritual Master - Kadamba Kanana Swami.

Dear guru Maharaja you are so merciful to us. We could do nothing without You, since you are our shelter in spiritual life. You held me my hand so that I would not fall into the material pool. Even if I am such sloven. Please forgive me, for being ignorant towards to your lotus feet. When will the day come, when I really understand - that I am your eternal and insignificant servant.

I want to go more to deeper by reading, listening more and chanting the holy names. I would like to do something good and helpful for You, in order to please you. I thank you very much for pleaded for me and my dear spiritual sisters and brothers, so that we can go back to Krishna.

You are very big and kind soul who helps us all. Srila Prabhupada was so merciful to all living beings. He went to Western Countries of Mlechas and Yavanas, to tell everybody about Krishna, and to sing holy songs everywhere. You are also so merciful, that You preach the message of the Sri Lord Caitanya all over the world.

You have surrendered to your Spiritual Master his holiness Jayadvaita Swami. I pray for me and for us all disciples to surrender also like this to your lotus feet and to please you.

Today is day when we can be more in your association. Together we will sing the holy names of Krishna with you and simply listen to you, as well as doing some special service for you. For your pleasure we will be thinking more of Krishna.

All glories to you Srila Gurudeva

Hare Krishna. Your servant

Rāmakeli Devi Dāsī

## (Bhaktin) Remina

Dear Kadamba Kanana Swami,

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

On this auspicious day of your appearance, I feel unqualified to glorify such an exalted devotee as yourself. Yet how can I not take this opportunity to share with gratitude how your kindness has affected me and attracted me to spiritual life?

Although, I cannot perceive Krishna, I have somehow had the privilege to get to know one of His representatives in a way that helps me to understand that Krishna is indeed a person - the ever well- wisher of us all. Despite that there are so many important engagements, yet your dedication to an important mission and your personal interest in so many disciples, enables you to generously give your time and bestow kindness on a bewildered soul. I guess, it must be because you are serving Lord Caitanya's mission, since He makes all things possible, and that you are willing to go through this trouble to share Krishna's mercy as far and as widely as possible. You preach with vigour, despite having to tolerate many difficulties and you put your preaching before your own comfort.

I am grateful for your encouragement in difficult circumstances, and for your patience as my sincerity is being tested. Thank you for blessing Pringle Bay with your visit, for "telling it like it is" and for your direction. You pointed out that the things, I am finding hard to let go of in the material world are an illusion of happiness and I trust that you are presenting the truth, because you speak not only as a learned scholar but also from the heart. I am suffering, because I have put faith in the material world to make me happy and now I am still in illusion.

Every now and then, I get a little glimpse of a deeper, more permanent happiness and contentment on what spiritual life has to offer. If only I can become steady. I wish I could grab hold of those moments of clarity, so I won't forget again that my only hope is to get help from a great soul such as yourself to get out of illusion. The authority with which you explain the scriptures during your lectures, gives me a lot of faith and it becomes clear how this knowledge is relevant through the ages and still today.

I pray for the mercy of Krishna and the devotees, so I would ride every wave of inspiration that I get from your association by means of sincere endeavour, which will be enough to get me to the next wave until I can get to some level of "spiritual self sufficiency" which you always encourage. I pray that I will follow the process and your instructions with enthusiasm, determination and patience so that I will not look back at material life. I want to rather "choose Krishna". I am grateful for at least one certainty in this so-called upside-down life, and that is that you are my well-wisher.

Your desperately aspiring servant

(Bhaktin) Remina

## Revatī Devi Dāsī

My dear Guru Maharaja,

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

I offer myself unto the lotus feet of my Spiritual Master, who is an ocean of mercy and has saved me from the clutches of Maya.

Again another is year is over and by looking at your travel plan, I can see that it has been a busy year for you. You had visited more than 50 places, and there are so many other things that You have done in between the travelling which are not mentioned. I am sure that You have left a deep impression in the hearts of those who were so fortunate to meet You.

I ask myself: "How is Guru Maharaja going to be able to do all this??? Continuously!!!"

If I had to pack my suitcase twice a week than that would drive me mad, for sure. Thinking about this causes me to acknowledge the qualities of Your greatness, Your compassion and the love that must be in Your heart. Compassion and love are not just for some few fortunate ones like me, who had the great fortune to become Your disciples, but for everyone. You are giving everything in Your preaching service by giving Yourself! Usually we don't have a clear vision about ourselves. We are so much in illusion by seeing ourselves as how we would like to be. At least, in my case I can say that the clear moments are rare. In these clear moments I ask myself:

"Am I worth of all this endeavour that You are making??"

Whenever I am honest, then I have to admit that answer is 'No!' Because I often try to escape from my duties, and while You are giving Yourself, I am just trying to find a comfortable situation for myself.

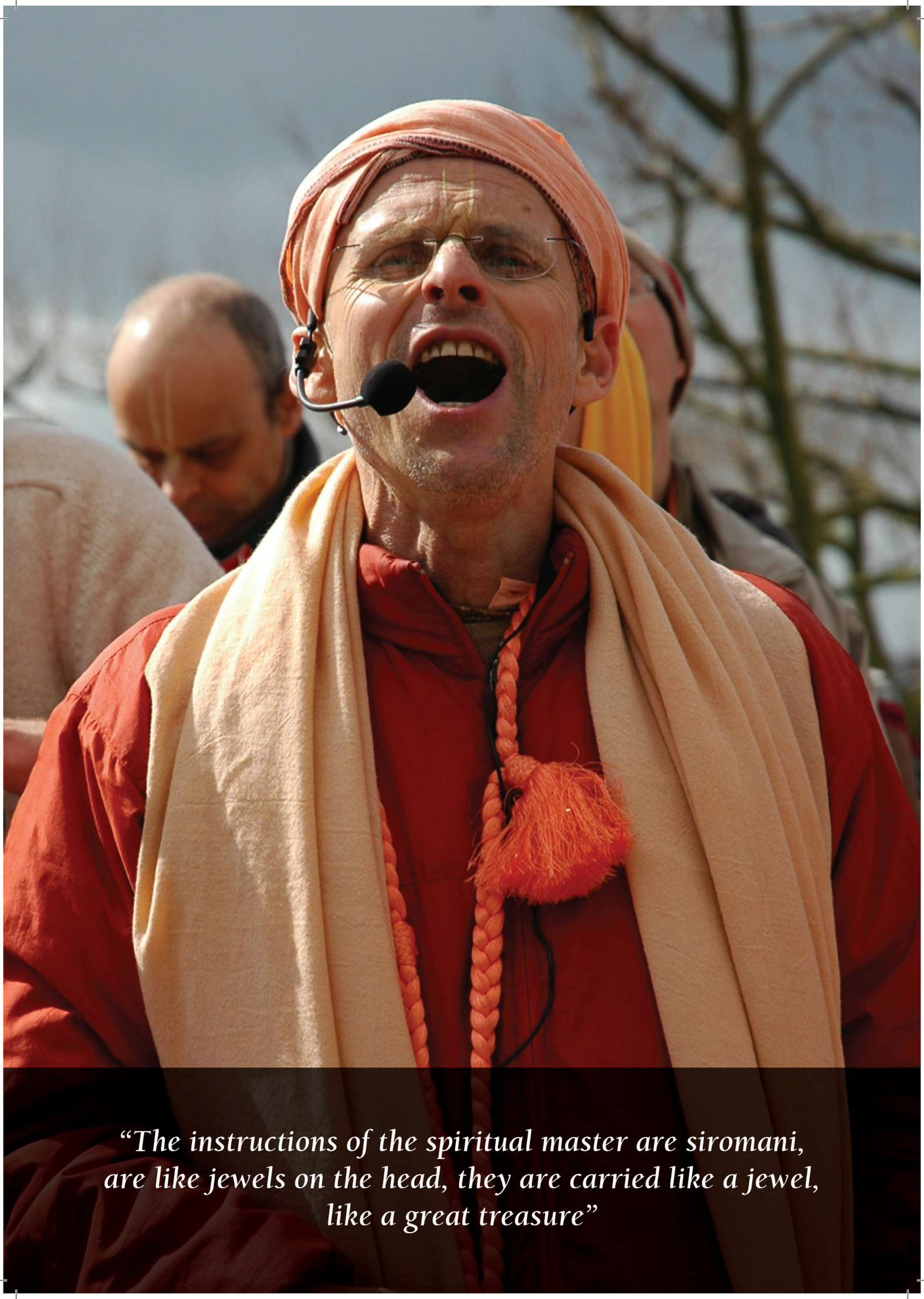
Fortunately, you know me very well, and You know how to stop me! Some years ago, I was thinking:

"It's too easy. Guru Maharaja never gives me any instruction that is difficult to follow. I like everything. How can I learn to surrender if it is like this?" Little did I know how difficult it is to fight with the mind.

Now, I do know! Just an answer of the word "NO" from You had created some hard times for me. My so-called gentle mind had turned into a wild tiger. Everyday had to fight repeatedly. Arguments did not help, because after some hours or days later when there was peace - then my mind would have another new idea as to why it was quite sure that You were wrong. After some time I was even afraid of this 'tiger' and it took some time and many prayers, before I learnt how to defeat this 'tiger'

Krishna was so merciful with me, by creating external circumstances, which made me understand as to how I could deal with the mind: Just like with the Bengali children - if you want peace then ignore them, by not talking or looking at them! They will give up after a while. Then you must be even more careful, because they are waiting in a distance and ready to jump at you.

Some seminars and classes helped my vision to



*"The instructions of the spiritual master are siromani, are like jewels on the head, they are carried like a jewel, like a great treasure"*

become clearer and it brought me back to reality. Finally I was very happy with Your instruction. Thank You for being my Guru. Guru means "heavy". For me "heavy" in a positive sense, because it was not possible to move You from Your position. I did not even try it seriously.

Many disciples are eager to establish some type of external friendship with their Guru, which sounds nice but can be dangerous. I know someone who does not want to take initiation any more because how can he accept his friend as his Guru and class him as being equal to God?! If I would have to choose, than I would have Guru, since a Guru is our only real friend and a well-wisher.

I have managed to survive this test and there were many others that will follow. Thank You for saying "no"! I learnt so much by this and finally I feel like a different person. For definite, there is so much more I will have to learn in the future. I am aware that I must not worry about it since You are always with me. Even if externally there may be some distance between us - internally You are close to me! Being in Mayapur for five months has changed me internally. I knew, it was necessary, but I did not expect to overcome so many inner obstacles. It is influencing my whole life!

The most important part was the seminar about forgiveness, which was presented by Mahatma Prabhu. I would like to share this great mercy that I had received there with others! I translated everything in Mayapur, and I am currently typing the folder for the participants of the seminar, since they would like to present it here in Germany. In this way, I will be able to serve You to the best of my ability. I will continue with the pujari-service here and at the same time serve the Devotees and engage in preaching.

Please give me Your blessings for this, because without it I will feel lonely with whatever I may do! Thank You for being with me for than one year, and for tolerating my childish complaints about things which are not worth talking about. Thank you for teaching me so carefully that even I (and my mind) can accept it (sooner or later). Lastly, I thank You for the great example that You are giving everyday! As long as You are so active - how could I give up this spiritual life, which makes me feel like I am born again, and I am very grateful as well as eternally happy.

Your servant

Revatī Devi Dāsī

## Rohiṇī-kumāra Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet on this glorious day of your appearance. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada! All Glories to Jayadvaita Maharaja!

This year is special to me because it was ten years ago when I first met you in Turku. Devotees were just finishing Christmas marathon and heading back to Helsinki. When I joined you than I got full darshan of a devotee's life with all the kirtan, lectures, cake festival etc.

On that occasion, I did not realise just how special you were, but after I had stayed in the temple for a while and saw some other sannyasis and guests, then I began to miss you, your lectures and your kirtans.

The next time you had come to Finland, I approached you and we had little talk and you gave me your card with an e-mail address. Soon after that I had left the devotees association for a while and moved back to Turku. During my time away, I remembered you and it was ultimately the driving force that dragged me back to temple.

While I lived in the temple serving as a brahmacari, it was your enthusiasm towards Sri Krishna and his pure devotees, which is still very inspiring thing for me. I remember many times when I was at sankirtan, distributing and acting out my play of suffering, I imagined you there walking beside me and saying:

"Come on it is not so bad, since it's good for you and them. Srila Prabhupada is pleased etc"

So what can I say? You have really saved me by being kind, and allowing me to obtain shelter from this great Guru Parampara who is fully of ecstatic and far out devote of Sri Krishna and Lord Caitanya.

In the sastras and in vaishnava songs, there are lot of glorification of a Spiritual Master. How can I realise all of that? I guess, that I realised some of the things, but one thing for sure, is that I'm always going to be very grateful, and in debited to you, since it is You who has accepted me as your disciple. It is difficult to think of how meaningless my life would have been with out your mercy and blessings upon me. Actually you have given me everything because there is no life out there without a spiritual life - just a bag of bones and liquids which are bouncing from situation to another without ever achieving anything valuable.

Your appearance in my life has been the biggest thing to me so far in the material world. I hope I could please you and make you happy with my actions, or at least to not give you any tribulations.

When I'm with you than I feel very happy and comforted. I'm sorry I have been little shy and quiet, but I hope I will have more of your association in the future to so that I get the chance to get to know you better and learn this art of Bhakti more and more from you.

When I get married, than I shall be glad, since we will both your disciples, and together we would be able to meditate on you and listen to your lectures and have our own little fan club of His Holiness - Kadamba Kanana Swami!

Your servant

Rohiṇī-kumāra Dāsa

## Rukmiṇī Devi Dāsī

My Dear Spiritual Master,

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

*namah om visnupadaya krsna-presthaya bhutale simati Kadamba Kanana Svamin iti namine namaste sarasvate deve gaura vani pracarine nirvisesa sunyavadi pascatya desa-tarine*

Please accept my humble obeisances (as poor as it may be, but it is only wealth that I can offer). All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Srila Jayadvaita Swami. All glories to you

Although, the years have clumsily passed me by, I was hoping to use my life in your service, but you still remain a mystery to me.

Sometimes, you are there on the Vyasasana - very real, down to earth, always entertaining, interesting and super-creative. You make the royal and elevated scriptures digestible for my Kali Yuga brain. You are ready to with deal me on a personal level, along with everybody. Nothing surprises you. No circumstances is a valid concession to not be Krishna Consciousness. You are willing to give everyone an opportunity to connect to Krishna, and you never give up hope; you never turn your back on anyone. You are dancing in front of Lord Jagannatha, on the streets, with the people of the entire world,  and you are sharing the ecstasy that is within your heart.

Then there is another side to you, such as when you're deeply absorbed in the Caitanya Caritamrita, and the scripture becomes your solace and strength. When it comes to your own self, you're strict and faithful to them - a mood of no compromise. This side will not settle for second best. Nothing but Krishna - everything for Krishna. Once you said that it is not about how much you are attached to the Spiritual Master, but how much the Spiritual Master is attached to you. A devotee elaborated that by examining the qualities of the Spiritual Master one can understand what is attractive to him. I would like to understand this side of you more...

Why do you love Krishna so much? How has He purchased you so completely? What makes you dedicate everything to please Him? How has He become so real to you? Such things intrigue me. Such things I can't understand.

When I look at your life ,I get a clue: You were not prepared to accept the comfort of a easy material life. You wanted the truth, the real thing, at any cost and therefore no sacrifice was too great. That is why Srila Prabhupada's words penetrated deep into your heart. That is why you were prepared to do anything in his service in Vrindavana. You weren't just the temple president, you fixed every light bulb too...and balanced the accounts, which definitely had no more musical rhythm than construction work! It's not like you were not tested. Gurus fell left and right, and you had to stand your ground and represent Srila Prabhupada. You had to be bold and fearless and you did it, and you suffered the consequences for it too.

To do something like take sannayas? Who does it? Who actually takes the scriptures seriously? The Bhagavatam (7.14.9) states, how binding attraction to opposite sex can be likely.  How one may even in such madness kill their spouse, themselves or even their own Spiritual Master. Yet one who rises above that, it says, 'conquers the Unconquerable. Conquers Krishna.' Your desire for pure devotional service was greater. You put Krishna first.

It's not just a blissed out kirtan and a far out lecture. It's a lifetime of wholehearted dedication, and Krishna becomes alive. If I look at your life, then all my excuses not to surrender fails. This why you are an appropriate master. As meagre servant as I am, I still proud of my master!

I like the quote by Margaret Thatcher:

"Don't be humble, you're not that great!"

Ok, I agree, humility is far away, but I possess no gratitude.

Thank you for being so personal, and not mak-

ing me feel like a number in the darshan queue. I know that vani is the ultimate, but I'm still grateful for the moments you take out to conquer the hearts of your disciples, by taking nothing for granted.

Thank you for the times when you have to cut and set things straight, because it shows how much you care! The disciple must imbibe the mood of the Spiritual Master. You are so deeply touched by the amazing mercy of Lord Caitanya that my nature of cold calculation and dry logic will have to ultimately succumb. I'll try harder, since I still want to be your servant.

Thank you for your unlimited told and untold blessings, which gives me the strength to face each day.

The only question that remains is:

"What am I offering in return?" "Help, Krishna!" Because I don't know how else I'll really become a servant. I pray that whatever I can offer in this life by serving you, will depend on what Krishna's plans maybe.

Your eternally indebted and grateful daughter

Rukmiṇī Devi Dāsī

## Rūpa-manohara Dāsa

Dear Gurudev,

*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 gaura vani pracarine nirvisesa sunyavadi pascatya desa-tarine*

When I was a small child, I tried to offer my mother some presents on her birthday, and she used to say that she was very pleased, if I just did what she wished me to do during the whole year. That would be the most satisfying present to her.

Recently I heard a similar story from Srila Prabhupada, which happened on the occasion of his arriving at an airport and hundreds of devotees were offering dandavats jumping and crying:

"Jaya Prabhupada!". He said something like:

"Who can stop that nonsense and bring me my slippers?"

So today I as an adult, I know that is not the case, at least for my emotional existence, since I'm still that small child. So, in all my childish ignorance and dependence I pray to You. Please bless me with the ability to recognise your desires and connect me with that kriya-shakti, so that I'm able to execute everything that is needed to fulfil those desires. Then I can become adult and worthy to be your servant.

One valueless servant

Rūpa-manohara Dāsa

## Ṣaḍbhuja Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. Jayadvaita Swami and Your good self.

Again a year has passed, a year full of mercy, a year full of opportunities to serve Krishna through his representative.

How much have made use of this? How sincere, how honest and humble ?

It is modern now to express things in a positive way, such as “much scope for improvement”. We get so much mercy but like a fish not recognising the water, I don’t see it. Every devotee, every holy name, every second of association with devotees and Guru....

With Prasadam it’s more easy. When will humility enter my heart as an invited guest? When will I truly appreciate devotees, and when O when will I realize how merciful you are.

In this world, there is nothing of substance, except Nama and Guru.

Once you said to me, “Sadbhuja, forget this universe”, When will I be able to let go? No more being the controller and enjoyer.

Following Krishna,

You are always in Vrindavan mood, although you meet and know so many devotees, you are not reserved, never distant, always sweet, personal, not attracted by awe and reverence. It is not easy to live this way, but it’s the path that you choose,

Following in the footsteps of Sukadevi Gosvami, with genuine thoughts and ideas which decorate your classes, by adding your own realisations to the transcendental heritage, making it even sweeter to taste.

By following Lord Gauranga, you are so merciful by being always approachable and willing to give yourself, even if it sometimes exceeds the limits. You have a genuine taste for the holy name, and day goes without a song, which proves that you are full of dedication and a natural sannyasa at heart.

Following Srila Rupa and Sanatana Gosvami, you reveal more and more details about the life of Caitanya Mahaprabhu, and by making practical use of modern technology You life in the spirit of Rupa and Sanatana Goswamis.

As a follower of Haridasa Thakur - You are not only maintaining a strong sadhana but at the same time you give yourself to others by preaching:

“Bolo Krishna , bhaja Krishna koro Krishna shiksa!”

As a true follower of our parampara, Bhaktivinoda Thakura, Bhaktisiddhanta Maharaja and Caitanya Mahaprabhu - without compromising you still allowed for everybody to accept, and present it in the right way, which is balanced, well thought out and thoroughly positive.

Following Srila Prabhupada, You flight on the power of the holy name. You are known all over the world for your lively kirtans. There is no difference between your private and public life.

Eternally dedicated to spreading Krishna's message to anyone and everyone, by getting up in the dead of night, in order to be ready for Krishna and his service.

You follow Jayadvaita Swami footsteps by always being focused on Srila Prabhupadas teachings, vision, spirit and mood, and at the same time being genuinely and independently thoughtful. You establish Srila Prabhupada as the real benchmark - the One to focus and reach out to. As a true follower You are, worthy of worship, worthy to dedicate one's life to.

Now it's down to me to follow You... What is the difficulty???

Begging that I may always be able to find a place at your lotus feet

Your humble servant

**Ṣaḍbhuja Dāsa**

## Samyutha

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to His Holiness Jayadvaita Maharaja. All glories to you Dear Guru Maharaja.

I have so much to be grateful for on this most auspicious day of your appearance. Your last visit to Cape Town was so enlivening and inspiring. Your ability to speak to the hearts of so many students from such varied walks of life was very refreshing. You managed to get us all thinking "out of the box " and you made spiritual life look so easy and pointed out that the scriptures have all the answers. It made me reflect on my life and all the ways I make my spiritual life more difficult and complicated than it needs to be.

Srila Prabhupada gave us everything and your dedication to your own Guru Maharaja and Srila Prabhupada's mission inspires me to step out of my comfort zone and start taking some serious steps forward. I realised that I have been stationary for so long and that it's time to get moving, especially since time passes so quickly. It's so easy to get caught up in mundane responsibilities and to forget my time may be up at any moment.

Your lectures are always relevant and eye opening – you present ancient vedic culture as "cutting edge" technology and show us how important knowledge of the Srimad Bhagavatam is. I often listen to your lectures while cooking and cleaning and find myself laughing out loud at your impersonations. I can identify with so many of the rascals in your stories and I feel like your instructions are meant for me – it can be very sobering at times and funny at other times – I know that you see right through me and I can't hide anything from you.

Thank you for being so present in my life even when you are far away. I pray that you will always engage me in service at your lotus feet and that I will not hurt or disappoint you in any way. May the year ahead be everything you desire it to be and more. Happy appearance day, Maharaja!

Your aspiring servant,

Samyutha
(Cape Town, South Africa)

## Sāvitrī Devi Dāsī

Dear Spiritual Master,

I bow down to your Lotus Feet again and again. Please accept my clumsy attempt to glorify You. All glories to You. All glories to Parampara.

You are the great touchstone that transforms this lethargic narrow-minded child into someone with vision and a purpose. You are my beloved Master who teaches me the science of fighting for Krishna. A warrior armed with compassion and humility - that is how I see you.

You are determined, daring, fixed and a perfect example of what is said in the Bhagavad-Gita:

"*vyavasayatmika buddhir ekeha kuru-nandana*".

"Those who are on this path are resolute in purpose and their aim is one."

You are so deep and a dedicated servant of your Spiritual Master, and you also bless me to become like this. On this day with great enthusiasm I pray that I always stay receptive for your blessings, so that I can come to the point of being a simple servant of yours.

Dear Spiritual guide and friend, please let me thank you for giving me hope so that I can reach reality and fulfil my purpose.

Thank you for being with me every day of my life and for going that extra mile to give me your personal association.
Thank you for realizations, insights and revelations.
Thank you for giving me the ability to do some service.

I wish you good health, sincere disciples and much more wonderful service for Sri Guru.

Your servant,

Sāvitrī Devi Dāsī

## Śukadeva Dāsa & Śatarūpā Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada.

We are very happy that you have accepted us as your disciples and given us Harinam-diksa. We pray that many more devotees will have the opportunity to receive your mercy. You have given us the shelter to continue in our spiritual journey towards Krishna. On this auspicious day we wish you a happy birthday.

Hare Krishna. Your servants,

Śukadeva Dāsa & Śatarūpā Devi Dāsī

## Sukhayanti Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

As your disciples, we are simply trying to follow in your footsteps back to Krishna. It is by your

example that we live.

By your words that we learn what should be done and what should not be done,
By your actions that we learn how to put that teachings into practice,
By your love to Krishna that we too desire to love Krishna,
By your dedication to Srila Prabhupada and your Guru Maharaja that we learn how to be a servant,
By your bhajans that we learn to love the maha mantra,
By your enthusiasm that we get inspired,
By your seemingly endless energy that we too want to do more,
By your desire to spread this movement everywhere that we too try to take part in the preaching mission,

It is by your personal love, care and support to each one of us, that we have the strength to go on, no matter what, no matter how difficult it may be.

I want to take this opportunity to tell you that just as you always stand by my side and give your everything, in order to help me become a devotee of Krishna, as your servant, I too will do the same for others. For those who have never met the devotees and for those who are already engaged in devotional service. That shall be my main goal in life, just as it is yours.

Your servant,

Sukhayanti Devi Dāsī

## Sukumārī Devi Dāsī

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances unto Your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Jayadvaita Swami Maharaja.

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

"Our Spiritual Master is the ocean of mercy, the friend of the poor, and the Lord and Master of the devotees. O Master! Be merciful unto me. Give me the shade of your lotus feet. Your fame is spread all over the three worlds."

Incessantly, you are giving us innumerable precious jewels, which we diligently collect to carry along with us throughout our lives, and which guide us back to Krishna. My most cherished jewel out of those is the hope You are giving us, again and again, to become a pure devotee and attain Krishna in this very lifetime, against all adversities and despite our disqualifications, due to Lord Caitanya's mercy alone.

In reviewing the last year, I remember how You specifically gave me hope that due to Krishna Consciousness everything will become good and auspicious. You also emphasised the importance of having faith and being positive. As these are some of my weak points, respective instructions are very precious for me.

The last year had been quite rough for me, especially with regards to my relationship with and faith in devotees, Krishna and also You. I feel I

have badly failed the test that was put in front of me. But nevertheless, due to Your mercy alone, I could carry on – so much so, that I now find myself in a situation I could have never thought of. Everything about living here helps me so much to regain faith and hope and strength. This makes me feel very grateful and indebted to You. Thus, I pray to You for being engaged in Your service, and for being properly directed in order to really please You – in all respects. I would like to use the next year wisely here: going deeper in my relationship with Krishna, building up my character, acquiring meaningful skills, and cultivating loving relationships with devotees.

When I was reciting some prayers during last Kartika, I included a song by Bhaktivinoda Thakura, which very nicely matches my mood in relationship to You:

"Gurudeva, give to this servant just one drop of mercy. I am lower than a blade of grass. Give me all help. Give me strength. Let me be as you are, without desires or aspirations. I offer you all respects, for thus I may have the energy to know you correctly. Then, by chanting the holy name in great ecstasy, all my offenses will cease. When will such mercy fall to this one, who is weak and devoid of intelligence? Allow me to be with you. 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."

Your aspiring disciple

Sukumārī Devi Dāsī

## Sutapā Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

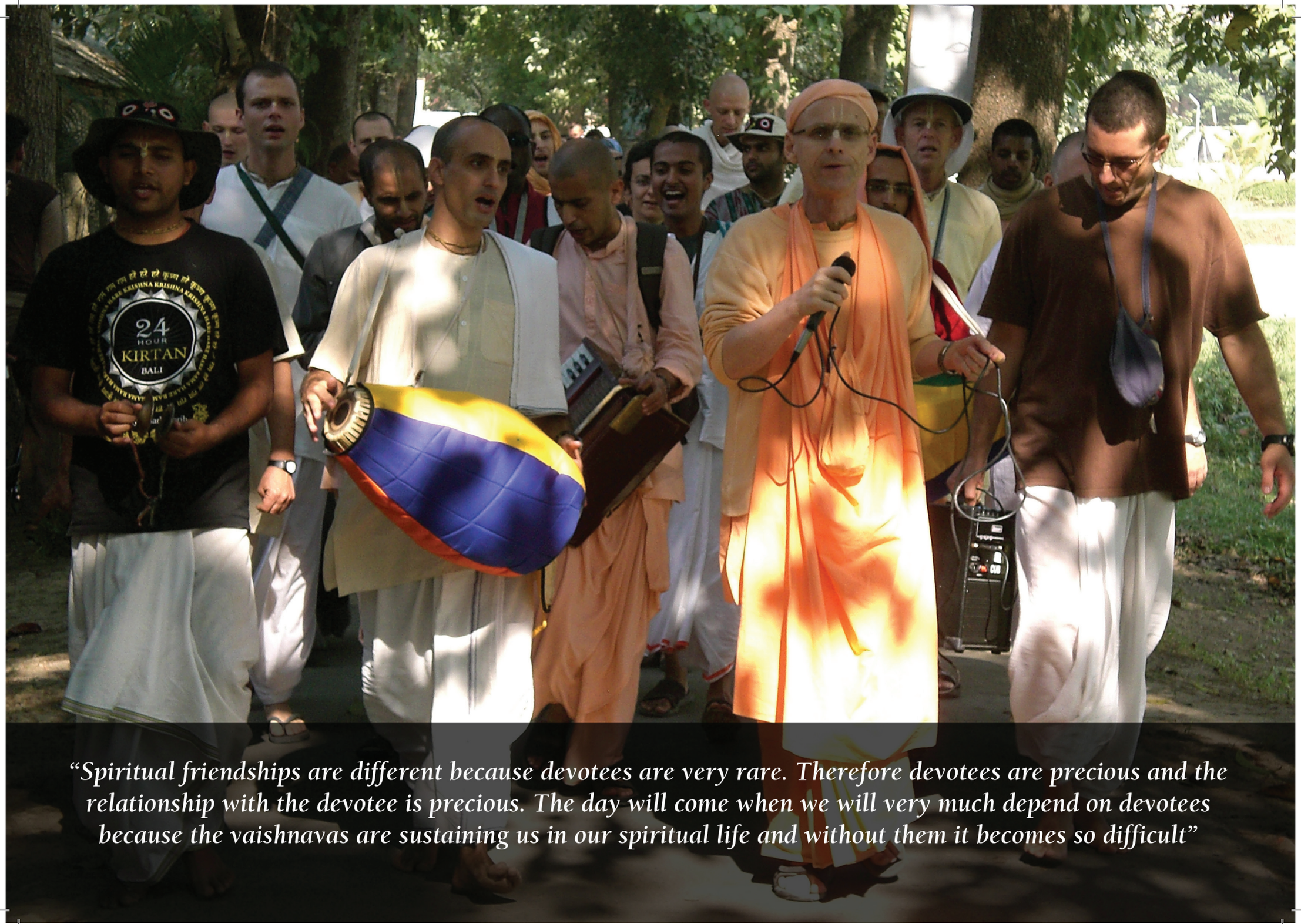
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada

This year you ordered me to spend some time in the holy dham as I had neglected to visit for over 8 years. You explained the necessity of not only drawing inspiration from the dham but also developing a relationship with the transcendental abode. That time in Vrindavana was magical – nourishing, inspiring, enlivening and eye opening. It was all possible by the mercy of the Spiritual Master. I am beginning to appreciate the deep connection that you have with Sri Vrindavana dham.

Resident of Vrindavana

The residents of Vrindavana are happily engaged in the service of Krishna. Their steps are dances, their words are songs, and they spend their days joking, smiling and laughing in the transcendental association of their Beloved. We see this spirit of transcendental happiness within our Spiritual Master. You are able to give such deep and penetrating insights, while simultaneously maintaining this joyful and childlike innocence in your practice of spiritual life. Through your life and teachings, you remind us that Krishna Consciousness is not simply a bitter struggle with the mind and senses, but is a completely natural process that invokes great taste and relish.

The residents of Vrindavana know Krishna as their only protector. Ferocious demons, inauspicious circumstances and all fears within the heart are driven away by the Supreme cowherd boy. We see this spirit of dependence on Krishna within our




*"Spiritual friendships are different because devotees are very rare. Therefore devotees are precious and the relationship with the devotee is precious. The day will come when we will very much depend on devotees because the vaishnavas are sustaining us in our spiritual life and without them it becomes so difficult"*

Spiritual Master. You have faced major obstacles and trying situations, but always remained steady and fearless, seeing the hand of Krishna everywhere. Nothing can budge your determination to push on the Krishna Consciousness movement and benefit the conditioned souls.

The residents of Vrindavana are constantly glorifying Krishna in different ways. In that transcendental realm even the plants and trees are engaged in hari kirtan. We see this addiction to glorifying Krishna within our Spiritual Master. Despite hectic schedules and intense itineraries, at the drop of a hat you are eager to come in front of any audience and present the glories of Krishna in a dynamic, relevant and captivating manner. You tirelessly travel from place to place, zigzagging the globe and offering nectar drops of mercy to anyone who is fortunate enough to come in contact with you.

For years you had written 'Vrindavana' as the 'place of residence' in your Dutch passport. Due to your intense absorption in Krishna, we can understand that you are always living in Vrindavana. We pray that you will bring us to that transcendental consciousness as well. It is said that one who follows the orders of the Spiritual Master, lives with the Spiritual Master. I pray that I can unhesitatingly carry out your transcendental instructions, and thus always live with you and live in Vrindavana simultaneously,

I beg to remain, in your transcendental service,

Sutapā Dāsa

## Svāhā Devi Dāsī

My dearest Spiritual Master

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Gurudas Jayadvaita Swami Maharaja. All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your lotus feet.

All glories to your glorious appearance day. It is funny how life, or should I say Krishna just forces us to bow down. I have heard so many lectures from devotees about how Krishna will force you to bow if you do not do it voluntarily. I have been contemplating whether it was necessary at all for me to write an offering this year as I truly do not have anything to offer. I was planning to just ask Mayapur to put my name together with his on his offering. Yet the latest developments in my life have forced me to rethink this decision. Working for a government in Africa makes you see the reality of this world in a level beyond anyone else's in the world. I have never felt so disturbed in my life before. I am convinced that if I did not have this knowledge of Krishna Consciousness, I would go mad.

When Srila Prabhupada said: "There was no United Nations or this so called brotherhood".

I really thought the world was bigger than that and that somehow we would eventually get it, but from where I'm standing now, I think there is only one way that we can all get it, that is if we become Krishna Conscious. You know that I'm so far off in that direction, but I want you to know that there is no doubt in my mind that the only way through this is through Krishna Consciousness. I know for sure, that if I want to avoid going mad or losing myself completely, than I need to come back to

your lotus feet. I also would like to thank you for the little things that you have done for me; like making sure that every time I'm in your presence, you give me as much prasadam as you can, because you know that it could be the only spiritual activity that I do for the day!! Thank you and I promise that I will never give up on our relationship no matter what.

Aspiring to be the servant of your servant

Svāhā Devi Dāsī

## Tamalini Devi Dāsī

My Dearest Gurudev,

Another year has gone by, and once again we are preparing to celebrate Your appearance in this world. For those who have had the good fortune of meeting You, seeing You, and hearing from You; this day of Sri Vyasa-Puja is of great significance. I feel extremely fortunate to be counted among those who have been touched by Your association.

The scriptures describe - association of saintly persons which is to be sought after in order for one to progress on the spiritual path….In the words of Srila Prabhupada, (Purport SB.2.10.41):

"The Bhāgavatam always recommends the association of the mahatma, or the great soul, for opening the gate of salvation...One should try to raise himself by the association of the great soul. That is the way of the perfection of life."

The blessings I have received from Your association Gurudev, are more than I can count, more than I deserve. I am a long way from attaining pure devotional service, which his of course has a lot to do with the degree of surrendering and my material attachments. I have faith that You will help me rise above my conditioning and see me through the journey to the "gate of salvation". All that is needed from me is to keep constant association with You through hearing Your lectures, chanting in Your kirtans, and trying to emulate Your exemplary behaviour.

When a person has some bodily ailment, the general practice is to phone a doctor/physician in order to get an appointment, or some people go straight through and wait in line to be helped. Whatever one chooses, waiting is inevitable, and one has to endure suffering within that waiting period. You, Gurudev having adopted the mood of Lord Caitanya's Sankirtan movement of taking the Holy Name of Krishna to every town and village, and can be compared to the emergency service at the hospitals that come with the intention of giving immediate relief to those suffering. Of course, their help is only temporary, that of prolonging inevitable death. The service You render to embodied souls is that which is everlasting, You direct us down the path of the eternal life; eternal love; eternal happiness! I can never fully or wholly comprehend the sacrifices You make in order to give Krishna to conditioned souls as myself, but I do realise that there is sacrifice involved...great sacrifice! How does one repay that, personally? I can never even begin to repay all that You have given to me. My debt to You Gurudev is eternal, and I do not wish it to be otherwise. Being connected with You eternally in devotional service is my life's hope and prayer!

I remember the first time I asked You to accept me as an aspiring disciple, You very candidly said:

*"In spiritual life the role of the guru is essential; and if one really wants to go back to Godhead, one must become a surrendered disciple"*



"So you like my kirtans and lectures and I make a few jokes, but there are so many more advanced devotees whom You haven't met, why don't you wait and see?"

After seeing that I was adamant, You were kind enough to give me a chance, I thank You for that. At this point, as I sit and write this offering to You, I feel very happy at the thought of being a part of Srila Prabhupada's great ISKCON movement. As You mentioned there are so many advanced devotees blessing us with their association and realizations. When Suta Goswami narrated the Srimad Bhagavatam to the sages at Naimisaranya, He said:

*so 'haṁ vaḥ śrāvayiṣyāmi yathādhītaṁ yathā-mati*

"Now I shall try to make you hear the very same thing I learned and as I realised it" (SB1.3.44)

Gurudev, You carry forth the same message of the Bhagavatam, as do other faithful servants of Srila Prabhupada, but it is Your realizations which are added to the message of the Bhagavatam that have penetrated my heart of stone. Now, ten years down the line, my decision to accept You as my spiritual guide is still resolute. Only, now I pray that I may one day be a worthy disciple, with resolute determination to serve You and Your life's mission of propagating Krishna Consciousness.

Please bless me that I may remain fixed at the shelter of Your lotus feet. Always praying for Your mercy, I remain

Your eternal servant

Tamalini Devi Dāsī

## (Bhakta) Teddy

Dear Guru Maharaja,

*nama om visnu-padaya krshna preshtaya bhutale*
*Srimate Jayadvaita Swaminn iti namine*

*Nama om visnu-padaya krshna preshtaya bhutale*
*Srimate Kadamda Kanana Swaminn iti namite*

Please accept my humble and most respectful obeisance at your lotus feet.
All glories to you, all glories to Srila Prahupada.

On this most auspicious day of your Vyasa-Puja, I would like to show my deepest gratitude towards you.

What a privilege for a fool like myself to have you as my spiritual shelter ? Most of the time I wonder.

You are for me what I consider to be the strongest and best shelter I have never received before in my entire existence and from all the births I took - I guess. What a gift to have met you been able to render services unto you ? Thank you for the opportunity. Time has passed without me being able to understand you, and still, I struggle to understand you. I have firm conviction that being the captain of the ship I embarked, certainly you will take me to the destination that Krishna describes in Bhagavad-Gita where there is no need for sun, free from all misery, birth, old age, disease and death.

Who can understand you Guru Maharaja ? Nobody I guess. It will be pretentiousness for me to think that now that I have got your association for few years. I thought that I understood you, be-

cause in a way I haven't, and that's why I'm trying my best to serve and please you.

I have learned that the best way to please the Spiritual Master as well as the supreme personality of Godhead is through service and devotion and I'm trying to combine the two and apply that principle in my devotional life to achieve that goal. Maharaja, I'm conscious not to be the servant you may expect me to be and I sincerely ask you for forgiveness, but I know for a fact that I have great determination to dedicate my life to you and just be your servant You have always shown care and sincerity towards me, and I honestly think that the time has come for me to repay you. That profoundly touches me.

This time, I won't ask for anything else than tolerance. I still remember our first meeting dated September 2008, that's when my whole life really began to take another dimension, and today, I'm fully convinced that you are my saviour. When difficulties, temptations and troubles haunt my mind, and I get disturbed in my devotional life, a lecture, bhajan or kirtan is enough to bring me back to life and back on the devotional track. Your voice is my life air and nothing will change that. Please instruct me and always guide me to remain a faithful servant of yours.

I hope not to take another birth in this world from this lifetime on and remain eternally a servant at the lotus of that great personality and unique soul who turned my misery into happiness and completely transformed my life: HIS HOLINESS KADAMBA KANANA SWAMI.

Once again, please accept my humble and most respectful obeisance at your lotus feet

Eternally a beggar at your lotus feet . Happy Vyasa-Puja

Your aspiring disciple,

(Bhakta) Teddy

## Tukārāma Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

It is really not easy to escape from the clutches of Maya. Helpless living beings quiver like a fly in the cobweb. Each of them make efforts by trying to escape, but they are being embroiled even more. The material world is like a spider web of karma, with a very soft and sticky fibres that wrap us faster than we think. A fly in the cobweb really dose suffer. If you get rid of one strand, but it gets embroiled in two others. Desperate to flap the wings, legs kicking. It takes a rest for a while, because the fight is very challenging, and after a while again trying to save itself, until it runs out all its forces. Whoever freed such an entangled fly, which is even afraid  your finger - a rescuer, feels joy, and certainly the fly does. It's a bit of a rough example, but only someone who is not affected by a spider's web can make the fly happy and free. Srila Prabhupada gave the example that if we are tied, then we can only be freed by someone who is not tied.

Prahlad Maharaja says that he learned the art of how to be more aware of Krishna. What kind of art is it? Simply praise the Lord's heroic deeds and entertainments. He says that this is why there is

for him no option to transgress. However, Prahlad Maharaja is worried about those who have created a society in which nobody has the time and everybody just works hard. Prahlad also says that there is many saints and scholars, who are mainly concerned about their own liberation. They live in secluded places like the Himalayas. They do not speak to anybody. They are always afraid of ordinary people in cities, distraction and even the possibility of transgression. Prahlad Maharaja regrets that these people don't come to places, where people have created their civilization, which forces them to work night and day. Prahlad refuses to go into the kingdom of God without being able to take with him all of the fallen souls. This is a Vaishnava. He said:

"I want to teach them about the Lord, how to commit themselves to him. That's all, this is my goal."

The vaishnavas is you! You have even accepted a sannyasi life, so You could devote yourself to a spiritual life. You also know the art of how to be constantly aware of Krishna. The art of praising Krishna's heroic deeds and entertainments. You are not seated somewhere in the Himalayas, in Vrindavan or Mayapur, but you are travelling in the busiest parts of the world, where people work hard, without any spiritual knowledge, and are living in complete ignorance. You want us to learn how to surrender to Krishna, since this is your goal - pure devotional service. So all glories to you, and I thank you, since you are a real Vaishnava, who comes to set me free and to teach a fly like me.

Please accept my humble obeisances and excuse all my offenses, that I, as a fly full of fear, do commit against you.

Your servant

Tukārāma Dāsa

## Tulasī Dāsa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

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

Dear Guru-Maharaja, today on this most auspicious day of Your appearance, I want to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you did for me through all these years. Last time in Mayapur you told me:

"There is a big change since the first time I saw you in Radhadesh. You are not the same boy anymore."

This is true only because of your causeless mercy, only because you and Jayadvaita Maharaja gave me so much association. The only that I can try to repay to a small extent of your mercy is to follow your instructions strictly. When I think about your glorious personality two things immediately come to my mind: your example of selfless service and your example of not giving any food to the lower nature.

I was surprised to see how you are rendering service hour after hour, day after day, year after year, completely selflessly. Recently you told me

how for a weekend in South Africa you had to given about ten lectures. I also remember the last time when you were in Mayapur that though you were teaching bhakti sastri you went to Candigar for Ratha Yatra in the weekend, it was an intense program. You also personally went on sankirtan - Prabhupada marathon to distribute books on the street with the other devotees. You competed with Ataish Prabu and you defeated him. Although, you have so many responsibilities and some health problems, you are going on the street to give us an example. This is a great inspiration for me and for all other devotees. You always instruct us not to give any food to our lower nature, to starve our animalistic propensities till they die. This is also great inspiration for me because it helped me to realise why I cannot make spiritual advancement, because I go on feeding my bad habits and not strictly controlling my senses.

You give us perfect example, by being always busy in the service of Srila Prabhupada so that we can become free of material desires. Also I am very happy to know that you have a particular plan to engage me in the mission of Srila Prabhupada, I will try my best to fulfil your desires. Dear Guru Maharaja, I pray for your mercy, the mercy of Jayadvaita Maharaja and Srila Prabhupada. Please bless me to be always engaged in devotional service.

Your servant

Tulasī Dāsa

## 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 -padhaya krisna- presthaja bhu-tale srimate Kadamba Kanana-Swamin iti namine*
*nama om visnu-padhaya krisnapresthaya bhutale gurudas Jjayadvaita Svamin iti namine*

On this wonderful day, one is inclined to strike a balance. I have almost nothing which I can offer you. All of my attempts to engage in devotional service are possible only because of your desire to help me escape from my deep ignorance. I'm recollecting again and again your wonderful kirtans. Their nectarian taste can push even the most confirmed materialist to glorify purely the Holy Name of Krishna. It reminds me a song Sri Sri Guri-Astakam:

*Mahaprabhu kirtana nrtya gita Vaditra madym manaso rasena.*

What to speak about your wonderful lectures. Your pure transcendental words are securely protected against maya. The more I hear them, the more I want to hear, and each time your lectures are more and more interesting.

I have also a great experience in knowing the way you deal with devotees - with your meek heart, to help in their devotional path. You are a wonderful person. Last time I met you in Czech Republic, I wanted to massage you, but instead, you asked me to chant the Holy Name with you. I was so happy that this happened. Every time I come to meet

you, you greet me so nicely. You deal with me in such a mood that I feel myself then inspired to serve Krishna and the mission of Srila Prabhupada. May Lord Krishna bless you with a longer life, great health and to continue to inspire us.

Your servant

Vasumān Dāsa

## (Bhaktin) Viera

Dear Guru Maharaja,

*nama om visnu padaya krsna prestaya bhu-tale,*
*srimate Kadamba Kanana Swami iti namine*
*namaste sarasvate deve gaura-vani pracarine*
*nirvisesa sunyavadi pascatya desa tarine*

I am very happy that you have accepted me as your disciple out of your causeless mercy. This had been my desire for a very long time but I did not have the courage to take this . My dear Guru Maharaja, you always were and always will be a great inspiration to me, in the beginning of my spiritual life. I always thought of you as of a kind father who knows how to appreciate, but also rectify matters.

Your lectures are giving me a lot of spiritual energy and enthusiasm. I am very sad that I cannot be close to you in such a glorious day as celebration of your birthday - Vyasa-Puja. That is why I want to write you at least these few lines, that cannot compensate personal contact. I am paying my obeisances at your lotus feet with deep respect and humility.

Your servant,
(Bhaktin) Viera

## Yamunā Devi Dāsī

Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my most humble obeisances onto the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Jayadvaita Swami.

Today I am offering your imperfect but honest words. This is my first offering, and there are many things that I want to thank you for. At the initiation yagna you told me: “Now you are eternally connected to Vrindavan.” I didn’t understand that before I came to Vrindavan. Also, you told me: ”we are connected as a Guru and a disciple.”

Last time I saw you, in Rotterdam, you give me so much. My faith in that connection become stronger. I wish that we could stay eternally connected via the affection to the most wonderful dust of Sri Vrindavan dham, and I thank you for considering me to be your disciple. Sometimes you are like fish who is just watching and protecting your disciples. Sometimes you are like turtle meditating on your disciples, and often you are like bird, who is very busy flying from South Africa to Europe to “feed” your disciples.

Thank you for being more then a kind father! In Mayapur dham you said: ”My Guru Maharaja is ULTIMATE for me, and He needs to be ultimate for you also.”

Srila Jayadvaita Swami is the best example on how one can serve his Guru Maharaja with the whole heart. I pray that I may someday understand your instructions, so that I can serve you according to your desire. You said that we need to do extraordinary things in service for Srila Prabhupada. Feeling myself incapable ,I am praying to you to be an

instrument of Srila Prabhupada by following your example.

Your grateful servant

Yamunā Devi Dāsī

## Yāmunācārya Dāsa

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale srimate Kadamba Kanana-Svamin iti namine*

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale gurudasa Jaiadvaita-Svamin iti namine*

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

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

In this world where everyone thinks of oneself only, it is very rare to meet a person who dedicates the life for the benefit of others. It sounds easy "to dedicate the life for the benefit of others" but in fact it is very deep and beyond the understanding of materialistic people. It is a part of sadhu's nature. It is His second self.

*Manusyanam sahasresu kascit yatati sidhaye...*it is so rare in this world. So rare. O Krishna You are so merciful You enabled us to meet Him. For such a long time we wandered, such a long time, until we met Him. Please, let us become aware of it !

It is very unlikely, that it is myself who wins the lottery, but we won the jackpot, since we met Him - the real sadhu who is the pure devotee of Krishna!

Nowadays, the whole world runs after the sense gratification, just to capture something for oneself, and Him ? Well he flies all around the world to save us, to engage us in what is the most dear for Him, which is pure devotional service unto the Lord Krishna.

He Himself is emerged in Harinam, which is full of good qualities and higher taste. Nevertheless He is miserable. How is that possible ? Why does he worry ?

He is bothered because of us - the living beings who have been crazy, and in this madness they have been forgetting about who they really are -such a misfortune.

Therefore He dedicates His whole life and all His energy, just to save us, but who can realises that ?

We endeavour to fulfil our selfish desires. How can we understand You Gurudev ? We the conditioned beings are always blinded by the self. Toiling from Brahma to an ant. Oh sadhu I do believe Krishna that exists. He must exist. After all You are the evidence.

I am very happy to have met You. Blessed the day You appeared.
Blessed the land You appeared on.
Blessed everyone who has come in contact with You and those who will have come in the future also.
I am blessed - for You glanced upon me. O Guru, You are a blessing personified.

Let us all celebrate this day. There is no higher event for the disciple. Let us serve our Gurudev to the best of our abilities. Just to invoke His smile

upon, which is perfection -Jay Gurudev !

I beg all of You for the mercy, I beg for Your mercy just to be able to assist my beloved Gurudev in His mission. So I could get the dust of His lotus feet. Let nothing else exists for me.

Your servant

Yāmunācārya Dāsa

## Yudhiṣṭhira Dāsa

My dear Guru Maharaja,

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

When I was a child, my mother had always said: ”Remember to be polite. Remember to say thank you.”
Years later, my Spiritual Master had given me an instruction:
“Just try to be a good person. That will be very attractive. Actually it is preaching.”

When I combine these two comments then I sense a pattern, and this has given me a rise to reflections.

It would be a false humility to say that I have no good qualities. I have some, but they are few and far in between. Most of all I lack the seriousness to fully surrender to the process of devotional service, laid plainly before me by the mercy of all the previous acharyas, including Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, our dear Srila Prabhupada and now in real time life, my dear Spiritual Master.

However, by the mercy of my Guru Maharaja, I have been empowered. It’s not as spectacular as it may sound, but to me it makes all the difference in the world. My mother instilled in me her instructions and my dear Guru Maharaja not only confirmed, but also gave deep meaning to her words. I have lived my life according to the inner voice my mother etched in my mind, and my Spiritual Master has given me the opportunity to dovetail this voice in Krishna’s service. How? By trying, really striving, to be a good person, but the thing is, as I go deeper into the mystery of the instruction, I find more. Recently I have been asking myself:

“What does being good mean? How is it preaching? Why is it so attractive?”

Day and night, on and off, coming and going, these questions are in my mind. So, I have decided to make it a mission to find out more, by going really deep.

In the Bhagavad-Gita, Lord Krishna speaks of the actual qualities of being good. Not merely is it some external show of humility and honesty, since it runs deep inside the person. It consumes his or her being, purging the lower modes with the fire of the principles of goodness, and even above this, it rises through the haze of mundane manners, up towards the shining peak of pure goodness, which is dazzling in the cloudless spiritual sky - these have been my late reflections.

By the mercy of my Guru Maharaja, and through the kind association of devoted vaishnavas, I sense some of the depth, naturally attached to the words of the Guru. Even my most basic attempt to somehow or other be friendly and good, have now had their meaning excavated. The simple life

I have lead has been given a true value. My tiny efforts can now be counted as participation in the expansion of Lord Caitanya's sankitan movement. These, previously by me labelled so-called habits, have been given a chance to be spiritualized. Simply by the order of my Guru Maharaja, my spontaneous thoughts and feelings, to which I am very much attached to, can now, by the proper engagement, be called progress.

This mystical experience can only have one name: 'Divine mercy'. By some unbelievable good fortune, in all honesty and totally undeserved - I have been given a chance. A chance to actually take part in something that is really valuable, which on its own can only mean to satisfy the desires of the Supreme Lord. In the modern day and age, this fact takes on the meaning to extend the magnanimous mercy of the Lord in the form of Harinama sankirtan. This is the type of engagement, which allows me to channel the laser of my abilities, through the pure diamond lens of being a truly good person.

Thank you Guru Maharaja, for showing me the means and a way.

Still your aspiring servant,

Yudhiṣṭhira Dāsa
(Oslo, Norway)