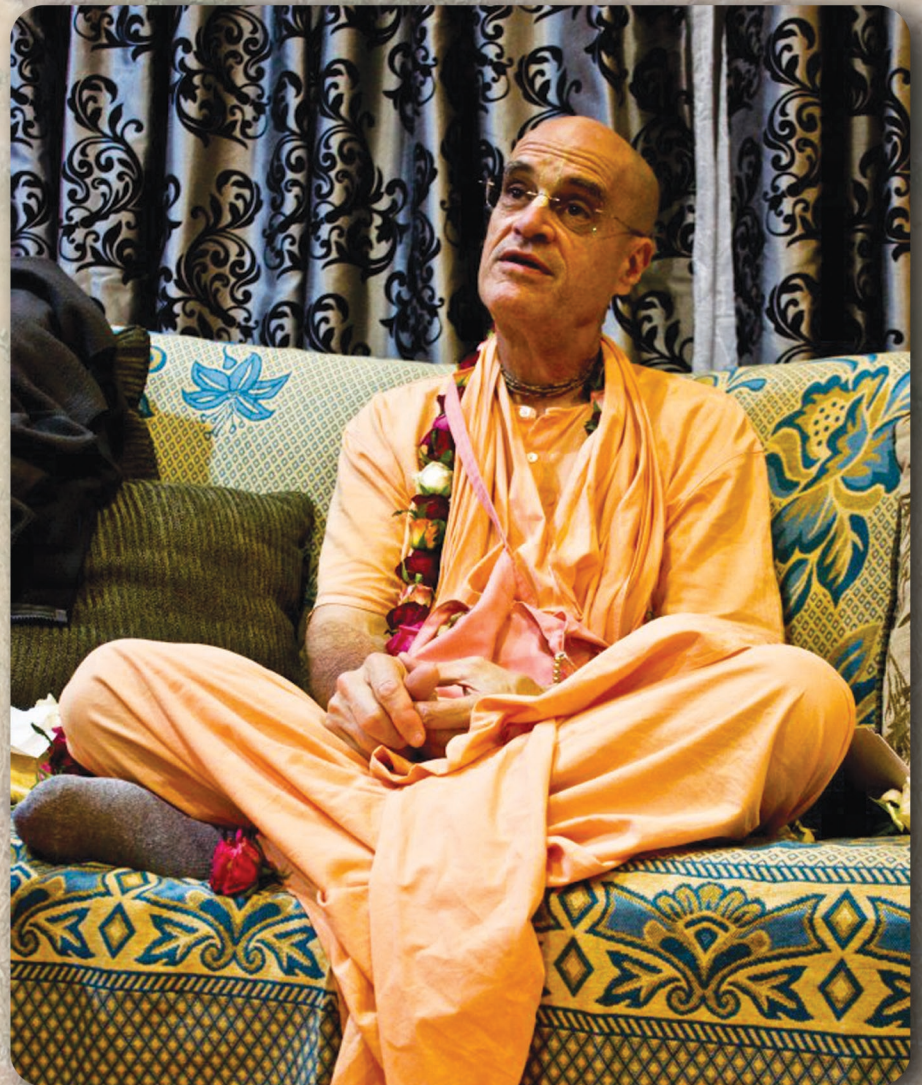


In Celebration of Sri Vyasa Puja
October 14, 2013

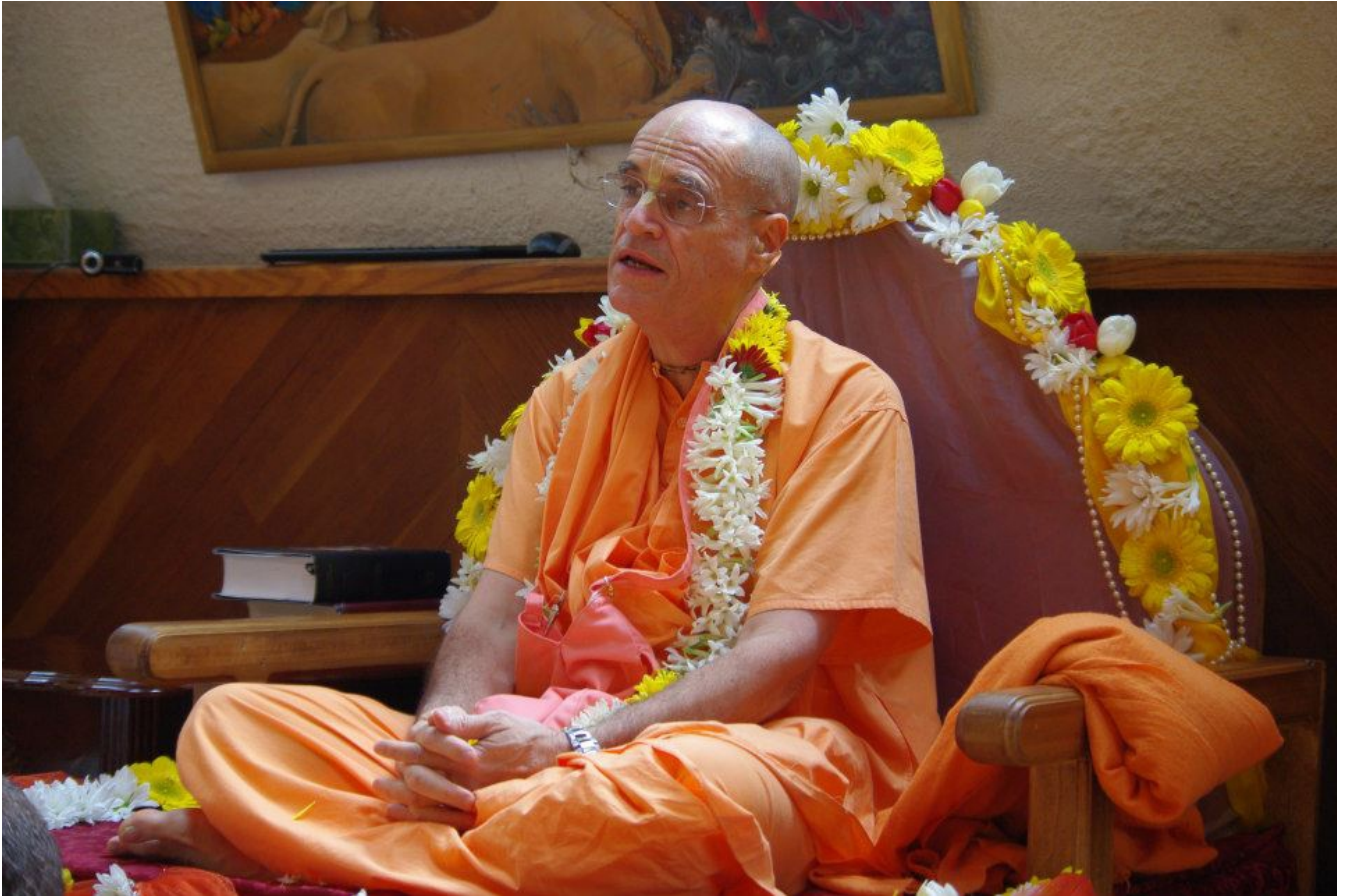
The Divine Appearance Day of
Our Beloved Spiritual Master

His Holiness
Srila Bir Krishna das Goswami



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace
Srila Bir Krishna das Goswami, who is very dear to
Lord Krishna, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

I offer my respectful obeisances to my swan-like spiritual master,
who is very dear to Srila Prabhupada because he is faithfully
repeating his message with great purity and determination.

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

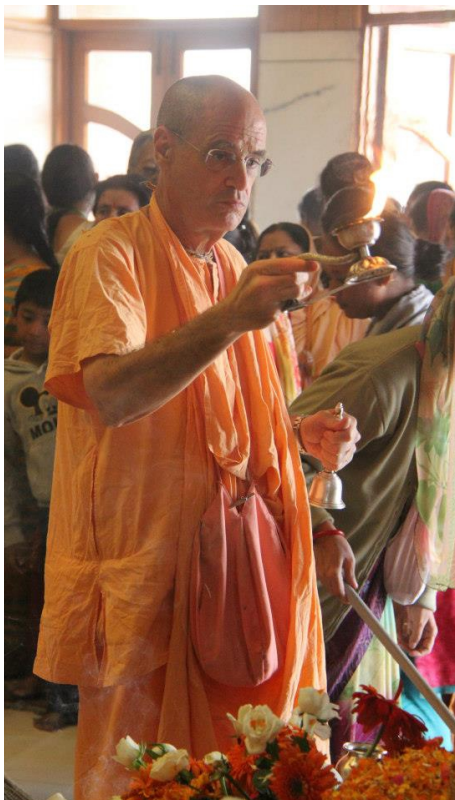
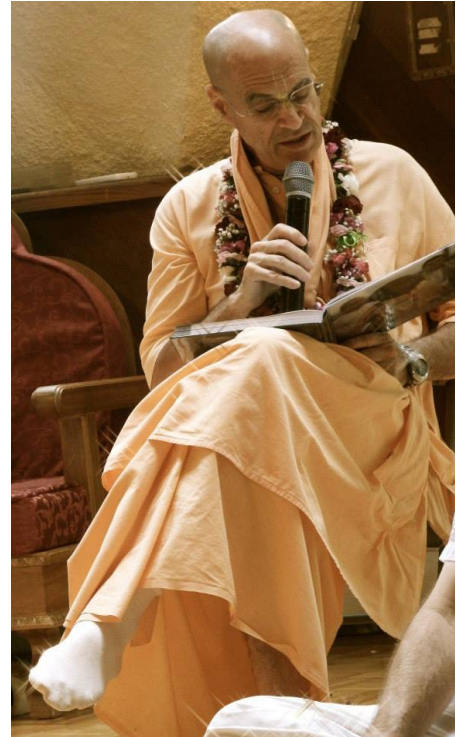
Dear Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, the founder-*acarya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

For many years we have used the term “founder-*acarya*” without being aware of the full import of the term. Recently your dear disciple Ravindra Svarupa Prabhu researched the topic as part of his *seva* on the GBC and compiled a presentation on the subject that was backed up by research on the historical use of the term.

He discussed the original founder-*acaryas* in the four Vaisnava *sampradayas* (descending from Lakshmi, Brahma, the four Kumaras, and Shiva). Then he presented the modern founder-*acaryas* (Sri Ramanuja, Sri Madhva, Sri Nimbarka, and Sri Visnu Svami). He showed through his research that Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura did not use that term for himself but planned to use it once he traveled to the West, which never happened.

Srila Prabhupada, you carried out that plan of your spiritual master's, establishing Krsna consciousness where there had been none. You fulfilled Lord Caitanya's, Lord Nityananda's, and Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura's prediction that Krsna consciousness would spread throughout the entire world (i.e., to every town and village).



You laid the groundwork and provided the inspiration for the construction of the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, which is the fulfillment of the previous *acaryas'* plans to demonstrate to the entire world that Sridham Mayapur is the entry point (Ravindra Svarupa Prabhu used the term “portal”) for our voyage back to Goloka Vrndavana.

Hence it is perfectly appropriate for your name to appear among the names of our other illustrious founder-*acaryas*. Ravindra Svarupa Prabhu stated that you are the fifth founder-*acarya* for the Iron Age (Kali-yuga). This is an inspiring realization!

As I hear this glorification of you based on historical and scriptural references, my enthusiasm for serving Your Divine Grace increases exponentially. I am thankful to you for allowing me to associate with such exalted godbrothers, who are fixed in their determination to serve your lotus feet.

Please allow me always to associate with the great souls who are dedicated to serving you, allow me to serve your mission eternally, and allow me to inspire others to serve your mission.

Your eternal servant,

Bir Krishna das Goswami

*All glories to Their Lordships
Sri Sri Radha Golokananda and
Radha Kunjabihari*





In service to Srila Prabhupada over the last year Gurudeva has traveled extensively, to some locations repeatedly, including: New Orleans; New Talavan; New Goloka; Houston for GBC meetings; Govardhan, India; GBC meetings in Mayapur; Delhi; the Islands of Fiji; Auckland, New Zealand; Nadi, New Zealand; Sydney, Australia; Brisbane, Australia; New Govardhan, Australia; Philadelphia; Rathayatra in New York; Sweden; Denmark; Croatia; Slovenia; Bosnia; Serbian Summer Camp; Mainz, Germany; Milwaukee; Seattle; Vancouver; GBC meetings in Chicago and GBC meetings in Bombay.



Dear Srila Prabhupada's Bir Krsna Goswami,

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

We were talking about writing an offering and Tunga Vidya wanted to write so to encourage her, I asked: "Well, what do you like and appreciate about Srila Gurudeva? She answered EVERYTHING! in quite a spontaneous and convinced tone.

But that's a really tall order to write about EVERYTHING... So, what I am most grateful about is your sense of balance which is so essential to me in my trying to make progress in Krsna consciousness.

I also very very much appreciate your genuine and sincere endeavors to steadily and surely improve your service to Srila Prabhupada and to inspire others to do so by your example, words and prayers.

We are also thankful to be engaged in assisting the Govardhana project. It gives Svakarthanam a reason to live and try his best... He is very happy when he comes back from his clowning sankirtan and says: "Now how much do we have to offer for the school?"

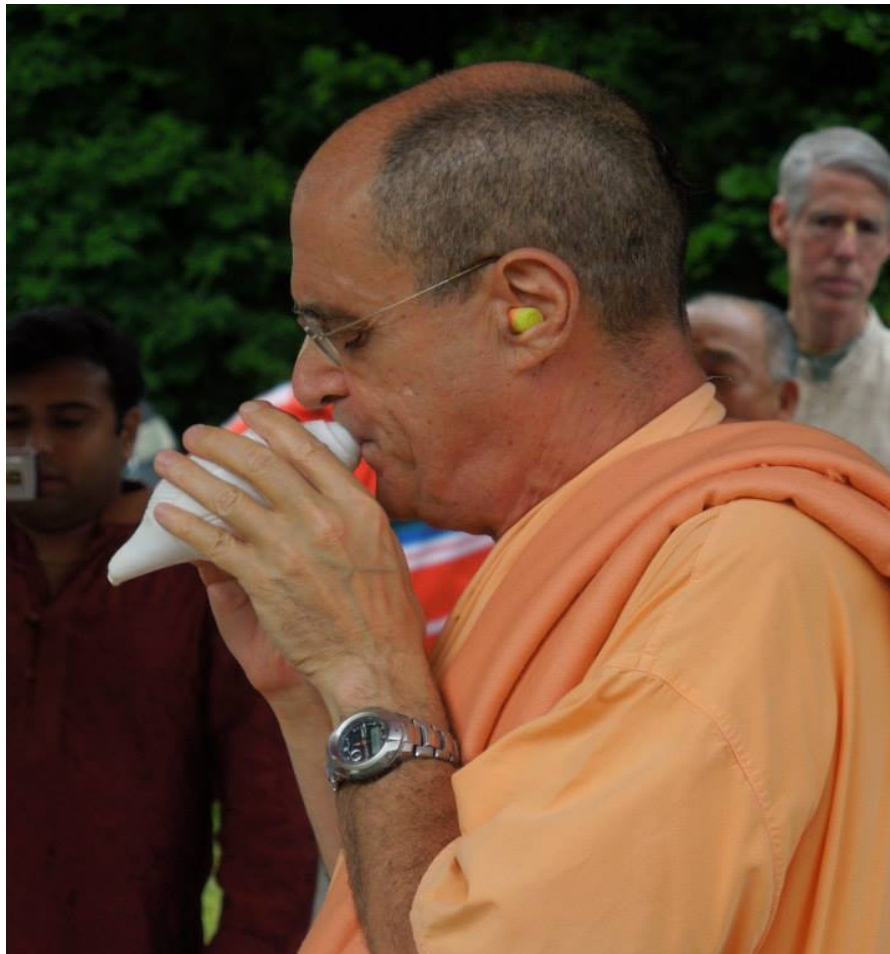
He went on the internet to check out the project and he became very enlivened because the children touched his heart... Not only that, but when he comes to make balloon animals at the flea market, he is so happy to give everyone who buys a balloon a small book from Srila Prabhupada!

THANK YOU FOR ENGAGING US IN SRILA PRABHUPADA'S MISSION IN SUCH A NICE WAY!

Your grateful servants,

Sadhvi dāsi & co....

New Goloka, Hillsborough, North Carolina



Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your service!
Please accept my humble offering on your Vyasa puja day:

From the very first time I saw you, you associate with the vast ocean of compassion. You seem to have time for everyone and are kindly tolerating silly questions that are not always related to spiritual life. I feel like you are a real father that very lovingly cares for his children. You are taking care not only of our spiritual lives but material as well by teaching us good lifestyles and relationships. However, children are not taking good advice often and are more or less sure to commit their own mistakes and learn from those. Although I am sure that they will all remember your warnings and that will only increase their faith in the instructions you give.

You always talk of Srila Prabhupada with such love and devotion that I feel as if I can see Srila Prabhupada in you. You often mention that story that when you saw him you saw that he loves everyone unconditionally, which is a similar feeling I get from you.

Recently I was showing pictures of my last visit to India and as I have mentioned many times, the most memorable and amazing time was with you in Govardhan. I was going through photos realizing that from a material perspective there is nothing really interesting in Govardhan, yet it was the most amazing experience. It was made so by your presence. From then on I often chant with a feeling that I miss that place and wish to go there soon and again by your mercy this seems to be possible as you have kindly offered me to stay there with you. I pray that I may come in the right mood to learn from you and be able and serve you. I understand that material life is very challenging and not very glorious at all, so I would like to understand you more and thus understand how I can become a servant and not be willing to be served. You are a wonderful exemplar of a first class Vaisnava and a humble servant of you Spiritual Master.

By your example you show that Krishna consciousness is a very fun process, yet at the same time you take so many responsibilities to please Srila Prabhupada and help ISKCON and all of us. Despite all the austerities and difficulties you encounter on your way, you always remain happy and share this happiness with others. For me that represents real Krishna consciousness and I pray that one day my heart may become at least somewhat as pure as yours.

These are only a few things that I can say about you and I am sure that with time this will grow and grow. As I have shared with Arjuna, every time I see you I appreciate more and more qualities and experience more and more feelings. It is like swimming in the ocean, the further you go the further you see and it seems never ending. I am very happy that I am your disciple, although as I have recently heard in your class disciple means disciplined and that I still lack, so I hope I can improve with time and be of some use to you and your service to Srila Prabhupada.

Wishing you much health and long life, so others may also get inspired by your example and take to Krishna consciousness and follow in the footsteps of Srila Prabhupada.

Your insignificant servant,

Acarya dās

New Varshana, Auckland, New Zealand

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

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

Dearest Gurudev,

Please accept our humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

On this auspicious day of your Vyasa puja we would like to pray to Srila Prabhupada and all acaryas in Guru Parampara to shower their blessings upon you for your preaching activities in ISKCON. We also pray for your long long life and good health. We pray that we always have your divine association and that we always follow all your instructions.

You have showered your mercy on such fallen souls like us. You are like an umbrella which is shading us from the miseries of material existence. You have opened our eyes from the darkness of ignorance. No matter what is our material situation we are very satisfied with our Krsna conscious lives. You have saved us from drowning in ignorance. Its your mercy that we are engaged in Krsna's service.

We thank you so much for your blessings upon us. We promise to always serve your lotus feet.

We pray to Srimati Radharani for Her blessings upon you for your good health and safety.

Your most fallen servants,

*Acyuta das
Sundari devi dasi
Sudama das
Shyama Manjari devi dasi
Lautoka Fiji*



My Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisance! All glories to You and to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to this wonderful day, Your appearance day!

I'm very grateful to Krishna because He gave me human birth, to Srila Prabhupada for spreading Krishna consciousness all over the world and giving me the opportunity to live a Krishna consciousness life, and to You for inspiring me to fully surrender to the service of Krishna and His devotees.

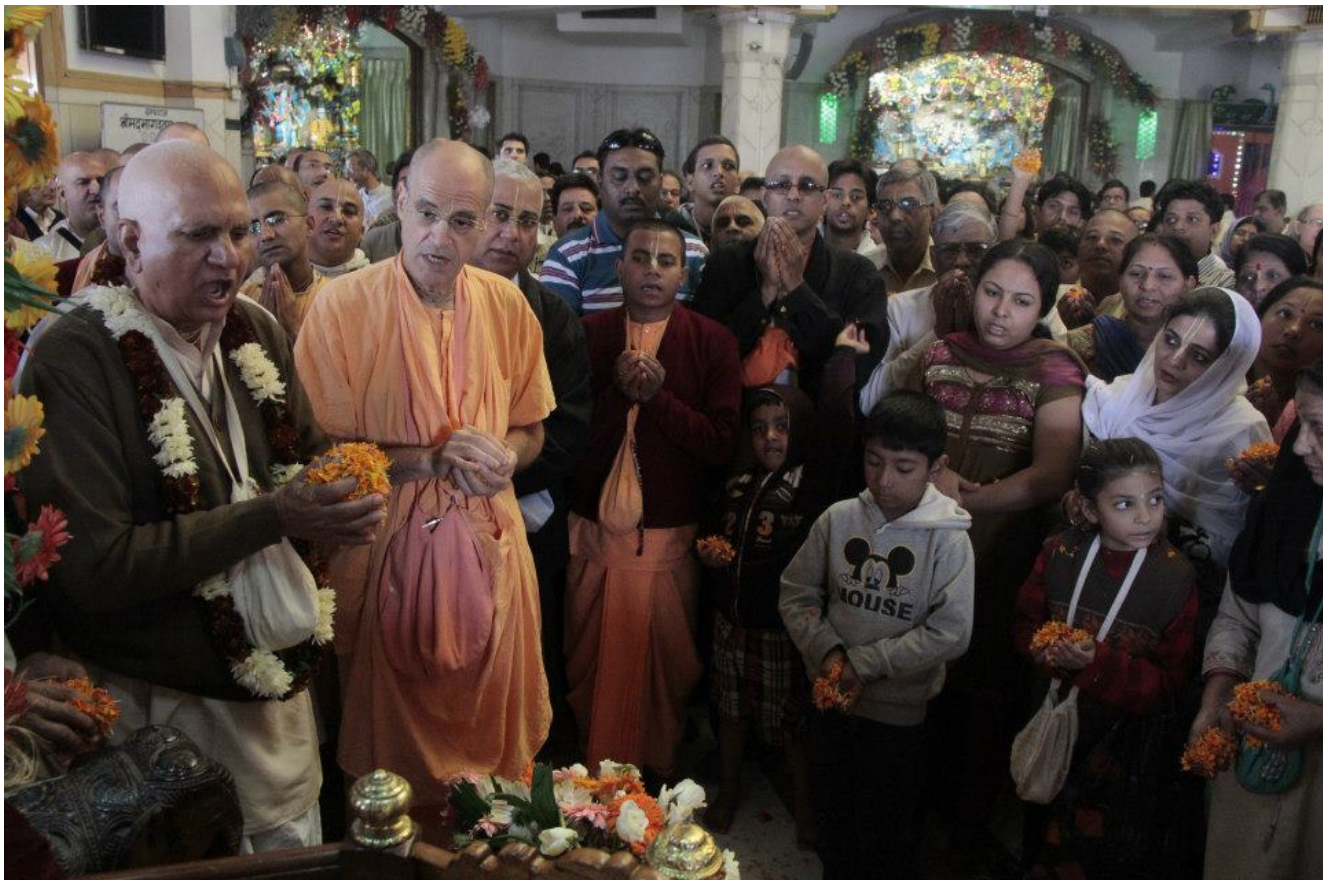
My lifetime is too short to spread Your glories and to work off one little part of my debt to You. I will never be able to repay you, but I'm trying to satisfy You with my service which I do with great attention and enthusiasm. I'm very pleased that Your photo is on the altar by the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radhe-Syama and that I can worship and serve You in this way.

I'm Your eternally grateful servant. Everything I do, I learned from devotees and I just follow Your instructions from one of Your letters: "Follow Srila Sivarama Swami and your authorities!" I know that whatever happens to me is granted by Krishna. I'm glad that I'm living with nice and exalted devotees and to have opportunity to preach to the guests who come to visit Sri Sri Radhe Syama, and to serve pure devotees and spiritual masters who gives us causeless mercy by instructing us with lectures and by their own example.

My dear Gurudeva, I wish You all the best! I pray to Krishna to keep you in good health and to stay under His protection.

Your faithful and loyal servant,

Alambika devi dasi
New Vraja Dham, Hungary



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.

To my Dearest Spiritual Master,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet on the auspicious day of your Vyas puja. Gurudev, thank you for accepting me as your disciple. You are so merciful and caring. Gurudev you have always bestowed your blessings upon us. Gurudev, it's through you that I am able to understand the Supreme Personality and His pastimes. You have given me intelligence and the ability to understand the most confidential knowledge. I beg to use my material existence in your service in every possible way.

Please allow this fallen soul to help you to serve Srila Prabhupada's mission.

I pray for your shelter always and always beg to remain your servant.

Anandada devi dasi

Auckland, New Zealand



Dear Guru Maharaja!!!

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to Your Holiness on this auspicious day!

I would take this opportunity to thank You for showing me what is philosophy in a real life!

Year by year I am realizing more and more that if I had not met You I would never have been able to connect truly with Krsna consciousness philosophy.

No one better than You would be able to show me how to follow Srila Prabhupada's instructions but still how to keep my own personality. Your instructions are leading me in family, friends, and business relationships and giving me strength that I never before knew that I have. Thank you for Your great example!

On last summer's Fruska Gauranga camp Your words were so encouraging. Thank you Gurudeva for all Your support in my spiritual life. Your instructions were really helpful. Please bless me to learn how to pray always.

I wish that You, Srila Gurudev, will be happy forever and that, without any difficulty, You will continue to spread Krsna consciousness.

I pray to remain . . .

in your service eternally,

Bhaktin Andjelina
Serbia, Belgrad



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

I offer my most humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

My Dearest Spiritual Father,

I have spent many hours trying to think of the most perfect thing to write for your offering this year and I feel whatever I type is not sufficient. After much thought, I have decided to write about my appreciation of your perfect example. I hope my words are able to convey my feelings.

I was recently listening to one of your lectures where you talked about the symptoms/evidence of being a bonafide guru. You display every quality. You have taken Srila Prabhupada's instructions as your heart and soul. You are very regulated in all areas of spiritual life and serve as a very good example of how a devotee should live their lives. I can always look to you when I am in doubt about any part of my spiritual life. You show great compassion and love for all living entities. This is the most amazing of your qualities in my eyes. I am in awe of your ability to love. In another lecture I was listening to just yesterday, you spoke about the leaders in society needing to set a good example. You are doing everything you preach.

It takes great compassion and love to take on so many disciples, especially ones like myself who are completely unqualified. To take responsibility for another soul is real love and compassion. I remember hearing you speak once about marriages and family life, that a person should not enter into these things without understanding the responsibility involved in it. Prabhupada said that the closest thing to true spiritual love is the love of a mother for their child. Yet, I feel that the love the guru must feel for their disciples has to be similar. I myself do not know or understand love very much but I imagine your heart to be full of love and compassion for all the fallen souls.

In every lecture I hear I can find some sort of practical advice or instructions. One piece of advice I am trying to follow every day is based in compassion and love. As you know, I am teaching in a difficult school and have many problems with my students and co-workers. Every day I have to remember your instructions when dealing with them. I am doing my best to see them all as spirit souls, as devotees, because everyone is a devotee, whether they know it or not. You gave the instructions to pray for others when chanting. I am trying to do this. So far I can see that it helps some.

No matter what problems I face I know that I can always look to you for answers. Everything I need to know is in Prabhupada's books/lectures and your words. So, on this most auspicious day of your appearance I want to express my gratitude for your perfect example, your compassion and love, and for your willingness to guide such a fallen soul as myself.

Your Eternal Servant,

Arcana
Thomson, GA

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

Hare Krsna Gurudeva,

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

Thanks so much for blessing us with your association during your last stay in Auckland and in the trip we made with you around Fiji. It was so nice getting to spend so much time following you around to programs, having so much space to ask questions and having so much kirtan with you. It really made me feel blessed. I appreciate so much how you are so fixed, determined and regulated in your Krishna consciousness and how you encourage us in our own spiritual lives by explaining philosophy, answering all our doubts and curiosities and giving us a firm sense of responsibility to apply dharma in our lives and to serve Srila Prabhupada's mission.

Before when I was contemplating which Guru to choose, I would think if I only I could have had Bhakti Tirtha Swami or Tamal Krishna Goswami, or if I could get someone like Radhanath Maharaja to accept me. But now I only consider how I have the nicest relationship with you Gurudeva, and how you are expert at encouraging me in Krishna consciousness, and perfect at dealing with my nature. Prabhupada has given me so much. I deeply feel that I have received a first class Guru.

One time a devotee asked a question to Bhurijan Prabhu on my behalf. It was asking what a person who has faith in sastra and in Prabhupada but has not found faith in a guru in front of them should do, as that was my position at the time. Bhurijan Prabhu that if the person has faith in Prabhupada, then he could pray to Prabhupada "Please show me someone who is serving you nicely." After receiving this answer I prayed like that, and Prabhupada blessed me with your association. Now I am eternally indebted.

I have a very deep sense that I have been swimming in the material ocean for an eternity, and now I am fully equipped with all facility to return home. I have no question in my mind that Krishna as the Supersoul has come to me through you. In my interactions with you, I get a feeling of Krishna's love for me and his causeless mercy for a conditioned soul like myself.

When I consider the way Krishna has been reciprocating with my soul searching, and with my prayers, my heart hurts. I become particularly overwhelmed with a sense of mercy when I consider all the different people who Krishna has touched me through. As I consider what these people mean to me, what they have saved me from, what they have made available to me, and how much they care about me, I am overcome with a sense of appreciation and gratitude which I feel I cannot express. The thought that I will never be able to pay these people back for what they have given me and done for me leaves me with no option other than to try to pay it forward, meaning to try to be the light of Krishna consciousness for other people just as so many amazing devotees have done for me. Srila Prabhupada is the face of mercy who I see in those devotees who I hold very dear, and who made my Krishna consciousness possible in this life. Of all the people in my Life who I have this sense of gratitude, You Gurudeva are the chief.

I cannot entertain the thought that Srila Prabhupada answered my prayers for a first class Guru in such a nice way without my eyes watering. *Sri Guru Karuna Sindhu, Adhama Janara Bhandhu*. "Our spiritual master is an ocean of mercy, friend of the poor." I was considering the meaning of the Nityananda Shakti, Lord Nityananda's mercy potency which descends through the guru, how just like Lord Nityananda showed unflinching compassion even when the people he was preaching to attacked him. Similarly the mercy of Krishna, the devotees and the guru is such that even though I am such a rascal and have so many bad qualities, still Krishna in the form of guru and the sadhus is emanating unflinching compassion, mercy, and love. This is clearly what causes the change of heart. Just as Jagai and Madhai had a miraculous change of heart in seeing the infinite mercy of Nityananda, how his mood of compassion and love towards them was not even phased in the slightest by their offenses, so too I can get a sense of this infinite compassion of the Nityananda Shakti when I examine my life and see beyond the mundane that Krishna's love for me has never ceased or diminished despite any nonsense I may have participated in. This love of Krishna for us is eternally there, but sometimes it comes to the surface, sometimes we notice it, and other times it smacks us on the head in a way that cripples any thought or desire to be devious.

There is one verse in SB 2.3.24:

"Certainly that heart is steel-framed which, in spite of one's chanting the holy name of the Lord with concentration, does not change when ecstasy takes place, tears fill the eyes and the hairs stand on end."

Similarly I feel that when the devotees extend the reach of mercy so compassionately to me, when Krishna, Prabhupada and you Gurudeva are so kind to me regardless of my qualification or bad behavior, then if my heart remains unchanged, certainly it is steel framed.

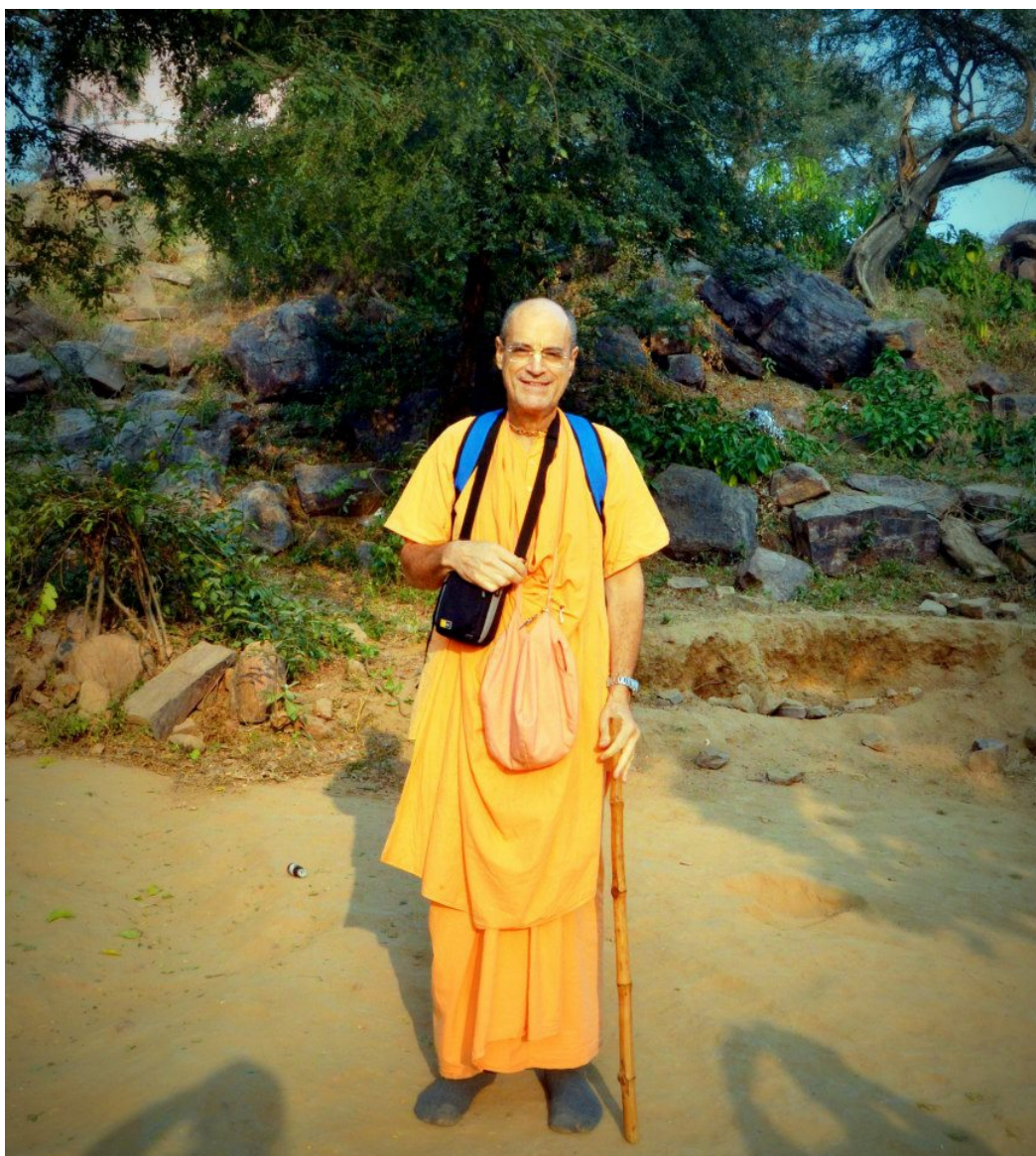
I saw a quote once "You have not lived until you have done something for someone else for which they can never repay you." But I think more than that, you have not lived until you have realized that someone else has done something for you for which you can never repay them.

Thank you for being so kind to me as to accept me as your disciple, and take responsibility for me out for your loving compassion.

It feels so nice to express my appreciation and gratitude to you,

Your eternal servant,

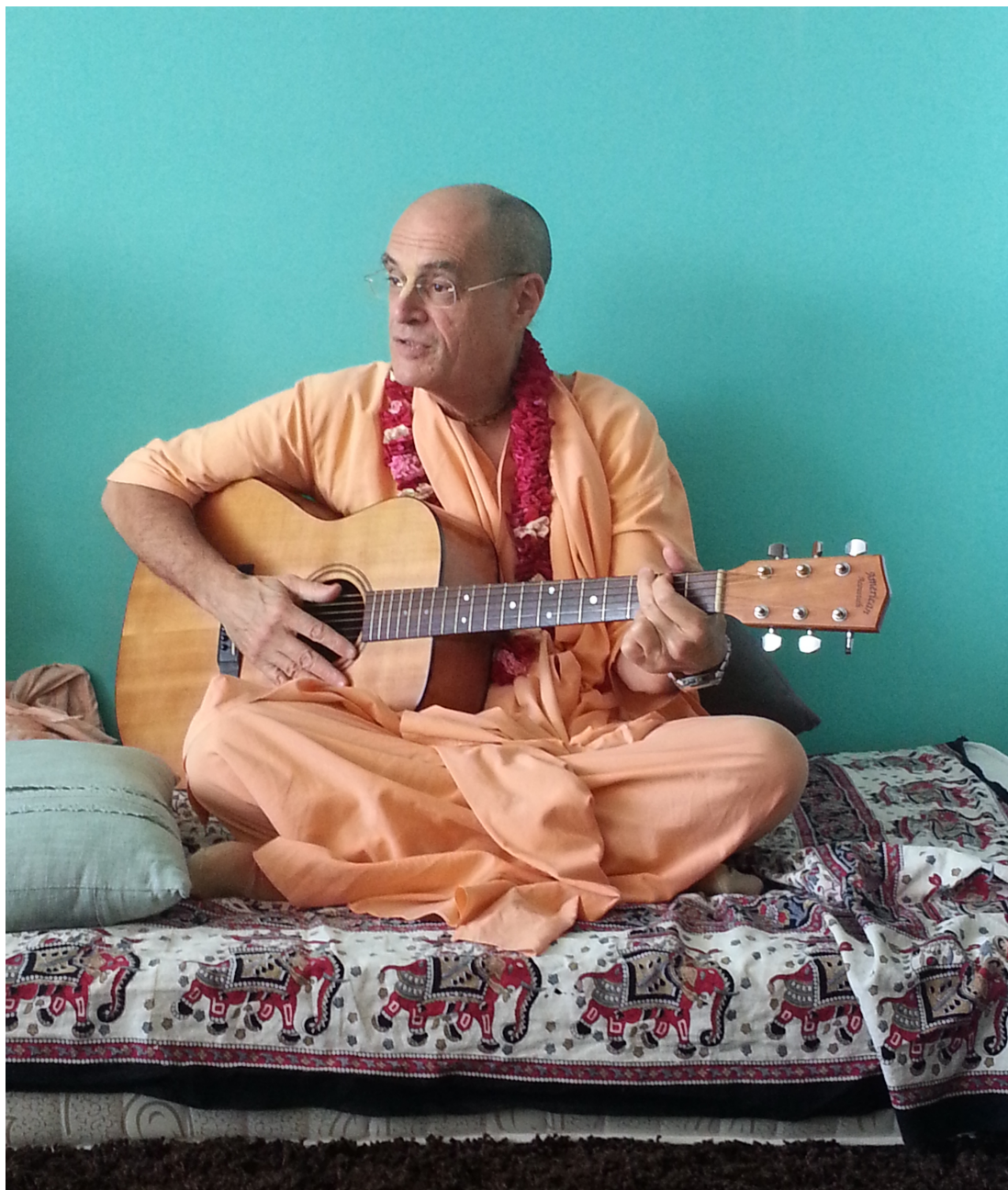
Arjuna Das
Auckland, New Zealand



To Gurudeva,

I offer my obeisances to Bir Krishna das Goswami to whom with out him I wouldn't be here at all. For Bir Krishna das Goswami, who is always traveling around the world and preaching to devotees on how to be better devotees, and how to preach Krishna to people as how Prabhupada preached when he was here. I even have the honor to have met him in person when he came to Milwaukee. I wish that more people can become devotees. May Krishna forever bless him.

Aroti devi dasi
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



My dear Father, Bir Krishna Maharaja,

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

Wishing you a very blissful Vyasa puja deep from my heart!!!

*Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare*

Your daughter and servant,

Astrid

Mainz, Germany



Please accept my respectful obeisance dear Gurudeva,

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Thank You very much for spreading the knowledge of Krishna and accepting so many souls which are following Your steps. I feel lucky to have Your association and lucky to have association of other devotees. Your sadhana is very strong and this gives me hope I may, at some point, also be able to be more strict in it, and I will be able to follow this process that Srila Prabhupada introduced in the west in order to bring us back to Godhead.

The scriptures and saintly persons always confirm that sadhana bhakti is most important for beginners on their spiritual path. And for all Your instructions I am very grateful, even if sometimes am unable to follow them strictly. I know, that following them, I go in the right direction. And I am very inspired seeing You, and how merciful You are to all devotees and non-devotees. Even in most unfortunate circumstances You are able to see clearly the situation and with every word You inspire devotees in their spiritual life. I have never met Srila Prabhupada in my life, but by Your example how to follow the spiritual master and his instructions, I developed faith in the process.

Thank You Gurudeva for taking all the trouble to save us and wish You all the best

Your servant,

Baladeva dasa
Slovenia



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

Dear Śrīla Gurudeva,

Please accept my obeisances at your lotus feet; all glories to you, deliverer of the wretched.

For so long I have been relying on Krishna's mercy simply to survive, and on your benediction to advance in my spiritual life. In these past years, no doubt, I have gained some fiddling insights in the realms of the spirit that I could hardly, if ever, achieve without your assistance descending through exemplary understanding, mercy, and patience. Step by step you help me advance on my path in Krishna consciousness; with kindness you oblige, with tolerance you guide me to graduate, so to speak, in the school of bhakti.

I follow your example as my individual puissance and mental capacity can embrace it. I benefit from your example in so many constructive ways, and I apply it when I teach in high school, remembering never to disparage or humiliate my students, but be merciful to them, because that's how people in general will be attracted to our movement and philosophy. With harsh words and severe attitude one achieves nothing but repulsion, because Krishna can be caught by love, thus with kindness even a knave becomes lenient to follow guidance. Through your mercy I have realized that with candor and clemency everything with anybody can be achieved but only if benign cords are decorously strung, because even a buff dismays if castigated and insensitively instructed, and since then I avoid to attempt the impossible. But you Gurudeva are the well-wisher of all, farsighted, and magnanimous, and I'm trying to do my best to assist Prabhupada's mission as your servant asking for your blessing. Hare Krishna, have a wonderful Vyasa puja in Fiji.

Dasanudasa,

Balarama Avadhuta dasa
New Talavana

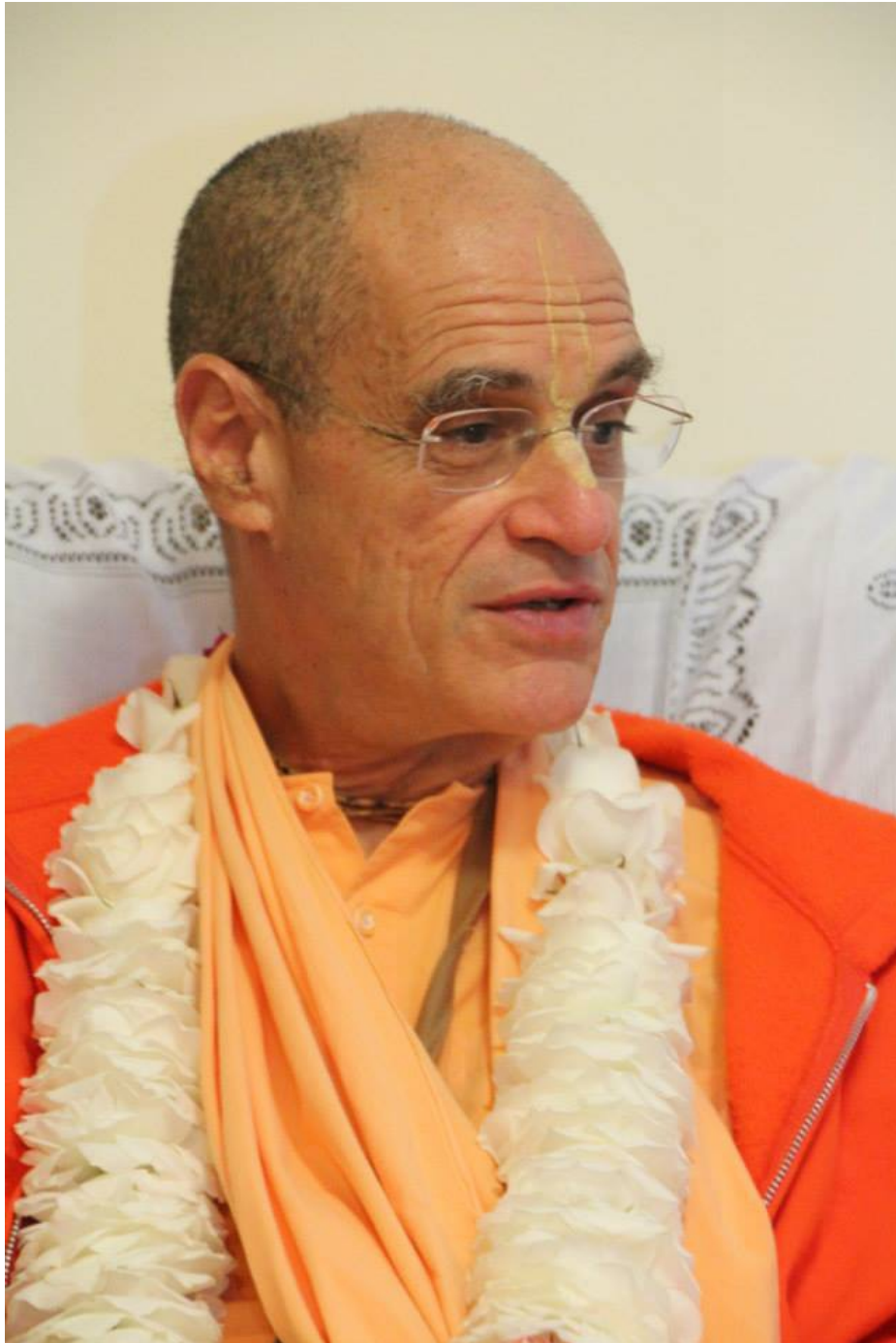


All blessing to you Gurudeva on this special day.

My life continues to grow in a spiritual path towards Krishna each and every day. I pray to Him for guidance in all of life's encounters and witness His loving beauty and design in this incredibly majestic Redwood country where we live.

Best wishes for a beautiful birthday,

Bethel Laborde
Ferndale, California



Dear Gurudeva,

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

Dearest Gurudeva from the bottom of my heart I want to wish you happy Vyasa puja day. First of all I wish that good health is following you for many years to come, perhaps through your example I'll learn to serve devotees and Krishna.

Through this occasion I want to express my gratitude for your lectures which I'm listening to owing to the electronic media; thank you for all instructions regarding taking care of my health which are making us able to serve Krishna for a longer period of time.

I would also like to express my gratitude for encouragement to live a life that I want...where Krishna is a main character, and that is the life that I deserve, I think.

I'm very happy to see when devotees are loving you and citing you as well.

Dear Gurudeva, you are in my thoughts and prayers and thank you again for not forgetting me, your support and guidance means a lot to me.

Your servant,

Bhakti devi dasi
Zagreb, Croatia



Dear Gurudeva,

All glories for the day of your divine appearance in this world!

I am a happy person because you mercifully gave me your attention and leadership as my siksa guru. Thank You for being so kind to me. You always give me enthusiasm to go further in my spiritual life. Dear Gurudeva please help me grant my devotional desires and eliminate my undevotional desires. Please make me worthy enough to serve your lotus feet.

I send you for your birthday nice verses:

*giri-nrpa-hari-dasa-sreni-varyeti-nama-
mrtam idam uditam sri-radhika-vaktra-candrat
vraja-nava-tilakatve klpta-vedaih sphutam me
nija-nikata-nivasamdehi govardhana tvam*

O Govardhana, o king of mountains, o hill whose nectar name "the best of Lord Hari's servants" flows from the moon of Sri Radha's mouth, o hill that the Vedas declare to be tilaka marking of Vraja, please grant me residence near you.

*anupama-mani-vedi-ratna-simhasanorvi-
ruha-jhara-dara-sanu-droni-sagghesu raggaih
saha bala-sakhibhih sagkhelayan sva-priyam me
nija-nikata-nivasam dehi govardhana tvam*

O Govardhana, o hill where Lord Krishna happily plays with Balarama and his friends in the incomparable jeweled courtyards, jeweled lion-thrones, trees, waterfalls, mountain-brooks, caves, peaks, and valleys, please grant the residence near you that is so dear to me.

Your servant,

Bhavatarini devi dasi
Virovitica, Croatia

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept our most humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your Vyas puja. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Srila Gurudeva, we know you are very dear to Srila Prabhupada and Their Lordships, Sri Sri Radha and Krishna. You have come to this material world to save fallen souls like us and help us to achieve the highest goal of this human form of life, which is to develop unconditional love for Sri Sri Radha and Krishna.

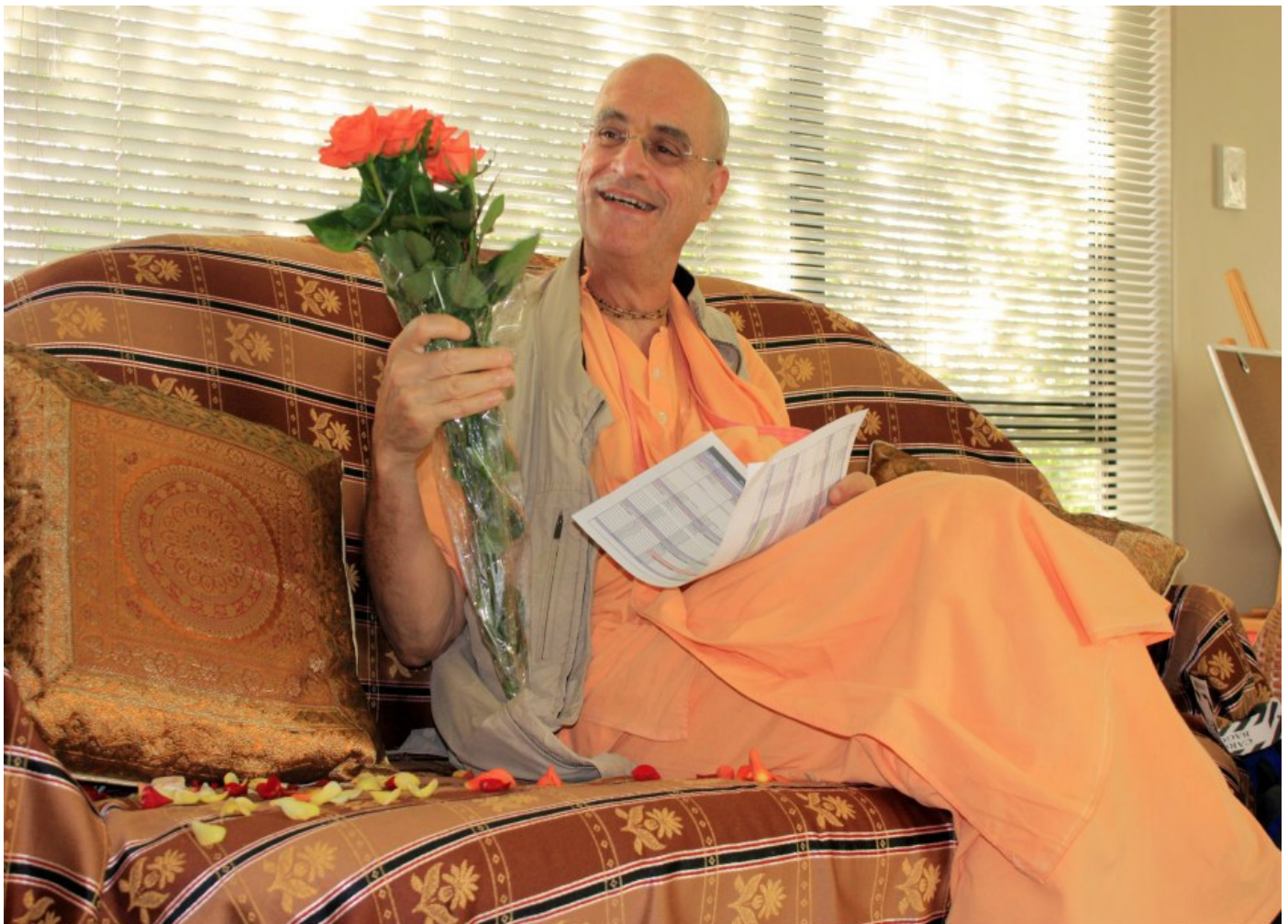
Gurudeva, you very kindly make two trips to New Zealand every year to give your divine association and opportunity to serve you. Thank you for taking care of all your disciples around the world, including us in New Zealand.

On this very auspicious day of your appearance, we humbly bow down to your lotus feet for your mercy to be engaged as your servant so that we can serve Krishna and His devotees eternally.

All glories to Sri Guru and Sri Gauranga!

Your insignificant servants,

Bilvamangal das
Krisodari devi dasi
Auckland, New Zealand



Dear Spiritual Master and Father,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you! All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to Sri Sri Radha-Golokananda!

At this point and time, life has not been easy for me. But I know and realize that this is a test. As it is written in the Bhagavad-Gita purport (BG-4.34):

One must be able to pass the test of the spiritual master, and when he sees the genuine desire of the disciple, he automatically blesses the disciple with genuine spiritual understanding.

Thank you Gurudeva, for being very kind and always being there for me in times of need pushing me onward. This is only a few of your natural qualities. I pray to you to make me strong and to never abandon my duties because who ever will stay with you and serves you sincerely, will be successful over all obstacles.

I feel so in debt to you, not knowing how to repay you. You are a true inspiration to me for my lifetime in devotional service. I cherish and appreciate each opportunity, as if it were the last...

Your aspiring servant & daughter,

Caitanya dāśī

New Goloka Temple, Hillsborough, North Carolina



Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to Srila Prabhupada! Giriraja Maharaja ki, Jai!

Our present state of prolonged absence from your personal association has been bitter sweet. Bitter because I can't help but miss and long to return to the small service our family offered you in Govardhan and sweet because I've been experiencing a deeper closeness to you in separation than I felt even when we lived in Govardhan. I'm realizing in a miniscule way the depth of meaning in the final sloka of the Gurv-astaka:

*dhyayan stuvams tasya yasas tri-sandhyam
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

“...I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day
I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.”

I'm in awe that simply by daily remembering you and meditating on you chanting in Govardhan, simply by taking the time each day to meditate on offering fruits to your Radha Kunjabihari and then serving you Their remnants, I'm feeling the joy of your association and your love for Govardhan in fresher and newer ways. Such is the power of the spiritual connection you have forged by accepting me as your spiritual daughter. All I need to do is remember you every day.

Thank you for being our Gurudeva.

Praying to be of service,

Your daughter,

Campakalata devi dasi
Hilo, Hawaii



Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

Thank you for tolerating my neophyte services all these years. This is proof that you are following in Srila Prabhupada's footsteps and will continue to do so. I have full faith in your transcendental position and mercy. Your mercy is all that is keeping me going. Sometimes I act foolishly but you are there to correct me. Sri-Sri Radha-Golokananda have shown me Their mercy by guiding me to New Goloka and putting me under your care. Please forgive any offenses I may have committed and continue to guide me back to home, back to Goloka Vrindavana.

All I pray for is to continue in your service for the rest of my life and to serve your mission in the next life. Please pray to Sri-Sri Radha- Kunjabihari that I never fall into Maya again and remain steadfast in your service.

Hare Krishna! Thinking of you every day,

Your aspiring servant,

Mother Cintamani

Hillsborough, North Carolina



Dear Bir Krishna das Goswami,

Hare Krishna and Happy Vyasa Puja! Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your service.

Though I only had the opportunity to be in your presence a few short days in Washington state back in 2008, it is a time I pray never to forget. Your laughter is contagious, your music enchanting, your knowledge vast and your mercy unmeasurable. I have recently learned that Srila Prabhupada only met personally with his spiritual master four or five times, and the understanding that I was able to spend more time than that with a great soul such as yourself is truly humbling. Thank you.

By some divine, unexplainable mercy which I don't fully understand, I have been given the opportunity this life time to render some small services to a few of your disciples, and this has been very inspiring to me. Their love and dedication to you speaks volumes to your character and strength as a representative of Krishna & Srila Prabhupada. On this auspicious day of your appearance, if I may be so undeservedly bold to ask you for a gift, it would be for you to pray to Krishna and Srila Prabhupada that the taste for chanting and service present in your disciples infects me so that I can make greater progress on my long spiritual path back home, back to Godhead.

Your ever well-wisher,

Bhakta David
Portland, Oregon



Dear Guru Maharaj,

Please accept my most humble obeisance at your lotus feet. All glories to His Divine Grace, Srila Prabhupada. I would like to use this special opportunity to thank you again for giving me shelter at your last visit of ISKCON Ljubljana temple, Slovenia.

Especially considering the fact you did not have a chance to get to know me better, I feel you have bestowed great kindness and mercy upon me. You most kindly allowed me to have your darshan the last day of your visit and gave me shelter just before you had to leave. I never expected such kindness.

In this short time that has passed since then, I feel I have a new source of inspiration and motivation to try and do my best. I am very grateful for the kind words and instructions you have given me so far. Although I am not competent and have much to learn, I hope I will be able to somehow please you and my new god-brothers with my service unto you.

I also hope next time you visit Slovenia, there will be opportunity and more time for me to have the honor of your association.

Your aspiring servant,

Bhākta Dejan Zivko
Slovenia



Dearest Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet. All glories to this auspicious day.

Please forgive my late offering.

It has been a difficult year and your presence in my heart has made it tolerable in times when I thought it might be too much. You have given your support to my family and myself throughout the time I have known you. Your mercy, patience and guidance have gotten me through many different stages in this roller coaster of a life in the material world. I remember one of the first and probably the most important lessons you had taught me was that you were with me always, even if I couldn't physically be in your presence. I can still see you standing in the Seattle airport getting ready to leave, I can still hear your voice asking me if I understood this very important point. I said yes but looking back I realize that I didn't have a clue. I believe that my realization of this lesson has been slow, but that in recent years (the ones I've struggled the most through) I feel your presence in my heart and mind more than ever. Thank you for planting the tiny seed of understanding all those years ago and please forgive me for taking so long to cultivate it.

I love you.

Your daughter,
Dhanistha devi dasi
Granite Falls, Washington



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept our obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

We wish you a happy Vyasa puja celebration and want to thank you very much for everything which you have done and you are doing for us.

On this very auspicious day for us and Vyasa puja offering to you we meditate about your last instruction which you wrote to us, "Please remain steady in your sadhana and it is sure that you will reach Krishna's lotus feet." After reading this instruction it was deeply incised in our consciousness. We can see and realize in our daily life how to have and perform a regular sadhana is the most important thing in a spiritual life. Despite many worldly duties which we have every day we can see how a regular and good performance of spiritual activities every day is for us the most important thing in our daily life. Sadhana gives to us so much necessary strength and it is always like a fresh spiritual air which we need every day.

We also often meditate on one of your lectures where you said how we should never neglect our sadhana in our daily life. This was a lecture on the story about Maharaja Bharata and the deer where you clearly said how we should first become a Krishna conscious person and then we can help others. In this lecture you also said very clearly that only through regular and good sadhana we can become a Krishna conscious person and also that spiritual life is like a science. We often think about these words of yours and we can see in our daily life how these words of yours are an absolute truth. You give to all of us such a wonderful example of performing a good sadhana in your daily life and we can always learn and be very much inspired from you and your example of this.

Gurudev, we wish to stick to the sadhana for our whole life the best we know and never forget your very important instruction to us. Gurudev, we are again and again very grateful to you for everything which you have done for us and we wish to be always so much connected to you, to Srila Prabhupada, and to Lord Krishna.

Your servants,

Dharma das
Mangala devi dasi
Belgrade, Serbia

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

My dear spiritual father and best friend,

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

During Christmas holidays 2012, when most people in the U.S. did not work, I was desperate because of my younger sister Miana, who was sick in bed in Philadelphia. I did not know her actual diagnosis and thought that it might be something serious, however I was thousands of kilometers away so unable to assist her in any direct way.

Then I remembered you Gurudev and thought you must know somebody there who could help her. I contacted you absolutely convinced that you will help as always and of course this is what happened. You sent some devotees and directed us to contact Ravindra Svarupa Prabhu, the president of the Philadelphia ISKCON Temple, who helped a lot. After she was discharged from the hospital, devotees received her to stay in the Temple and offered all possible assistance. After a few days she recuperated and was fine.

Thank you for teaching me how to understand people and their nature. Thank you for your care regarding my safe driving and for all your health advice, following which I lost 12 kgs in just two months and at the same time brought my high blood pressure back to normal. Following your expert spiritual and health advice I can now better serve other devotees in our Yatra in a caring way. When you come next time to our home, I promise I will be in perfect body shape, because when I am healthy I can serve you and Srila Prabhupada much better. With your blessings I will be in a perfect spiritual shape too. :) Thank you for all of that.

On the day of your Vyasa puja 2013, we will glorify you and your devotional activities at the Vyasa puja ceremony here in Sarajevo for the benefit of all the devotees of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I will send you photos from this ceremony.

Thank you Gurudev.

Your servant,

Dhira-prasanta das
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Dear Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to You and Srila Prabhupada!

I would like to congratulate you the day of Your appearance and one more successful year as a sannyasi, our dear spiritual master that shows us the path into the Krishna Consciousness and is a prominent ISKCON member and GBC. I will quote one nice verse from Srimad Bhagavatam 6.3.16:

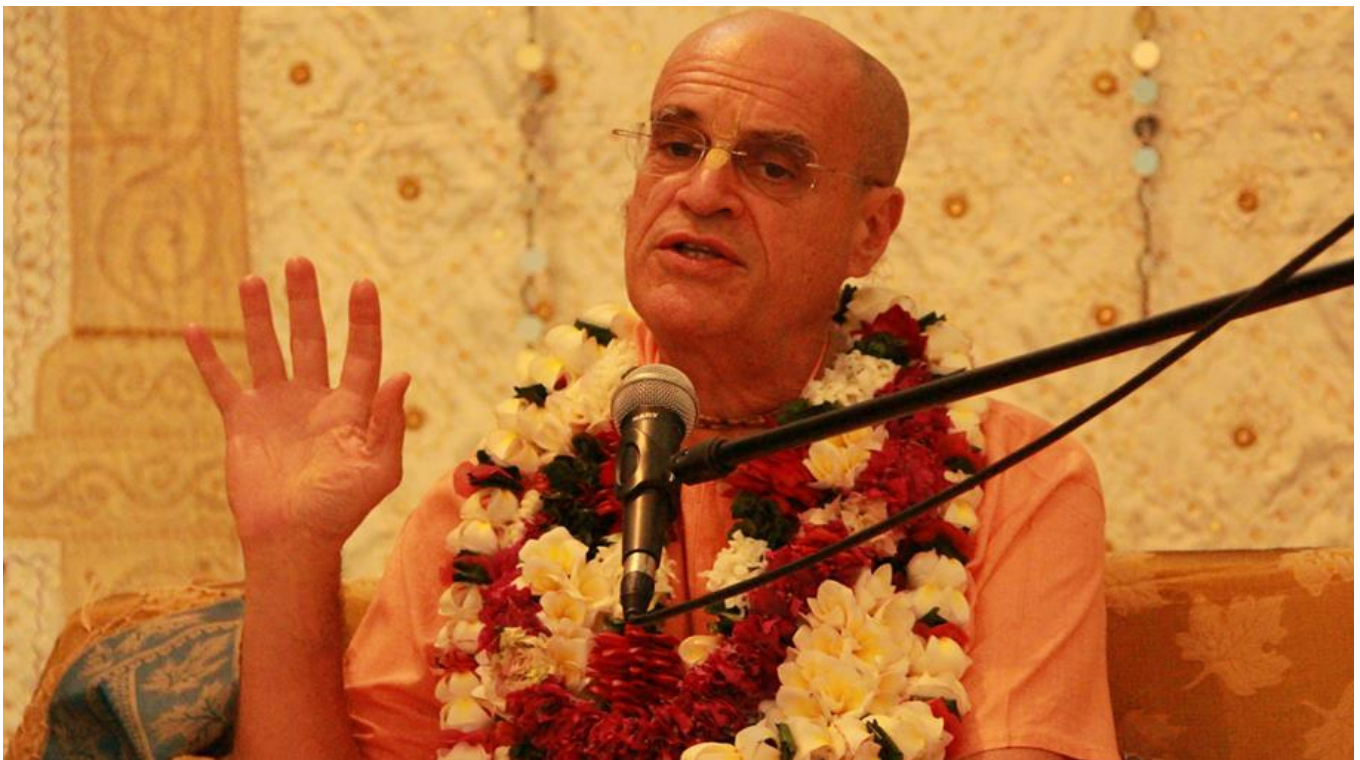
"As the different limbs of the body cannot see the eyes, the living entities cannot see the Supreme Lord, who is situated as the Supersoul in everyone's heart. Not by the senses, by the mind, by the life air, by thoughts within the heart, or by the vibration of words can the living entities ascertain the real situation of the Supreme Lord."

In this verse it is said that there is no way for us to see the Supreme Personality of Godhead, nor estimate His position and glories. And although we can see You, my dear spiritual master, we however cannot discern who You really are, Your glories and virtues. Srila Prabhupada in the purport of this verse also says that, although different body limbs don't have the power to see eyes, eyes guide their movements. Although by the sensual activities we cannot see the Supersoul in our heart, we need the guidance. The same way, although we, Your disciples, cannot ascertain Your real position, we need your instructions which are very valuable for us. And not just instructions, but we can also follow the example of your behavior, actions, and unselfish preaching. And though I know I cannot act like you, I can follow your example and put efforts as much as possible.

I wish you many more preaching years and journeys all over the world.

Your eternal servant,

Dhīrodatta das
Belgrade, Serbia



Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada All glories to you on this wonderful occasion of your Vyasa puja.

There are so many things about you that are so wonderful, but over the past year I have become aware of one thing in particular that I feel particularly fortunate for. I have been witness to other devotees' relationships with their spiritual masters and have seen devotees who haven't seen their spiritual master for three years, then they get to spend half an hour talking with him and that's it. I have friends who haven't seen their spiritual master in more than 10 years.

When you come to Sydney you sit and eat with us (in fact you won't eat until someone is sitting with you,) you visit anyone who wants you to come, you spend every evening with us, morning programs and classes every morning, you even sit in the lounge room and have a chat with us all, and you're so incredibly personal and friendly with us. And you come here and do it all for a week, twice a year plus a few extra stop over days! This has all been going on for more than 10 years now, and I had never realized how fortunate we were until just earlier this year.

I know that the physical presence of the spiritual master is not the most important thing, but for me, when I'm with you, I feel like I belong with the devotees and so I want to thank you because what you do is not necessary or required, but it makes a massive difference to me and I really appreciate it.

Your aspiring servant,

Gandharvika Devi Dasi
Sydney, Australia



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

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

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

Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Sri Radha Kunjabihari, all glories to Srila Prabhupada and all glories to you.

We are very grateful that you have accepted us as your disciples. We would also like to thank you for encouraging us to visit India, especially Vrndavan and Govardhan, and by your mercy we finally visited the Holy Dham. If you had not encouraged me, we would not have visited the holy dham for the next few years. I really appreciate your kindness and mercy shown towards us.

Gurudeva, you are very expert in how to attract fallen souls like me to Krishna consciousness. You have always shown by your examples on how a disciple should be. Despite traveling for long hours and changing flights, you are ready to preach. When we were in Govardhan and you arrived early in the morning, you were ready to take us around Govardhan despite traveling from US to Delhi and then to Govardhan. You are always ready to serve Srila Prabhupada.

On this auspicious day, I pray to Lord Nrsimhadeva for your good health so that you can continue to assist Srila Prabhupada in spreading the message of Lord Caitanya to each and every corner of this world.

Your fallen servants,

Gokula Bandhu Das
Shanti Devi Das
Bhakti Lila Devi Das
ISKCON Suva, Fiji Islands

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

Dear Gurudeva,

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

This year was heavy but you made it lighter....by giving me your advice and guidance. Thank you.

I don't have much of your association but nevertheless feeling always so near to you by trying to follow your instruction given to me on the initiation day and that is to always help others on the spiritual path.

That instruction, now I can say is for sure the path to perfection, no doubt. Because it is always a reminder of the darkest regions of ignorance where I came from.

Being a doctor (book distributor) in the lunatic asylum brings always a possibility to be infected as well, so a really clever doctor is always careful to protect himself.

Our medicine is the instructions of our spiritual master; dear Gurudev, thank you for revealing to me the joy of suffering for others because as you Americans say "No pain no gain."

In connection with this I would like to cite part of Srila Prabhupada's purport on the verse from the second canto:

"An easygoing life and attainment of perfection in transcendental realization cannot go together. The Lord is more clever than any living entity; therefore He wants to see how painstaking the devotee is in devotional service. The order is received from the Lord, either directly or through the bona fide spiritual master, and to execute that order, however painstaking, is the severe type of penance. One who follows the principle rigidly is sure to achieve success in attaining the Lord's mercy."

Your fallen, wannabe servant,

Gokulendra das
Zagreb, Croatia



Dear Srila Bir Krsna Goswami,

On the day of your appearance, my wish & prayer is that you live out your life in a very happy mood followed by all success in your service for your Prabhupada. I'm very happy and grateful that you are the spiritual master of my son, helping him to discover the right path to spiritual advancement. By the mercy of devotees I'm becoming more and more aware of the futility of material life and I hope that one day I will be able to find the right way to Krishna's heart; your blessings I seek.

Thank you.

Biserka

(Gokulendra's mother)

Zagreb, Croatia



Dear Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my obeisance. All glories to Sri Sri Radha Golokananda. Happy appearance day.

I would like to thank you for all your wonderful services for Srila Prabhupada's movement. You have really impressed me by your dedication, tolerance, and steadiness in your services to the movement. Actually I consider myself very fortunate to be under the shelter of a strong and devoted guru. All these years of perseverance and enthusiasm shows that you are spiritually advanced and are ready to save your disciples from the entanglement of this material world. Srila Gurudev, without your mercy I won't be able to continue with my services because a managerial position is a thankless service and is very challenging to me. But due to your support and encouragement I am able to sustain. Please forgive my offenses and help me to be more dependent on Krsna and allow me to render some valuable services to your mission at New Goloka.

Your servant,

Golokanandapriya

New Goloka, Hillsborough, North Carolina



Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humblest obeisances at Your feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to Your Divine Grace!

This has been an amazing year of service, one in which You forcibly dragged us for our own good to do so many things that needed to be done. We broke ground at the new temple for Sri Sri Radha-Golokananda. We had the best, most organized Janmastami celebration I can remember. We've progressed further down the road to self-sufficiency with our Trustee Council and its spin-off sub-committees. We've increased book distribution and the blissful consciousness birthed by it. And most profound for me, we were unlimitedly blessed by remembering Srila Prabhupada as He truly is, by the mercy of Your extremely qualified God-brother, Suresvara Prabhu.

Srila Gurudeva, this year, I want to truly thank You, from the bottom of my pitiful heart, for always INSISTING that I deeply cultivate my relationship with Your Glorious Gurudeva, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada. By Your unlimited mercy, I've been shown Srila Prabhupada as He truly is, and I've not been inundated with "fictional Prabhupadas." By Your ultra-clear instructions, and, more importantly, by Your supremely chaste example, my own relationship with our Founder-Acarya has been created, strengthened, and valued to whatever meager capacity it's possible for me to muster. Without the amazing example that You set of selfless service to Srila Prabhupada, and Your unlimited willingness to share that service with Your disciples, friends, and well-wishers, I don't believe I would have been able to understand a single word that His Grace Suresvara Prabhu shared with us on Srila Prabhupada.

In Caitanya-Caritamrita, I read that, to achieve the real mercy of Sri Krishna, one must become a servant of the servant of the servant of Krishna, and not try to "jump like a monkey" to serving Krishna directly. By demonstrating PRACTICALLY this dasadasaanudasa attitude personally, You've shown us exactly how we can do that, if only we are willing. For that supreme example, no words I have can thank You enough. Please allow me eternally to observe and do my best to follow in Your footsteps in Your Glorious Service to Srila Prabhupada.

As always, we beg to remain...
Your struggling servant,

Gopal das
Hillsborough, North Carolina

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

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

Happy Appearance Day!

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you, specifically, for being personal. Allowing me to do personal service, and allowing service to be personal.

This is extremely valuable especially given today's culture of disconnected self-absorption, and the lack of being personally present especially in communicating, which seems to be the norm. Texting is a great example. Some kids are even in the same car with each other and text vs. talk!

They say it's their environment, so we should adopt/accept the current culture as it is, but I find it extremely sad to eliminate the personal exchange, and limit it to an electronic gadget devoid of any personal characteristics. It seems to turn everything into a numbed state of existence, devoid of any room for empathy or personal growth, and reminds me of what Fromm speaks of in reference to lack of depth in human interactions - a loss of internal connectedness and introspection. Some call it 'face dancing' or surface talk. I guess realistically it's a lack of Krishna consciousness or yukta-viragya.

In this regard, I find your ability to be personal and empathic extremely refreshing, which encourages me to explore this as a necessary part of myself as an individual, and as a part of Srila Prabhupada's society of devotees. It's amazing how subtle and intrinsically damaging impersonal behavior can be for growth (macro or micro / material or spiritual pov).

I greatly value your ability to express needs through your unconditional lens of Krishna consciousness. You have a very unique ability to be transparent in your interactions, simultaneously testing and pulling me to challenge my limitations and go beyond my self-absorbed processing, while at the same time offering support, empathy, and solutions - and the humor to wash it all down :)

You often take things personally. NOT emotionally, but take it upon yourself to find the best possible challenging scenario that will create a long-term spiritual solution for those taking your shelter, which at times can be difficult to swallow. Yet you are always (100 out of 100 times) thinking of ways to draw everyone closer to Krishna.

I have so many personal examples of your impact on my life. One has been in my struggle to manage my health. You've continuously brought options and solutions to the table and like a patient parent waited, for the significance of following your seemingly impossible instructions to be accepted by my kicking and screaming child-like mind and false ego. It's taken some time, and what seems to have been with an insurmountable exertion of energy, but I'm seeing significant changes in the mind, body, and consciousness.

I will never be able to thank you enough or repay all of the 'blood, sweat and tears', and sheer effort that continue on your part. My sudra nature, being an old dog not looking for new tricks, and selfish tendencies have been and will continue to be obstacles on my progressive path to becoming fully Krishna conscious. I can simply place my effort and prayers at your lotus feet, and attempt to humbly beg that I continue to be able to serve you unflinchingly life after life, no matter where that may lead. May the coat of illusion be pulled away and my soul get to express itself fully in Krishna consciousness for one reason only. To be able to serve you nicely and support your efforts to serve your spiritual master. May I somehow, one day, be able to reflect in you what you so beautifully reflect in Srila Prabhupada: Compassion.

My life will never be the same. Thank God for that!!!

Your eternally aspiring servant,

Gopi dasi
Hillsborough, North Carolina

Dear Gurudev,

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

Here is the Vyasa-puja song for 2013:

INTERLUDE

Hearing your instruction in your sound vibration
Clears my infected mind from mundane ambition

I know that I'm at home under your protection
Guide me in this dark world with your divine vision

A

I could feel myself important when you visited Mayapur
Arranging for your cooking with my friends and helpers too
I was blessed to get a bicycle for your good health to maintain
You appreciated the invest, I got so much spiritual gain
You took us to see some holy spots around the glorious dham
You entertained us with your jokes and your chastising charm
I wished these glorious days would have never come to an end
Let me remember all of them they are my precious gem

INTERLUDE

As good as Supreme Lord in your presentation
Dear-most Friend is here by your association

I bow down before you and I offer everyday
Sweetest incense fragrance and a flower petal rain

B

Ram and Lakshman searching Sita met the king of the monkeys
Sugriva offered Lord Ram a seat, but ignored Lakshman's glories
In the battle with Bali, Sugriva had to take some beats
When he finally honored Lakshman, Bali met his defeat
Madhai hit Lord Nityananda when the Lord was trying to preach
When Lord Caitanya called His chakra then Nitai made His plea
Just like Lakshman and Nityananda you give your mercy out
It's the only way to Krishna for me of this there is no doubt

CHORUS

Balaram was the teacher of unqualified Duryodhan
So, please engage me in your service before my days are gone
I'm begging for your mercy with a straw between my teeth
On my head I'll put some of the dust of your lotus feet

I can get Lord Krishna's mercy only by serving you
Your mercy is all I'm made of on my own I'll be a fool
I bow down before you with a straw between my teeth
I smear my entire body with the dust of your lotus feet

INTERLUDE

Thank you for your kind patience on me year after year
I can still come in front of you without any fear

Trying to please you getting whatever you need
Let me try to act so you'll be convinced of me

Spreading the sankirtan movement of Lord Caitanya
Trying to decrease the effects of Kali-yuga

Writing every month about my preaching action
Let my humble progress meet your satisfaction

CHORUS

Balaram was the teacher of unqualified Duryodhan
So, please engage me in your service before my days are gone
I'm begging for your mercy with a straw between my teeth
On my head I'll put some of the dust of your lotus feet

I can get Lord Krishna's mercy only by serving you
Your mercy is all I'm made of on my own I'll be a fool
I bow down before you with a straw between my teeth
I smear my entire body with the dust of your lotus feet

Your insignificant servant,

Gopinath das

Sridham Mayapur, India (Orig. Finland)



Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances, all glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I am writing this offering the day before Radhastami and I just wanted to thank you for your unlimited compassion and kindness to engage me in the service of Sri Giriraja. You are a true representative of Srimati Radharani's mercy because you see hope and you cultivate the seed of devotion even in those who are not qualified to receive it such as myself.

Your humble servant,

Govinda das
Alachua, Florida



Dear Gurudev,

Srila Prabhupad inspired me to take up devotional service but you are inspiring me to keep on going on this path. Without you I would be just a lost soul.

Thank you.

Your servant,

Isvara Purī das
Prelog, Croatia



Dear Srila Gurudeva,

My obeisances to you. All glory to Srila Prabhupada. All glory to Sri Sri Radha Golokananda.

Thank you for your dedicated service to Srila Prabhupada.

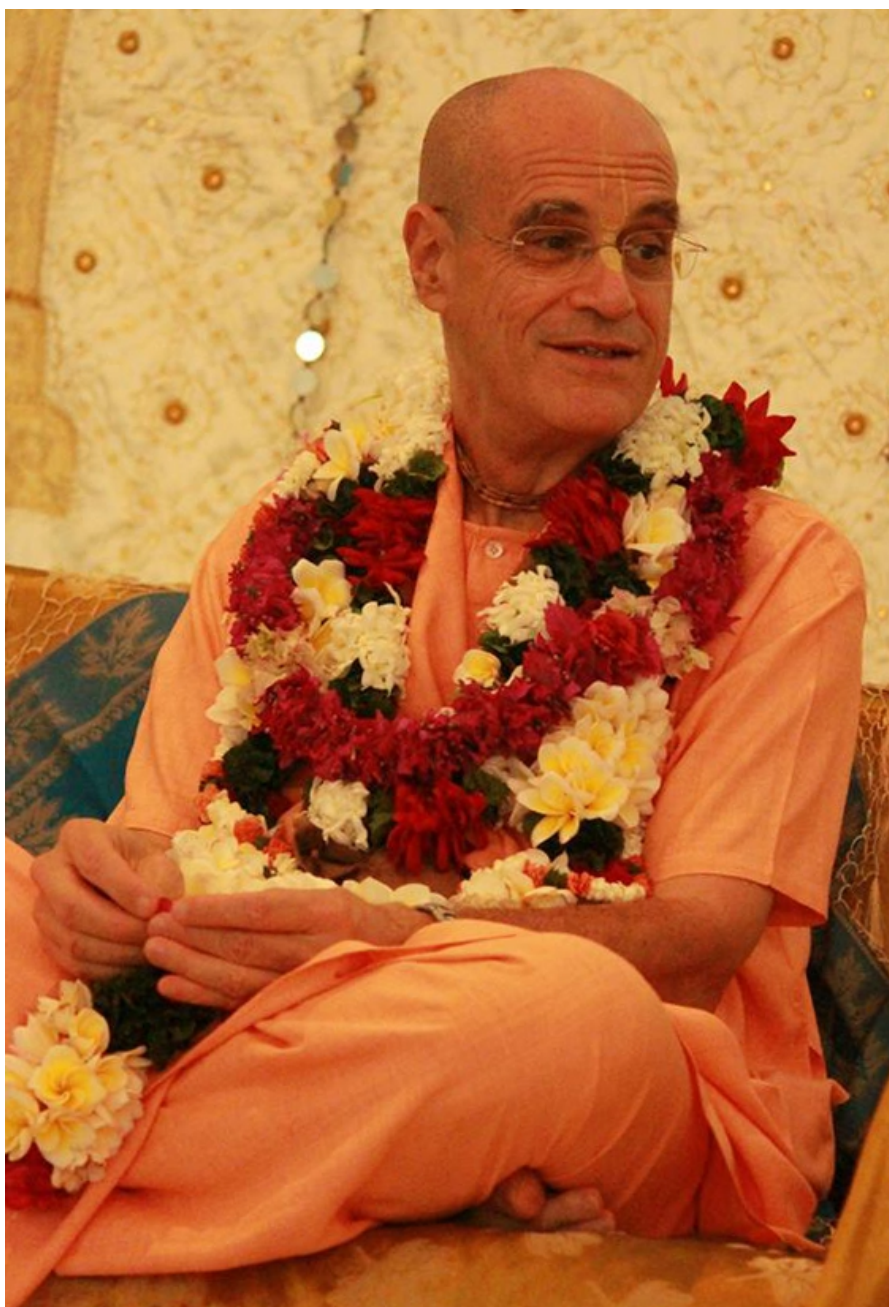
Krishna is very kind. He always knows how to keep us engaged and continually gives us opportunities to serve. What a true blessing it is!

I hope you have a wonderful Vyasa Puja celebration--filled with spiritual inspiration and joy.

Always yours in Krishna's service,

Jahnvi dā

Catskill Mountains, New York



Dear Guru Maharaja!

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

Your advice regarding my health problems (chronic fatigue syndrome) was very useful. You suggested me to try to avoid sugar, salt, deep fry, milk and milk products, wheat, and to have at least one hour of walking in the sunshine. So I tried, and although I didn't follow it strictly, improvement was obvious. My strength and concentration are refreshed, and I feel much better. My aspiration and hope is that one day I'll be able to follow it completely.

A few days ago I was listening to some of Your recorded lectures for hours, and deep in my heart felt spiritually enlivened and joyful. Then I was thinking: "My spiritual master is saving me completely – He is saving my body and soul... What a fortune to have such a spiritual master!"

Your insignificant servant,

Jananivasa das
Zagreb, Croatia



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

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

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

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

Respectful Gurudeva, Bir Krsna Goswami Maharaj,

It is your Vyasa puja celebration, and according to that I wish to thank you. Thank you for accepting this fallen and lost soul on the way to eternity. It is all your causeless mercy. Only a loving devotee of Srila Prabhupada and servant of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu can be so merciful, full of tolerance, faith and love for a being who didn't deserve at all to be in the line of servants. Thank You.

I searched and I wandered for twenty years. I prayed to Srila Prabhupada to bring You into my life... And You appeared... although this disciple is never ready. But You changed everything. Now, everything is different. Everything has its deep meaning. I look forward to every morning in which I can sing the Holy Name, knowing that you are here and that you listen, that you transmit (telling) to Srila Prabhupada my little and clumsy service.

I look forward to every breath which is spent by the days left of my material life, believing and knowing that, even if I stay as foolish as I am until the end, you will be here and you will hand me your hand of support. Thank you for having faith and trust in me that I will help you somehow in spreading Srila Prabhupada's mission, although I have no qualifications for that.

I am using this opportunity to beg you: Please keep your body and prayers for all of us. While you are here in this world, be with us as long as possible, and beg the most beautiful Sri Krishna to not reject us, that He doesn't forget us... even if we forgot Him. He certainly can hear you, because of you being not tired at all, every day you give yourself fully to our dearest A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada, the biggest and purest devotee who ever stepped on our planet.

Thank you again and again, for trusting me and giving me the opportunity to be a servany of the highest beings who are in this universe. Please don't let this shaking and uncertain hand from you... I will give all my best so that this Sankirtan mission never stops. I beg you that from life to life you accept me over and over again and give me at least a little bit of service for Srila Prabhupada.

Forgive me for I am not the beautiful flower on Your Lotus Feet, instead I am the thorn who gives you pain and discomfort. But I know that your love for Srila Prabhupada can make of me a rose which you will be able to offer. Be healthy and eternally happy with the most beautiful song on your lips:

*HARE KRSNA HARE KRSNA KRSNA KRSNA HARE HARE
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMAHARE HARE*

And I wish to always hear you, in any space and any circumstances and that I can always be your forever humble servant.

I am always your forever grateful and servant in depth, humbly in the dust of your lotus feet.

Jayanti devi dasi
Srbija

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances on the most blessed occasion of your Vyasa puja!
All glories to your divine lotus feet.

I offer my life to you. As the days of the year have passed I feel that I have less and less to offer to you and that you have given me more and more and more.

In my loneliest times, I feel ever so grateful that you have connected me to Krsna and have done everything within your power to strengthen that connection. I feel your blessings on my head everyday. How else but through your prayers and the prayers of the devotees could I go on?

It is so important to me that I acknowledge you for all that you are doing and have done for me. I especially would like to say thank you for sharing spiritual knowledge with me in such a kind and softhearted way. Transcendental knowledge is truly sublime and transcendental sound the boat that carries me. Thank you.

You are such a wonderful and kind and dear servant of Srila Prabhupada. My obeisances to you and your steadfastness and your purity. Your example is your precept. Thank you.

Please accept my obeisances again and again. May I one day see you in Govardhana. Hare Krsna.

Your daughter and servant,

Jayasri dđ

New Goloka, North Carolina



Dear Bir Krishna Maharaj,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupad!

All glories to You and Your service to Srila Prabhupada.

On this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa puja, we would like to thank You again and again for everything You have done for us.

We definitely believe that You have saved our lives.

Without Your blessings, support and mercy, who knows where our flickering minds will lead us.

We are very fragile in our spiritual life, but know that we should very carefully choose our association. Many times we were pretty lost, but by Your love we are here again thriving.

When we are among the devotees doing cooking or some other service, we are at our happiest.

But maya is so strong, and having the business that we have, it's not always easy to stay balanced.

We always remember that Krishna is very merciful but not cheap. We must be sincere, determined and more dedicated than we are now.

On this most auspicious day, we are humbly asking You for Your blessings to chant our rounds nicely, to read more from Srila Prabhupada's books, to associate more with the devotees, to do more regular service, and to achieve perfection in this life time only.

So many lifetimes up and down, up and down, it's not only boring, it's scary. Every lifetime something is there as an obstacle, so we stick again and again in this horrible place, the material world. One lifetime children, another career, another parents, another something else, and there is no end of our suffering.

You are the most important person in the U.S. for us and Your words are law for us, because we know that You love us unconditionally and are our greatest well wisher.

We love You too, and beg for the mercy never to give up on us.

Your insignificant but thankful disciples,

Kalyan Krt das

Govinda Lilamrita d.d.

Hillsborough, North Carolina

Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances on this most auspicious day of your holy appearance. All glories to Your Divine Grace and Srila Prabhupada.

Once again I find my appreciation and gratitude well beyond my limited abilities of expression. I can only hope to somehow express appreciation for all that you do for us, day after day, year after year, from your online preaching activities to your personal guidance. This is an inestimable beneficence.

In particular this year your health seminars have been timely and applicative for me. Nutrition and health have been a primary area of focus for me over the last many months and finding myself so clearly in sync with your preaching on the matter has seemed to me a most conspicuous and immediate manifestation of your grace and mercy.

For this and everything else I remain eternally grateful.

Please accept my most sincere and heartfelt thanks and best wishes on this most glorious day.

Your servant,

Kirtan Rasa das
Dallas, Texas



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

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

My dear spiritual father Srila Gurudeva,

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

On this most auspicious day of your Vyasa puja I would like to thank you for your mercy. You have always showed your love and care for your disciples and I would one day like to become as fortunate. By the grace of Krsna you have captured my heart and sparked my desire for sincerity to the service of the dust of your divine lotus feet. I am sorry that I have so little desire to become Krsna conscious, but every particle of sincerity I have I owe only to your mercy.

I beg and plead incessantly that I can find sincerity enough in my heart to mold my life and soul as an offering to please and glorify you. Please forgive my countless offenses from my lack of Krsna Consciousness. Thank you Srila Gurudeva once again for being in our lives and for your continuous inspirations. Jaya Srila Gurudeva.

Your daughter,

Koyal Kelvina Chand
Suva, Fiji



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

Dear Gurudev,

We offer our humble obeisances at the very dust of your lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa puja. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your love for Govardhan.

Thank you for giving us shelter at your lotus feet Gurudev, and taking care of us in our spiritual advancement in Krishna consciousness. We really appreciate your blessings and your visits to Auckland. You are very merciful and of a very humble nature.

We would pray for your good health and many more visits to Auckland, New Zealand

Thank you so much Gurudev for accepting us as your children, and giving us the opportunity to serve you.

We wish you a very wonderful Vyasa puja Gurudev.

Best Wishes !!

*Krishna Kirtan das
Jagattarini devi dasi
Vishaka
Auckland, New Zealand*



Dear Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to your divine appearance day.

Your glories are unlimited and I am not enough qualified to explain properly. It is obvious that the purpose of your appearance in this material world is only to serve Srila Prabhupada. You speak in your class that your eternal position is a servant of Srila Prabhupada and you have proved it perfectly by dedicating your whole life to serve his movement. You have established New Goloka dham to engage many souls to serve the most merciful Deities Sri Sri Radha Golokananda and Sri Sri Giriraj Ji. All fortunate souls are fully protected and blessed under shelter of Their Lordships and your lotus feet. Please forgive my unlimited offenses and bless me that I never forget Lord Krishna's holy name and His divine pastimes.

Your servant,

Krishna Priya Dasi (LOK)
Hillsborough, North Carolina



Dear Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada, and to Your Divine Grace.

Srila Prabhupada was here for such a short time, and in that time, he started a revolution of Krishna consciousness. He had faith in Krishna, and dedication to his spiritual master, and so he was empowered. In his mood, you have always remained strictly loyal to Srila Prabhupada's instructions, and devoted your life to furthering the revolution of consciousness that he began. Each day you eagerly embrace the chanting and devotional practices that Srila Prabhupada taught us, you delve deeper into understanding the scriptures that Srila Prabhupada so magnanimously provided to the world, and you instruct others how to do the same.

Sometimes Krishna consciousness seems difficult, confusing even, as we try to make sense of how to manage the society of ISKCON and balance our material and spiritual needs and desires. The truth is that Krishna consciousness is quite simple; it is our material attachments that are binding and complex. I continue to appreciate the simple purity that you exemplify every day. I have been trying to cultivate a little commitment to your instructions and a little enthusiasm, because I know that ultimately I, along with my peers, have to carry on this movement. I have to pass Krishna consciousness on, not only to my children and to the people I meet, but I must forge ahead, reach out, and spread Krishna consciousness. I pray that with your mercy, Krishna will accept my chanting and my prayers, and I may make spiritual advancement and somehow be useful as part of Srila Prabhupada's glorious mission.

Your eternal servant,

Krishnaa devi dasi
Boston, Massachusetts



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

Our Dearest Spiritual Father,

All glories, all glories. All glories to Srila Gurudeva.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Happy Vyasa puja Srila Gurudeva.

On this most auspicious day of yours Srila Gurudev, please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet again and again. We hope and pray that you are and will remain very well and healthy and keep repeating your spiritual master Srila Prabhupada's words and keep saving the fallen souls like us.

Srila Gurudeva, you always enlightened us by your presence and we feel complete and blissful with your association. You always set an example to us to by your character. All the symptoms of a sadhu, like tolerant, merciful, have no enemies and friendly to all living entities are present in you. Srila Gurudeva, though we do associate with Srila Prabhupada in his books, being with you physically makes us feel that we are physically associating with Srila Prabhupada. In every visit of yours in Auckland there are always new experiences and lessons learned that encourages us in our devotional life.

Srila Gurudeva, we really don't know what else to say or to write as you have unlimited wonderful qualities. We just want to say THANK YOU SO MUCH for all you have done for us. Because only through your mercy one receives the benediction of *prema bhakti* of Lord Sri Krishna. We really love you Srila Gurudeva and always pray to Srimati Radharani for you.

Once again Srila Gurudeva, Happy Vyasa puja.

Your fallen children,

Krishnacandra das
Ratnalekha devi dasi
Auckland, New Zealand



Dear Bir Krishna Goswami Maharaja,

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

You are not only my shiksa Guru whom I respect, admire and offer obeisances to, you are utterly dear to me in the deepest places of my heart ever since last year when you lead Rasa Priya Home.

It was you who would come knocking at our door every day at exactly 3:00 PM to bring Krsna to our dear Rasa Priya as she lay dying.

Every day at 3:00 PM, Krsna entered our home, borne in by your love and compassion. We could hear Him in your bhajans and when you read His scriptures.

I don't pretend to understand these things, but it seemed like He rode in on your humility and shone on and blessed Rasa Priya. You blessed all of us in unexpected and precious ways.

When a loved one is dying it tears away the ordinary life and it mixes up all emotions and exposes heart and soul to the shores of that other world. The one sure thing in the midst of all the unknown, all the pain, was your knock on the door at exactly 3:00 PM every day.

Then we could hear those healing songs and holy names sung by Krsna's favored one and we all felt the blessing instead of the pain.

When I think back on the months of your faithful visits, tears flow. Those tears are from the wonder of seeing the beauty of your service to Him, how you belong to Him, are completely given to Him... and then you gave Him away to Rasa Priya when she needed Him most. I believe you saved her life.

The day after Rasa Priya left us, there was no knock on the door at 3:00 PM. That was as shocking as death- there was to be no more blessing coming to our home each day. We were able to rejoice for Rasa Priya's new life, but there was genuine mourning for our own loss of your visits.

I will not make a mockery of the depth of my gratitude by trying to put it into words beyond a simple 'thank you'. That would spoil something that, unspoken, will exist eternally.

Thank you.

Your servant,

Krishnarati dasi
Hillsborough, North Carolina

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

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

It's hard to believe another year has already passed by; it seems like just yesterday we were celebrating your appearance day.

I remember you once saying that this is the time to really reflect our relationship with you, our Guru and Krishna. This past year there have been challenges in my practice but at those times you and Krishna have both been there guiding me through that, thank you for that.

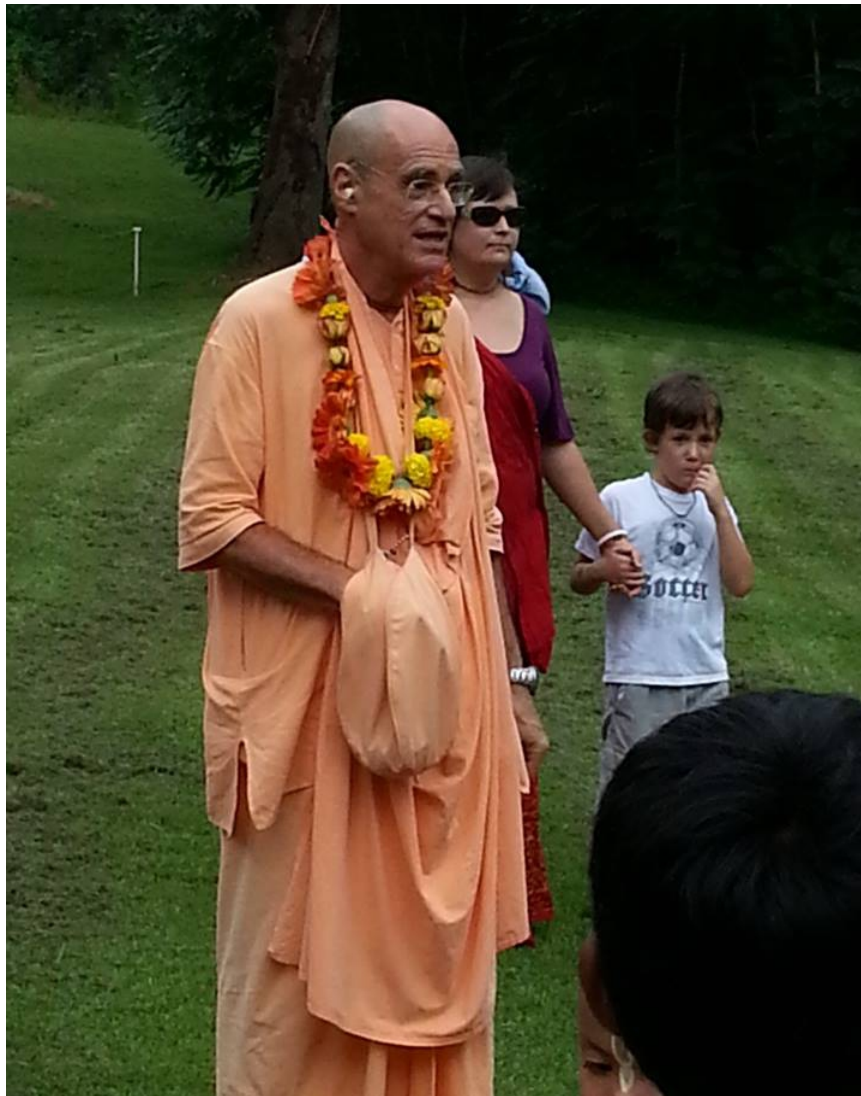
The holy name is very powerful but in order to chant properly one must have qualities that I often lack but I see in you. Year after year you push on and even though we see you here at New Goloka less and I don't have a lot to say when I do see you I know that it is more important to have the relationship through our practice, internally.

Once you appeared in my dream with Prabhupada and I felt this was a special blessing. I knew then that you will always be there and like you so famously have said several times, "Don't worry," helps me stop worrying and remembering that Krishna is God and we belong to Him. Thank you for everything.

Sincerely your servant and daughter,

Krsangi dasi

Hillsborough, North Carolina



Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my obeisances on this most auspicious day of your appearance. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

*mantra-guru ara yata siksa-guru-gana
tanhara carana kariye vandana*

I first offer my respectful obeisances at the lotus feet of my initiating spiritual master
and all my instructing spiritual masters.

In the purport of text 35 Adi-Lila 1 Srila Prabhupada emphasizes the instruction that in order to advance in spiritual life one must accept a bona fide spiritual master who can train one in the science of devotional service. He stresses the point that one must have the association of advanced devotees and in this way one can develop a higher taste for the process of Krishna consciousness which begins with hearing and chanting the holy names of Lord Krishna. By mental speculation one can never approach Radha and Krishna.

Out of your kindness and compassion you have taken the responsibility of guiding so many souls in Krishna consciousness.

On Janmastami it was the midnight aratik and you were on the altar worshipping Sri Sri Radha Golokananda as you have done in so many previous years. I was in the front of the altar on the outside helping Mrs. Patel offer the aratik. The devotees were singing and opening their hearts to Sri Sri Radha Golokananda... the crowd was getting larger and the temple room seemed to be shrinking. The excitement was growing. After you blew the conch-shell you began distributing fruits and flowers to the many enthusiastic devotees who wanted a bit of mercy on that very special occasion of Lord Krishna's appearance. Then the crowd began to push to try and get some maha prasadam... hands were reaching out in all directions. I thought I will get the mercy of leaving my body in the temple room as I felt myself beginning to be squeezed forward against the railing... Just then you pointed to me from the altar... "Go in the pujari room... leave the temple room now... it is too dangerous you will get hurt." People moved to the side and I entered into the familiar safe pujari room of Sri Sri Radha Golokananda.

That night as I began dressing the Deities I remembered how you are always trying to save me from the dangerous labyrinths of this material world. It was very symbolic to me, of how easy it is in the conditioned state to be unaware of the outcome of our circumstances. I realized how important it is to follow closely the instructions that are given to guide us on the path back to the lotus feet of the Divine Couple. Thank you very much for your care and concern for my well being in both material and spiritual life. I pray that Sri Sri Radha Golokananda and Sri Sri Radha Kunjabihari will protect you in the years to come and allow you to continue to assist Srila Prabhupada. I very much appreciate your clear explanations of the scriptures and am thankful to have the opportunity to hear from you how to advance in spiritual life and please Srila Prabhupada and Sri Sri Radha Golokananda. Please forgive me for my offenses and allow me to render some service.

Your servant,

Krsnapriya dasi
Hillsborough, North Carolina

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

Todas las glorias a Srila Prabhupada, Todas las glorias a usted Srila Gurudeva.
Por favor acepte mis humildes reverencias a sus benditos pies de loto.

Querido Guru Maharaja,

Permítame felicitarlo en este su Vyasa puja, el cual nos colma de bendiciones a todos sus discipulos de todo el mundo.

Yo recuerdo en cada momento de mi vida cuando tengo dudas sus palabras cuando usted nos obsequia un sencillo darshan para todos los que quisieramos conocerlo, así como a través de sus blogs. También recuerdo cuando usted me preguntó, por qué no le hacíamos preguntas espirituales en lugar de hablar con usted de otros temas. Ciertamente que se debe a la falta de madurez de nosotros sus discípulos que no aprovechamos sus bendita asociación, pero ha sido también la emoción de verlo y la ansiedad de aprovechar esos pocos días de asociación con usted.

De todas formas siempre habrá manera de relacionarnos con usted para darnos esa bienaventuranza de tener sus instrucciones espirituales, las enseñanzas del maestro espiritual fidedigno son transcendentales y eternas pues son las instrucciones del mismo Señor Krishna.

Le deseo que este vyasa puja lo disfrute en realidad en la asociación de sus queridos discipulos de Fiji este año, creo que será muy auspicioso para ellos festejarlo a usted en persona pues son devotos avanzados espiritualmente.

Por tanto le oro a sus Señorías Sri Sri Radha Golokananda para que lo mantengan fijo en su servicio para que siga inspirandonos en la vida espiritual ahora y siempre y que yo y todos sus discípulos tengamos la oportunidad de estar a su lado ayudándolo en su servicio a su querido maestro espiritual Srila Prabhupada y así todos podamos complacer al Señor Supremo Krishna.

Su humilde sirviente,

Kurma das
Mexico



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

*tad viddhi pranipatena pariprasnena sevaya
upadeksyanti te jñānam jñāninas tattva-darsinah*

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

My dear eternal father,

Today is a very special day, the day you appeared on this earth, and so it is another opportunity for me to glorify you. I will try to be simple expressing my feelings. I feel happy and thankful towards Lord Krsna for giving me the opportunity to serve you. I hope to be able to do so properly, or at least not be an obstacle in your mission. My mission is to draw a smile on you with some activity of mine on this path.

I wish I could be present in your celebration and speak to you personally these words, and be able to serve you as one serves someone they love. At the same time I feel some pain due to my impotence in not being able to serve you the way I would like to, showing you how important you are for me.

When writing this, the song you wrote to Srila Prabhupada comes to mind. You wrote this song with your heart, and I wish I could have just a grain of the love you expressed for him. Your unconditional love is not the only thing that touches my heart, but also how you have taken to pleasing your spiritual master as the mission of your heart and soul.

Thank you for so much love Gurudeva.

Because of this, you have taken us, your children, under your shelter to take us back to Prabhupada, back to God. Thank you for sharing the thoughts of the day. They have woken me up many times and made me realize who I really am.

Sincerely and from the bottom of my heart, best wishes to you. I miss you so much.

Your daughter and eternal servant,

Lalita Kunda devi dasi
Your Mexican from New Vrndavana
West Virginia, US

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

*om ajñana-timirandhasya jñanañjana-salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

A los pies de loto de mi Querido Gurudeva:

Este año para su celebración de viasapuja encontré la inspiración en el festejo de Balarama Purnima y Janmastami, apesar de que no pude ir al templo de sus Señorías Radha Madhana Gopala; un día antes de Balarama Purnima me encontraba muy triste, pero ese día Prabhu Kurma das nos mando el correo que decía que usted vendría a Ratha Yatra, y me di a la tarea de leer algo acerca del Señor Balarama, la ilusión de verlo lleno mi corazón de júbilo, y se que para usted es muy importante que nosotros leamos acerca de todo lo relacionado con Krsna, y cuando leía acerca del Sr. Balarama en su posición de guru-tatva; leí un texto precioso donde hablaba del pasatiempo del demonio Dhenukasura pero no era el pasatiempo como viene en el Krsna Book sino su definición filosófica respecto a este hecho, y explicaba que el demonio Dhenukasura era como las relaciones falsas basadas en la ignorancia y decía que la ignorancia no puede ser despejada sin la ayuda de un Guru. Daba la definición de la palabra Bala que significa la fuerza y la fuerza espiritual para salir de la ignorancia proviene del Guru, que es el plural. En el Sri Caitanya Siksamrta, Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura explica: "Srila Baladeva mata a dos demonios, pero las contaminaciones que representan tienen que ser removidas mediante el esfuerzo de los devotos. Este es uno de los misterios del vraja -bhakti.

También se hablo del demonio Pralambhasura el cual representa el anartha de la lujuria por el sexo opuesto y el deseo de beneficio personal, adoración y distinción, éste asura tiene tanto poder que puede corromper incluso al devoto y terminar con la planta de la devoción y causar su caída del sendero del bhakti, incluso para devotos de cierto avance es peligroso este anartha, sólo la fuerza espiritual, el corazón puro y la misericordia del Guru pueden eliminar esos anarthas sutiles y peligrosos. Cuando Balarama mata a estos demonios nos esta instruyendo que para progresar verdaderamente en el sendero del bhakti-marga debemos eliminar los anarthas más sutiles y peligrosos. Cuando el devoto se esfuerza con entusiasmo en remover tales contaminaciones, entonces, por la misericordia del Señor Balarama (que es la representación de Sri Guru, el maestro espiritual), esos anarthas pueden ser lanzados muy lejos. Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura dice: "*Los métodos del proceso de purificación son muy profundos y misteriosos; por lo tanto es necesario aprender acerca de ellos directamente de un genuino maestro espiritual*".

Cuando termine de leer entendí porque Balarama es el Guru-tatva, como él nos instruye hasta con un pasatiempo y como todo lo que realiza es para tener conocimiento o dar ejemplo para la vida espiritual, igual que el maestro espiritual. Para terminar con mi ofrenda y como regalo maravilloso de Krsna, porque el siempre nos da regalos incluso en su festejo (debería de ser al revés), él devoto que vino a darnos su asociación para el festejo de Janmastami hizo una lectura del Nectar de la Devoción, leyó la introducción y ahí estaban las palabras más hermosas que puede uno escuchar en esta vida cuando ha tenido la fortuna de realizarlo: "*Desde el día en que el maestro espiritual da la iniciación, se establece el vínculo entre Krsna y la persona que cultiva conciencia de Krsna. Sin ser iniciado por un maestro espiritual genuino, el verdadero vínculo con el plano de conciencia de Krsna nunca ocurre*".

Por lo tanto lo único que puedo sentir es agradecimiento eterno por haberlo encontrado en este mundo tan complicado, usted es la luz que ilumina todos mis días aún en la oscuridad más profunda, siempre me da esperanza para no darme por vencida para continuar con mi proceso, sin importar que tan insignificante sea mi avance, y si es que realmente tengo algún avance, se lo debo a usted, de eso no me queda ninguna duda.

Años tras año me pregunto como una persona como yo puede tener el regalo más importante en la vida, tener un maestro espiritual tan bello como usted, sinceramente no lo comprendo, pero eso me hace sentir un compromiso eterno por realizar, en mis posibilidades, un esfuerzo para continuar en el proceso del bhakti, sin importar si los resultados son dolorosos o difíciles.

Su insignificante sirviente,

Lila Ratí devī dāsī

Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes, México

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my obeisances,
All glories to Srila Prabhupada,
All glories to You!

I'm very grateful to have the rare opportunity to glorify You on the auspicious day of Your appearance.

From the time I wake up, throughout the day and even in my unconscious dreams I am always relating with the world. I have formed relationships throughout my life with people, objects, animals and even plants. Some of these relationships have promoted my well-being while others have created havoc and destruction in my life. However, of all the relationships I have created few can be described as precious.

When something is precious it is of great value. It is not to be wasted or treated carelessly. The title of precious is reserved for a category of elite standing. Rarity is a contributing factor to the classification of precious.

Gurudeva my relationship with you provides me with something which no other relationship can. You create a link between my fallen soul and a distinguished line of pure devotees. You have dedicated your life to guiding fallen souls like me back to my interrupted position of servant to the Supreme Lord. The value of this relationship is incalculable.

Just as one would never carelessly trade a wish fulfilling object for an ordinary object of this world, so too no ordinary relationship can be compared to one with You.

It is understood that life can be filled with all sorts of relationships but without a relationship with the spiritual master life becomes wasted.

You Gurudeva are strong. You are fixed in Your service to Krishna. You are free from the propensity to criticize. You are knowledgeable of who Krishna is and are capable of sharing that with others. You are enthusiastic and intuitive. You are capable of and skillful in utilizing all things in Krishna's service.

When something is precious it is of great value, it is not to be wasted or treated carelessly. When I look at all of the millions of relationships I have and I look at my relationship with You, Gurudeva, it is easy for me to see that my relationship with you is precious.

On this glorious anniversary of your appearance I rejoice and enjoy in affirming all of Your good qualities which make You so precious to me. There is one more quality which I want to profess and to me it is the most mind baffling quality you possess. Gurudeva for all clear reasons You are precious to me but somehow by Your causeless mercy I am also undeservingly precious to You.

Thank you for seeing value in me. Thank you for utilizing my life, refusing to let it be wasted. And above all else thank You for never letting me become carelessly washed away into the ocean of Maya. I am a common pebble, just one of millions of fallen souls. But You dear Gurudeva have always treated me as a precious gem, something worthy of being offered to Krishna.

Thank you for loving me. Thank You for shaping me. Thank you for preciousely using me in Krishna service. Your relationship is precious to me!

And I pray that I might always be fortunate enough to cherish it!

Your loving daughter,

Lilamanjari
Portland, Oregon

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

Hare Krsna Srila Gurudeva!

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

As each year passes and we get to know you more and more, the pain of separation when you are not physically in New Goloka gets worse. However, in some ways it is easier, as we are able to better understand your mood and comprehend your instructions much more clearly. I am increasingly finding solace in the *vani*, which I am grateful for. Of course you cannot give instruction at every waking moment, but if I sincerely try to take your instructions and act as you would like me to, I will slowly but surely make progress in spiritual life. It's the most amazing and important benediction anyone could hope for. I am always asking myself, "WWGD?" in many situations, listening for your voice in my heart to guide me.

I deeply appreciate your candor, your warmth, your compassion, and your continued guidance. When I hear your voice, it's familiar and comforting, and I am immediately peaceful. I am also very grateful to have your personal association whenever possible, as is my family. We are all more peaceful in your presence.

I am beginning to understand why the debt to the spiritual master can never be repaid. I promise you, however, that I will certainly make the attempt throughout the rest of my life doing so.

Your humble servant and daughter,

Lila-sakti dā

New Goloka, North Carolina



*I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace
Srila Bir Krishna das Goswami, who is very dear to
Lord Krishna, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.*

*I offer my respectful obeisances to my swan-like spiritual master,
who is very dear to Srila Prabhupada because he is faithfully repeating
his message with great purity and determination.*

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

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

Dear Gurudeva,

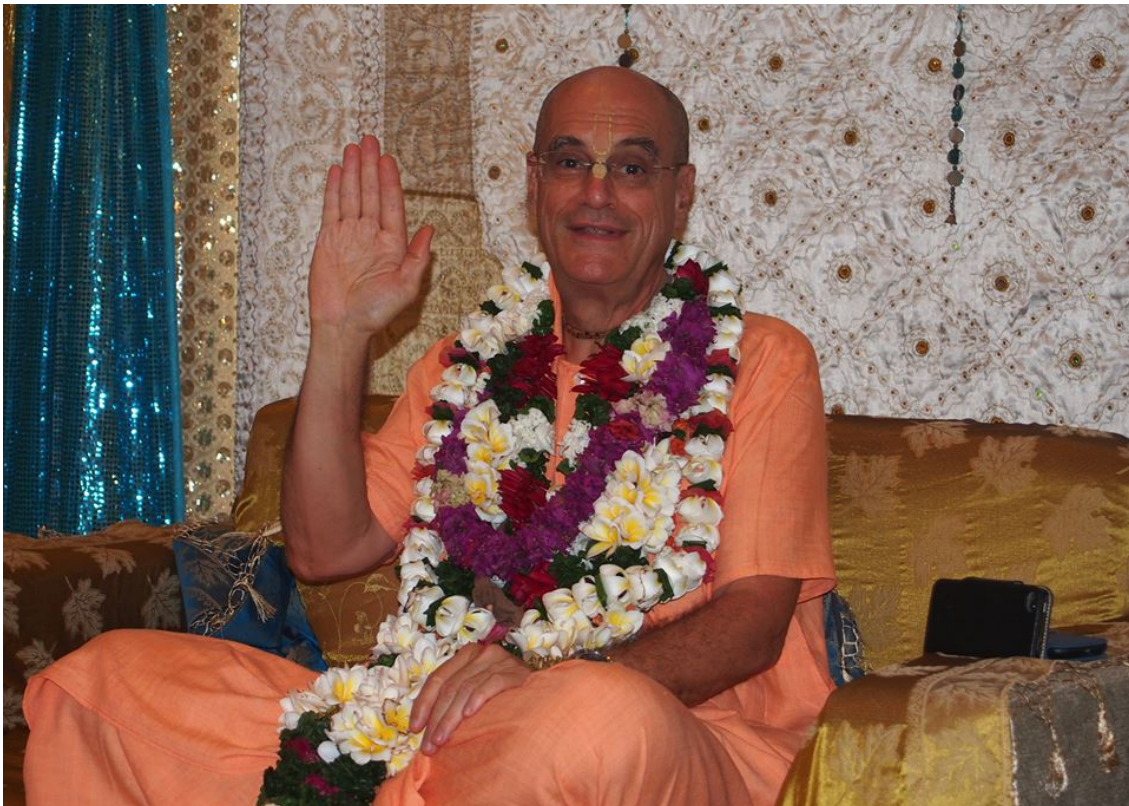
Please accept my obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace. Happy Vyasa puja.
All glories to His Divine Grace, Founder Acarya of ISKCON, Srila Prabhupada.

You've brought me to Srila Prabhupada's service and have shown me how to remain through your stellar example of consistent daily attention to japa, regulation and reading Srila Prabhupada's books with gusto.

I am so very grateful for the services you give me which keep my mind and heart tethered to Srila Prabhupada's family and Society. Each year my life is better than the last by your mercy.

With love and gratitude,
Your ever aspiring servant,

Lilasuka dasi
Alachua, FL



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to your auspicious appearance day. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

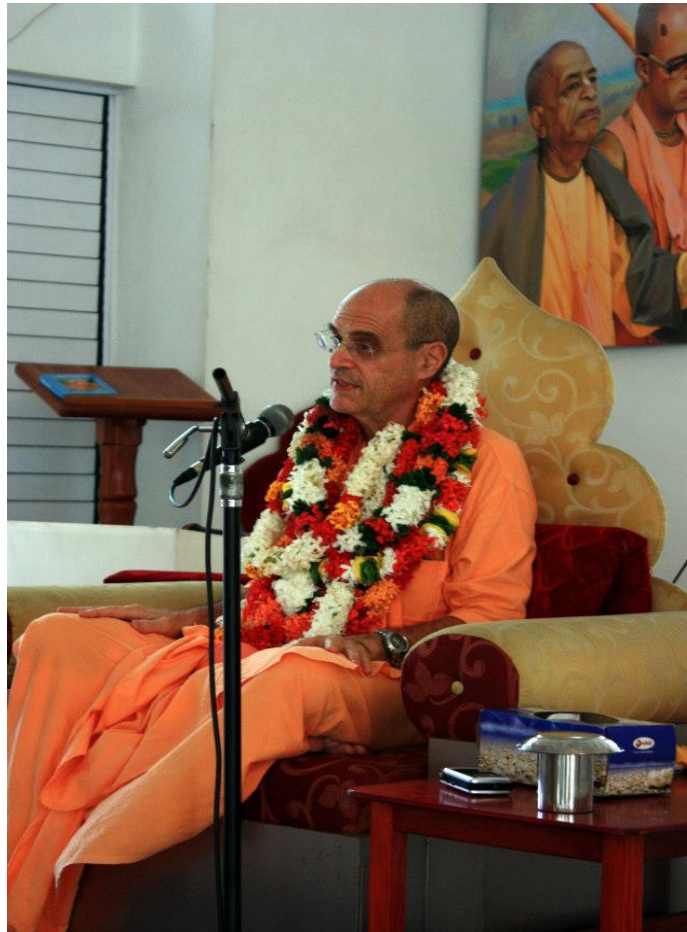
Dear Gurudeva we are really thankful that you have accepted the most fallen souls like us as your disciples. You have brought us out from darkness into light and given us the chance to re-establish our relationship with the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krishna. We were so materially involved that we had forgotten our relationship. Srila Gurudeva, you have really changed our whole family's lives. Please keep guiding us through your causeless mercy so that we can follow all your instructions carefully. Help us to serve all the Vaisnavas and Their Lordships in Sri Radha Golokabihari temple without offense.

Srila Gurudeva, keep assisting us so that we can do our chanting more sincerely. Keep us attached to your divine lotus feet so that we can attain pure devotional service.

Srila Gurudeva ki jay! Srila Prabhupada ki jay! Happy Vyasa puja.
Hare Krsna

Your most fallen servants,

Madan Gopal das
Nayika devi dasi
ISKCON Suva, Fiji Islands



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

To my dearest Gurudeva,

On this most auspicious occasion of your appearance day, please accept my most respectful obeisances.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada,

As I have been meditating on what to write here I have come to realize that there are some things that words cannot fully express, and one of those things is the extent to which you have saved me, and the gratitude I have to you for that. As I am writing this you have just left New Zealand where we've been staying with you for a week and the extent to which I feel your separation has knocked me over. Without you here I feel adrift, lost, and I have a tight knot in my chest. Where did this attachment spring from? It's unfathomable that it has only been 8 months since I first wrote to you. I must have received some incredible mercy.

All my life I have been searching, searching, searching- never feeling like I could fit anywhere, even though I tried really hard. I tried so many versions of "myself." I knew I didn't want what everybody else around me had- but what I was looking for was a mystery.

I can say with all my heart that your shelter is what I was hankering for- a real spiritual master who shows unlimited kindness, devotion, and knowledge. You have a nature that puts those around you at ease, a humor, realism and down to earth nature that makes Krishna consciousness seem possible.

I am so grateful that you give yourself and your time so freely- you are always contactable, approachable, and full of love and bhakti wisdom and you make yourself so available. It is so reassuring to know that I can always email you and you always reply so sweetly and swiftly! I am really grateful that you encourage me to think for myself and use my strengths in Krishna's service. When dealing with me you show me much affection and you always make me feel that my questions are valid. It is this kindness of yours that makes me desire to serve you. Thank you for tolerating all the blunders and offenses I make. Thank you for knowing what it is that I need to be inspired to serve Srila Prabhupada's mission.

I pray that somehow I can carry out the instructions you have given me and that one day I will be able to truly surrender to your lotus feet. I pray that I can please you.

As I write this, you have just left New Zealand and I feel so lost and so sad without your physical association. It hurts to not be with you.

Hare Krishna,
Your eternal servant and spiritual daughter,

Madhava Sangini devi dasi
New Zealand

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

Dear my Gurudev,

Hare Krishna.
Happy Vyasa puja 2013.
All glories to Śrila Prabhupada, Guru and Gauranga!

Receive primarily my humble respects.

About your glory much has been said and I'm not much of a poet that I could celebrate in a proper and dignified way. But I can only say that I see a little bit of how your sublime mission is comprehensive and provides an opportunity for all of your students and your many friends and supporters to help you in your mission.

I asked a few months ago for advice and ideas to help you and only then are your graceful ideas started inside, in the heart. Your grace inspired Krishna within me as my *caitya-guru*.
Grace is revealed and gives so many ways and ideas that you can help us.

I know that I've ever been a dishonest and lazy servant and disciple of my Gurudev.
But only now in my later years I get the inspiration to serve you more and more.
I believe I will get your grace and blessings for expanding services for you and Srila Prabhupada.

Thank you to all so far and for all future meetings and support.

Your insignificant servant,

Madhavananda das
Bosnia and Herzegovina



My dear Gurudev,

Please accept my respectful obeisance!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

How can I express my gratitude to you? Words "thank you" are not big enough.

I admire your empathic approach to my situation. You showed me that you are here for me no matter where in the world are you. I was really pleasantly surprised when you called me immediately even though you were in the South Pacific. That support holds me like a pillar on which I can lean... All of your calls and mails mean so much to me that it's hard to write them out.

I have to thank you for allowing me to serve you this summer. Your company and service is like a priceless gift for me. The gift of empowerment in spiritual growth. To be honest, I was sad in India because I had the impression that you don't want me to cook for you. Other devotees were there as well. But your last day in Mayapur was the best day for me this time in India. We were at Sri Swananda Sukhada Kunja and after I was so happy to see that you were pleased with the dinner.

It is very nice and inspiring to see how you care for devotees. Your seminar on health this summer was something I really needed to hear. For me it was like a confirmation that I'm on the right path. And, it was pleasing to see how other devotees reacted and how you inspired them. I'm also impressed how much you know about health and I'm thankful for all the information you gave me.

Thank you for everything! By your support and caring you are showing me that you are my ever well-wisher and that is so nice. Because of that, I'm willing to do everything for you.

Sincerely trying to be your servant,

Manjari Gopi dā
Crikvenica, Croatia



Dear Gurudeva,

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

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

I am so very grateful to Lord Krishna for guiding me to you.

You are the best thing in my life. Thank you for always offering your much desired and needed blessings.

Thank you for giving me shelter. I am truly blessed to have you for my spiritual master. May I now become worthy & become steady in Krishna consciousness.

It is wonderful to see your unique compassion, your love for everyone & the kind manner in which you deal with everyone. I recently heard your conversation with the devotee in Fiji who complained about you & I was amazed that you were so mild even with him.

Your example has influenced all aspects of my life in a very positive way, including healthy (often raw) meals & plenty of exercise. As you say if we are healthy then we can do a lot more & greater quality service.

Once again I especially want to thank you for allowing me & encouraging me to give Gauranga to all. It is such a wonderful service, helping others to start their journey back to Krishna.

Thank you Gurudeva for encouraging me to preach. I have set off on this journey & am hoping I will improve with time. As you have said many times do whatever you do **from your heart** so if I speak about what I think is important it seems to get through to people.

I pray that I may always please you by sincere service.

Thank you my very Gurudeva.

Hoping to serve you eternally.

Manoharini Radha devi dasi

Leeds, UK



Dear Bir Krsna das Goswami,

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

Thank you for allowing me to take care of you for so many years.

I miss flying helicopters and doing so many other little things for you just to please you. Doing something for no other reason than to please guru is a very satisfying way to spend ones time, and leads to ultimate success.

If someone can please their Guru, Krsna is pleased.

Thank you for tolerating me for so many years. I think there must not be a more fortunate person in the world than I.

I am ashamed and grateful that you are so kind to me even though I am so envious and sinful.

Your bogus servant,

Mayapurcandra das

Hilo, Hawaii



My Dear Spiritual Father,

Please accept my most respectful obeisances on your Vyasa puja Day. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to you.

Today I wish to thank you for your continuous support throughout these years, beginning from the very first contact I had with you in 1999. Since then you have been able to explain intricacies of spiritual life in a very down-to-earth but still fascinating manner.

I can see that I have not done any big or magnificent things in Krishna's service and maybe never will. Too often I have fallen into rituals only. However, hearing your instructions over and over again keeps me continuing in this path. Your classes and example on how to develop a truly personal relationship with Krishna are the very source of inspiration for me when trying to keep up my little spiritual practice with very small amount of association of devotees. Some of your disciples are turning to other sources of knowledge; some of them are leaving spirituality all together. I am praying that I would be able to follow you sincerely for the rest of my life and the lives to come.

Years have brought many changes in my life but it has been soothing to have one true friend to turn to. You are the person I continue to look upon as an example and a source of support when other idols fall and one after another once meaningful people disappear from my life. This is the difference between eternal spiritual relationship and material conditional relationships. I am praying never to devalue the treasure of your association and sublime knowledge of Krishna consciousness freely distributed by you.

Have a very wonderful Vyasa puja day.

Your servant,

Nandarani devi dasi

Finland



*om ajnana timirandasya
jnananjana salakaya
caksur unmilitam yena
tasmai sri gurave namaha*

Dear Gurudeva,

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

Every time I start writing a Vyasa puja offering I don't know what to write. It is something hard to do because it should come from the heart, and there is not much good at the moment. I should write something honest that pleases you. And to be honest I don't know what it is, since all the things that please you I don't do.

If there is anything that you think is good about me I offer it as a Vyasa puja gift unto your lotus-like feet. Since I'm one of your disciples that is not fixed and steady (unintelligent) and in that way is not communicating with you except in rare situations like this, I wish that my intelligence becomes sharp for the pleasure of Srila Prabhupada and your lotus-like feet. So that until your next Vyasa puja you feel deeply how I endeavor to make my character, because I'm working on it constantly although very conditioned.

My life's meditation is to please you and I hope Krishna will grant me this wish.

Happy Vyasa puja Gurudeva.

Your very fallen disciple,

Nanda-tanuja dās
Knin, Croatia



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

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

Dear Srila Gurudev,

Please accept our most humble respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet. We are very very fortunate that you have accepted us as your disciples. We are very fallen conditioned souls. We are very lucky that one day we will attain our original Krsna consciousness. This is the unique beauty of Krsna consciousness. And thinking of this over & over again we feel very happy. There is no tangible happiness in this material world except Krsna bhakti.

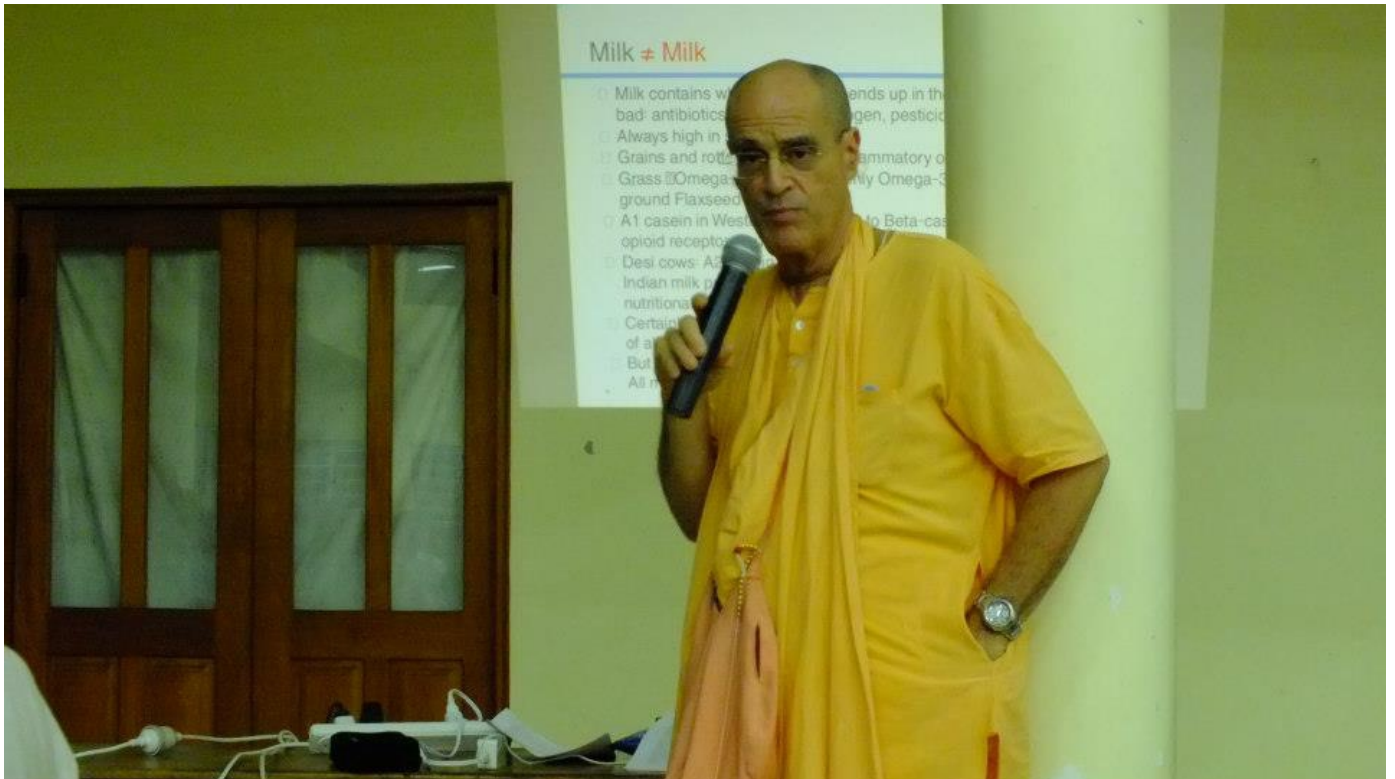
Please Srila Gurudev forgive our offenses in devotional service. There is no means of attaining Krsna without fully satisfying you. We don't want to miss this very unique opportunity of making our human life successful in this life. Otherwise we will be taking poison knowingly. Please bless us so that we shall remain your eternal servant birth after birth. And please give us the intelligence & strength to follow all your instructions to gain eternal shelter unto your lotus feet.

We pray may Lord Krsna give our remaining years of life to you for spreading the holy name in every town & village. We beg Krsna to give all your sufferings to us.

Hare Krsna

Your eternal servants,

Nar-Narayan das
Utkantwati Radha devi dasi
Auckland, New Zealand



Dear Srila Bir Krishna Maharaj,

Hare Krishna.

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

On the auspicious day of your appearance, we pray Lord Krishna to bestow His mercy upon you, so that you will be able to lead many people on to the spiritual and devotional path and free themselves from the cycle of birth and death. Your dedication and persistent preaching in places all over the globe to spread the glories of Lord Krishna are truly exemplary. You travel to the farther places like Fiji simply to spread Krishna consciousness. You also undertake programs to help build homes for people with poverty in Brundavan area.

The only hope, that can save people from the evil effects of the age of Kali is to take shelter of a Guru like you who has completely dedicated his life for spreading Krishna consciousness.

We are very fortunate to have you as our spiritual master. Many a time we have observed that by the power of your eloquent expression of the message on Lord Krishna, people including the first time listeners get inspired, become very attached to Lord Krishna, and begin chanting the Hare Krishna Mahamantra-

*Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare*

Very Sincerely Yours,

Narottama Das (Chakrapani Basavaraju)
Gaithersburg, Maryland



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

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

Dearest Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances, all glories to Srila Prabhupada. Today, on this most blessed event of your Sri Vyasa puja, I would like express my sincere gratitude to you for allowing me to become part of Srila Prabhupada's wonderful family.

I cannot express in words how much love and compassion devotees have towards each other. It is only through your grace that I am relishing their association wherever I am. Gurudeva, I feel special being part of this *Sankirtan* movement and this is only through your *kripa* that I am able to chant the holy names, despite being in the darkest of ignorance.

I would like to express my appreciation for all the mercy and the realizations that I got in the Holy Dham. By your mercy, I have been to the Holy Dham three times in the past 18 months. It has been only through your mercy that I was able to partake in the Rathayatra in Sri Jagannath Puri for two consecutive years, and was fortunate enough to embrace their Lordships on both occasions on their respective chariots. I was also able bathe in the most auspicious *Shahi Snana* of the *Maha Kumbha Mela* earlier in February this year.

Gurudeva, thank you very much for bringing the glories of the Holy Dham to all of us and it has been only through your mercy that Srimati Radharani granted me access into Sri Vrindavan. I pray at your lotus feet, to bless me, so that the real Dham is revealed in my heart, and that I am able to serve the Vaisnavas and Vrajbasis without any offenses. I appreciate the fact that just buying a plane ticket and going Sri Vrindavan is not really going to the Dham, as the Dham is only revealed to those pure in heart and free from all the *anarthas*.

Gurudeva, I cannot thank you enough and show my gratitude for all that you have done for me. I pray at your lotus feet on this most blessed event, your Sri Vyasa puja, to allow me to relish the Holy Names and that I become attached to chanting of the holy names and that I am blessed with service to the Vaisnavas. I do not have any other qualifications, so please excuse all my shortcomings and do look at me with a sidelong glance; I feel very, very scared and miserable without your guidance.

I pray to Sri Sri Kunjabihari to grant you good health and a long life of spreading Krishna consciousness throughout the world.

Yours loving servant,

Nila Madhava das
Sydney, Australia

My Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All glories to You Gurudev!

As You know right now I'm residing in the Holy Land of Vrindaban and I'm trying to serve the mission of Srila Prabhupada by Your mercy and blessings.

I'm very grateful to You for the opportunity to be able to render service in the Holy Dham.

Gurudev, I wish You to have a wonderful and spiritually blissful Vyasa puja this year also .

Dear Gurudev I would like to share with You here some verses from Saranagati, the wonderful pearl-like writing of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur; some verses which are very dear to my soul.

*dekhite,dekhite bhulibo va kabe,
nija-sthula-paricoya
nayane heribo,braja pura-sobha,
nitya cid-ananda-moya*

*brsabhanu pure,janama loibo,
yavate vivaha ha'be
braja-gopi-bhava,haibe swabhava,
ano-bhava na rohibe*

*nija-siddha-deha,nija-siddha-nama,
nija- rupa swa-vasana
radha-krpa-bale,lobhibo va kabe,
krsna prema prakarana*

*jamuna-salila-aharane giya,
bujihibo yugala-rasa
przma-mugdha ho'ye,pagalini praya,
gaibo radhara yasa*

I wish You good health and all the mercy and blessings of Srila Prabhupada and Radhe-Shyam, with which You will be with us for a long time more and offer the opportunity that we can also serve You.

Your servant and disciple,

Nitya-gehini devi dasi
Vrindaban, India

My Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisance. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. All Glories to you.

On this auspicious day of your Vyasa puja, I would like to share some of your qualities which I find to be the exact match of the explanation given by Lord Caitanya to Sanatana Goswami of a pure devotee.

Lord Caitanya says: A person in Krishna consciousness who is fully devoted to the transcendental loving service of the Lord develops all the godly qualities of the demigods. There are many divine qualities, but Lord Caitanya describes only some of them to Sanatana Goswami. A devotee of the Lord is always kind to everyone, and he does not pick quarrels. His interest is in the essence of life, which is spiritual. He is equal to everyone, and no one can find fault in him. His magnanimous mind is always fresh and clean and devoid of material obsessions. He is a benefactor to all living entities and is peaceful and always surrendered to Krishna. He has no material desires. He is very humble and is fixed in his purpose. He is victorious over the six material qualities such as lust and anger, and he does not eat more than he needs. He is always sane and is respectful to others, but he does not require respect for himself. He is grave, merciful, friendly, poetic, expert and silent.

There is also a description of a pure devotee of the Lord in Srimad-Bhagavatam (3.25.21) wherein he is said to be always tolerant and merciful. A friend to all living entities, he has no enemies. He is peaceful, and he possesses all good qualities. Gurudeva, the qualities of yours I find very attractive are that you are so tolerant, humble and merciful to all of us.

“There are many liberated souls and perfected souls, but out of all of them he who is a devotee of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is best. The devotees of the Supreme Lord are always calm and quiet, and their perfection is very rarely seen, even in millions of persons.” And you are one of such great souls, Gurudeva.

It is also said in Srimad-Bhagavatam that if one gets an opportunity to serve a great soul as you then his path to liberation is open. However I am poor in love of Godhead, and I have no asset for hearing about devotional service. Nor do I have any understanding of the science of devotional service, or any cultivation of knowledge, or any righteous activities to my credit. I am not even born in a high family. Nonetheless, O Gurudeva, I still maintain hopes of serving You, and these hopes are always disturbing me.

I find myself so unfortunate that I am not able to serve you nicely and wholeheartedly, hence I beg for your special mercy as I am the most fallen. Please bless me so I can serve you nicely just like the other devotees here and pray to your lotus feet that I can at least achieve one of your qualities and become a good devotee.

It is said in the scriptures that the Guru knows the heart of His disciples hence on this auspicious occasion I would also like to share some of my experiences and witnessing of your heart-reading abilities.

1. When we went to India with you in 2007, I had the desire in my mind to get my second initiation there but I did not speak my mind to anyone. However during our tour on the bus in South India, you approached me and asked how long I have been in ISKCON and I said a year and a half. On that you said okay when we reach Tirupati, you will be giving second initiation to myself and Nartaki. I was so surprised to hear that because it was a dream coming true.
2. Another incident was when myself, Visvanath Prabhu, Sumukha Prabhu and Dwarkanath Prabhu went to Labasa to get your association there. As soon as I paid my obeisance and got up, you asked “Where is Nartaki?”. After talking to you I called Nartaki to tell her that you were asking about her and to my surprise she said that she was thinking of Gurudeva and was wondering if you would have asked about her or not.
3. On another occasion, we went to see you off at the Nadi airport. Many devotees were there, but Bhagavan Prabhu was running late. You had only 20 minutes or so to go in, when I went outside to check on Bhagavan Prabhu and found him coming. I ran to him and asked him to hurry since Gurudeva is about to go. On our way to you he said that he really wanted to get second initiation from you in this trip but could not ask to you or make arrangements with the authorities so I said maybe he should ask now. However as soon as we came in front of you and paid our obeisance and got up, you said to Bhagavan Prabhu “So Bhagavan, do you want to take second initiation now and serve in the Lautoka temple?” Both myself and Bhagavan Prabhu were surprised to hear that, and you gave him second initiation right there in front of everybody in the airport.

4. Also once when we came to receive you at the Nadi airport, there were so many devotees there. You had so many garlands on you and were giving them out to the devotees assembled there. I was standing right in front of you and you gave one garland to me and said that this is not for you but for your wife. I looked for Nartaki who was standing right at the back and while giving her the garland told her Gurudeva has given this for you only. And she said to me that due to so many devotees here she could not come in front but desired for a garland that you were giving out. We were so happy that you heard her heart and gave her a garland.

5. I can keep on going but would like to share once last experience I had. When Nartaki was pregnant with Raghunath and you were about to leave Fiji in a day or two, you said to me in front of the devotees after the morning class that "You will get a son and he will take sannyasa". On the day you were leaving some of us were waiting outside your room to take your luggage to the vehicle and while waiting Bhimsen Prabhu asked me what am I expecting a boy or a girl, and I said that My Gurudeva has said that we will have a son and whatever my Gurudeva has said that is the truth and we all can see that this is exactly what has happened.

With these few words I would like to thank you for claiming us fallen souls in the service of Radha & Krishna and would like to wish you are very happy Vyasa-puja.

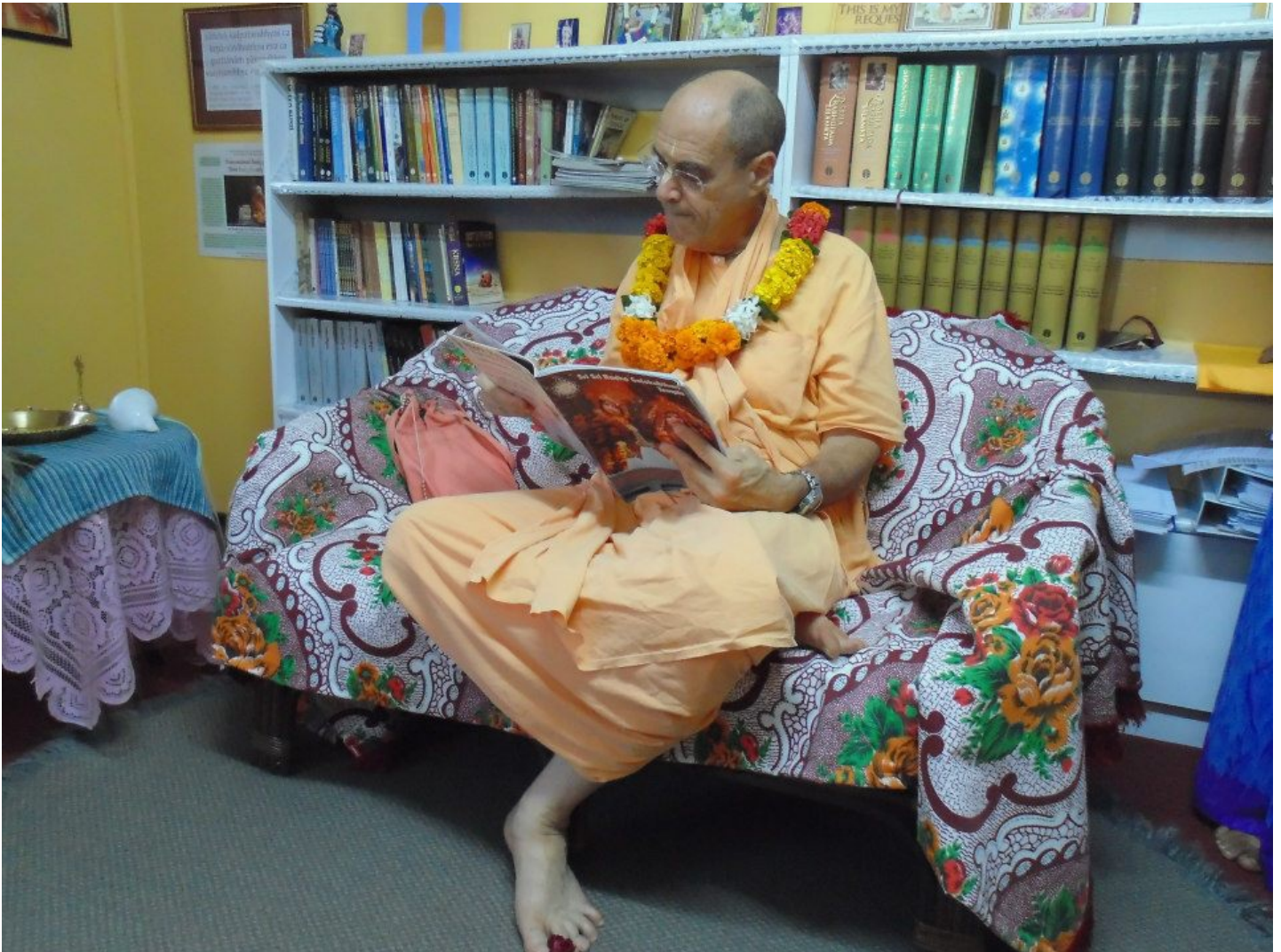
Your most insignificant servants,

Nityananda Das

Nartaki Dasi

Raghunath Gopal Das

ISKCON Suva, Fiji Islands.



Dear Gurudeva,

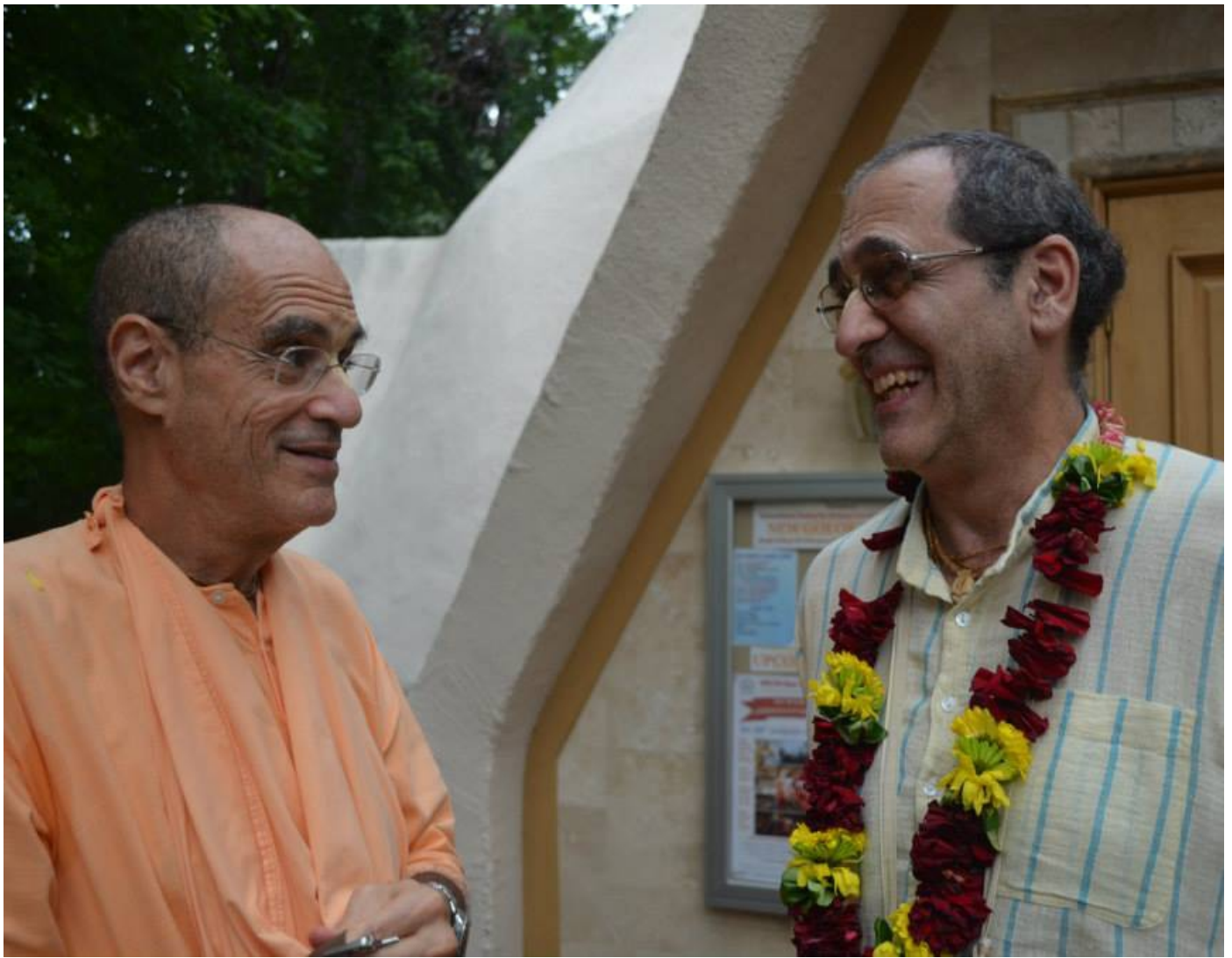
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Happy Birthday! Thank you for being a wonderful grandfather to me, and father to my parents. You have always been there for me as well as them. I feel so special to have you in my life. I miss you, and hope to see you again soon!

Your servant,

Padmavati Fiorentino

Hilo, Hawaii



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

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

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

Dearest Srila Guru-Maharaj,

Please accept our most respectful and humble dandavat pranam at the dust of your lotus feet.
All glories to Jagad-Guru, Srila Prabhupada and all glories to Your Loving Divine Grace.

Maharaja, on this most auspicious moment, we wish you a very blissful Vyasa puja and pray to Sri Sri Radha Giridhari for many happy returns of this day.

*Guru-mukha-padma-vakya, cittete koriya aikya,
Ar na koriho mane asa.*

Make the teachings from the lotus mouth of the spiritual master one with your heart,
and do not desire anything else.

Guru-Maharaja, our desire to be your sincere disciple is often disrupted by our endeavor to fulfill our material wishes and at times we feel we are fighting a losing battle in this dark age. In such turbulent times, whenever we meditate on the dust of your lotus feet, there is always a glimpse of hope and glory. We beg for your mercy to not desire anything else but to make your words one with our heart.

Srila Gurudev, we are so fortunate to have gotten the shelter of your divine lotus feet which is full of tolerance and compassion. Fiji is indeed blessed to have your guidance especially during turbulent times. You are our only hope for deliverance. Though we are not worthy, you have always given us the opportunity to serve you at home during your visits to Fiji and have shared with us your experience in your personal and spiritual life.

We pray for your good health and beg for your mercy to advance in the service of Guru and Krishna.

All glories to Srila Gurudev on this most auspicious day of Vyas puja.

Srila Bir Krishna Das Goswami Gurudev Maharaja Ki Jai! Hare Krishna.

We beg to be your sincere servants,

*Pandu Das Adhikari,
Kunti Devi Dasí,
Bhākta Krishnāl
Bhākta Prishneel
Nadi, Fiji*

My dearest Srila Gurudeva,

Happy Appearance Day! Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to your Divine Grace.

On this most auspicious occasion of your birth, I pray to Sri Giriraj Maharaj to shower His unlimited mercy upon you. May all of your wishes come true.

Srila Gurudeva, we are indeed most fortunate to have you as our spiritual master. You are the most confidential servant of the Lord. Just by being in your presence, all material entanglements disappear. You are so peaceful and fully satisfied in the service of the Lord. You are kind to everyone and always surrendered to Kṛṣṇa.

*sākṣād-dharitvena samasta-śāstrair
uktas tathā bhāvyata eva sadbhiḥ
kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

In the revealed scriptures it is declared that the spiritual master should be worshiped like the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and this injunction is obeyed by pure devotees of the Lord. The spiritual master is the most confidential servant of the Lord. Thus let us offer our respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of our spiritual master.

Srila Gurudeva, we were so fortunate that you blessed us with your presence this year in Milwaukee. Each and every moment that you spent with us was simply magical. How you deeply engrained pure love for Kṛṣṇa with your practical example, both to the children and elderly, alike. Through your complete understanding of Kṛṣṇa's pastimes and strictly following the instructions of your spiritual master, you purified us with your transcendental words.

*ācāryaṁ mām vijānīyān
navamanyeta karhicit
na martya-buddhyāsūyeta
sarva-deva-mayo guruḥ*

One should know the ācārya as Myself and never disrespect him in any way. One should not envy him, thinking him an ordinary man, for he is the representative of all the demigods.

Srila Gurudeva, you are our Acarya, our transcendental guide to the Supreme Lord. From the very beginning you have taught us the Vedic scriptures and all its intricacies, giving us our second birth. You have taught us how to perform transcendental loving service to the Lord. You are our direct connection to the Supreme Lord.

On this most auspicious day of your appearance may we become your worthy disciples by pleasing you. This is our prayer. Please have mercy upon us. Please accept us in your service.

All glories to your divine appearance.

Your humble servants,

*Param Das
Gaura Mani devi dasi
Kishori dasi
Kana das
Radhe
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to you and Srila Prabhupada. All glories to this day of your Vyasa puja!

10 years ago you came for the first time to Serbia in a capacity of our GBC. The devotees were eagerly waiting to see and hear you. It was quite a new experience for us to have you here. We were listening to your every word with rapt attention to get to know you more. You spent with us 9 days and made a tour in Serbia from town to town wishing to get to know the devotees. You spent almost all day long in every town giving darshan to devotees. Every single devotee had the opportunity to talk with you; to introduce him/herself to you. You went to the homes of all devotees who invited you and distributed your mercy to everyone.

When we, your disciples and other devotees talked about you, we always ended up with a characteristic of yours which is so different from what we knew so far. All these years we never heard that you had any demand from any one of us. You have been simply here for all of us watching us grow more and more. You are like a loving parent who is here for his child day and night for whatever a child needs in his/her process of growth as a support: a source of affection, encouragement, protection, shelter, guide and source of knowledge for further development, not demanding and expecting that which naturally happens in a process of growth.

When we lament seeing only obstacles, you change our focus from the temporary to eternal and we can see that actually everything is good, that we should not worry, as you always say to us, as long as we do the process of natural spiritual growth, as long as we chant, follow the regulative principles and serve the Spiritual Master. Every darshan ends with your words that you are satisfied with us, although we are not, knowing how much better we should try and be. But from your perspective and the perspective of our Lord every little service and effort on this path has tremendous wealth.

Please Gurudeva, bless this fallen soul who is trying again and again to become a servant of the servant to grow more and more spiritually under your care. I thank you Gurudeva for your shelter.

I wish you a long, healthy life filled with love.

Your humble servant,

Paramesvari Radha devi dasi
Novi Sad, Serbia

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

My dear most spiritual master Srila Bir Krishna Goswami Gurudeva. All glories, all glories to you Srila Gurudeva. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to your most auspicious appearance day.

My merciful Srila Gurudeva, you have appeared in this material world only to deliver the fallen souls like us. You have brought the transcendental message of Sri Sri Gaura Nitai to this age of Kali so that the most fallen souls like us can get a chance to practice Krishna consciousness. You have always set examples yourself how to become perfect in Krishna consciousness.

I am really indebted to you and thank you very much for your guidance upon me from the time you have accepted me as your disciple in Krishna consciousness. I beg for your further mercy to give me strength and shelter of your lotus feet so that I can serve Krishna, and the devotees, more sincerely.

On this auspicious day I pray to their Lordships Sri Gaura Nitai, Sri Sita Ram Laksman Bhakta Hanuman and Sri Radha Goloka Bihari to keep you in good health so that you can fulfill the mission of Srila Prabhupada.

Oh Gurudeva, please bless me and guide me in my spiritual advancement. Please help me to do offenseless chanting.

Srila Gurudeva Vyasa Puja Mahautsava ki jaya

Your most fallen servants,

Partha das

Vrsbhanunandani devi dasi

ISKCON Suva, Fiji Islands

Dear Gurudev,

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

I wish you have a most blissful celebration of your appearance day in the association of loving Vaisnavas!

On this day I would like to express my gratitude to you for your steady, constant care, guidance and compassion through all the ups and downs of my life. With your instructions and your personal example you teach me and give me the strength to use any circumstance in life to deepen my connection with Krishna. Thank you so much for that!

As I am chanting, serving and studying here in Sri Vrindavan dhama, I am getting many realizations and gradually I start to see the extent of the sweet mercy of Sri Krishna. I am most grateful to you for allowing me to come to the holy dhama and for encouraging me to take shelter of Krishna there.

I am so grateful to you for encouraging me to go deeper in my spiritual life.

Especially I am grateful to you for allowing me to continue to do some personal service for you and thus be connected although far away.

My desire to serve you and Srila Prabhupada's mission is simply getting stronger with each passing day, and yet I feel so unqualified. This desire is all that I have.

I beg for your blessings to be fully engaged in preaching service that is most pleasing to you and to Srila Prabhupada.

Your insignificant servant,

Prema Manjari dasi
Sri Vrindavan dhama



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

Todas las glorias a Srila Prabhupada! Todas las glorias a Bir Krisna Das Goswami!

Por favor acepte mis humildes reverencias a sus pies de loto en este día de su gloriosa aparición. Todas las glorias sean para usted Gurudeva y una sincera felicitación.

Este día es glorioso por que ha aparecido una excelsa personalidad, todo es auspicioso porque ha nacido un devoto puro, se han hecho- presentes todos los signos auspiciosos dentro del universo.

Mi querido gurudeva soy muy incompetente al tratar de alabar su personalidad ya que todas sus actividades son dignas de ser cantadas y discutidas por personas que desean purificarse para avanzar en este camino y lograr el amor por Krishna.

Mi querido gurudeva usted es muy misericordioso con las almas pecaminosas, su única ansiedad es ver sufrir a las almas condicionadas la triple miseria de este mundo material.

Siempre cantando las glorias de los santos nombres de Krishna difundiendo a donde quiera que va el mensaje del Señor Caitanya, permítame postrarme una y otra vez a sus pies de loto y que el - polvo de esos divinos pies pueda yo tenerlo sobre mi cabeza y así podría decir que el objetivo de mi vida lo he cumplido.

Es seguro que usted tiene las bendiciones de Srila Prabhupada y está apoderado por el Señor Krishna ya que sus actividades son - maravillosas, es muy raro ver un alma totalmente entregada a - Krishna. Todas las glorias sean para usted gurudeva! Y todas las glorias sean para Srila Prabhupada!

Si aspirante a sirviente,

Prithu dāsa
México



All glories to His Divine Grace Bīr Kṛṣṇa Goswami and Śrīla Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisance.

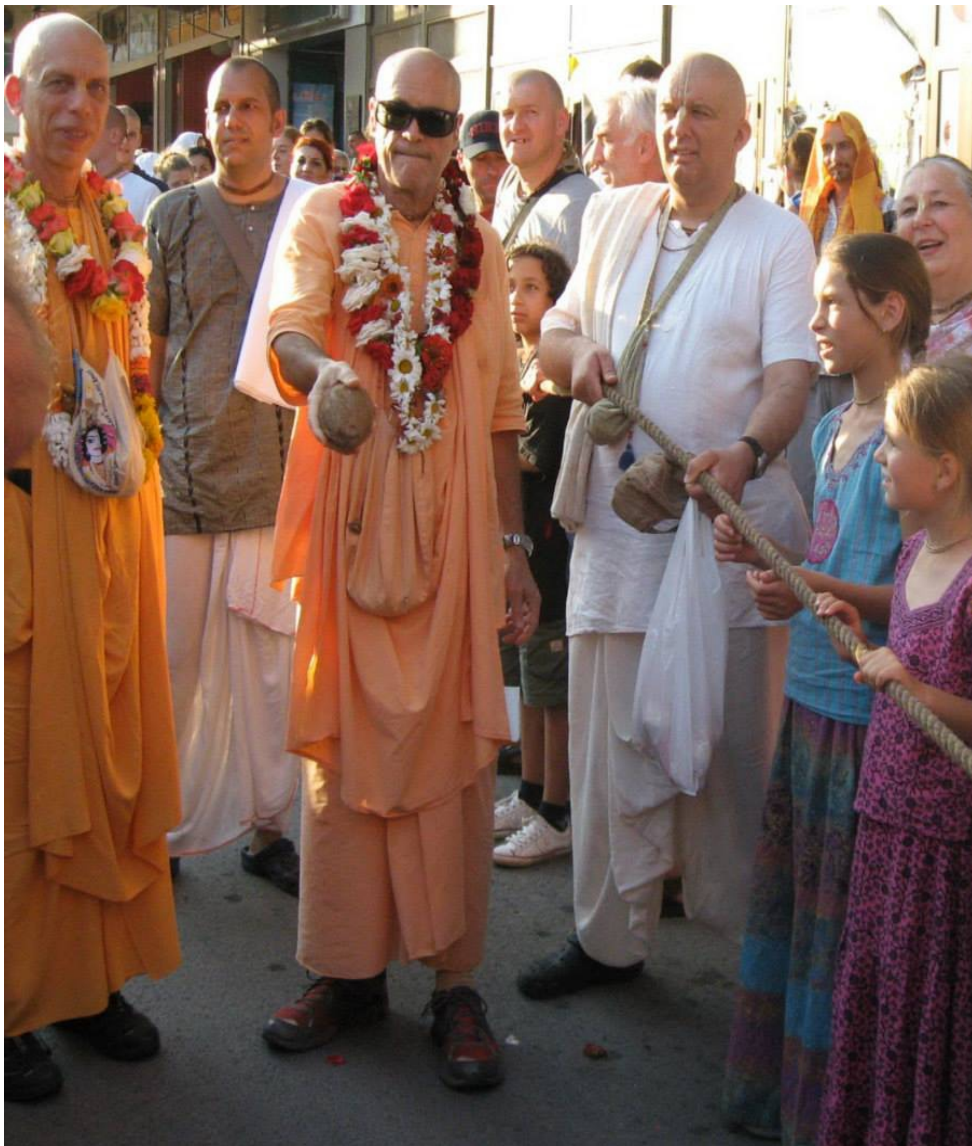
I was born in the darkness of ignorance and was so fortunate that I came in contact with Śrīla Prabhupada's books and thereby I found my spiritual father Bīr Kṛṣṇa Goswami who has given me all good instructions so I can find my way home back to Godhead.

It is difficult for me to understand that a man like me is so fortunate to take part in the international society for god consciousness. It is a big table where you can satisfy your spiritual sense. I will also offer my obeisance to the lotus feet of Bīr Kṛṣṇa Goswami. It is he that gives a lift that gives a high consciousness which is so important in the moment of death. So I have to find a way to make Gurudeva satisfied with me. I need the blessing from Gurudeva to come to a high consciousness. So I am begging for the lotus feet of my Spiritual Master that he will bless me so I will be able to get free from all influence of Maya.

All glories to Bīr Kṛṣṇa Goswami on his Vyasa puja day.
I wish Gurudeva a good day.

Your servant,

Pundarīka dāś
Denmark



Dear Gurudeva,

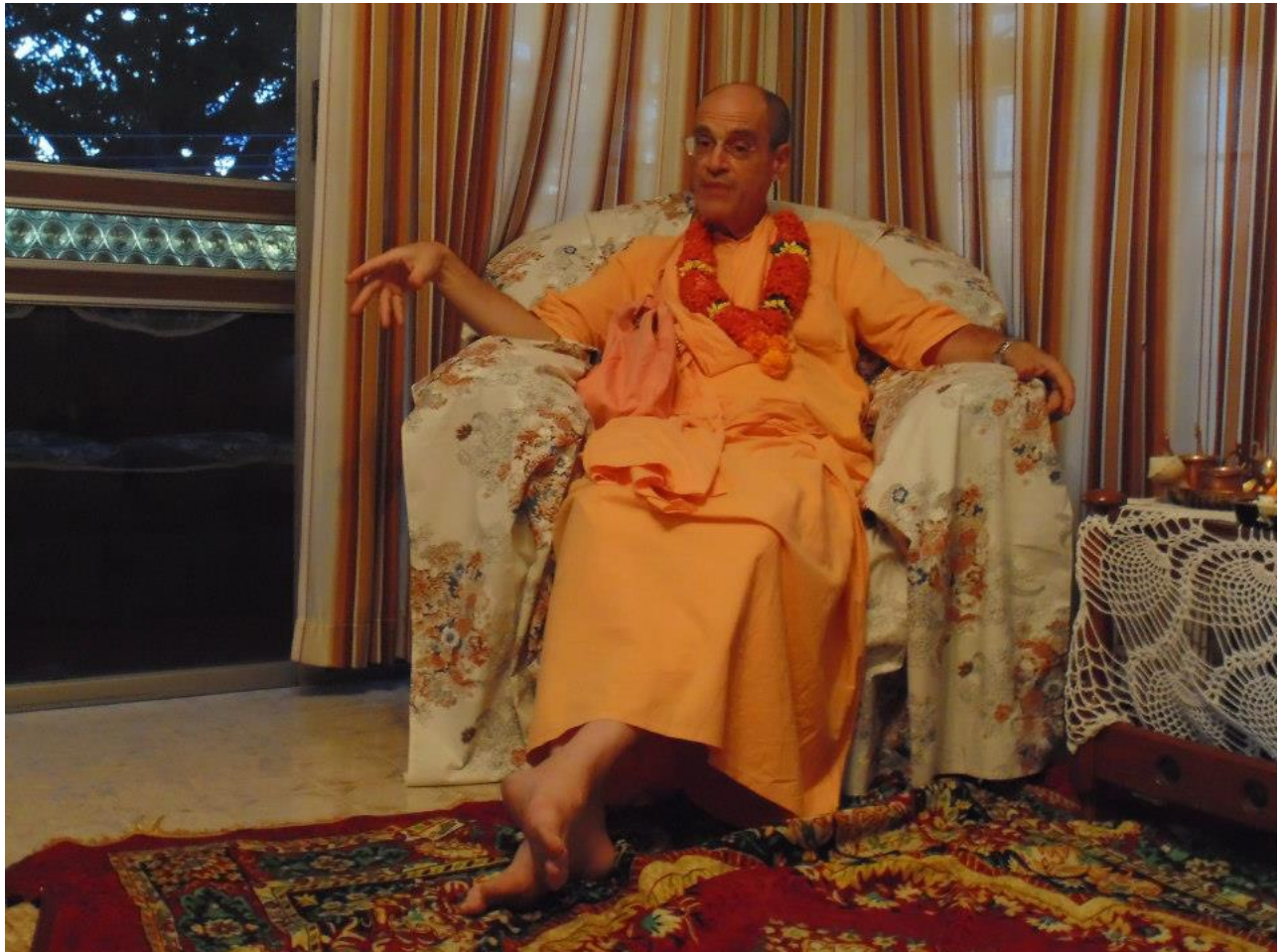
We offer our respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories to your Vyasa puja. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

We have been very touched by the love and care you have generously given to our family. When Sacimata's father died you ensured to call and speak to her. This gave us more strength to deal with the loss. We were even happier to see you at the funeral rites and your presence gave the grieving family spiritual strength. During the time Sacimata was unwell in a foreign land away from all close ones you were always calling and checking on her. You had ensured that she had company of Vaisnavas and all other little things that a father would be concerned about. Sacimata was initially confused to say yes to the treatment but your up to date information about the facilities helped her make the decision. You were with us through the difficult times and saw us through the journey of recovery. Just knowing that you are with us we closely felt your love, your care, and it was helpful in maintaining our spiritual strength and faith in The Lord. By your example you are teaching us the most important qualities we should possess: love and care for all our brothers and sisters, young and old. We need strong and tall servants of the Lord to lean on. You are always ready to offer your hand because you are an ocean of mercy.

With these special remembrances we honor you on this auspicious day of your Vyasa puja. We thank you for your presence in our lives, giving us the opportunity to know you, and above all caring for us.

Your servants,

Radhasaran das
Sacimata devi dasi
Gaurangi dasi
Sachinandan das
Fiji



My Dear Father, Srila Gurudeva,

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

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

Much has changed since last year's Vyasa puja. I can honestly say that the past year has been the most trying and painful of my devotional career to date. During this period, I have had many realizations and, hopefully, have grown accordingly. I have seen first hand that you are a glorious spiritual master who goes out of his way to make sure to save his wayward children.

In your Vyasa puja offering to Srila Prabhupada this year you spoke of your realization about how Srila Prabhupada was so forceful in his opposition to impersonalists and Mayavadis. You spoke about how Prabhupada was simply reflecting Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda's own attitude. I could not help but take this in a very personal way, as you had just rescued me from associating intimately with impersonalists. I still do not fully comprehend the danger in taking such association, but based on how you spoke about your realization, I can understand what a child I am in spiritual life. You are my wise father, who cares much more for me than I will ever know. And like a rebellious child, I am not always grateful for your guidance and protection.

Daily I pray to your worshipable Deities, Sri Sri Radha Golokananda to become your humble servant, for I know that therein lies the success in spiritual life. Humility is the first item of knowledge that Lord Krishna lists in the Bhagavad-gita, 13.8. In his purport Srila Prabhupada states that humility is the beginning of knowledge. Srila Prabhupada states that "Due to rebellion against the Supreme Lord, one becomes subordinate to material nature." I find myself hopelessly subject to the material nature due to my rebellious tendencies. On this auspicious day of your appearance, I pray to you to help me to desire to fervently desire to pray for the kind of humility that Srila Prabhupada describes. After so many years of practicing Krishna consciousness, I feel that I have yet to even take this first step in spiritual life.

Srila Gurudeva, although I am far from being a glorious disciple, you are in every way my glorious spiritual master.

Your daughter and aspiring servant,

Rangadevi dasi
Hillsborough, North Carolina

Dear most respectful Maharaj,

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

Our ISKCON-Tirupati Temple had the privilege of having the association of your holiness during the GBC meetings in October, 2012. We feel very fortunate to have many exalted souls walking amongst us and giving us great hope and inspiration in our Krishna Consciousness. Your words are thought provoking and shows Your gravity of deep faith in Srila Prabhupada. It is a great sacrifice and austerity that you take only fruits offered to the deities as Prasadam in the morning and little soup in the evening. You are a great and divine personality truly following the footsteps of Srila Prabhupada.

On this auspicious day of your Vyasa puja, I would like to remember one nice incident that I have experienced with you. Once myself and Your holiness went to Tirumala (top hills) to have darshan of Lord Balaji in the night. We had very nice darshan of the beautiful form of Lord Balaji in a special entrance ticket. When we were coming out, one of the officers from the temple seeing an American swamiji wanted to retake you for the darshan of the Lord for the second time. Then You immediately asked why 2nd darshan? Let us go to ISKCON Temple, we have to attend the mangala arati tomorrow morning. The officer was shocked, because lakhs and millions of people all over the world are hankering to have few moments glance of Lord Balaji and they wouldn't mind paying any amount. But this swamiji is not much concerned about the darshan, instead he is more determined to strictly follow in the footsteps of Acaryas. So the officer was very much moved by your holiness guru-nishta. He also learned a lesson that real darshan of the Lord means not just seeing the Lord with these fleshy eyes but to completely surrender to the instructions of the spiritual master. I have learned a great lesson from it, thank you Maharaj.

Maharaj, we would like to express our deep felt gratitude for the causeless mercy and blessings you have been showering upon us and our temple. We are thankful for providing us the deep insights into Krishna consciousness, though we are not qualified.

We are deeply indebted for your unlimited mercy showered upon us though we do not know whether we are really qualified to deserve it. I feel it is our responsibility to rise to such sustained spiritual level that your mercy flows on us ceaselessly. I always remember you and seek your inspiration and blessings for our progress in devotional life and to execute Krishna consciousness perfectly and faultlessly.

On the auspicious occasion of your Vyasa puja, I fall down at your lotus feet and offer respects and heart-full prayers for all that you have done for the unstinting propagation of Krishna consciousness.

Your humble servant,

Revati Raman Das

and the devotees of ISKCON, Tirupati.

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

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

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

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Hare Krsna!

Please accept my most unworthy obeisances unto your divine lotus feet on this auspicious day of you Vyasa puja. On this most auspicious day all your disciples are in great ecstasy and are glorifying you. We are so fallen and unworthy that we cannot find words to glorify you. Nevertheless you are so kind and compassionate towards your disciples that you bear all the hardships and pains to deliver them from maya and send them back home, back to Godhead. You teach your disciples how to serve the spiritual master by your example. You have dedicated your life to expand the activities of your spiritual master Srila Prabhupada and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Oh Srila Gurudeva, please bless us so that we may engage ourselves in your service making ourselves worthy and helpful in your sublime mission.

By the grace of Lord Krsna you have come to us but we are so unfortunate that we cannot even understand your instructions. We lack the strong desire and determination to serve you. But we still have full faith and hope that only you can help us obtain these good qualities. You are so exalted and expert that you know the position of every disciple by a glance and out of your causeless mercy you will do your best to lift him/her out from the ocean of ignorance.

Please allow us to remain your servants always. With these prayers we offer our homage unto you on this Vyasa puja day of yours.

All glories! All glories! All glories unto you!
Srila Gurudeva Ki Jaya!!!

Your unworthy disciples,

*Rohinisuta Dasa
Bhaktin Partima Jyoti Lal
Bhakta Nimish Kanhaiya Lal
Suva, Fiji*

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

Dear Gurudev

Please accept our humble dandavats at your lotus feet.

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada!!
All Glories to Srila Gurudev!!

Once again the occasion is upon us to have this opportunity to glorify you on the most auspicious day of your Vyas puja.

Gurudev, your dedication to follow your Gurudev's instructions to spread Krishna consciousness is an inspiration in itself. You are a perfect idol for your own disciples to show how one has to follow their Gurudev's instructions. Your enthusiasm for kirtan, your sense of humor, your entertaining lectures and your ability to interact with children is just amazing! You make everyone, no matter what age group they belong to, attracted to chanting the holy names of the Lord.

It is our utmost pleasure to have your association and darshan at least few times every year. Seeing our son Keshav wash your lotus feet and offer you flowers and garlands shows how lucky he is at such a young age to have your association and mercy.

Thank you Gurudev for taking us under your shelter and showering your mercy to our small family. We pray that Lord Nrsimhadeva protect and bless you always.

Happy Vyasa puja!!

Your humble servants,

*Roshen
Govinda Priya devi dasi
Keshav
Auckland, New Zealand*

Hare Krishna Guru Maharaj,

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

On this auspicious day, I wish for your long life and good health, so that you continue to inspire people like me to become better than what they are. Your matter of fact approach and sense of humour are heart warming and joyful.

I was fortunate to have your association in Mayapur at Keshava Madhava Prabhu's place during Gaura Purnima; I am his brother in law. Thank you for sharing your valuable insights while on pilgrimage.

Your servant,
Aspiring devotee,

Sam Tripathi
Bombay, Maharashtra, India



Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my obeisances on this most auspicious day of your appearance. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and to Your Grace.

As I look back on this past year, I remember how you took into your care your god-brother's daughter, Rasa Priya. I recall how you visited her every day until the day she passed away, guiding her in her spiritual life and consoling her family. Not only did you guide them spiritually, but you also raised money to pay her father's bills so that he could take care of his daughter.

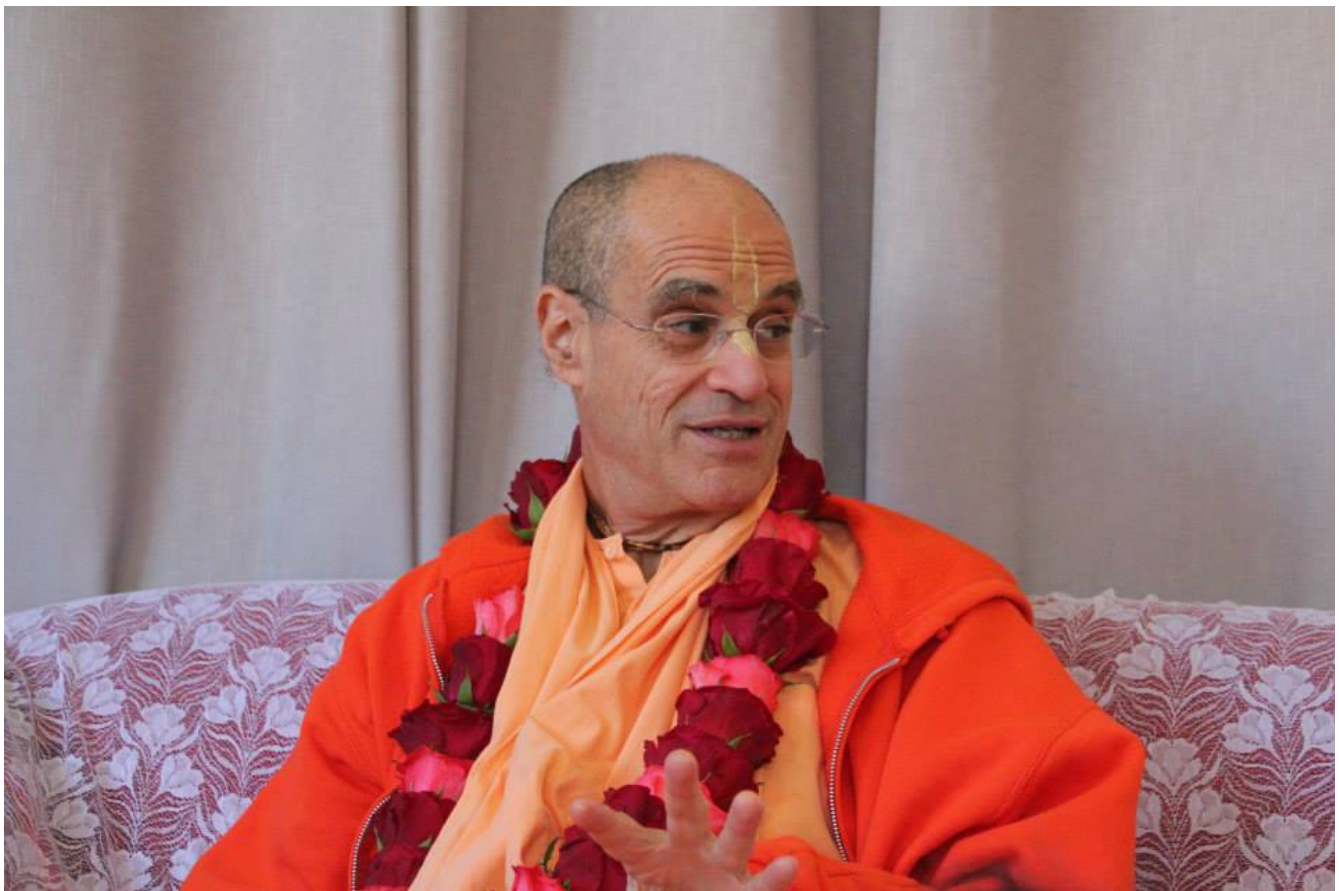
I was very touched by your personal dealings with this sweet Vaishnava family. Over the years, I have always seen that you have taken as one of your highest priorities the personal care of Vaishnavas. You have prioritized this over building large structures or organizing big festivals. You have always stressed that the most important asset of our Krishna consciousness movement is the devotees.

It was very shocking how Rasa Priya left her body in such a short time at a fairly young age. It made me realize that we have a limited amount of time to appreciate and take care of the Vaishnavas. Associating and taking care of the other Vaishnavas is a great privilege, that we may not always have. I can't imagine the day when we no longer have the association and personal guidance of you, your god-brothers, and your god-sisters.

I hope to serve and learn all that I can, so that I may continue to assist in maintaining and pushing on the mission of our dear Srila Prabhupada. Thank you for your guidance and care, which you have given me throughout my life.

Your spiritual daughter,

Sankirtana dasi
Boston, Massachusetts



Dearest Gurudev,

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

Happy Vyasa puja!! I hope this offering finds you happy and healthy in Krsna Consciousness and enjoying the tropical heavenly beauty of the Fijian islands on this auspicious day.

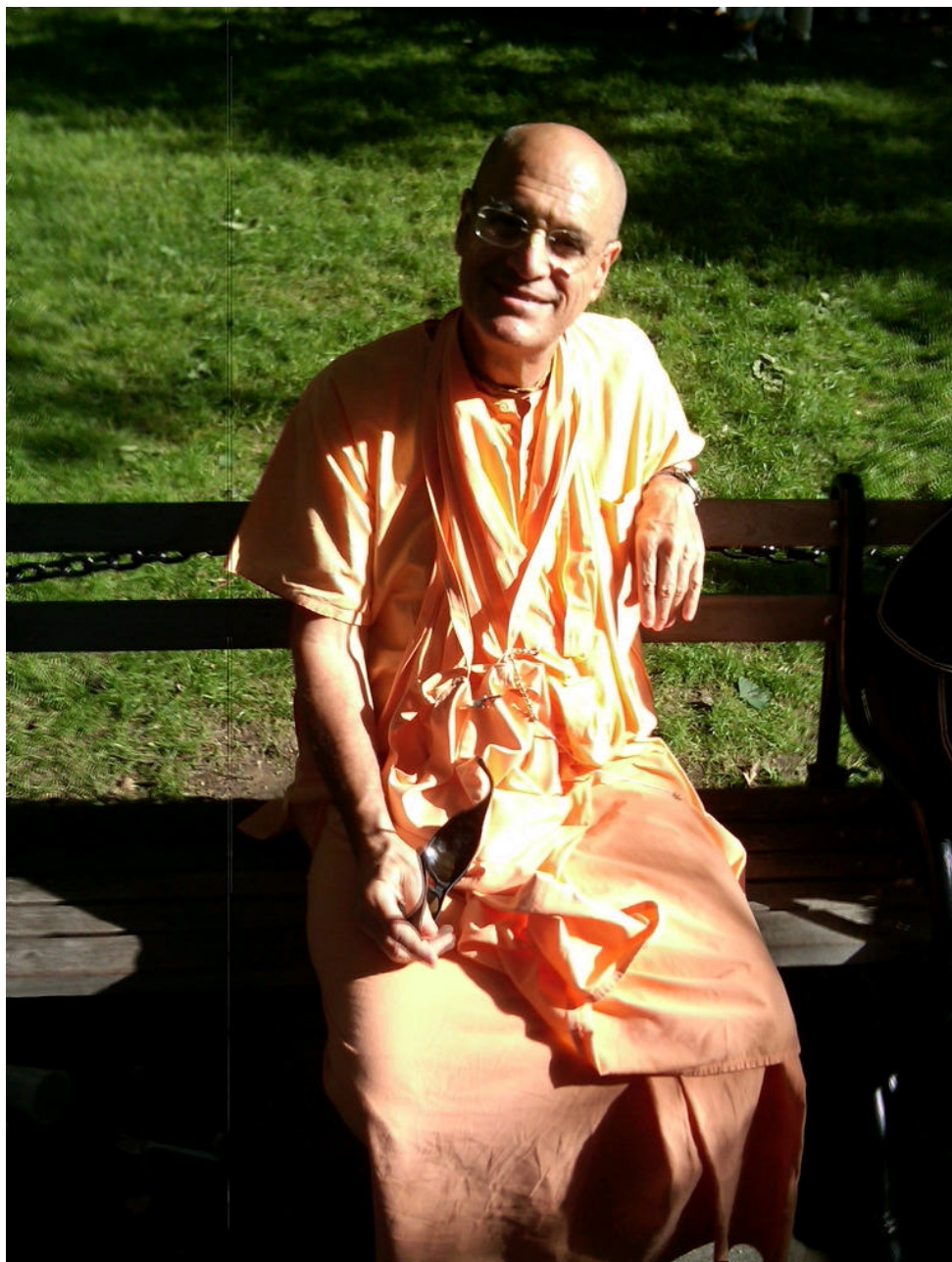
Each year that passes we see you dedicated more and more to spreading Srila Prabhupada's message of love of Godhead and more and more committed to Sri Sri Radha-Golokananda's service.

Please help us to become at least a fraction as successful as you are in Lord Sri Krsna and Goddess Srimati Radharani's eternal service.

Your disciple,

Saranam dasi

United States



Dear Gurudeva

Please accept my humble obeisances.

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

We had a beautiful Janmastami and now Radhastami. I felt very strongly that Radha and Krishna are so happy, and why They are so happy is because You came here and helped the devotees to understand how to serve Them nicely.

When I was reading Your Vyasa puja offering to Srila Prabhupada this year, I was so happy, I could feel that You got so much taste in serving Srila Prabhupada.

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

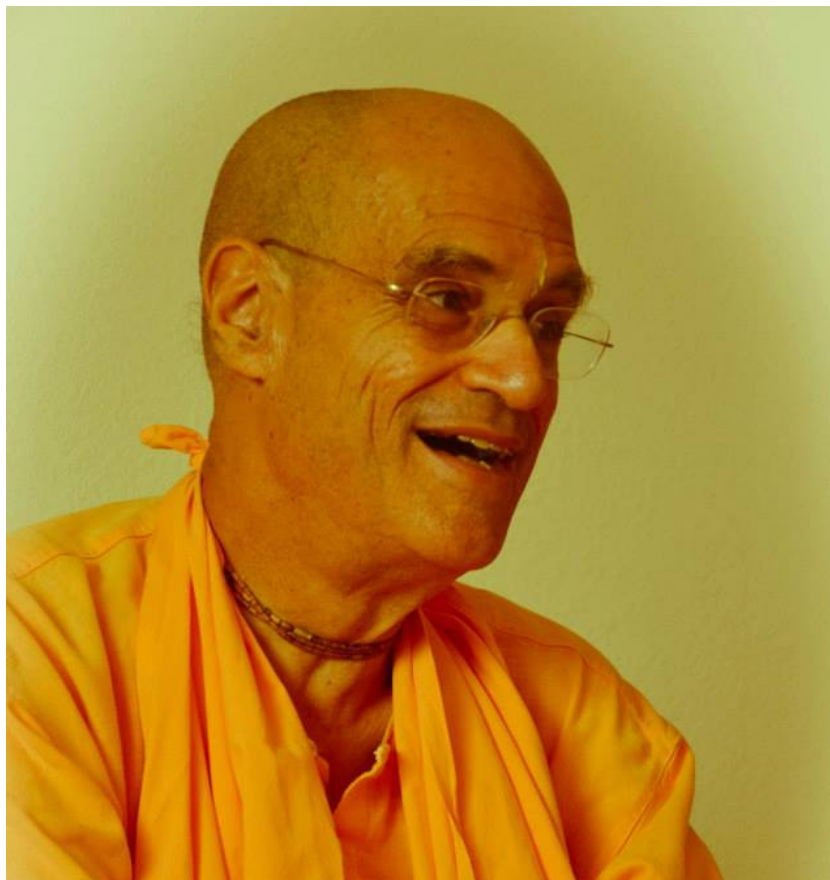
Dear Gurudeva I am so glad that You are fully in line with Srila Prabhupada, understanding his mood and desires. I feel protected, I have full faith in Your guidance, I try to understand where to go and what to do, and I get more taste in serving Krishna.

Dear Gurudeva I may have done offenses to You, I beg Your forgiveness.

I have one wish, that I will be able to see that all my sufferings are the mercy of the Lord. How You have told, it makes us more attached to Krishna. There is taste, Your words are true.

Your servant,

Saumyarupa devi dasi
New Radhakunda, Sweden



All glories to Srila Prabhupada !

All glories to Guru and Gauranga !

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

Dearest Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you on this most auspicious day. On this all-auspicious day of your appearance in this world, we pray to you to bless and empower us to appropriately glorify you. Please Gurudeva forgive our innumerable faults. Chastise us so that our actions may be more pleasing to you.

In your 1994 Vyasa puja offering to Srila Prabhupada you mention:

To be a devotee means to be devoted without any other motivation other than serving the supreme object of devotion-Krishna. Similarly, to be a disciple means that one must be disciplined by the spiritual master so that one is always acting in accordance with the order of the spiritual master. In other words, to be a disciple means to be perfectly obedient.

Gurudeva, we are neither perfectly obedient nor disciplined but you are so merciful that you accept us. We are unworthy to serve you Gurudeva; only by your compassion we are able to engage in devotional services. Please give us more and more strength to follow you strictly and execute your order.

HAPPY VYASA PUJA GURU DEVA

Yours most insignificant servants,

Sukhala devi dasi
Nilacala dasa
Sudharma devi dasi
Ranjini devi dasi
Sacramento, California

Dear Maharaj,

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

I feel that you are my friend. You always answer my questions in a very nice way.

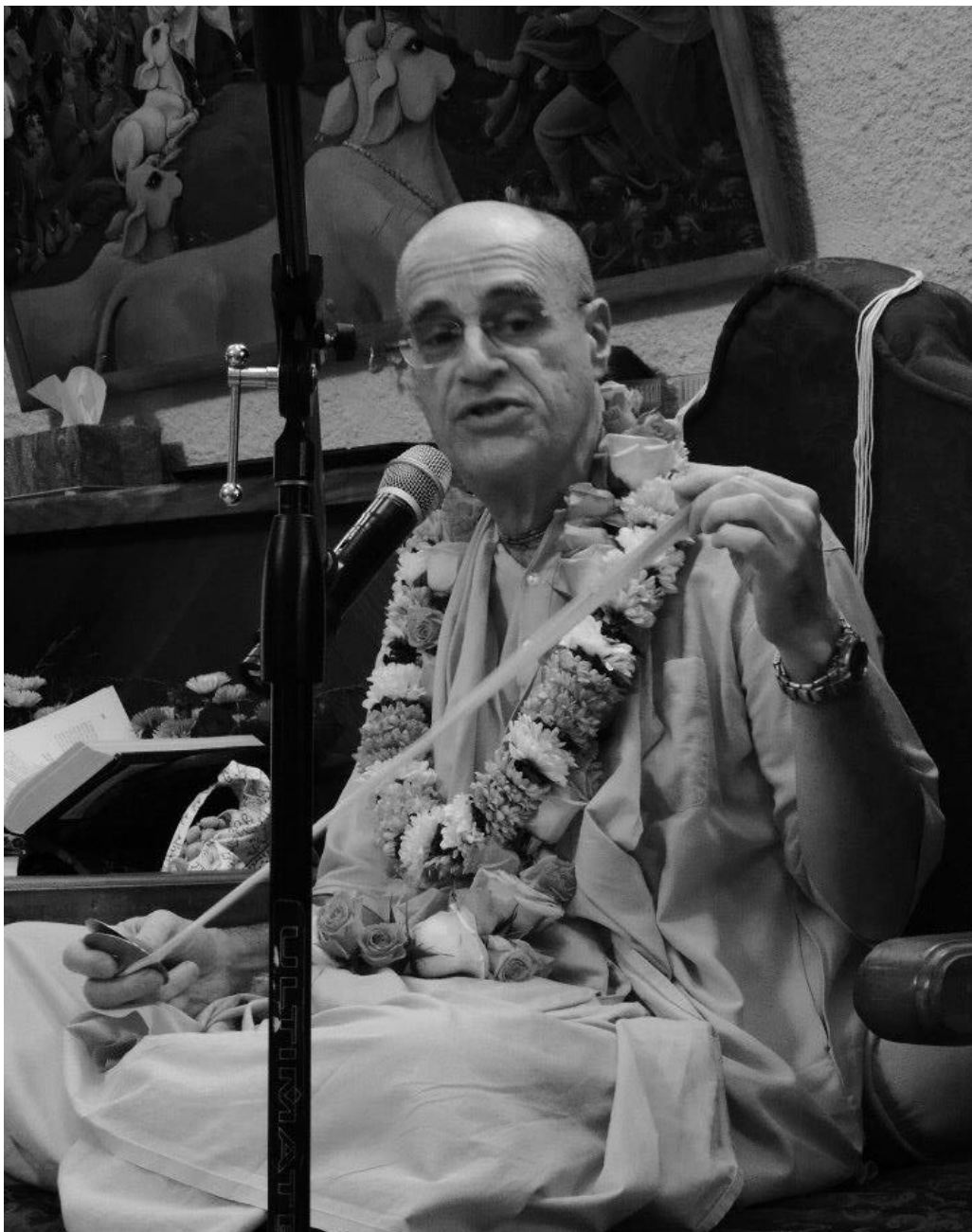
You are very kind and friendly.

I hope that my little endeavor of giving you money for the Govardhana school will help you a lot.

Your servant,

Svakarthanam

Hillsborough, North Carolina



Dearest Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to Your divine appearance day!

I saw nice pictures of the celebration on Saturday and really hope one day to be able to take part in your Vyasa puja ceremony with the whole family.

When I think of you, I naturally remember some of your exemplary Vaishnava qualities like compassion, care and devotion. This year I was so impressed with your seminar on good health during the summer camps. I could see how caring you are for the devotees and how much effort you put into serving the Vaishnavas of Prabhupada's movement in so many different ways.

Since there are not many disciples of Prabhupada left, I think it is important that the devotees are guided in a way that they understand Srila Prabhupada's position and always remain serving him. You have been talking about this point for a long time and it really inspires me. To understand that our gurus are servants of Srila Prabhupada and that they have dedicated their life to Prabhupada in the mission of Lord Caitanya is crucial. I can see how much of a living example you are in this matter to all of us.

I am always amazed when I see how personal you are. You do not distinguish between devotees as those who are your disciples or those who are not - everyone feels welcomed in your association and can take inspiration from you. You have patience, tolerance, determination, bhakti, love for Vrindavan, a genuine service attitude and many innumerable qualities. Just knowing that I have met a person like you is a humbling experience. You are, therefore, my biggest inspiration and I pray to be able to get your mercy again and again.

I also want to thank you very much for all your encouragements. At this stage in my life, where I am at a transition period again, you have been my biggest support. Knowing that you are looking forward to seeing me in Australia and are happy that I have met Maddy means a lot to me. You are Krishna's voice in my life, my spiritual master and kind father. Knowing that you are satisfied with what I do is of great importance to me.

I hope that your glorious service will continue for many more years. We need your guidance and wisdom and I pray that I may keep receiving your spiritual gifts throughout my whole life.

I am attaching a short poem written by Sacinandana Maharaj for your reading pleasure and a happy Vyasa Puja :)

SET YOUR LOVE FREE

When your love is finally free from attachments and needs,
without any demands, just ready to give abundantly in charity
then a shabby beggar dressed in rags will have become an emperor.
Like a bird set free from its caged confines,
it will be able to fly loftily upwards
and sing unceasingly for the pleasure of the Lord...

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for engaging me in Giriraja's service!

Begging to remain one of your disciples and servants,

Your daughter,

Syama Sakhi devi dasi
Bosnia and Herzegovina

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

*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

Hare Krishna Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.
Wishing you a very happy and auspicious birthday and Vyasa puja.

Gurudev, I just wanted to say that I am so grateful; I am blessed that you are my spiritual master, my spiritual father.

You have been the best influence, the best teacher in my life. Everything good that I know, I have learned from you, Gurudev. I admire and appreciate everything you do.

You have taught me to live my life in Krishna consciousness with so much happiness and confidence.

You have taught me to be independent and think outside the box. I always think that you understand me so much better than I understand myself!

You have never hesitated to teach me those lessons in tolerance, forgiveness, patience and humility when I need it... and I know I need it sometimes... and I am happy that you do that. It means I get your mercy and your undivided attention... I always look forward to your home visit, where ever I may be... and I know I'm not always at the same place all the time. Somehow, amongst the zillion things you have to do, you still manage to find the time to get to me, and give me your blessings and your mercy... Thank you so much... :)...

I don't know anyone who is more compassionate and selfless than you are. There is just nothing you wouldn't do to save a soul in trouble.

The books and lectures of Srila Prabhupada are the most precious blessing I could have. I cherish them everyday; I am eternally grateful to you. Thank you so much.

I thank Lord Krishna and Srila Prabhupada for sending you in my life everyday. Thank you Gurudev, millions and millions of times, for your loving blessings, support, guidance and compassion.

With obeisances,

Your humble servant,

Syamapriya devi dasi
Sydney, Australia

P.S. Did I mention? It's always, always, always fun when you are around, Gurudev!!!

My Dearest Gurudeva,

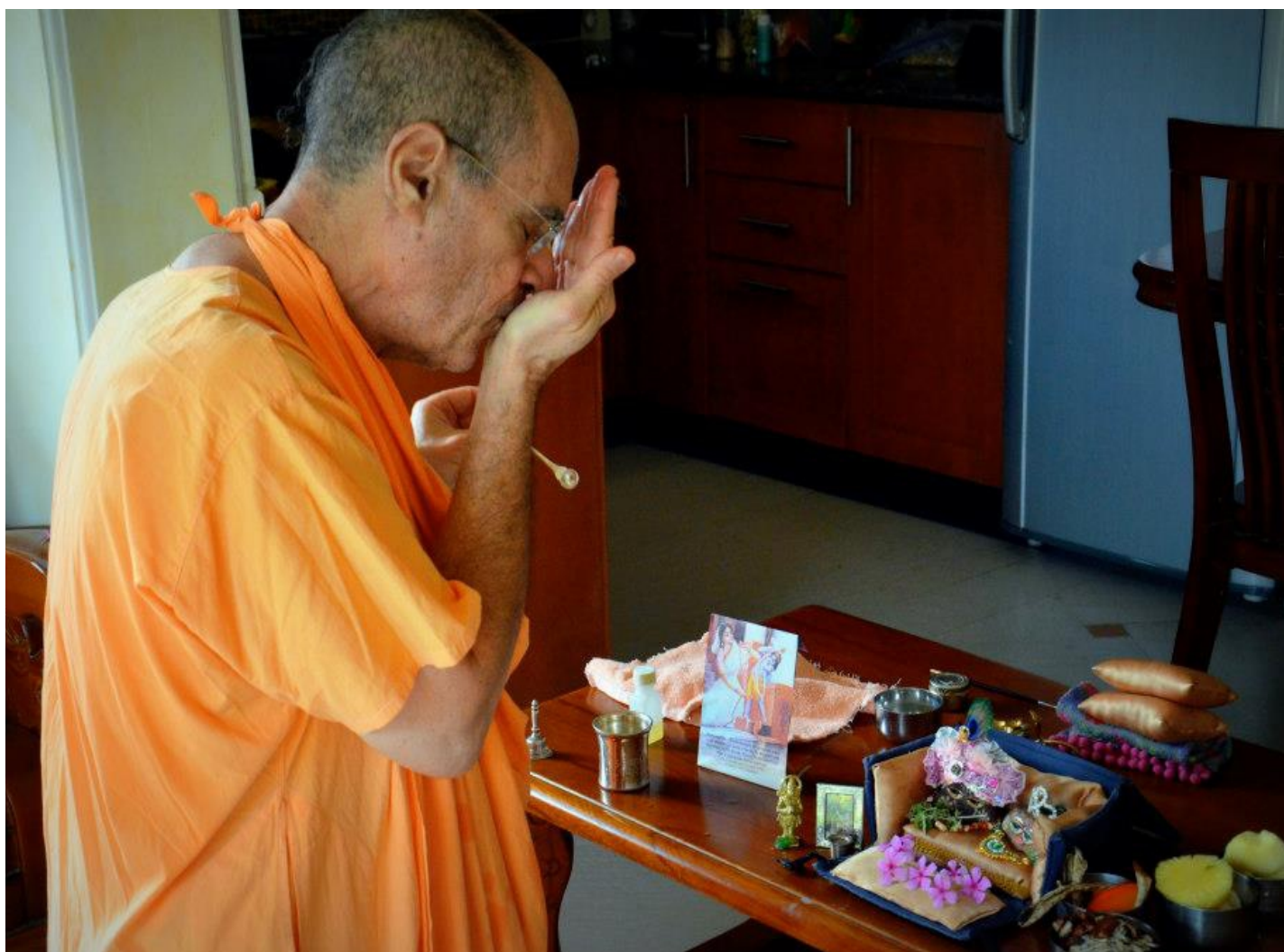
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to you!

I pray that Lord Krishna will bless you with good health so that you may continue Srila Prabhupada's mission. I would also like to thank you for all the time you devote to our family when you are here at New Goloka, as well as all the guidance you provide us when you are not here. I know your time is limited between your duties and travels with the GBC, and all the personal attention that all of us, your devotees, require. You are most merciful!

You are the epitome of how a devotee should act and live, and how a devotee should carry themselves. I also pray that my feeble attempts to follow your example and heed your instructions will bring me closer to Krishna.

Your humble servant,

Tota-Gopinatha dasa
New Goloka, North Carolina



Dear Gurudev,

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

I wish you a happy appearance day and happy celebration with all the devotees!

I would like to thank you for coming into our lives so mercifully. In our present situation we could not even imagine how we would be able to carry through without your guidance, support, prayers and time, which you are so mercifully giving us.

Please continue to stay with us for a very long time for we are longing for your continuous association.

Your servant,

Tulasī Priya
Ljubljana, Slovenia



Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my obeisances on this most auspicious occasion of your appearance. All glories to your divine grace. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and his International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

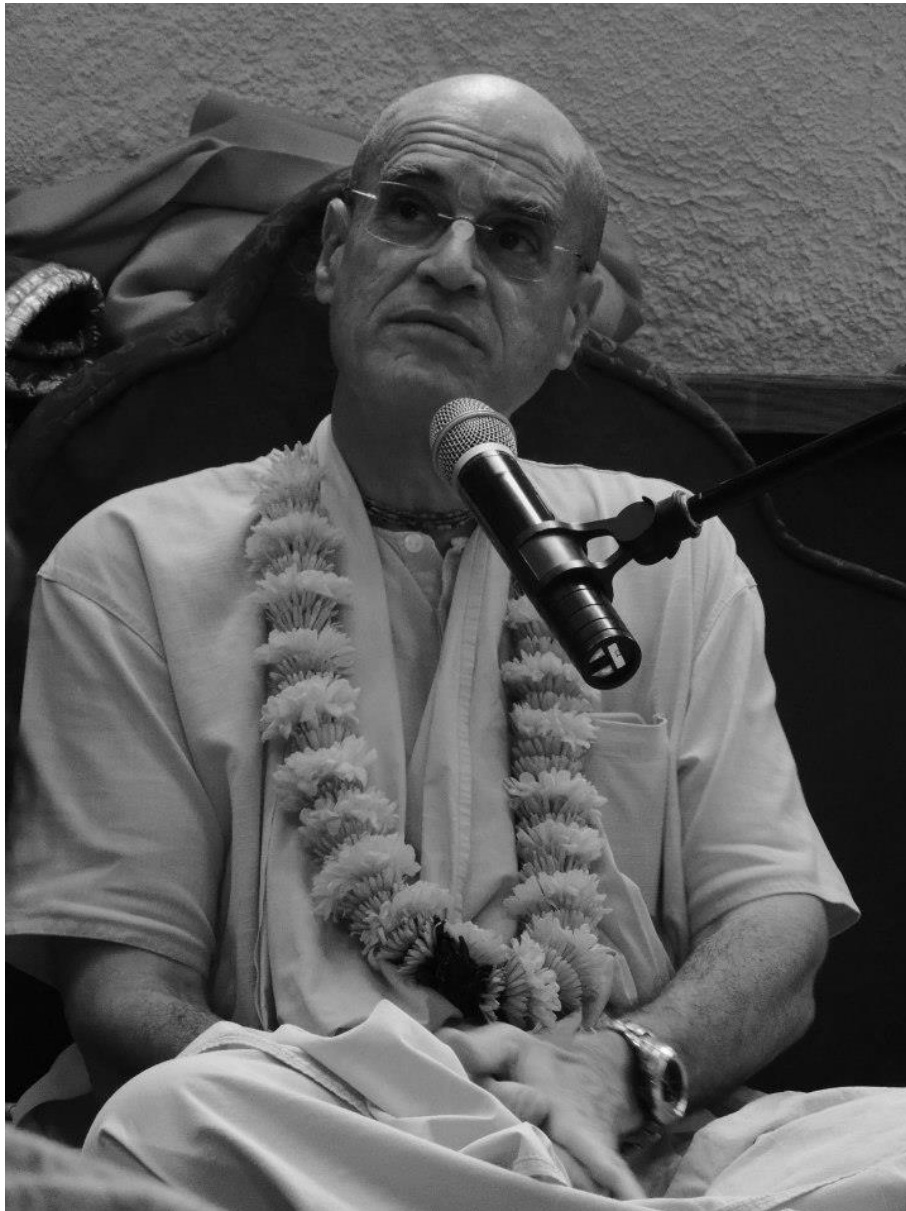
In the first letter you ever wrote to me back in early 1979, you said to me "The more you develop our service attitude, the more Lord Caitanya will empower us in many ways." I know that the reason I am still alive in Krishna consciousness is because of you always engaging me in service no matter what I'm going through. I know too that you are all over the world similarly engaging others in service which includes hearing and chanting, in which you are always keeping up with the latest technology that will be useful in Krishna's service, in helping spread Krishna consciousness, and helping others, trying to serve Srila Prabhupada's deepest desire. Otherwise you'd be at Govardhana, living in some cave by now.

Thanking you eternally, and praying and working to become a pure instrument for you and the whole disciplic chain and Sri Sri Gaura Nitai and Sri Radha Giri Govardhana.

Your eternal servant,

Mother Tulasi

New Goloka, Hillsborough, North Carolina



Dearest Gurudeva,

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

Your unending, steadfast determination to serve Srila Prabhupada continues to inspire me to remain at your lotus feet. Taking your example to serve despite difficulties helps me through difficult times. Your attachment for chanting the Holy Name inspires me to rise to a higher platform and to increase my attention on my japa. You once stated "The real point is the spiritual master. And the basic foundational order is chant sixteen rounds, follow the four regulative principles: that's a symptom of love." I beg to always remain loyal to this order. Please bless me that I may always have the association of the vaisnavas and to continue serving Srila Prabhupada's glorious mission.

Your fallen servant,

Uttara devi dasi

New Goloka, Hillsborough, North Carolina



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

Todas las glorias a Srila Prabhupada, Todas las glorias a usted srila Gurudeva.

Querido Gurudev;

Acepte mis humildes reverencias, deseo que se la pasa muy bien en su cumpleaños.

También le quiero dar gracias por todo lo que ha hecho por todos los devotos, por todas las enseñanzas que nos a dado y todos los consejos que nos a ofrecido y que siempre esta con nosotros cuando mas los necesitamos, en todas nuestras dudas. También personalmente le quiero dar las gracias por haberme aceptado en sus humildes pies de loto y que cada año me acero más a Krishna gracias a usted, se que aunque casi no le mando e-mails, pienso en usted y en todas las clases y consejos que nos ha enseñado y me inspira a ser una mejor devota y persona.

Gracias gurudev por todos estos años de enseñanza y bendiciones.

Con las mas humildes reverencias;

Su fiel sirvienta y aspirante,

Verónica López
Cancún, México



*namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bir krsna das goswamin iti namine*

*namo hamsa nikasaya prabhupada priyaya te
su drdha suddhi nistabhyam tasya vakyanuvadine*

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

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

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet on this most glorious day of your appearance. Srila Guru Maharaj, I thank you from within my heart for being so generous, caring and merciful upon me. You have given me the association of your sincere disciples who are constantly engaged in the service of expanding Krsna consciousness.

So caring you are that you're always concerned about the well being of me, on material platform and also on spiritual level. I would like to declare to you Guru Maharaj that I am no longer interested in this material life and I want to serve you better spiritually to engage myself in devotional service. It is only possible by serving your lotus feet. By having your association the contamination within my mind becomes destroyed. Thank you Maharaj for being merciful towards my family. You show the right path to engage in Krsna consciousness. It is only through your mercy that I am able to make advancement in spiritual life. I simply bow down at your lotus feet and beg for your mercy to allow me to serve you humbly.

Your servant,

Vilasini devi dasi
Suva, Fiji



Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my obeisances.
All Glories to Srila Prabhupada.

When I first met you and actually observed and talked to you I was instantly attracted. Your desire to help people with proper communications along with your compassion for all is amazing. Your sacrifice for your disciples and Prabhupada is commendable. Finally your humility and gravity are qualities I would like to develop in myself. These aspects of your personality makes you dear to Krsna, Srila Prabhupada, and me as your disciple.

At one of your seminars on Nonviolent Communications was one of the first times I had meaningful interactions with you. By showing us how to better understand and empathize with each other, you are teaching us the importance of devotee relationships. You are trying to build a stronger ISKCON by helping us learn how to act and react in a way that does not involve offenses and miscommunications that can lead to frustrations and emotional pain. In your interactions with your disciples and other devotees you are exemplifying the qualities of empathy and compassion. You attentively listen to our problems and our activities. When we ask for advise or instructions you give us practical and doable tasks or teachings. You help us avoid the offense of not following your instructions by understanding our limitations and not setting us up for failure. Every time I have had darshan with you your compassion is evident. You have always asked about other disciples and devotees in my community. Asking how they are doing and looking out for their welfare. You truly care for them even if they are not in contact with you. You are always there with open arms to accept us back if we have strayed.

Accessibility is another quality of yours that melts my heart. Even with your busy schedule and all of your duties, you are there for us in our times of need. The other week my wife wrote you and expressed her concern for me in my spiritual life. She asked you if you could communicate with me to help enthuse me in my Krsna Consciousness. As I was going to the Temple on Janmashtami I received a phone call from you. This meant the world to me. Your willingness to sacrifice your time on a busy day to talk to me and give me practical advice is an example of your dedication to Srila Prabhupada's mission. No one is too small or too far away to not receive your mercy in their times of need.

Finally, your humility is a radiating beacon of light for all of us to follow. In the instructions you have given me, it has never been to glorify yourself. You told me to listen to Srila Prabhupada's lectures and read his books. You have so many lectures available for me to listen to, and these are easily available through your mercy, but you told me to go back to the source and listen to Srila Prabhupada and read his books. I have seen you speak and write about the importance of your relationship with Srila Prabhupada, that this relationship is what keeps you strong. You encourage me to develop this relationship too. This simple instruction strengthens the bond I feel to you as my Guru. You are showing me how to build my Krsna consciousness on a firm foundation.

Gurudeva, you are teaching me by instructions and by example. If I can follow these instructions I will develop the qualities of a Vaisnava. Humility, compassion for all living entities, and self sacrifice for the benefit of others are the qualities I am learning from you. Your love for Krsna and Srila Prabhupada is the source of these high qualities. I thank you. I thank you for allowing me to take shelter at your feet.

Your servant

Visnujana dasa
Portland, Oregon

Dear Beloved Gurudeva!

Please accept my humble obeisances.
All Glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All Glories to Lord Chaitanya's mission!
All Glories to Divine SriSri Radha Golokananda!!

In expecting the most happiest day of our lives, Your appearance in this world, which we all celebrate around the planet, with great love and affection. I wish to say that You are my true and only Father I do have. You stood by me through all of the times, good or a bad.

I hope Your unconditional love rescues me at the end, even from certain death, for some reason. Time will show. Because I'm fully depending on Your constant mercy, and Your *vani* is my shelter.

I just wish that I can always reside at the dust of Your lotus feet.

Your mission is my inspiration. Your words emanating from Your lotus mouth and Your every steps and moves, bring me more closer to the Absolute Truth, the cause of all causes, The Lord. Through You, I can see that service is a dance. Thank You!

It's not hard to see Krishna, due to the causeless mercy of a bona fide spiritual master.

What can I desire more in this world? Nothing. You fulfilled all of my desires, and gave me what i needed the most.

You have always been repeating to me to just take shelter of the Holy Name, in every occasion. That was Your final order, so I realized the fact that the Supreme Personality in this age is *nama rupa Krishna avatara*.

So I simply follow, and by following Your order, the spiritual world becomes visible to me.

I wish to say Thank You Gurudeva, for taking such good, precious care of all of us, Your spiritual children, and for giving such a pure example and the pure knowledge and happiness of spiritual life.

I personally experienced many troubles, but by Your mercy upon me, became closer and more dependent on Your *kripa*. In this material world, we are all so helpless. Life is illusion; total dependance on Guru is reality. I never lost my faith in You, my Father, even on the worst day, when the illusion covered me, and everything seemed very dark. You, by Your invisible hand, hold me. I stand up, and just leave the old man in me behind. Due to You, just by Your providing *kripa doya*, Your love and understanding and care Gurudeva. Only because of that, new born and refreshed, I continue. On this very special day i wish to say THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME AND PROTECTING ME. Is there anything I can say more?

My only wish is to be corrected and to become better and more steady in my spiritual practice, and to spend the rest of my days in following Your orders with love and such enthusiasm as You are always teaching. It will complete me as a person, and give the meaning of this short time existing in this body. With hope, that in the time of my death, I will be able to fully surrender.

Happy Vyasa puja dear Gurudeva!!!!

Your daughter,

Vraja Isvari dasi
Zajecar, Serbia

Hare Kṛṣṇa!

My dear revered Gurudeva, Śrīla Bīr Kṛṣṇa Gosvāmī,

Please accept my most humble obeisances.
All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

For this wonderful occasion of Your Vyāsa pūjā, I, poor guy, at least may offer to You my sincerest admiration, gratitude, and loyalty.

First, let me offer a few words of admiration. I admire Your shining exemplary acting as a servant and missionary of Śrīla Prabhupāda, as his pure and resourceful, peculiar representative (I don't know if "peculiar" is the right word - my dictionaries offer no better term for "one whose personality is rich in some original particular traits."), as his representative who is fully loyal yet independently thoughtful. I'm happy I can admire You, and I find, reflecting like this, a new inspiration to visit more frequently your FaceBook page, and I regret for having done it so infrequently in the past.

Then, I may express my humble gratitude. I'm thankful my life has gained what I have always aspired to have - a sense of clarity and empowerment. And it is now there, and growing, although I'm in a long Rāhu-period, and Rāhu is especially not very friendly to my birth-sign, Leo, whose lord is Surya to whom Rāhu is an avowed enemy. In spite of that, certain clarity and empowerment are there, maybe because Rāhu has decided to modify his policy with me, learning that "this one has been sheltered and initiated by a pure servant and representative of Śrīla Prabhupāda, the pure servant and representative of Lord Gaurāṅga."

I wish to recount to You a nice little example of being in such the fortunate treatment. Last summer, 2012, a few days before Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī, our manager for cooking of Sunday Feasts and other festivals, namely me, had no cook on disposition for the upcoming festivities. All the somewhat experienced cooks were somehow absent, except one - the in-charged himself, me. And Janmāṣṭamī is often our most visited festival in the year. Moreover, the day after is, of course, Prabhupāda Vyāsa pūjā, and the day after it is Sunday, which means feast again. Shall i be the cook for each of those? That in itself would be a considerable feat for me with my capacities and in our circumstances. But my task would include not only cooking, but calling and engaging some helpers too (we are a congregation-only yatra) and, much more difficultly, going to purchase the bhoga too. All that, for all the 3 consecutive feasts. Still somehow, I had very shortly the doubts that it will be done exactly like that. And when i begun purchasing bhoga for Janmāṣṭamī, uh... I realized what an enterprise had i entered in...

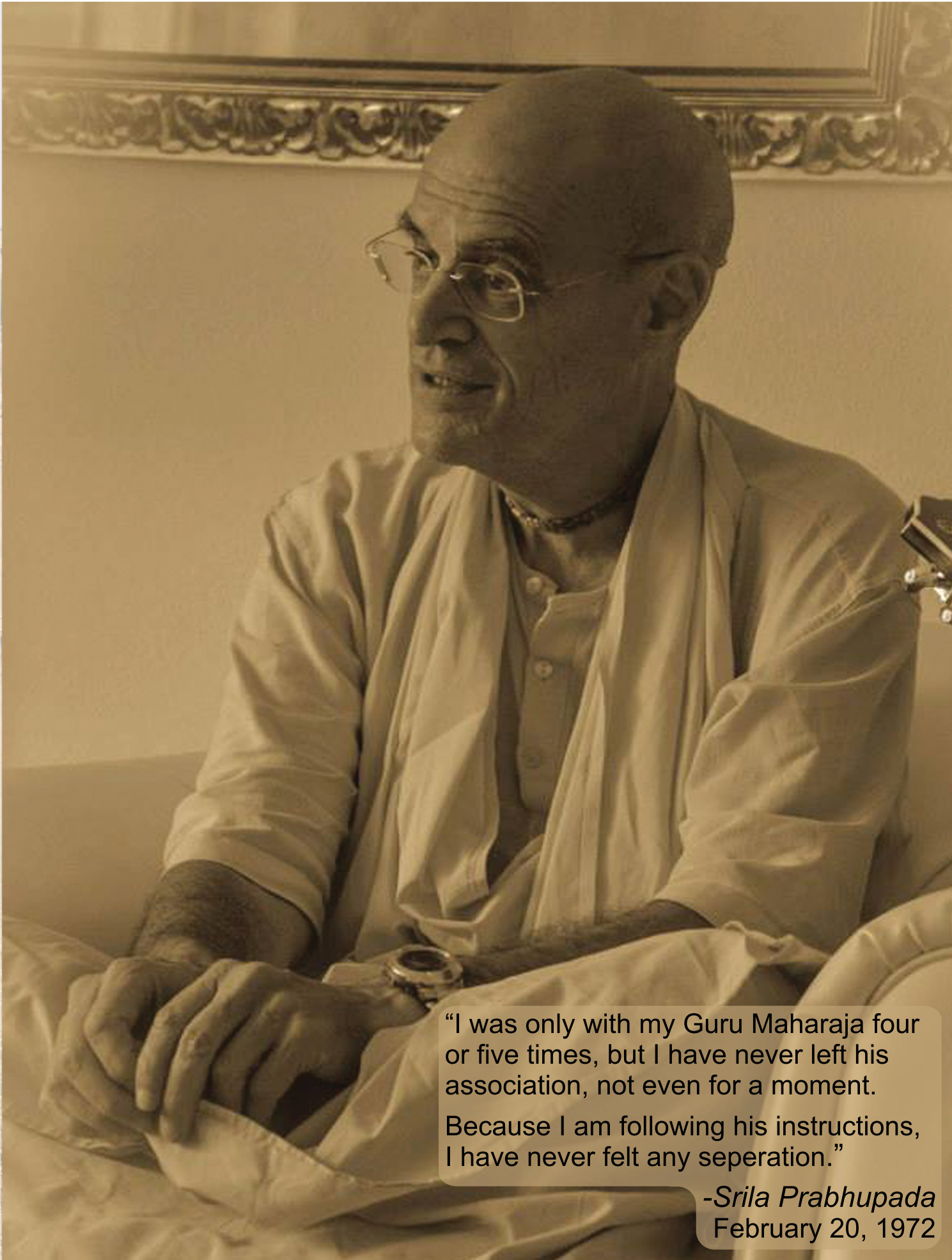
But the empowerment was there, and in the kitchen the atmosphere was blissful and joyful, attracting also other, non-appointed devotees to come and ask us if we could engage them in the kitchen. The whole festival was very nice of course, and with the prasādam too everyone was very happy, all the 3 days. My special happiness was in that a couple of my old friends, a gṛhastha couple, who had been somewhat aside for some time, going through an ebb in devotional life, came in the kitchen, gave a pretty crucial contribution for the festival in service (adding also some nice contribution in laksmi), and were deeply happy and satisfied thereafter.

Finally, I offer to You my loyalty, praying that I may always remain ever more deeply conscious of Your mercy and hopefully of Your real desire, of Prabhupāda's position and teachings, of Kṛṣṇa's beauty and mercy, and always deeply in line with Prabhupāda's teachings, inwardly and outwardly. And to always remain in the shelter of this great eternal enterprise and adventure, ISKCON.

A note. Maybe You have heard already that in Croatian language we have a word "ISKON". It is pronounced the same as the English "ISKCON". The same word is uttered. And it means: "primeval beginning, primordiality, originness". A very nice sounding word, and with an attractive meaning.

Bowing down to all my god brothers and god sisters as well,
the above said prays,
Your humble servant,

Yamuna Jivana dāsa
Split, Croatia.



"I was only with my Guru Maharaja four or five times, but I have never left his association, not even for a moment.

Because I am following his instructions, I have never felt any separation."

-*Srila Prabhupada*
February 20, 1972