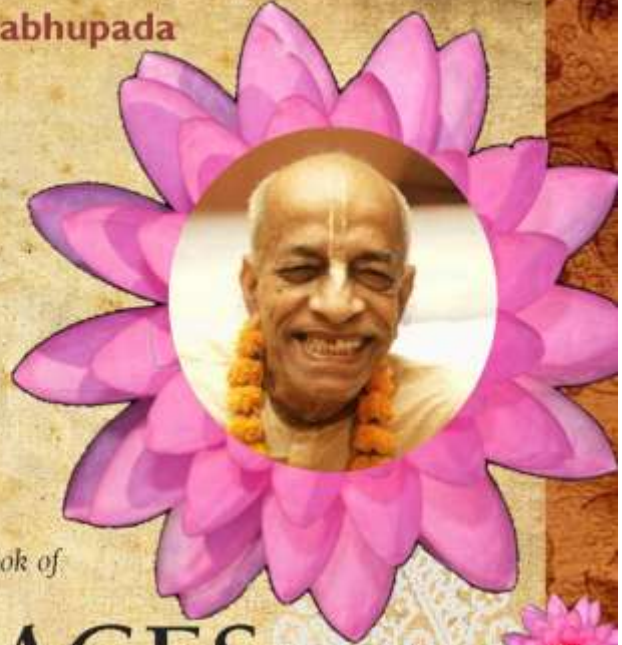


Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare, Hare Rāma Hare Rāma Rāma Rāma Hare Hare

The International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness
Founder-Acarya His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupada



A book of

HOMAGES

From

Disciples and Well-wishers

- AFRICA -

for

Sri Vyasa-puja

The Most Glorious Celebration of the Appearance of

om viṣṇu-pāda paramahansa parivrājakaṅcārya aṣṭottara-śata śrī śrīmad

Bhakti Caitanya Swami

Tridandi Goswami Maharaja



Saturday, 01 August 2015

ISKCON Sri Sri Nital Gaura-Hari Mandir, Johannesburg, South Africa

Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare, Hare Rāma Hare Rāma Rāma Rāma Hare Hare

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01 August 2015

ISKCON Sri Sri Nitai Gaura-Hari Mandir, Johannesburg, South Africa

This book is dedicated to

om viṣṇu-pāda paramahaṁsa parivrājakācārya aṣṭottara-śata śrī śrīmad

Bhakti Caitanya Swami

Tridandi Goswami Maharaja

On the joyous occasion of

Sri Vyasa-puja

The Most Glorious Celebration of His Divine Grace's Appearance in this World

We offer our humble obeisances to His Divine Grace
and hope that this book will be pleasing to Him

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhakti caitanya-svāmin iti nāmine

namāmi bhakti-caitanyam prabhupādānusevinam

śrī-vraja-dhana-māhātmya-pradarśakam kṛpārṇavam

Preface

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to His Divine Grace Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja and the most joyous celebration of His Divine Appearance in this world.

His Divine Grace Bhakti Caitanya Swami is a direct disciple of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the Founder-*Acarya* of the International Society for Krsna Consciousness (ISKCON). His Divine Grace Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja serves as an initiating spiritual master and Governing Body Commissioner on ISKCON's Governing Body for several countries.

This book is a compilation of homages from disciples and well-wishers of Africa, mainly, for the most auspicious celebration of the appearance day of His Divine Grace at the annual *Vyasa-puja* celebration on Saturday, 01 August 2015 at ISKCON Sri Sri Nitai Gaura-Hari Mandir, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The various components of the *Vyasa-puja* festival allow us to individually and collectively express our sincere gratitude to His Divine Grace, show our appreciation to him, honour his remarkable contribution to ISKCON, pray for His Divine Grace's blessings and mercy for our individual spiritual growth, and take shelter of the protection of the *Sri Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya sampradaya*, the unbroken tradition of spiritual masters that His Divine Grace represents, which dates back to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, and ultimately Lord Sri Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. It is our great fortune, that His Divine Grace is present at this celebration.

The messages in this book are testimony to the profound impact that His Divine Grace has on the devotees in Africa, and their love for Him reciprocally. The *Vyasa-puja Team* has attempted to compile this publication for the pleasure of His Divine Grace, and all the devotees concerned. If there is any discrepancy in the production of this book, or any homage in particular, we humble ask the reader's forgiveness.

Your humble servants,

Isvara Puri dasa and Syama Kishor dasa

On behalf of *The Vyasa-puja Team*, Johannesburg

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The Meaning of Vyasa-puja

Sri Vyasa Puja is the celebration of the day which marks the appearance of Sri Guru in this material world. It is an annual gathering of disciples and well-wishers in which Sri Guru's followers fully express their affection and debt to him, and honour him.

Vyasa refers to Srila Vyasadeva, the original compiler of the *Vedas*, and *puja* refer to forms of worship. *Vyasa-puja*, therefore, means honouring Srila Vyasadeva. He is the supreme spiritual master because he has given spiritual knowledge. The genuine follower of Srila Vyasadeva that comes in disciplic succession from him is a *bona fide* spiritual master. The Srimad Bhagavatam, Canto one: chapter two: verse four, states that the *bona fide* spiritual master is perfect since his instructions come from the teachings of the original spiritual master.

How shall we worship Sri Guru? Today we worship with an offering of *aratik* in honor of Sri Guru, a foot-bathing ceremony, offerings of flower garlands, and petals at His lotus feet. Someone may inquire as to why the elaborate worship of Sri Guru? In reply, Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja is a direct disciple of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, and is connected to Sri Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead through the disciplic succession, and must therefore be honoured as much as the Supreme Lord. Srila Visvanath Cakravarti Thakur has sung:

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

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

(Sri Gurvastakam: 7)

In all revealed scriptures it is stated that to the degree that a disciple surrenders unto Sri Guru, he advances spiritually. Srila Prabhupada states, 'unless one satisfies his guru, one cannot receive proper knowledge. That is quite natural. If one receives his guru properly and seats him comfortably, and if the guru is pleased with one's behaviour, the guru can speak very frankly and freely, and this will be very beneficial to the student' (Teachings of Lord Kapila).

It is only by approaching Sri Guru submissively, hearing from him attentively and with his blessings can the student of the Vedas receive knowledge,

*tad viddhi pranitpatena pariprasnena sevaya
upadeksyanti te jnanam jnaninas tattva-darsinah*

Just to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realised souls can impart knowledge unto you because they have seen the truth

(Bhagavad-gita As It Is, 4.34).

As compared with Sri Guru, who has seen the truth by direct perception, we are deceived by knowledge of direct sensory perception. We rely on our mental faculties for acquiring knowledge, yet it is the nature of the mind to concoct, deceive, change, lie and create problems even when there are none. Therefore the conditioned living entities cannot understand the transcendental world with dull, limited senses. The conditioned living beings' knowledge is poor, senses imperfect, and resources limited: it is not possible for us to know of the Absolute realm without surrendering ourselves at the lotus feet of Srila Vyasadeva, or Sri Guru, his bonafide representative.

Only to those great souls who simultaneously have implicit faith in both the Supreme Lord and the Spiritual Master are all the imports of the Vedic knowledge automatically revealed (Svetasvatara Upanisad 6.23).

The fortunate disciple who surrenders to a *bona fide* spiritual master and renders service unto him attains all spiritual success. The celebration of Vyasa-puja can rekindle the submissive attitude of service that is essential for our growth in Krishna consciousness. Therefore, let the followers of His Divine Grace take the opportunity, today, to receive Srila Gurudeva properly, and please him with our offerings of love. By surrendering to his lotus feet, by hearing the transcendental sound vibrations of the Vedas from him, the misgivings of this temporary world can be dissipated from our hearts and uninterrupted devotional service to the lotus feet of Sri Krishna will gradually awaken within us.

Your servant

Radhika Prasada-Devi dasi

Acyuta Gauranga dasa

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

Divine Grace!

"Now I am confused about my duty and have lost all composure because of miserly weakness. In this condition I am asking You to tell me for certain what is best for me. Now I am Your disciple, and a soul surrendered unto You. Please instruct me."

These words spoken to Sri Bhagawan by Arjuna inquiring his position and activities leave a powerful sentiment on my heart. But to what extent do I understand it? That I too am confused? That I am conditioned and uncertain!

My dearest Srila Gurudeva,

May I too inquire about my confused state, lack of composure and weakness. You know for certain what is best for me. I am Your disciple, and my soul surrendered to You. Please instruct me.

Your glories are spread across the world. From Russia I have heard how your mercy has saved many souls, in the United States I have heard of how your *kathas* transports all the fallen souls to Govardhana hill from the very spot they sit in.

When I hear these glories I feel ashamed that I have taken for granted the shelter you so graciously award me. To not understand my good fortune is a pity on me. I am the son of a soul so dear to Srila Prabhupada.

Srila Gurudeva how may I serve you?

I feel useless when I see how your sons and daughters lovingly surrender themselves for your pleasure. I feel ashamed that I have not made any progress and remain in this conditioned state.

You are the only person along with Srila Prabhupada that it is willing to sacrifice for me, to pardon my offenses that I continuously commit, burn up my karma to allow me the chance to return home to Godhead.

Please forgive me Srila Gurudeva, I am useless and pathetic, my endeavors a feeble and I lack intelligence. I pray to Sri Sri Radha Radhanath that I may someday do something worthy for your pleasure, to be able to assist you in your service to Srila Prabhupada.

Please instruct me as to how I may serve you. In the words of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur,

"Everything is yours, I am merely a servant, certain that you will deliver me. I have chosen

your lotus feet as my only shelter. I no longer belong to myself."

All glories to your Divine Grace. All glories to your transcendental service to Srila Prabhupada. Happy 64th Vyasa Puja.

With all my heart, soul and love,

Your insignificant son

Acyuta Gauranga dasa

Akincana Krishna dasa and Haripriya-Devi dasi

*nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhakhti caitanya svamin iti namine*

*nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine*

*namas te saraswate deve gaura-vani-pracarine
nirvishesha-shunyavadi-pashchatya-desha-tarine*

Dear Gurudeva

All glories to Their Lordships Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari, All glories to Srila Prabhupada, All glories to You on the celebration of Your Vyasa Puja.

Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu says: "By the mercy of Krishna one gets a bona fide spiritual master, and by the mercy of the spiritual master one gets Krishna."

The relationship between the spiritual master and disciple is said to be eternal. It is by the mercy of Guru that we can attempt to be engaged in the service of Krishna. Your commitment to us can be seen in Your ongoing attempts to encourage us in our Krishna Consciousness.

We thank You Gurudeva for Your mercy in bringing Their Lordships Lord Jagannatha, Baladeva and Subhadhra Maharani to Middelburg for the Ratha Yatra, even when we were faced with setbacks. We thank You for accepting us as Your disciples and we pray to Lord Krishna that we do not become a burden to You.

In Kali yuga, we find ourselves constantly reminded of our material desires, our minds ever wondering, we find ourselves, continuously fighting battles between right and wrong and asking ourselves whether our actions can be regarded as activities in Krishna consciousness or not.

We beg for forgiveness for all our shortfalls in our feeble attempts to practice Krishna Consciousness and we ask for Your mercy so that we may try harder and learn from Your example of dedicating Your life to the mission of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada.

Aspiring to be servants at the dust of Your Divine Lotus Feet

Akincana Krishna dasa and Haripriya-Devi dasi

Amritamani-Devi dasi

Dear Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja.

Gurudev, with a heart full of gratitude and a head full of thoughts, as I sit to write this offering today, I find myself yet again facing a battle of words. How does a fool like myself even begin to write about the glories of my eternal saviour? How does a cold heart even begin to express its gratitude for the unconditional love, care and guidance you bring.

Gurudev, recently I have been asked by a colleague at work, what was my definition of success. I replied by asking what was her definition of success was and got the reply "Make lots of money". I stopped for a moment and thought about what success meant to me and told my colleague I will answer the question a bit later after thinking about what I wanted to say.

After some thinking I came down to this conclusion: My only success in life is to one day at least try to understand what it means to be a devotee, what to speak of becoming a devotee. To understand what it means to become Your servant, what to even speak of becoming your servant. To understand what it means to chant at least one mantra in this life time with everything in my heart, like a child crying out for its mother. What to speak of actually chanting like that!

Gurudev I have no other key to this success other than the shelter in the dust of Your divine lotus feet, which you have so kindly given to this fool. I did not know who Lord Caitanya was Srila Gurudev, yet he has come to give us all this success. I did not know who Srila Prabhupada is Gurudev, our eternal saviour who has come to give us Lord Caitanya, but

You Srila Gurudev have come to give me Srila Prabhupada. You Srila Gurudev has taking the instructions and teachings of Srila Prabhupada to heart. You are an example of this success Gurudev!

"My path is very difficult. I am blind, and my feet are slipping again and again. Therefore, may the saints help me by granting me the stick of their mercy as my support".

Caitanya Caritamrita Antya Lila 1.2.

Gurudev the success of this fool depends only of Your causeless mercy! In the words of Bhaktivinoda Thakur "If you examine me, you will find no qualities. Your mercy is all that I am made of. If you are no merciful unto me, I can only weep and I will not be able to maintain my life."

This fool is not worthy of your mercy and love Srila Gurudev, however you are still so tolerant and compassionate to this fool. On this most auspicious day of your vyasa puja I pray that I can always appreciate and treasure this most precious gift which you have given to me. My heart has so much more to say to you Srila Gurudev, but for today words seem to fail me. The words thank you seems so mundane and ordinary to say to you today Gurudev. However the fool that I am, I would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything Srila Gurudev!

Happy Vyasa Puja my eternal father!

Begging to always be of some insignificant service in the dust of Your Lotus feet eternally,

Your foolish daughter,

Amritamani-Devi dasi

Ananda Caitanya dasa

My dear Guru Maharaja,

I cannot express in words or deeds how much your guidance and loving instructions have helped me in my life.

I feel unworthy to be called a disciple of you as I do not possess even the minimum qualities of a vaisnava.

Guru maharaj I beg of you to please bestow you mercy on me so that I may be successful in my endeavors to please you.

On this auspicious day of your Sri Vyasa Puja I would like to thank you for your never ending love and compassion.

I promise to you as an offering this year that I will aim to improve in my Krsna Consciousness by taking up more service and more importantly carrying out my service in a mood of humility and gratitude.

Your servant

Ananda Caitanya dasa

Ananda Tirtha dasa & Syama Priya-Devi dasi

Dear Guru Maharajaa

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to you on this auspicious occasion of your Vyasa-puja! All glories to HDG AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada!

The Lord can be realized through the aural reception of the transcendental message, and that is the only way to experience the transcendental subject. As fire is kindled from wood by another fire, the divine consciousness of man can similarly be kindled by another divine grace. His Divine Grace, the spiritual master can kindle the spiritual fire from the woodlike living entity by imparting proper spiritual messages injected through the receptive ear. Therefore one is required to approach the proper spiritual master with receptive ears only, and thus divine existence is gradually realized.

Srimad-Bhagavatam 1:2:32

Srila Prabhupada said, "My Guru Maharaja used to say, "Don't try to see a saintly person by your eyes. You see a saintly person by the ear." Because if you hear from the saintly

person and if he is speaking from the experience which he has heard from the, another saintly person--this is called guru-parampara--then the knowledge is perfect."
Srila Prabhupada Lecture on Srimad-Bhagavatam, 06-08-76, Los Angeles

Guru Maharaja, we are truly grateful that you mercifully impart the perfect knowledge to us in order to correct our imperfect existence. Electronic/digital media has made it possible for us to hear the nectar from your lips even when you are thousands of kilometres from us. Our phones are “smart” with the lectures we are able to download and listen to when the frenetic pace of modern life prevails and we have to multi-task. We listen to you on the road whilst driving, when we cooking, when we exercising and whenever possible. We listen, and often re-listen to ensure we grasped your message.

We have learnt that we increase our faith by hearing about the Lord from His great devotees. Thereafter, the process of “surrender” begins... In these modern times of never-ending change and turbulence, it is so difficult to let go of our safety nets and make ourselves fully dependent on Krishna just as Draupadi did when her sari was unravelled.

We therefore pray for your guidance and mercy that through hearing from you we will get the intelligence to see Krishna’s plan and arrangement behind everything good and bad. Through you, we may ultimately get to the point of understanding that Krishna is our ultimate shelter.

Today, on this occasion of your Vyasa Puja, we know that your magnanimity will be tenfold. Therefore Guru Maharaja, we beg of you to forgive us for all offences especially as we have been so inept at preaching in Witbank. Kindly bless these unqualified fools with guidance from within and aurally so that we can complete this life having learned to serve Guru and Krishna with all of our hearts so that we too can fully surrender unto Krishna – as you did so gracefully.

Your lowly servants

Ananda Tirtha dasa & Syama Priya dd (Witbank, MP, South Africa)

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Radhanath. All glories to your divine self on this most auspicious day of your vyasapuja.

Another year has passed since your last Vyasa puja and much has changed in my life since then, as you already know. In the Bhagavad Gita Chapter 9 text 10 Krsna says:

*mayadhyaksena prakrtih, suyate sa-caracaram
hetunanena kaunteya, jagad viparivartate*

This material nature, which is one of My energies, is working under My direction, O son of Kunti, producing all moving and non-moving beings. Under its rule this manifestation is created and annihilated again and again.

This material world is constantly changing due to its temporary nature which is regulated by the many demi-gods under the direction of Krsna but sometimes Krsna personally arranges changes in His devotees lives for the betterment of their Krsna consciousness based solely on the mercy, prayer and recommendation of pure devotees as yourself in order to help such a person struggling in spiritual life, as myself. I have no doubt in my mind that such changes have been sanctioned purely by yourself. It has been six months since my marriage to Nirvana which you had personally attended and blessed. As a result of these changes, our lives are much more stable now, and we can give more of our time to doing devotional service and associating with the Lords devotees, and fashioning our life together in the most Krsna conscious way possible. The kind words which had emanated from your lotus mouth, at our wedding, contained the potency to “set us straight” from the very start of our marriage. By your guidance you have made it very clear as to what my duties as a householder “man” should be. Ever since, we have both realized that we should take Your divine instructions very seriously and try our utmost best to follow them.

When one analytically studies vedic scripture in an attempt to empirically dissect and prove to oneself the nature and existence of an all pervading “God” he may attain some sort of understanding of the Lord and his qualities, however such an attempt to understand and make sense of the Lord is flawed and incomplete and it may not necessarily result in that individual making any notable spiritual advancement. The basic requirement for belief and

understanding of even a fragment of a spark of the supreme Lord Krsna will not be possible without pursuing one's curiosity in the Lord with faith. However even to those who are completely fallen and without any initial faith, such as myself, you have the ability to systematically inject faith into their hearts and inspire them to take up Krsna consciousness. This is no ordinary feat and such an ability can only be possible by a pure devotee of the lord who is under the shelter of His divine grace A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada. I thank you dear Guru Maharaja for injecting this faith into my heart with your spiritual syringe. I pray that you continue to inject me with this treatment and perhaps you may be as kind as to increase the dosage so that I may continue to make spiritual advancement in this lifetime.

Your vyasa puja celebration is always a monumental day in my own Krsna consciousness as it was on your Vyasa puja celebration which I had first seen you and I had the opportunity to offer you a flower on that day. A few years have passed and I feel very ashamed that amongst all that one can offer his spiritual master I have not had the ability or resource to offer you much more than this, I mediate and pray that one day I can offer you the flower of my heart, the flower which signifies my total surrender to you and to Srila Prabhupadas mission.

Your most unqualified servant

Ashvir Singh

Audarya Shakti-Devi dasi

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

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

*nama om'visṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhakti caitanya-svāmin iti nāmine
namāmi bhakti-caityaṁ prabhupādānusevinam
śrī-vraja-dhana-māhātmya-pradarśakam kṛpārṇavam*

*nama om'visṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Hare Krishna Dear Guru Maharaja and Father,

Please accept my respectful obeisances at the dust of Your lotus Feet. All glories to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada. All glories to You, Srila Gurudeva on Your auspicious Vyasa Puja.

Thank You so much for yet again another wonderful year of Your guidance, support and shelter in my Krishna Consciousness life.

As we approach the 50th anniversary date which Srila Prabhupada left India to go to the West, I have been reflecting on how important it is to meditate on the instructions of the spiritual master. Narottama dasa Thakura prays,

“sadhu shastra guru vakya, cittete kariya aikya”

“We must always keep within our hearts the instructions of sadhu, sastra and guru. This is the process.” (Prema Bhakti Candrika)

I am trying my best to keep this verse in my heart so that I can always remember Your instructions and be a perfect servant of Yourself, Gurudeva. All these three aspects go hand in hand in one's Krishna Consciousness and in this life hopefully achieve perfection of getting love of God.

In the Guru Vandana verse 3, Narottama dasa Thakura writes,

*cakhu-dan dilo jei, janme janme prabhu sei | divya-jnan hrde prokasito
prema-bhakti jaha hoite, avidya vinasa jate | vede gay jahara carito*

“He who has given me the gift of transcendental vision is my lord, birth after birth. By his mercy divine knowledge is revealed within the heart bestowing prema-bhakti and destroying ignorance. The Vedic scriptures sing of his character.”

I like this verse a lot and have also been meditating on it because divine knowledge is revealed in the heart only by the mercy of the spiritual master and only He can give the disciple *prema-bhakti* and at the same time destroying ignorance that is covering my heart. All the knowledge I have received thus far Gurudeva is due to causeless mercy. Thank You so much.

The highlight of the year definitely has to be when I had the wonderful opportunity to do parikrama of Nandagram and Vrindavana town. Thank You so much for fulfilling my

desire of coming to Vrindavana. Having Your association in the holy dhama is priceless and I hope I do get a chance to go to the parikrama with You in the near future. The most special parikrama was doing Govardhana parikrama with You. I will carry those moments in my heart forever.

Lastly, I pray to the Lord everyday with the following prayer,

*maj-janmanah phalam idam madhu-kaitabhāre
mat-prārthanīya-mad-anugraha eṣa eva
tvad-bhṛtya-bhṛtya-paricāraka-bhṛtya-bhṛtya-
bhṛtyasya bhṛtya iti mām smara loka-nātha*

“O enemy of Madhu and Kaitabha, O Lord of the universe, the perfection of my life and the most cherished mercy You could show me would be for You to consider me the servant of the servant of the servant of the servant of the servant of Your servant (CC. Madhya 13.80).”

This is the only verse in the scriptures that mentions the word, “servant” 7 times and I hope the Lord accepts this prayer from me. This will be the perfection of my life, Gurudeva.

Thank You so much Gurudeva for always guiding me in my spiritual life and I hope that I can be a good devotee and follow all Your instructions like a good disciple. Please do forgive me for any offences that I may have committed.

Hoping this meets You in the best of health.

Your most insignificant servant and daughter,

Audarya Shakti-Devi dasi

Bhakta caran dasa, Bhakti lata-Devi dasi, Srikar and Ahishvar

My dear Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Sri Sri Radha Radhanath. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

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.

My dearest Srila Gurudev, please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja.

Dear Gurudev you had complete faith in Krishna and thus you surrendered to him totally. Please bless me a fraction of that faith and trust. By your mercy my life has changed - following the four regulative principles, chanting with love and devotion, and trying to serve the devotees. Thank you for these wonderful gifts.

I do not know how to please you, but have a strong desire to serve you and Prabhupads' movement and thus one day hope to become a worthy servant. Only you can train me in devotional service and enable me to get out of the clutches of material nature. Only through you can I appreciate the mercy of the Lord. Without devotional service to you, there is no value in me even living.

Please let me remember your deep voice, speaking through your profound teachings and instructions. May I have the wisdom to understand your instructions and may I always remain fixed in this way.

Dear Srila Gurudev, please forgive me for all my offenses that I may have committed in trying to serve you and the devotees. Please guide me and my family in our spiritual lives and may we never leave your shelter.

Your insignificant servants,

Bhakta caran dasa, Bhakti lata-Devi dasi, Srikar and Ahishvar

Caitanya Carana dasa

Hare Krsna, Guru Maharaj.

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Your Divine Self on this most glorious occasion of Your Vyasapuja.

Amidst these exalted souls, I feel like an ugly duckling in an assembly of elegant swans. Yet, according to the fable, the ugly duckling evolves into a swan himself. That is my hope and prayer. From imperfection, perfection can come...

Once, when I was blessed to have been Your personal assistant, I made a blunder. Although I cannot remember the details, I remember these immortal words which issued from Your lips, which remain my guiding light even up this very day: *“From imperfection, perfection can come...”*

My life is far from perfect, but I have the perfect master in You, Gurudeva. Whatever experiences I’m facing are meant, ultimately, for my purification – to bring me to perfection. You are guiding me every step of the way, through Your words of wisdom. I am a hopeless case, but I have all my hope, trust and faith invested in You.

You have shown by Your personal example how to take full shelter. You take shelter in Your beloved Guru Maharaja, Srila Prabhupada. You take shelter of the process of Krsna consciousness, fully. You take shelter of Your Godbrothers, showing them so much affection. Most of all, You constantly take shelter of the Holy Name. I believe that perfection can be attained simply by following Your perfect example.

*mac-cittah sarva-durgani mat-prasadat tariyyasi
atha cet tvam ahankaramn na srosyasi vinankyasi*

“If you become conscious of Me, you will pass over all the obstacles of conditioned life by My grace. If, however, you do not work in such consciousness but act through false ego, not hearing Me, you will be lost.” (BG 18.58)

The purport of this verse is most relevant to me, and particularly the following words: “No conditioned soul actually knows what is to be done and what is not to be done, but a person who acts in Krsna consciousness is free to act because everything is prompted by Krsna from within and confirmed by the spiritual master.”

I pray to You on this sacred occasion that I will take my spiritual life seriously, being grateful for all the mercy that I am receiving from You, and continue on in my quest to make Your words come true:

“From imperfection, perfection can come...”

Your servants,

Caitanya Carana dasa, Sumalini Lalita-devi dasi, and baby Jagannath Priya

*Nama Om Vishnupadaya Krsna Presthaye Bhutale
Srimate Bhakti Caitanya Swami Iti namine*

My dear Gurudev,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your Divine Lotus Feet. All Glories to Your Divine Grace, All Glories to Your most beloved Srila Prabhupada.

On this auspicious day of Sri Vyasa puja I am most grateful to have your wonderful darshan and association. Every year around your Vyasapuja, I am always thinking on what to say or how I can serve you better. This year, my offering to you is based on gratitude.

I am most indebted to you Gurudev for your mercy, for accepting me as your disciple, for giving me the holy name as well as mercy to serve my Beloved Radha Govinda. Your compassion and mercy unto me gives me the opportunity to serve in Srila Prabhupada's Iskcon and in the association of wonderful Vaisnavas. I am so grateful that I have You dear Gurudev in my life.

Birth after birth one receives a mother and father, but if one gets the benediction of guru and Krsna, he conquers the material energy and returns back to Godhead by worship of the Lord. When I think of a father, I immediately think of You, Gurudev, My perfect father. My perfect Lord and Master. Just as a father would lovingly guide his child by holding her hand. Thank you Gurudev for always lovingly guiding me and helping me in my spiritual and material endeavours.

Kavi Yogendra instructs King Nimi,

Therefore an intelligent person should engage unflinchingly in the unalloyed devotional service of the Lord, under the guidance of a bonafide spiritual master, whom he should accept as his worshipable deity and as his very life and soul.

Gurudev, I need to serve You and Your Beloved Prabhupada and Radha Krishna unflinchingly as my very life and soul. Today I pray that I would be able to always serve you as my very life and soul. I am such a rascal; please always glance mercifully at me. Without your mercy and shelter I have nothing. Please forgive me for all the offences caused at your Divine Lotus feet.

Begging for your shelter and mercy always.

Your daughter,

Caitanya lila dasi

Damodar dasa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you dear Gurudeva.

In Srimad Bhagavatam 7.9.28 Prahlad Maharaja prays to Lord Nrsimhadeva as follows,

My dear Lord, O Supreme Personality of Godhead, because of my association with material desires, one after another, I was gradually falling into a blind well full of snakes, following the general populace. But Your servant Nārada Muni kindly accepted me as his disciple and instructed me how to achieve this transcendental position. Therefore, my first duty is to serve him.

Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport,

One should serve the spiritual master first. It is not that one should bypass the spiritual master and desire to serve the Supreme Lord. This is not the principle for a Vaiṣṇava. ... Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu advised that one become a servant of the servant of the Lord (gopī-bhartuḥ pada-kamalayor dāsa-dāsānudāsaḥ). This is the process for approaching the Supreme Lord. The first service should be rendered to the spiritual master so that by his mercy one can approach the Supreme Personality of Godhead to render service.

Thank you, guru maharaj, for all your mercy and care over the many years that I have had your association. I was reflecting on your mercy while going through the letters that we have exchanged over the many years. There were so many instances where you demonstrated through your words and deeds how much you care for us through being personally involved and advising us in many difficult and challenging situations. You have been like a loving father and well-wisher that is concerned about our material and spiritual well-being. I recall how you arranged an arati set for us in 1996 when we were welcoming Srila Prabhupada at our previous home. Before we moved to our new house in 1997, you asked several questions about the area that we were moving to and actually came to see the house while it was being constructed, before completion. You have been always willing to listen to us, offer advice and write to us when we could not have your personal association.

On this most auspicious day of your Sri Vyasa puja, I beg for your mercy so that I may become a worthy servant by assisting you and Srila Prabhupada in spreading this Krishna Consciousness movement.

Begging to remain your humble servant,

Damodar dasa



Damodar Gopal dasa & Lalita Gopal -Devi dasi

*namah on visnu padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhakti-caitanya-svamin iti namine*

Our Dearest Srila Gurudev,

Please accept our most revered obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyasa-puja.

How do we thank You Gurudev or even try to repay You for all that You have done. It is virtually impossible, therefore we have to simply serve You for all of eternity as a small token of our gratitude for saving us from the clutches of Maya. The material world feels like we are in the middle of a blazing fire and every direction we take, we feel as though we are getting burnt, but just like a father shelters his family, You Srila Gurudev are forever sheltering us with Your unlimited qualities such as compassion, caring ness, love, kindness, gentle ways of guidance.

You are our spiritual father to whom we are forever indebted to. We are extremely fortunate having taken shelter at Your lotus feet. Srila Gurudev You really captivate our hearts and minds through the wonderful pastimes You relate to us about the Holy places such as Vrindavan Dham. We hope and pray Gurudev, that in our minute capacity we can assist you in your endless efforts to spread the mission of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

Just like Srila Prabhupad only posed one question to his spiritual master, "How can I serve you", we ask the same question, Gurudev, How can we serve you?

Thank you Gurudev for accepting us as your disciples and awarding us initiation. You have given us the opportunity to embrace all aspects of devotional service in which we are drowning in ecstasy.

We love You Gurudev.

Your most undeserving servants

Damodar Gopal dasa & Lalita Gopal -Devi dasi

Of Guru in laude

Grant me Srila Gurudeva the power
To glorify You in song
Not to seek praise or fame amongst men
But to give it, and in giving find purification
And so let all men know
And may I come to recognise this truth:
That all that might be worthy or good
In my actions, thoughts or words
Proceeds from a great reservoir of Truth beyond me
And that You Sri Guru are the Great Cloud
Which replenishes this stream.

Tis Thee, Sri Guru, who teaches the inner skeptic to ask:
“Thus do we praise a man of flesh and blood?”
That in answering we ourselves may learn
That offering Thee homage and praise is no flatterer’s task
But the very reason God granted us the Light of Reason,
Wisdom and Art.
Those who reck His sovereign sway
May well assent to the noble end of glorifying His Name
By all we possess, recognising His rightful claim
But tis a furtherance beyond mere increase of exertion
To render Him the greater glory
Of paying homage unto His true servants
By whom our faith and gratitude reposed
Return more surely unto Him than ever was so by naked wing
For if ever there was a way
By which from the earthly mire we might be plucked

And redeemed unto a teeming solace, an enlivening joy
Tis only by that living chain: Hand linked with hand
By that love electrified of which Lord Jesu sang:
“No love greater hath a man than this:
That his own life he gives for the life of a friend”
And each one who lends his will
In thus reaching both above and below
Separates us no further from that vital source
But rather that love augments
By which we who unto its extension clasp
Are enlightened in the matter of who we are and our urgent task
No mere man thus takes the place of God
But a surrendered soul
Opened fully in bestowing as he receives that divine love
Tis He alone who is our only true friend and guide
In absence present
In silence eloquent
In distance comforting
When knowing His pure desire
We too in that great mission work and abide

His aspiring servant
Damodar Prasad dasa

Daya sindhu-Devi dasi

*nama om visnu padaya krsna preshtaya bhutale
srimate bhakti caitanya svamin iti namine*

*namami bhakti-caitanyam prabhupadanusevinam
sri-vraja-dhana-mahatmya-pradarsakam krparnavam*

Dearest Gurudeva,

Please accept my respectful obeisances, in the dust of Your lotus feet, on this most auspicious occasion, the anniversary of Your appearance! All Glories to You *Gurudeva*! All glories to *Srila Prabhupada*!

On this day many years ago, *Krishna* felt especially compassionate to the world and He bestowed upon us a priceless gift, one of His closest, most dear associates, in the form of Yourself. On this day, I am especially grateful to our Supreme Lord. I am also remembering and wish to pay tribute to Your blessed parents and especially Your Mother who had the great fortune to carry You within her womb and nurture and serve You as a child. Unbeknown to them, these fortunate souls acted as instruments of the Lord in the execution of His perfect plan. All Glories to these special souls!

Gurudeva, Your contributions to this mission of *Srila Prabhupada* and to mankind as a whole, are countless. Your strength, determination, wisdom, your purity, simplicity, humility and selflessness are all characteristics that You share with Your own spiritual master, our Founder-arcarya His Divine Grace *Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada*. You are an ocean of love and compassion.

While us ordinary beings change occupations several times within our lives, You *Gurudeva* have been fixed in this one business of serving *Krishna* and the devotees for in excess of forty years. You have dedicated Your entire life to spreading Lord *Caitanya*'s mission and to saving us, the suffering souls. In so doing You have subjected Yourself to much austerity and have sometimes also placed yourself in uncertain situations – Your boundless faith in and commitment to our Lord and *Srila Prabhupada* however, guaranteed Your success. Your example is tremendously inspiring.

By the Lord's inconceivable mercy, I have somehow come to *Krishna* Consciousness. I consider myself beyond fortunate to have You as my spiritual master. Since taking shelter of Yourself *Gurudeva*, I have begun to see the transformation in my life. I feel Your constant presence. I have come to realize *Gurudeva*, that actually without You I am nothing.

My fervent prayer is that You bless me that I may develop more *vaisnava*-like qualities. I pray that I may learn to tolerate others as You tolerate me. I pray that I may develop the strength to follow Your instructions with sincerity, faith and devotion.

Gurudeva, when I appear before You, I feel I become shamefully transparent before Your eyes. I feel that You know my mind and heart even better than I do myself. I pray

Gurudeva please forgive my ignorance, my foolishness and my mediocrity. Please never give up on me.

I pray somewhat selfishly to *Krishna* and *Srila Prabhupada* to please bless You with good health and to bless us with Your divine association for many, many more years to come. Happy *Vyasa-puja Gurudeva!*

Praying to remain Your daughter and servant eternally

Daya sindhu-Devi dasi

Devadeva dasa

My Dearest Srila Gurudev

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of Your Lotus Feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace, my Eternal, most merciful Lord and Master!

On Vyasapuja day I always reflect on my Krsna Consciousness, generally on the happenings over the past year, but more especially my progress over the years in totality. Diving deep within the heart to assess my value to you and your mission of serving Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON. Have I lived up to your expectations? Am I who you want me to be? Have I pleased you in some small way? What is your plan for my future? The deeper I delve the harder it hits me... I have nothing of substance to offer you or have offered you in the past, in fact if anything, I find myself in dire need begging for your mercy.

“According to their karma, all living entities are wandering throughout the entire universe. Some of them are being elevated to the upper planetary systems, and some are going down into the lower planetary systems. Out of many millions of wandering living entities, one who is very fortunate gets an opportunity to associate with a bona fide spiritual master by the grace of Krsna. By the mercy of both Krsna and the spiritual master, such a person receives the seed of the creeper of devotional service.” (CC, Madhya-lila 19.151)

I know I've received everything from you simply by your own causeless mercy, and not by any piety on my side! Whatever little I may have done it is not enough to repay you, but I also know I am nothing without your continued mercy upon me. I know I am unworthy of not only your mercy but even unworthy of the Lords mercy!

Yet, by some unimaginable good fortune Lord Krishna, revealed Your Divine Grace to me, I don't know what I did to deserve that mercy, but since it has been confirmed in sastra that it comes only by the combined mercy of Krishna and You, Srila Gurudev I can only conclude that you must have somehow included me in your prayers.

“O my Lord! Transcendental poets and experts in spiritual science could not fully express their indebtedness to You even if they were endowed with the prolonged lifetime of Brahma, for You appear in two features— externally as the acharya and internally as the Supersoul—to deliver the embodied living being by directing him how to come to You.”
(Srimad-Bhagavatam 11.29.6)

Krsna listens to you. You are the true possessor of Krsna's mercy, and it is you who have the power to shower more and more of that mercy upon me. I know that there must be no limits to the mercy you carry, because every day of my life I see so many examples of those who have received it from you.

The more I associate with the devotees, particularly your disciples, Srila Gurudeva the more I see people come to life when they hear about you, smiles of deep love and appreciation for you, devotees becoming ever-increasingly eager to glorify you and to dedicate their lives to you and your mission, devotees relishing the Chanting of The Holy Names that you have given them, I see your soft and gentle dealings with the utmost respect for every devotee and always remaining true to your word, I see how you have changed their lives and brought them to the lotus feet of Srimati Radharani and Lord Krsna. I stand here today amongst the devotees, your disciples and well-wishers crying tears in gratitude for all you've done for me. All this, and so much more, is only due to your mercy. I am convinced there is no limit to your mercy!

On this most auspicious day of your divine appearance, I confess my heart to you. I have no other hope, no other chance, no other meaning to life than your mercy upon me. I am totally dependent upon your mercy eternally.

"By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Krishna. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement " (Sri Guruvastikam: 8)

Your unworthy servant begging for your mercy eternally,

Devadeva dasa

*Mukam karoti vacalam
Pangum langhayate girim
Yat-krpa tam aham vande
Shri-gurum dina-taranam*

Dearest Gurudev,

Please accept my respectful and humble obeisances. All glories to the saviour of the world, Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your lotus feet on this blessed day.

I was so overwhelmed this year while thinking of what to write on this day for this year I was officially welcomed into your entourage and for this, I am eternally grateful. This is a sure sign of your amazing mercy you bestow to unworthy devotees like me.

The more I am exposed to you the more I realise how merciful you are. You never really see any situation as negative but rather ask me to always see the positive in it. Your equipoise nature is truly something to be reckoned with. You are always so enthusiastic to preach no matter what the conditions are. Sometimes I discuss with some godfamily how we should be insisting that you make time to rest especially when your body calls for it, yet you feel there is nothing wrong and there's no need to rest. No matter the time or day you always willing to serve others selflessly and even though I worry about it, this is what I truly admire about you above all else.

So on this auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja I'm seeking to have your causeless mercy and blessings to be an instrument in helping you to spread Srila Prabhupada's mission.

I pray that Srimati Radharani and Lord Krishna bless you with good health to continue the amazing work you are doing in spreading Krishna consciousness around the world and making your spiritual master proud.

Your lowly servant,

Devaki Priya-Devi dasi

Hare Krsna!

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

All glories to you on this very auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja.

Gurudev , As i was meditating on what to write , it seemed virtually impossible to me as i realised that this is quite an impossible task as , how does one really do justice to glorify an exalted personality such as yourself ?

Nevertheless with much imperfection and being such a fallen soul but with gratitude and humility, i would like to say the following words, I was suffering in this pathetic material existence for many many lifetimes, but by some causeless mercy of Lord Nityananda you have manifest within my heart as my lord and master. You introduced me to the science of Krsna Consciousness and picked me up to a higher platform of devotional service. In the Srimad-Bhagavatam (1.1.3) it is said that the Bhagavatam is the mature fruit of the desire tree of the Vedic literature. The Bhāgavatam emanated from the lips of Sri Sukadeva Gosvami, making this fruit even more relishable. Likewise Sri Vrindavan Dham is the crown jewel of the planet. There are many scriptural references to its glory however it is forgotten to the world but you have presented its glories in your amazing books and dvds in such an appealing way, that it has rekindled the Glory of the Dham for the devotees and even humanity at large. Every aspect of Krsna Consciousness you gave us has so much meaning and is so efficient in its application. Thank you for that.

I recall the following verse,

By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Krishna. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.

Gurudev, I have heard that by the mercy of Sri Krsna , one is blessed with a spiritual master and by the mercy of the spiritual master , one is blessed with Sri Krsna and this year you have made that all possible for my family and I , by allowing us to bring Sri Sri Nitai Mayapur

Chandra home . Ever since then, our home has become truly like a lighthouse bringing guests/ family members and devotees to their knees.

I have realized that the debt to you could never be repaid , however I pray that in this lifetime I may be qualified to at least become a worthy servant ,to make you proud and remain forever within the shelter of your lotus feet

Your most fallen servant

Doyal Caitanya dasa

Dvarakadisa dasa, Rukmini Priya -Devi dasi, Krishnachandra dasa

*om ajnana-timirandhasya jnananjana-salaka
cakshur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

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

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

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your Divine Grace on this most auspicious day.

By your causeless mercy we stride in devotional service

By your inspiration we gradually serve vaisnavas

By your love our stone like hearts are becoming transformed

By your dedication to Srila Prabhupada, doubts by these unworthy servants are being erased

By your patience we are being saved from the clutches of material energy

By your purity we are becoming attached to this transcendental process

Even though you shower us with unlimited mercy, dear Gurudeva, we are most unfortunate as we are not surrendered at your lotus feet. *Guroh hitam* means “to please the spiritual master.” Every activity we engage in should be expressly for this purpose. We should be ready to do any service you ask us to do without pride and envy.

On this most auspicious day of your divine appearance we beg and cry out for your mercy. Despite our continued lack of qualification, we know by your mercy we can make advancement.

May we become fixed up at your lotus feet.

Your unworthy servants,

Dvarakadisa dasa , Rukmini Priya -Devi dasi, Krishnachandra dasa

Gokulesvarie-devi dasi

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

Hare Krishna Gurudev,

Why Glorify the Vaisnavas...

It is explained by Sriman Mahaprabhu in Sri Caitanya Bhagavata (antya lila 3rd chapter)

*Ei satya kahi toma sabara kevala
Na Janiya ninda yaba karila sakala
Ara yadi nindya-karma kabhu na acare
Nirantara visnu-vaisnava stuti kare
E sakala papa ghuce ei se upaya
Koti prayascitte o anyatha nahi yaya*

What I say is the truth, if a person has committed blasphemy stops blaspheming others and instead praises Lord Vishnu and the Vaisnavas, then all of that persons sins and aparadhas will be destroyed. That is the correct way to destroy them. Otherwise crores of ritual atonements will not destroy them.

Please accept my humble obeisances all glories to your divine grace. All glories to Srila Prabhupada who without his causeless mercy and compassion I would not be here.

Thank you Prabhupada for my Gurudev and your Iskcon it is our spiritual home thank you Gurudev for making it your lifes duty to over see that all the centres mostly in South Africa is going on nicely and giving us opportunity to do our part.

I bow down to the beautiful lotus feet of my spiritual master by whose causeless mercy I have received the holy name and association of many great vaisnavas, the hold dham and many holy places.

Gurudeva I beg your mercy, bless me to always be a useful tool in the service of Mahaprabhu and follow your example.

Srila Prabhupada was extraordinary, so is the person who follows his teachings and example, and then passing it on to us and others. In doing so he helps increase our gratitude to you who has elevated Yourself to the service of Guru and Gauranga. Assisting and easing the trials and tribulations of many embodied souls.

My main service is book distribution. Now Madumangal das has left the planet, I have to step up more. During Kartik 2011 after Govardhan Padikram you told us about the incident that took place with you Ah! We did it again, at that moment over the speaker, you heard samsara-davanala and some of your God brothers on Parikram. Its by the mercy of the spiritual master !

This I tell myself every day, sometimes due to age I forget, then Gokulesvari you forgot, it's by Gurudev's mercy.

*Nama Om Vishnu Padaya Krsna Preshtaya Bhu-tale
Srimate Bhakti Caitanya Swamin iti namine*

“Vaisnanva's die to live, and live to spread the holy name”. Thank you for your compassion, faith, charity, determination and your books.

In gratitude I offer myself at your Lotus feet

Your humble servant

Gokulesvarie Dasi

Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances, AGTSP and all glories to You.

Thank you very much for your mercy Gurudeva. Some years ago in Sri Vrindavan Dham, I began hearing your voice in my heart when I was trying to sing in the kirtans. Long before that once I wrote to you saying I am afraid to pray sincerely because usually after that I get a lot of suffering. You replied this is *due to material attachment, and that purification is nice*. I got my share of purifying suffering, and even though I am not so pure, by your mercy I am experiencing what you said is nice.

Gradually I find that you are always present with me, and thankfully giving instructions as we need them. In the beginning I was very surprised about how you are present with me, but now I am very grateful Gurudeva. Recently I have been seeing that material nature can render a person totally helpless, and by the Lords mercy the Guru can save a person moment by moment. I cannot understand how this happens, this mercy of the Lord and you is inconceivable like so many other things in spiritual life. I am often reminded about Srila Prabhupad saying “*my guru-maharaj is always with me*”, and this helps me also to accept this causeless mercy of yours.

Thank you for your instructions to complete the books we writing and for instructing me to make it fast with this life saving service. By your mercy I am also conscious of your transcendental presence in our writing service, thank you again Gurudeva. The first book is a spiritual sex life, titled *Godliness Love and Spirituality* which is also to help Grhasta’s stay married and attract more people to the Lord and His names. One of the other books is called *Heal Addiction with Bhakti Yoga and Stay High Forever*; and includes some of my experiences of this *horrible* disease, as you called it. During my addiction you often told me you were praying for me and now I know you helped me in so many ways I was not aware of. I have often heard His Grace Govardhan Prabhu say that a disciple cannot really pay back the debt to the Guru, and the only way we can try is to try to preach. I am praying by yours and the Lords mercy these books will also be part of my repayment to you for saving my life, literally and spiritually. They are an offering to you too Gurudeva.

Thank you very much for all your mercy Gurudeva.

As humbly as possible, your servant

Gouranga dasa

Isvara Puri dasa

Dearest Srila Gurudeva,

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

This year I have been most fortunate to be engaged in the service of arranging your Vyasa-puja celebration. Through this service I felt very connected to you and very satisfied from meditating on your pleasure, worship and glorification. I also had the fortune to witness, first-hand, the love and deep respect devotees have for you in various instances. Disciples, and well-wishers alike, very eagerly and generously took up an opportunity to serve and contribute towards this celebration in honour of Your Divine Grace. Witnessing the genuine love of a devotee for his/her spiritual master has acted as a soothing salve for my heart, and has replenished my faith and love.

Today I dedicate this offering to honouring your loving relationships with devotees

You are known to practically everyone that has ever had any encounter with ISKCON in South Africa, and you know so many devotees and their relatives. Further, You, in turn, know each devotee fairly well. Considering that you encounter devotees from so many parts of the world, this is remarkable. Further, you know each of these devotees so well. This is because You take the time to enquire about them or speak to them directly. Your interaction with each is custom to their level in Krsna consciousness and particular challenges and services. Thus, it's only natural that devotees feel sheltered by your leadership and eagerly await opportunities to speak to you when you are around. After speaking with you devotees are satisfied and inspired to move forward in Krsna consciousness. Your advice to each person is wholesome.

We are truly fortunate to have the opportunity to have an individual relationship with you. We are fortunate to know Your Divine Grace. And no matter how successful or unsuccessful we may be in our journey, it is quite an honour that we are known to Krsna's dear

representative. That will surely bode well for us. Thank you making the time to enquire about and know each one of us.

As I dedicate this offering to honouring your loving exchanges with devotees, I hope we all learn from this quality of yours and practice it. This will allow us to develop loving exchanges with fellow devotees, and support preaching, spreading and relishing Krsna consciousness as you do.

Your aspiring servant,

Isvara Puri dasa.

Jagannatha Charan dasa & Devahuti Devi Dasi

Dearest Gurudev,

Please accept our most respectful and humble obeisance's unto your lotus feet on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja. All glories to Giriraj! All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to Srila Gurudev!

We would like to offer Maharaja our most heartfelt gratitude for taking us under your divine shelter and keeping us there.

'The pure devotees of the lord place the lords cooling jewel like lotus feet within their hearts, and thus all of the pain and suffering of material existence are extinguished.' (SB 11.22.55)

We are always in anxiety and stress in this life, and it is only due to Maharaja's mercy that we are protected and sheltered. This is felt deep within our hearts. The past year was hard and difficult time in our life due to loss of our brother Pravin bhai. We tried our best to give him Krishna consciousness in the form of chanting the holy name. He was reading Nrsimhadev kavaca daily and we also chanted at his bedside. He read the Second Chance and found it very interesting. Srila Prabhupada taught us the art of dying and we greatly appreciate the lesson.

"The spiritual master is receiving benediction from the ocean of mercy. Just as a cloud pours water on a forest fire to extinguish it, so the spiritual master delivers the materially afflicted world by extinguishing the blazing fire of material existence .I offer my respectful

obeisance unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is an ocean of auspicious qualities."

Our prayer to their lordship, Sri Sri Nitai Gaurahari on this most auspicious day is to always keep our dearest Guru Maharaja in the best of health. His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja KI JAYA

Your insignificant servants

Jagannatha Charan dasa & Devahuti Devi Dasi

Jai Radhe Syama-Devi dasi

My Dear Eternal Father and Master, Srila Gurudev

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your divine feet. All glories to you who have conquered our stone like hearts with compassion. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Thank you for sacrificing so much of your life just to come here and save us fallen and struggling souls. You have always showered us with your unlimited mercy, even when we were foolishly jumping between spiritual paths, thinking that fruitive activities were essential to spiritual life. But you never gave up on us. Even though I first approached you as a very small child, you never spoke in a patronising manner and instead continuously nurtured my spiritual interest and answered my every question in a very serious manner.

You always make us unworthy servants feel as if we are very important and as if our tiny contributions are so significant. In every situation you are able to see some good quality in everyone, even when no one else can fathom it. This is because you yourself are full in all these wonderful qualities.

Today by your mercy I have more courage to take on services that I previously thought were impossible. I have the courage to take shelter exclusively of this process of bhakti given to us by Srila Prabhupada and delivered to us by you.

I pray that throughout my time in this material world and one day in the spiritual world, that I can always fulfil my responsibilities towards your service as a worthy spiritual daughter would.

Your insignificant servant

Jai Radhe Syama-Devi dasi

Jayadeva dasa

Dear Guru Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you on your most auspicious vyasa-puja day.

Please forgive me for being unsuccessful in performing the office service you instructed me to do, due to my inability and circumstances beyond my control. It is said that disciple means one who learns the teachings of the Guru and also helps by preaching his message.

According to the Sri Guru Vandana- the song glorifying the spiritual master,

“Attachment to the lotus feet of the spiritual master is the best means of spiritual advancement. By his mercy all desires for spiritual perfection are fulfilled”.

I also want to follow this instruction so that I can receive great spiritual benefit.

In the purport of Srimad Bhagavatam (7.8.2), it is mentioned that Prahlada Maharaja was preaching to his classmates, who were sons of the demons. When they listened to him they became fixed in the conclusion that Krsna consciousness is the only object of human life. The fact is that anyone who associates with a pure devotee and follows his instructions becomes fixed in Krsna consciousness and is not disturbed by materialistic consciousness. The teachers particularly observed this in their students, and therefore they were afraid because the whole community of students was gradually becoming Krsna conscious.

The power and influence of a pure devotee is clearly demonstrated in this purport. In this way, by trying to serve Guru Maharaja our lives will similarly be transformed just like Prahlada Maharaja’s classmates. Therefore my desire is to remain in your service for the rest of my life. Please bless me with intelligence to be able to make a significant contribution to your preaching mission.

Hare Krsna

Your servant

Jayadeva dasa

Jennifer Manilal

Dear Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja

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

All Glories unto you on this auspicious occasion of your Vyasa-Puja. All Glories To His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada. I will Love to Take Shelter at your Lotus Feet My Dearest Maharaja.

I want to say thank you for inspiring me so much in Krishna Conciousness my Dearest Maharaja. I am so attached now to our Sweet Lordships and our dearest Srila Prabhupada at Iskcon Lenasia...I am loving every moment in this beautiful Amazing Krishna Conciousness , All Thanks to our Dearest Maharaja.

I am such a fallen and conditioned soul that I do not qualify to sing your glories. but when I read all your beautiful Posts and your books all my sadness disappears. When I contemplate your Divine figure my heart feels full of happiness. Although I have no qualities to serve you, You gave me the greatest gift one can desire Maharaja.

Humbly hoping to be your Servant!

Your Aspiring Disciple,

Jennifer Manilal

Kaishori-Devi dasi

Hare Krishna Dearest Guru Maharaja

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of Your Divine Lotus Feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

I am sincerely very grateful to Your Divine Grace for everything in my life. I have such nice devotee association and a very nice God family because of You, Gurudev. I am thankful to be in Your presence today and hear and see everyone's love being expressed for You in so many nice and different ways. There is always such nice excitement before Guru Maharaja arrives and especially before a grand festival such as Your Vyasa Puja.

Often people ask what the secret could be in that both Yoginee and Syam Kishor dasa are such nice children. They say that we must be very proud that our duties were done so successfully as parents. Our response is: “This is only due to my Guru Maharaja’s kind association since they were little children. It is all due to Maharaja’s Blessings and Mercy.”

Had it not been for Guru Maharaja’s Mercy, I dare not imagine what life could have been like. Maharaja’s kindness and compassion are unlimited. Your preaching is most inspiring. Your service attitude and desire for us to all co-operate nicely and always be engaged in devotional service is what keeps me pushing on. You have so much compassion for all us fallen souls.

Your being very much in contact with the Supersoul was very clear to me in June of this year, once again, Gurudev. In a family member’s treatment by doctor’s, Guru Maharaja knew the outcome long before the relevant tests and scans could even be scheduled, leave alone being conducted and then receiving the results thereof. We all said that Krishna has definitely told You this and Gurudev is the most intelligent. This incident reminded me of when Srila Prabhupada said they didn’t land on the moon. You knew the correct and perfect answer. Your Mercy knows no limits, Gurudev. This past year, we have experienced a lot of changes but Maharaja has blessed us to come through it all so nicely.

I am praying for Your Divine association in Mayapur in November. On this most glorious day of Your Vyasa Puja, I beg for Your mercy, Gurudev, that I can do all my service successfully and that it will be pleasing to you.

Begging to always remain in the dust of Your Divine Lotus Feet

Haribol

Your most insignificant daughter

Kaishori-Devi dasi

Kalindi Harinarain

To: His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami

This is my favorite verse from Bhagavad Gita for my favorite person.

Yoginam api sarvesam
mad gatenantar atmana
Sraddhavan bhajate yo mam
sa me yuktatamo matah

And of all yogis, the one with great faith who always abides in Me, thinks of me within himself and renders transcendental loving service to me- he is the most intimately united with me in yoga and is the highest of all. That is my opinion.

From: Kalindi Harinarain (8 years), Witbank, Mpumalanga.

Karunamayi Devi Dasi and Karunesvari Radhika Dasi

My Dearest Srila Gurudev

Please accept my humble obeisances on this most auspicious day of your vyasapuja All glories to you, my Eternal Father.

"Pure devotees, out of compassion for the fallen souls, are kripalu, very kind to people in general; they distribute this Bhagavata knowledge all over the world. A kindhearted devotee is called dina-nath, protector of the poor, ignorant mass of people. Lord Krsna is also known as dina-natha or dina-bandhu, the master or actual friend of the poor living entities, and His pure devotee also takes the same position of dina-natha." [Srimad-Bhagavatam 4.12.51]

Immediately upon reading this section of the purport, I thought of you, Srila Gurudev , and how you exhibit overwhelming compassion for us.

The meaning of the word compassion is,

"A feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering".

Overwhelming compassion means that the person (You, Srila Gurudev) who experiences this emotion of compassion has so much love for the objects (us, the conditioned souls) of his compassion that his actions are controlled by that love.

Your compassion for us forces you to put yourself through severe austere situations merely to save us. I often become extremely concerned about the health of your body. Many a time you called me from different parts of the world for a diagnosis and prescription. Your

body was practically constantly in some difficult health condition. My advice was to slow down and Let your body heal but you would hear nothing of it. You agreed on numerous occasions but I knew it was merely to pacify me. Your mission, your burden of love to Srila Prabhupada must go on. I cannot even fathom how much of compassion your heart possesses Srila Gurudev.

“Even the most learned cannot understand the words, activities and symptoms of a person situated in love of Godhead.” (Caitanya-caritamrita, Madhya-Lila)

I recall on one occasion we were traveling with you and you gave us a strict instruction that we should go and scout out the *prasad* prepared for you.

You said: "if it was not according to my diet then I will just not take it! I must be strict about this now".

Following the instruction we only allowed the "diet *prasad*" to be presented to you. The mataji's were quite upset and they brought the other preps to you themselves. To my astonishment you took every preparation they served you. I was amazed at how you were reciprocating with them even against your doctor's instructions

Later you told us, "it is the position of the disciple to say 'no' and protect the spiritual master but it is the position of the guru to say 'yes'. I just had to eat it, they made it for me!"

Such is the nature of your compassionate heart.

Srila Prabhupada's words: "My spiritual master was no ordinary spiritual master. He saved me!" Constantly resound in my head as I joyfully apply this to you, Srila Gurudev! Thank you for being so compassionate and saving me.

Your eternal daughters

Karunamayi Devi Dasi and Karunesvari Radhika Dasi

Kershnice Nair

My Dear Guru Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All Glories to their Lordships Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. All Glories to you on your Vyasa Puja.

I remember the first time I contacted you about my interest in Krsna Consciousness, some 3 years or so ago, I did not know who you were, all I knew was that you were a "Hare Krsna Devotee ". I did not know where you lived or how you would make it possible for me to get contact with devotees. Nevertheless you enthusiastically arranged for my first Nama Hatta in my home town. Who knew from that moment on you would forever be embedded in my heart.

Ever since that day you lifted me up when I stumbled and fell. During those times when I was blinded with maya, You were there patiently trying to make me see clearly. Even when I felt like everyone has forgotten me I knew that you wouldn't forget me.

Guru Maharaja, on this most auspicious day I would like to glorify you and give you thanks for everything, especially for bestowing Your causeless mercy and blessing. Although I am not qualified to be Your disciple, I am very thankful to you for allowing me to take shelter at your lotus feet. Thank you for opening my eyes so that I could welcome the Lord into my life.

Your aspiring servant

Kershnir Nair

Krishna-Balarama dasa and Nandarani-Devi dasi

Dearest Guru Maharaja

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your Divine Grace.

Today we feel very grateful and equally humbled. Humbled to have the opportunity to stand before you Guru Maharaja and grateful to express our heart-felt appreciation to you. There is so much to be grateful for, too much to mention, and much more than we can even comprehend. There was a time when you spent every one of your Vyasa Puja's in South Africa, and time when had long periods of association with you. Indeed, we are so fortunate and blessed to have you personally present with us this year.

We feel fortunate because upon reflection, it has become so clear to us that you were the invisible force behind any service that we were able to perform. It reminds us of verse 7.7 in the Bhagavad Gita where Lord Krishna says that "Everything rests upon Me, as pearls are

strung on a thread”. We can’t see the thread but we know it is there. Similarly, externally, we were able to perform some services, however it was all dependent on your guidance, support and mercy. We continue to be completely dependent on your mercy.

At the moment, it feels as though the writing is on the wall. Srila Prabhupada disciples are leaving this planet, signaling a major change in the landscape of the movement. A change we all feel extremely sad to see. It makes us more aware and grateful to continue to have your association and it signals the major change and growth required for us to take responsibility to uphold Srila Prabhupada’s legacy. It signals our call to action like never before and with whatever capacity we have. It is a sign of the new depths that we need to expand within our hearts. We need to become more conscious of the invisible thread or force, the spiritual potency embedded within this process. In a letter, you once explained how you were able to dive deeper:

“It was nice being with you then, but one thing to remember and try to realize is that we can always be together on the spiritual platform. Spiritual relationships are not limited by material barriers, and the more one progresses in devotional service, the more one experiences this. I remember the first Janmastami festival I was present for. Srila Prabhupada was at the Bhaktivedanta Manor just outside London, and I was in the temple in central London. Initially, I was lamenting that I wasn’t able to be with Srila Prabhupada, but then I remembered this point about being on together on the spiritual platform. As I became more and more absorbed in meditating on this, I felt more and more connected with Srila Prabhupada and I felt a deep conviction that he was with me and was appreciating my serving him in separation.”

We are humbled by the fact that you were able to make this shift, having such conviction and faith at such a young age and after what would have been relatively only a few years of practicing devotional service. We are reminded of your steadfastness and determination to serve Srila Prabhupada. We are reminded of your unbending faith and dedication in this process. After many years, we find ourselves still struggling with our polluted minds and senses, unable to fully embrace such depth and love. We seek shelter in a prayer of Srila Raganatha dasa Goswami:

“The highwaymen of lust and his accomplice’s greed, etc. have waylaid me and bound my neck with the horrible ropes of sinful activities. O mind, please scream out for help, crying Krishna! O killer of Baka, I am on the verge of death. If you do this, then Krishna will certainly save me.”

On this auspicious day, our only hope is to cry out and pray for your mercy in a similar mood, to appeal to our minds to remember our connection with you, because by remembering

you, we remember how you made service to Srila Prabhupada your life and made your life service to Srila Prabhupada.

In the same letter, you continued to explain that as much as there is a special feeling involved in personal association, it is the spiritual connection that is to be ultimately made. You quoted Srila Prabhupada who once described the importance of such spiritual connections: *“But always remember that I am always with you. As you are always thinking of me, I am always thinking of you also. Although physically we are not together, we are not separated spiritually. So we should be concerned with this spiritual connection.”*

We know that simply by endeavoring to become a more serious and dedicated servant, by your mercy and through this spiritual connection, anything is possible. It requires taking full responsibility for ourselves, for our choices and to try to not be dragged down by our minds. It requires not being guided by superficial notions and to really dig deeper, to live by Krishna conscious principles in all our actions and interactions. It requires seeing life’s challenges in a bigger context and being able to identify the opportunities to become a more sincere and humble servant. It requires extending ourselves and helping those around us. It requires that we live conscientiously in Krishna consciousness. As Srila Prabhupada explains in a lecture on BG 4.18, “living conscientiously in Krishna consciousness will solve the problems of life”.

Srila Prabhupada has explained this to be, “simple for the simple”. Simple does not mean easy, so it definitely requires hard work. However, it requires not complicating things. And this makes us realise that no matter how much we endeavor, we will always fall short, because we have a tendency to gravitate towards making something more complex than it should be. And so we think of the prayer by Bhaktivinoda Thakur:

*jogyata-vicare, kichu nahi pai,
tomara karuna—sara
karuna na hoile, kandiya kandiya,
prana na rakhibo ara*

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

Guru Maharaja, please be merciful unto us, please help us become instruments of service in Lord Caitanya’s mission, please give us the determination to want to make a difference, and

please give the patience to remain with dedication. Please help us develop real love. That is our only hope.

Your servants,

Krishna-Balarama dasa and Nandarani-Devi dasi

Lalitakunda-Devi dasi

Dearest Guru Maharaja

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

Kindly accept my thanksgiving to the gift of your being and please accept my thoughts on the presence of your life.

No spiritual life can be conclusive without the grace and compassion of the Spiritual Master to uplift the seeker. The mind complicates things Guru Maharaja. That seems to be its entire purpose.

You picked me up from the dirtiest of grime.

I THANK YOU.

To jump to spiritual life is easy, to sustain that momentum is difficult.

It is you Guru Maharaja that keeps up that momentum. Your silent glances, caring and loving messages helps me sludge along.

I THANK YOU.

You are a friend to all because you see beyond the material covering of the body, mind and false ego, directly penetrating through the internal soul, hidden amongst the deep rooted weeds and grime.

Guru Maharaja, you recognised this struggling soul and pushed her along amidst her fallen heart and failing body.

I THANK YOU.

I have come about the last station of this life.

My journey is over at your lotus feet.

You lovingly gave us permission to live in Vrindavana dhama.

I THANK YOU.

Guru Maharaja, you have provided me with a rudder and anchor to my drowning boat. My humble prayer at your lotus feet is to remember your divine grace, Srila Prabhupada, and Their Lordships and be peaceful whilst rowing this boat across.

May Sri Dhanwantari bless you with good health and may our loving Sri Radharani bless you with greater enthusiasm.

I eternally beg to remain your servant.

Lalitakunda-Devi dasi

Lokanath dasa

Dear Guru Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your beloved spiritual master Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your divine Grace

Caitanya Caritamrita Madhya Lila 19.151 states:

*Brahmanda bhramite kona bhagyavan jiva
Guru-krsna-prasade paya bhakti lata bija*

In the purport to Srimad Bhagavatam 5.5.6 Srila Prabhupada comments on this verse saying:

“The living entity wanders throughout different planets in different forms and bodies, but if by chance he comes in contact with a bona fide spiritual master, by the grace of the spiritual master he receives Lord Krsnas’ shelter, and his devotional life begins.”

I think of this when I bow down in front of the altar sometimes. I am unable to approach the Lord by myself but when I present myself as being part of your team by reciting your pranam mantras then it becomes easier and possible.

You are a very lovable person, very very kind and caring. You have shown me personally so much love, by edging me on to do better, go deeper and give it my all in Krsna consciousness. Simply by your gravity during a darshan you speak a thousand words to me. Words of encouragement, love, care and even concern.

You have shown me your love for Srila Prabhupada and Krsna by your example through your chanting japa with rapt attention and tears in your eyes, through your tireless travel to spread Krsna consciousness in service to Srila Prabhupada, through sharing Sri Vrindhavan Dham with the world with slide shows, DVDs and books, through showing me how you lovingly associate with your god brothers, through talking about Krsna tirelessly, doing as many as 6 classes in a day or doing classes right after rigorous travel. All of these things cannot be imitated, they are possible only due to the intense, unalloyed desire that you have to serve Srila Prabhupada.

I pray on this most auspicious occasion that I may take full advantage of everything you have given me and that I may one day reciprocate with you out of love in an unlimited and unconditional way.

Your eternal servant

Lokanath dasa

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

Please accept our humble obesciences at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your divine Grace. All glories to Shrila Prabhupada.

Gurudev, it seems that as we chant and try to get more engrossed in our Krishna Consciousness, we experience more obstacles and challenges. You always say that Lord Krishna will never give us more than we can handle, and I think that these words keep us going, and also gives us the understanding, that this is part of our purification process.

This year we have recently suffered the loss of a dearly loved one, and although things seemed tough and endless, we somehow with our chanting, managed to get through the troubled times. I recently had a small accident, one that I knew was meant to be bigger, but through your mercy, the effects where minimised and I was unharmed. It re-iterated to me, that we are not the controllers, and that Lord Krishna writes our destiny.

Each day passes and we as parents seem to be engrossed in this material life with responsibilities and commitments. How we get through the day, is a miracle. It is only by your causeless mercy that we are able to balance our lives and find solace in our Krishna Consciousness.

We continue with our weekly, monthly and bi-weekly services and I have also had a few opportunities to wake the Lord from his afternoon nap and to do the 4pm offering and arati. A wonderful experience, just being by the Lord and singing his holy name. We've also had a few opportunities this year to sing Kirtan at a few homes, including our own relatives, where people have suffered the loss of a loved one. We used this opportunity to sing the holy name of the lord and to preach to them from the Bhagwad Gita and also provided them with some literature on Krishna Consciousness, the response was positive.

We also continue our Friday night bhajan sessions, encouraging our young children to be more Krishna Conscious and also to associate with each other and help each other to move forward and to remember to make Krishna the centre of our world. We pray that you continue to shower your mercy upon us fallen souls and continue to inspire us through our personal chats with you, your lectures, kirtans and association.

Thank you, Gurudev, for always showering your merciful glance upon us, and keeping us under your shelter. Hare Krishna

Nitya Sundari-Devi dasi & Krishna Kirtan dasa

Lila Vrindavana-Devi dasi

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhakti-caitanya swamin iti namine
namami bhakti-caitanyam prabhupadanusevinam
sri-vraja-dhana-mahatmya-pradarsakam krparnavam*

Dear Guru Maharaja!

Please accept my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and his followers. All glories to Lord Caitanya's sankirtana movement.

Every year I welcome this chance to write a Vyasa puja offering to you as it allows me to become more absorbed in the thoughts about your wonderful personality and to better appreciate my greatest fortune of being your disciple.

I was thinking that Lord Krishna is very kind by allowing us, the conditioned souls, to witness the spiritual world with our material eyes. Your life is a perfect example of the activity that does not belong to the material world because it is fully dedicated to the Lord's service. We know how temporary this material world is. Each phenomenon has its beginning and end. Everyone has a limited capacity to act which becomes even more limited as the age progresses. But in the spiritual realm everything is unlimited and ever expanding.

Such are your activities, Guru Maharaja. They increase day by day: you travel more intensely and preach in the places that are difficult to reach, you make more and more devotees, you invent new ways to spread Srila Prabhupada's mission, you discover more holy places to take devotees to, you write more books, you inspire devotees and help them solving their problems, you have many responsibilities in the GBC and at the same time perfectly follow your personal sadhana. These are just few of your glorious activities. The intensity of your preaching is unconceivable for us and is the proof that you are beyond the laws of the material nature but work directly under Lord Krishna's protection.

Thank you, dear Lord Krishna, Gauranga Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada, for giving us our Guru Maharaja. Thank you for allowing us to peep into the amazing reality of the spiritual world by witnessing his life of total surrender to You.

Dear Guru Maharaja, I pray that you bless us to become more and more enthused to serve you better, making our small contributions to your mission in this way. Please forgive my offences and mistakes made out of my foolishness as the father forgives his children. Thank you for everything!

Happy Vyasa Puja, dear Guru Maharaja!

Your servant and daughter,
Lila Vrindavana dd

Madan Gopal dasa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

I have been listening regularly to your lectures and they are really helping me to become Krishna conscious. The more I progress in my own Krishna consciousness, the more I realize how advanced and how Krishna conscious you are. It is like an endless ocean and you are so deep into it that it is way beyond me to understand what you experience, but I'm appreciating more and more your level of surrender to Krishna and your absorption in love of Krishna.

The unfortunate occurrence of my becoming ill last year has become a fortunate occurrence in that it has helped me to become more serious in my Krishna consciousness. I am actually a lot happier now than before becoming ill, due to becoming more absorbed in Krishna consciousness. It helped me to realize that this world is a terrible place ("no place for a gentleman" as Srila Bhaktisiddhanta used to say - indeed) and the best thing to do is get out by surrendering to Krishna. There is no enjoyment, happiness or future here; as Srila Prabhupada says in one lecture: we are standing on a tottering platform. It also helped me to realize that Krishna consciousness is not dependent on any material circumstances, therefore it is the real shelter.

I wish to continue going deeper and deeper into the unlimited ocean of bhakti by catching hold of your lotus feet and allowing you to pull me. Please accept this humble offering from your unworthy and treacherous aspiring servant,

Madan Gopal dasa

Madhu Govinda dasa, Madhu Priya Devi Dasi & Family

Our Dearest Srila Gurudeva

We offer our most humble and respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace Bhakti Caitanya Swami, who is extremely dear to Sri Krsna and Srimati Radharani, having taken shelter of Them.

Gurudeva, it is only by Your grace and Your mercy that we are able to receive the benediction of Sri Krsna and Srimati Radharani, prior to this Dear Gurudeva, we were just lost souls. Today, when we look back at our lives, we realise how much more meaningful, peaceful and happier our lives have become since you have become an integral part of it.

Lord Sri Krsna says in the Bhagavad Gita, that one must approach and take shelter of a bona fide spiritual master to become self realised, and we are certain that Krsna had sent You to us whilst we were searching for a Bona fide Guru.

You always take time out of your schedule to give us the guidance and support that we need. Many a time, we feel as if we are so unworthy and undeserving of Your mercy, but now, we have become trapped by Your mercy and we humbly beg at Your lotus feet that we become good instruments in Your hands. It has become our duty to strive for pure devotion and to help serve and assist You in Your mission of spreading the glories of the Holy name. Gurudeva, we often hear the following phrase... "I lost my heart in Vrindavana." But really, we have lost our hearts to You Srila Gurudeva.

On this most auspicious day of Your vyasa puja celebration, we offer our dandavat pranams to the dust of Your lotus feet and pray that You may eternally remain at the Lotus feet of Srimati Radharani and Sri Krsna.

Your eternal and most insignificant servants,

Madhu Govinda dasa , Madhu Priya Devi Dasi, Gokula Taruni Devi Dasi, and Goloka Taruni Devi Dasi

Dear Maharaja.

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

I wanted to thank you very much for your wonderful example in service to Srila Prabhupada. Lord Kapiladeva instructs Mother Devahuti in the Third Canto, Ch. 25,

*Prasangam ajaram pasam
atmanah kavayo viduh
sa eva sadhusu krto
moksa-dvaram apavrtam*

Every learned man knows very well that attachment for the material is the greatest entanglement of the spirit soul. But that same attachment, when applied to the self-realized devotees, opens the door of liberation.

*Titiksavah karunika
suhrdah sarva-dehinam
ajata-satravah santah
sadhavah sadhu-bhusanam*

The symptoms of a sadhu are that he is tolerant, merciful and friendly to all living entities. He has no enemies, he is peaceful, he abides by the scriptures, and all of his characteristics are sublime. (SB. 3.25.20-21)

It is an especially instructive chapter. Srila Prabhupada mentions, ‘attachment cannot be killed, it simply has to be transferred... despite the statement that one should give up attachment, desirelessness is not possible for a living entity... the propensity for attachment... must be utilized for the best purpose. Attachment should be transferred to the self-realized devotees, the sadhus. A sadhu is a strict follower of devotional service... Mahatma is a synonym of sadhu. It is said that service to a mahatma is ‘dvaram ahur vimukteh’, the royal road of liberation... Attachment to a devotee is attachment to the service of the Lord because if one associates with a sadhu, the result will be the sadhu will teach him how to become a devotee, a worshipper and a sincere servitor of the Lord... These are the gifts of the sadhu.

You mentioned once that during one of Srila Prabhupada’s visits to London, you had the opportunity to drive Brahmananda Swami somewhere. He spoke of his realization, ‘that we have had so many, many lifetimes- why can’t we give just this one to Srila Prabhupada’; and how his words had had a profound effect on you. Your life has been clear proof to any

aspiring devotee of the potency of strictly adhering to the instruction of the spiritual master, serving with life and soul.

Just as Srila Prabhupada unveiled the glories of Lord Krishna, His loving associates and His holy dharmas to the world through his transcendental books; you have made his ‘windows to the spiritual world’ into a full-length movie, complete with travel guide and road map. You have made access to and appreciation of those spiritual realms very easy for any sincere or inquisitive soul. A remarkable achievement for what you described as only “your hobby.”

A devotee once asked if our relationships are eternal. In one letter, Srila Prabhupada said, “Our relationship is eternal. But if someone lags behind, in spite of our eternal relationship, one may not meet the others at the destination.”

Dear Maharaja, please forgive my numerous offenses, those known and unknown and continue to be kind to this soul lagging far behind.

Your servant/ god-brother

Medhavi dasa

Mukunda dasa

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

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

Guru Maharaja, on this most auspicious day of your vyasa puja, please accept this poor attempt from your most fallen disciple to glorify you.

Actually, anyone who merely sees you, hears you or even thinks of you make great spiritual advancement because you are so abundantly endowed with mercy and love from Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna.

Srila Prabhupada is Saktya Avesha Avatara and he has left behind such empowered soldiers as your divine grace to protect fallen souls like myself from the onslaughts of Maya devi. Being one of the topmost representatives of Srila Prabhupada, you use your vast and

impeccable understanding of the Vedas to guide and protect all who come in contact with you.

Your purity is evident in the fact that:

- Just by mentioning your name (His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami)
- Just by thinking of you.
- Just seeing your captivating smile even in your absence.
- Just talking to you- in your absence- helps me continue my activities like chanting, reading etc., with greater enthusiasm.

Such is the power and purity of Srila Prabhupada's favourite son.

Lord Brahma couldn't grant eternity to Hiranyakasipu because Lord Brahma himself didn't possess eternity. Guru Maharaja,

- You are already residing in Goloka Vrindavana, therefore you can grant us residence there.
- You have tons of mercy so you can distribute it to us.
- You possess love for Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna so you can grant us a few drops of this love.
- You possess this vast understanding of the vedas and you are already distributing this without hesitation to all us fallen souls.

Thank you Guru Maharaja for all that you have done for my family and i, especially allowing us to live in Sri Vrindavana dhama. On this day we pray to Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna to grant you many more healthy, blissful and sober years here so you may continue to help millions more to achieve their spiritual goal.

Happy vyasa puja Guru Maharaja.

Your most fallen servant

Mukunda dasa

Namacarya dasa

Hare Krishna

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of Your Divine Lotus Feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari. All glories to the assembled Vaisnavas.

This is indeed a very glorious and blessed day the appearance day celebration of our dearmost Guru Maharaja.

Thank you for always guiding me on the path of bhakti although I am undeserving living entity. You are always there for us in every hour of need always pointing us in the right

direction and blessing us so that the best outcome is achieved. My life without you Guru Maharaja would have been a complete mess.

I know that you are not just an ordinary human being but a Mahatma because you fit the definition of one. Always chanting Krsna name and carrying Krsna with you wherever you go. Maharaja is always preaching Krsna glories. I had the good fortune of getting a little of Your association and during that period I did see you not waste one minute of Krsna time on yourself but always engaged in Krsna conscious activities. I pray that one day through your mercy I can acquire a particle of your Bhakti. Guru Maharaja is very attractive in his manners speech and bhakti this is because he is a Mahatama.

How blessed am I to be Your disciple and a grand disciple of Srila Prabhupada. I cannot imagine my good fortune to be linked to the “brahma madhava gaudiya sampradaya” the doorways of Goloka Vrndavan are open to me although I am not worthy of this at all. I pray that one day through your blessings I may get some wisdom to take full advantage of this life time because who knows what will become of me in the next life.

Thank you for allowing me to take part in the running of the affairs of Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari Mandir and I need your mercy to continue this task to the best of my ability. I pray that I may do this service for many years to come without causing any offences.

Thank you for the close association we had for the past 18 years of our life which gave my children such good grounding in Krsna consciousness. When I see other children of the same age group taking part in drugs wine etc then I thank my good fortune of having Your association.

Praying to always remain like a particle of dust in the shade of Your Divine Lotus Feet.

Your unworthy son

Namacarya dasa

Nanda Gopal dasa and Madhurya Rasa-Devi dasi

My Dearest Maharaja,

Please accept our most humble and sincere obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you Guru Maharaja on this most blessed event of your Sri Vyasa Puja.

Guru Maharaja, writing an offering to you is a very difficult task for us, as we consider ourselves unworthy and unqualified. Maharaja, you gave us such wonderful names on our initiation. Continue to bless us thus we may become the servants of servants, continuously serving Nanda Gopal and Maduriya Rasa in their pastimes. We have so many things to be thankful for! Like when you graced our home and named our deities Sri Sri Radha Murali Manohar. Our prayer and desire was to always have them named by you Guru Maharaja, and like a caring father, you did just that!

Realising how fortunate we are, in order to please you Nanda Gopal dasa chanted 32 rounds as his offering to you on Nirjal Ekadasi. Our chanting has intensified since our initiation. Association with devotees flows like nectar, our service desire has just deepened and is flowing like an open tap of water. Guru Maharaja with all the association we have had these years you only inspire us to strive towards our future in service to you and Srila Prabhupada's greater community.

Kindly instruct us and bless us to always follow your instructions as our desire is to always serve and obtain your blessings. Today being your Sri Vyasa Puja please find it in your heart to bless us, guide us, use us as need be. Our attitude of gratitude is to always please our beloved Spiritual master, in pleasing you we please Srila Prabhupada.

Your forever indebted disciples,

Nanda Gopal and Madhurya Rasa.

Narayan dasa & Mahalaksmi-Devi Dasi

*nama om visnu –padaya Krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhakti caitanya swamin iti namine*

*namami bhakti caitanyam prabhupadanusevinam
sri-vraja-dhana-mahatmya-pradarsakam krparnavam*

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

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

Hare Krsna Gurudeva!

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories, All glories, All glories to You our beloved Gurudeva.

The spirit soul due to its contact with material nature has forgotten his eternal relationship with the Supreme Lord,

“Living beings are part and parcel of the Complete Whole, and if they are severed from the Complete Whole, the illusory representation of completeness cannot fully satisfy them”.

(Isopanisad: Invocation)

However, by the mercy of the Supreme Lord, Krsna, we have scriptures to remind us of Him. These Supreme sciences are like our map, directing us back to Goloka Vindavan.

The purpose of this human form is not to enjoy in this material world which is basically dead matter, a grave yard. Our purpose is to come to the point of understanding who we are, what our purpose in this material world is and to try to enquire about who God is and what our relationship is with Him.

To do this,

*tad viddhi pranipatena
pariprasnena sevaya
upadeksyanti te jananam
jnaninas tattva darsinam*

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

The material world is sometimes compared to an ocean, and the human body is compared to a solid boat designed especially to cross this ocean. The Vedic scriptures and the acaryas, or saintly teachers, are compared to expert boatmen. (Sri Isopanisad Mantra 3). Our Gurudev is that expert boatman helping each and every one of us to ply smoothly across this ocean of nescience so that we can fully utilize this human form for self - realization and ultimately attain the spiritual Kingdom of God (brahma-nirvanam rcchati) - Goloka Vindavan.

You are truly an ideal teacher, following in the footsteps of previous acaryas (sato vrtteh), and thus helping the fallen souls to develop a culture of vidya - spiritual knowledge. This knowledge which is a message from God Himself Sri Krsna can only be received from a bona fide teacher. Unfortunately it is only the few intelligent ones who seek out and take note of this message. This human life is the only and best opportunity to escape the shackles of repeated birth and death, and only a bona fide spiritual master like yourself can help us understand this map and take us to the stage of Krsna prema and eventually back Home.

Dear gurudeva you are a most magnanimous gentleman. Our loving father. Thank you for saving us from the clutches of Maya. On this most auspicious day of your vyasa puja, we pray that we may always remain at your lotus feet.

Your most fallen children

Narayan dasa & Mahalaksmi-Devi Dasi

Nirvana Singh

Dear Gurudev,

Please kindly accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Sri Guru and Sri Gauranga

All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your lotus feet.

I pray Lord Krsna is keeping you in good health. It is my greatest pleasure to write you this offering. I am indeed very fortunate in doing so. It is most unfortunate that I could not attend your Vyasa puja this year as I always look forward to it every year.

It is my first time in writing an offering to you. I always attend your Vyasa puja but I have always been ashamed and embarrassed that my offering may not be of any value to you. I have heard many great devotees read their offerings to you, they all are so beautiful and very well expressed and I feel that I am very underqualified to write you an offering. However, today, my thinking has changed and my darampati has very nicely advised and encourage me to write something from my heart.

Please accept my humble apologies as I am trying to write what best describes how appreciative I am to have you in my life. I am not very good in expressing myself so please bear with me.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to you for not giving up on me. I have been very reluctant yet you still gave me your loving care and guidance. You have always given me the best advice. You have always encouraged and supported me. I thank you for sacrificing your time and attention for me. Thank you for teaching me how to chant attentively. Every time I chant, I remember all the advice you have given to me on improving my japa which I relish and for that I am forever indebted to you.

I thank Lord Krsna, Srimati Radharani and Srila Prabhupada for guiding me and leading me to you. You have changed my life in ways which I cannot explain. You are a rare and gentle soul, being in your presence just lights up my heart. Whenever I am in your presence everything around me becomes non-existent, except the holy name which you lovingly utter.

You are well known for the manner in which you present Lord Krsna's past times to your listeners. These beautiful pastimes in which you lovingly share with us all, keeps us enthralled.

Your kirtan is as sweet as the sounds of birds whistling. When you sing the names of Krsna I feel some sort of separation from the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and the extent to which you love the Lord becomes evident.

I am not sure if I am fortunate enough to visit the holy dhams in this lifetime, however your recent book called "Govardhan Hill" makes me feel as if I have been there already. You have very kindly and nicely written and covered everything for us. Thank you for giving us the Darshan of these holy places.

Please always engage me in devotional service to Srila Prabhupada, Lord Krsna and to his loving devotees such as yourself. I bow down before you again and again. You have opened my eyes and heart and I have begun to realize the real goal of life. Please continue to bless and guide me, so that I can continue this mission of spreading the holy name throughout my surroundings. I must have done a great deed in my past life to have met you and be in your great association. Please bless me so that I can remain fixed in my Krsna Consciousness.

Hope to see you soon. Hare Krsna.

Your most insignificant servant

Nirvana Singh

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

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

*nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhakti caitanya-svamin iti namine*

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

*namāmi bhakti-caitanyam prabhupādānusevinam
śrī-vraja-dhana-māhātmya-pradarśakam kṛpārṇavam*

*I offer my humble obeisances unto Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami, an
ocean of mercy, who faithfully serves Srila Prabhupada and reveals the
greatness of the treasure of Sri Vraja(Sri Sri Radha-Krsna)*

Dear Gurudeva

Please accept my most humble obeisance at the divine dust of your lotus feet. All glories to those lotus feet which are cool and soothing against the fire of material existence, they are my only shelter. All glories to Srila Prabhupada who's feet you massage by your continuous preaching.

We had just finished the Panihatti festival here at New Jagannatha Puri temple and I was very much absorbed in the mood of appreciating devotees. I'm now thinking of you and how merciful you are to me. You always tolerate me no matter how foolishly I behave. I think every single time that I came in contact with you I somehow succeeded in making a fool of myself by doing something crazy.

I recall the first time I was given an opportunity to serve you. I was staying over at Sri Sri Radha Radhanatha temple for the week and washing your clothes. One day Krsna Kṛpa Prabhu came up to me and asked me if I'd like to serve you lunch. I immediately agreed being

very excited. At that time Arjunacarya Prabhu was serving you and he needed to attend to some family matters, so I happened to be in the right place at the right time.

I asked Krsna Krpa 'so how do I serve Gurudev?'

He replies by saying ' you'll know!'

So the anxiety started to build up and the time was getting closer.

Eventually, I break and say 'I can't do it'.

Arjunacarya very kindly agreed to stay a little longer until I was set. We enter your room and you were busy on your computer. He showed me where the dishes were kept and I got everything together.

I very nervously call for you 'Gurudev' in a very faltering voice.

You turn towards me and very sweetly say 'oh yes, *prasad* is ready.'

As you were walking toward me I slowly walked backwards trying to get as far out of the way as possible then I trip and role over your foot stool. I'm there trying to balance on my hands and eventually reach the ground. I felt so useless, like a fool but you looked at me very kindly and compassionately said to me ' oh no I'm sorry, are you okay?' those words just melted my heart and I felt your love picking me up, as i had literally fallen like the greatest fool alive. I have many stories of what a fool I am but at the end of it is always the love that you showed to me.

Thank you Srila Gurudev. There's no words that I can use to describe my gratitude, but deep down I know that you understand.

I belong to you.

Your foolish beggar,

Nitai Pada dasa

Nitya Seva-Devi dasi, Rasa Sundari-Devi dasi & family

Hare Krishna,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories unto your divine lotus feet dear Guru Maharaja.

My Dearest Guru Maharaja,

We have been in the ISKCON movement for a while now and almost every memory contains You Maharaja. You have held our hands throughout our journey never once letting it go, allowing us to stumble and learn but never to fall. Maharaja has shouldered so many roles for us, our confidant that listens to us never judging, our friend that has constantly been there to support us through our highs and lows, our father that has given us a safe and loving home, family and shelter and most importantly our spiritual master, our beloved Gurudev who has constantly showered us with unlimited spiritual knowledge, love and encouragement.

Maharaja has captured our hearts, You meant us to be strong, good and wise, yet we are weak, faulty and foolish. Your dreams for us are too bright to see. But yet we want to see it. We humbly pray to You, that Maharaja can help us open our eyes, to see You walking with us, to dream Your dreams after You and know that there, We will find our true self.

Thank You Maharaja for giving us shelter under Your lotus feet. I pray that we remain Your servant birth after birth. May Your light always guide us through every step we take.

Begging to remain at Your lotus feet.

Your humble servants,

Nitya Seva-Devi dasi, Rasa Sundari-Devi dasi and family

Prabhupada-priya dasa and Lila Mohini-Devi dasi

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

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

*mukham karoti vachalam, pangum langhayate girim; yat-kripa tam aham vande ; shri-
gurum dina-taranam*

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

*nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-presthaya bhutale
srimate bhakti-caitanya-svamin iti namine*

*namami Bhakti-caitanyaa prabhupadenusevinam
sri-vraja-dhana-mahatmya-pradarcakaa krparnavam*

Dandavats Pranams Gurudeva!

Our Dearest Gurudeva,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Sri Sri Krishna Balarama. All glories to
Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Your Divine Grace. Please forgive us fallen souls for all
offences caused.

Dearest Gurudeva; being so fallen, we will try to exemplify Your Divine Grace on
this auspicious day of Your Divine Grace's Vyasa Puja.

Being engulfed by the raging turbulent material world, with Maya torturing us in
every sphere, where can we take shelter? Our only hope and shelter is the lotus feet of Your
Divine Grace. As Srila Prabhupada explains in His purport to SB:1.7.22 , "The spiritual
master is the mercy representative of the Lord."

Your Divine Grace is the only one that keeps us on this blissful path of Krishna
Consciousness. It is by Your Divine Grace's instructions that we try to remain fixed in our
sadhana. As stated, "The holy name alone is sufficient to take you back home, back to
Godhead. However to cultivate the mood of surrender, you need a Guru". Who better than
Your Divine Grace to teach us by example?

With the material energy, hurling problems at us during every step we take, we have
come to the realisation that there is no better enjoyment than being Krishna Conscious, no
better fulfilment than being Krsna Conscious and no better happiness than that experienced in
Krishna Consciousness. That, our dearest Gurudeva, is due to the mercy of Your Divine
Grace. As stated by Srila Prabhupada in His purport to BG:2.8 "A spiritual master who is

hundred percent Krishna Conscious is a *bona fide* spiritual master; for He can solve the problems of life.”

We are so grateful, that the more anxiety we face makes us more sober and this concretes our faith in Krishna. Your Divine Grace has become an integral part of our daily life. The is summed up nicely by Srila Prabhupada in His letter to Mahapurusha dated 12/2/68: “*The spiritual master and Krishna are two parallel lines. The train on two tracks, moves forward. The spiritual master and Krishna are like the two tracks, they must be served simultaneously. Krishna helps one to a bona-fide spiritual master and a bona-fide spiritual master helps one to understand Krishna. If one does not get a bona-fide spiritual master, then how can he ever understand Krishna? You cannot serve Krishna without spiritual master, or serve just spiritual master without serving Krishna. They must be served simultaneously.*” This is the only way to move forward in our spiritual life.

Dearest Gurudeva, we are not always in Your Divine Grace’s personal association; but Your Divine Grace’s instructions always gives our daily life impetus. Just a second’s glimpse is enough to rejuvenate our spiritual life. As stated by Srila Prabhupada in His purports to SB: 3.21.17:” By the grace of the spiritual master, the cloud of mercy of the Personality of Godhead is brought in; and then only, when the rains of Krishna Consciousness fall can the fire of material existence be extinguished.”

Gurudeva, thanks for everything, yes EVERYTHING. ***Guru kripa hi kevalam*** - Guru’s mercy is everything. On this auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja, we humbly beg Your Divine Grace for a drop of the mercy so that we always remain humble servants in Srila Prabhupada’s movement

Your fallen servants

Prabhupada Priya dasa and Lila Mohini-Devi dasi

Prana Priya-Devi dasi

Hare Krsna, Guru Maharaja,

All glories to Sri Sri Nitai GauraHari! All glories to Sri Sri Radha-Radhanath! All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to Sri Guru – His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja!

Dear Gurudeva, may You have a peaceful and healthy future. May You always attain great success in Your unselfish endeavor to serve humanity.

My dear Gurudeva, I thank You with all my heart for all the times that You prayed to Sri Sri Radha-Krsna, to Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai and to Srila Prabhupada for my well-being.

I am fortunate that my son, Caitanya Carana dasa , is constantly informing You about my critical health condition. I can feel the result of Your prayers because I feel the Hands of Their Lordships in my life in difficult times. I am also very fortunate that I have You as my spiritual father. In thankfulness to You, I try the best I can to preach by passing on the knowledge I gained from You about what ISKCON is all about.

Gurudeva, I thank You for Your servant, Saci Kumar Prabhu, for regularly coming home with other devotees, performing kirtan and enlightening me on Krsna consciousness. Also thank you to Nikunja Seva ataji for making all the arrangements for the devotees to come to my home. Thank you, devotees.

Once again, my dear Gurudeva, thank You for the loving and wonderful person You are.

From Your loving servant,
Prana Priya-Devi dasi

Prema Lila dasi

My dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisance at the dust of Your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

On this auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja I would like to thank You for everything that You have done for me. I am so happy ever since the day of my initiation, it has opened up a whole new world for me. I feel more close to You now than I did before.

Although I do not see you often enough, I do feel Your presence constantly and that is what keeps me living. Even when I pray I feel a sense of connection that someone is listening to me, so real that I can almost touch You with my thoughts.

My dear Guru Maharaja, many people walked in and out of my life daily, but You walked just once and left your foot print in my heart. I am so proud to have You as my very own spiritual master, thanks to Krishna, and I know I have a special relationship with You.

You are my inspiration and I am grateful for the abundance of happiness and mercy You bestow upon me. When disappointed stare me in the face, I turn to You for comfort and I immediately begin to smile. I remember one of Your favourite lines “forget all your nonsense and do what I say”. Well, You can be rest assured that I will never let you down. I will serve You to the best of my ability.

Just a little reminder my dear Gurudev: to the world You might just be a swami, but to me You are my world, my life.

Once again, I would like to wish You well on your Vyasa Puja. May Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna bless You always.

Your servant

Prema Lila dasi

Radha Raman dasa

Dear Guru Maharaja Bhakti Caitanya Swami,
Please accept my prostrated obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and all glories to your lotus feet.

*yad yad ācarati śreṣṭhas
tat tad evetaro janaḥ
sa yat pramāṇam kurute
lokaś tad anuvartate*

Whatever action a great man performs, common men follow. And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues.

When Krishna came to this world he told us how to surrender to Him but because there wasn't anyone to set the example of surrender few persons did, therefore Lord Caitanya had to come to set the example of how to surrender to Krishna. In that same way you show us how to surrender to Srila Prabhupada, without your example we would have no inspiration.

You exemplify of dedication and sacrifice to the sankirtana mission of Srila Prabhupada. Practically your whole life has been dedicated to spreading the mission of Lord Caitanya. You are an inspiration to all neophyte devotees like myself. You spend most of the year ceaselessly traveling from one place to another out of compassion for the conditioned souls. An ordinary person could never tolerate constant jet lag but clearly the soul is not withered by the wind nor by jetlag. Only because you have no false ego can you tolerate such austerity.

In the Gita 2.54 Arjuna asks: *O Kṛṣṇa, what are the symptoms of one whose consciousness is thus merged in transcendence? How does he speak, and what is his language? How does he sit, and how does he walk?*

Krishna answers: *O Pārtha, when a man gives up all varieties of desire for sense gratification, which arise from mental concoction, and when his mind, thus purified, finds satisfaction in the self alone, then he is said to be in pure transcendental consciousness.*

You have been fixed in devotional service for so many years that you clearly have must be free from all desires for sense gratification and find satisfaction in the self.

Krishna continues: *One who is not disturbed in mind even amidst the threefold miseries or elated when there is happiness, and who is free from attachment, fear and anger, is called a sage of steady mind.*

In your association I have always felt very peaceful because you are so peaceful. Although I might be disturbed by so many material things you are never disturbed because your mind is always controlled and fully engaged in unmotivated uninterrupted service to Krishna. Maya is so powerful but in your association I always feel so protected.

Your aspiring disciple,

Radha Raman dasa .

Radha Sharana dasa

My dearest Srila Gurudev,

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

One of the most recognized of Your many astounding qualities that You possess is Your steadfastness in Krsna Consciousness. Your amazing ability to stick to Your sadhana. I pray that I may one day, by Your causeless mercy, become at least a little steady in mine.

But there is another quality that stands out for me. Your humility.

I remember a while back, somewhere around 15 years ago, You were invited to do a program at Port Shepstone, and I volunteered to drive Gurudev there. So when I came to pick You up at Sri Sri Radhanatha mandir, You looked at my car and asked “Will it make it there?”

Being a long drive, and considering the condition of the rust bucket You were about to get into, I can understand Your concern. But still, You didn’t mind and got into the car with full faith in Krsna. In the purport to Bhagavad Gita 16.1 Srila Prabhupada states:

“For a sannyasi, the first qualification should be fearlessness. Because a sannyasi has to be alone without any support or guarantee of support, he has simply to depend on the mercy of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. If one thinks, “After I leave my connections, who will protect me?” he should not accept the renounced order of life. One must be fully convinced that Krishna or the Supreme Personality of Godhead in His localized aspect as Paramatma is always within, that He is seeing everything and He always knows what one intends to do. One must thus have firm conviction that Krishna as Paramatma will take care of a soul surrendered to Him. “I shall never be alone,” one should think. “Even if I live in the darkest regions of a forest I shall be accompanied by Krishna, and He will give me all protection.” That conviction is called abhayam, fearlessness. This state of mind is necessary for a person in the renounced order of life.”

So by You fearlessly getting into that car, You proved that You definitely fulfil the first qualification of being a sannyasi. By observing Your behaviour and disposition, anyone would agree that You fulfil all other qualifications as well.

So I would like to thank You Guru Maharaja, for always allowing me to serve You. Even if it meant that You accepted some discomfort, You always very humbly accept any service anybody is willing to offer.

Your servant

Radha Sharana dasa

*Namo om visnu-padaya krsna prsthaya bhutale
srimate bhakti caitanya swamin iti namine*

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your Divine Grace on this auspicious day of your Vyasa-Puja. All glories to Srila Prabhupada, by whose mercy we have received the gift your association.

Our Guru Maharaja is the ocean of mercy. We are so thankful to our Guru Maharaja because you have given us the most perfect path in Krishna consciousness. Only by your mercy we can attain the mercy of Sri Sri Radha Krishna. You have made so many unfortunate souls like us fortunate.

Guru Maharaja you have always inspired me to be a better devotee and a better person. Guru Maharaja your concern and love for your devotees has always touched the bottom of my heart. Maharaja whenever I have looked into your eyes, I have seen that love for us.

We offer our humble obeisances onto your lotus feet and remain forever great full to your Divine Grace for giving us a purpose of living.

So on this most auspicious say please bless us with sincerity so that we may serve you with love and please you to the best of our ability. We would also like to dedicate ourselves to you and your mission to spread Krishna consciousness.

Thank you Guru Maharaja for accepting fallen souls like me and allowing me to serve you. Please forgive me if I caused any offenses at your lotus feet.

Your eternal servant

Radha Darshni-Devi dasi

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari. All glories to you, Gurudev, on this auspicious day.

*catur-vidha-śrī-bhagavat-prasāda-
svādv-anna-trptān hari-bhakta-saṅghān
kṛtvaiṣa trptiṁ bhajataḥ sadaiva
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravinda*

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

H.H. Bhakti Tirtha Maharaja had once said that prasād plays a major role in the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement. He thus jokingly said that we are a kitchen religion! I guess that is why there are so many pastimes revolving around prasād!

Many years ago when Subala prabhu was the temple president of the Lenasia temple, Guru Maharaja was staying at the temple. Maharaja had just returned from overseas and was recovering from bronchitis. I phoned the temple to enquire about Maharaja's health. Subala prabhu picked up the phone and upon my enquiry informed me that he was with Maharaja in his room and that Maharaja would like me to make some dokra for him. I told Subala prabhu that since dokra was made with sour milk it would not be a good idea for Maharaja to eat dokra as it will not be good for his chest when he's just recovering from bronchitis. Subala prabhu repeated that Maharaja would like to have dokra. I then told him to ask Maharaja if I could cook something else because I don't want Maharaja's chest being negatively affected with the dokra. There was a silence and I thought that maybe the phone got cut off, so I said "Haribol". Then Subala prabhu said, "MOTHER RADHAKUND, WHEN YOUR SPIRITUAL MASTER WANTS DOKRA, YOU MAKE DOKRA..." Put like that, I didn't argue any further, and made the dokra for Maharaja.

A few years ago Guru Maharaja came to our home for prasād. I was a bit disappointed when I saw that I could no longer serve Guru Maharaja in the normal way that I used to, by placing all the preparations in large serving bowls on the dining table. Instead

Sacikumar prabhu took Maharaja's thali into the kitchen and dished out Maharaja's prasad, according to the various protein, carbohydrates, etc., portions. Maharaja had already started eating when I realised that I had forgotten to tell Sacikumar to serve the papad that I had roasted for Maharaja. So I took the whole container of all the papad into the dining room. Sacikumar prabhu asked me if it was protein or carbohydrate and what food group it belonged to. I was still trying to figure out what food group the papad belonged in. Seizing this opportunity of our dilemma, Guru maharaj simply put his hand into the container took out a whole papad, put it into his thali, and with a single movement of his hand crushed the papad into his thali and took a mouthful of it. He then looked up at us with an almost childlike innocence. Sacikumar then simply smiled and shrugged his shoulders!

Once, Guru Maharaja and I were discussing how I make bread and rolls. I told Guru Maharaja that I place all the ingredients into a bread machine and switch it on a dough function. I then shape it into a bread or rolls and bake it in the oven and not in the bread machine. Maharaja asked me why I don't bake the bread in the machine. I said that if the bread is baked in the bread machine, it makes a short fat loaf of bread with a hole in the bottom part of the loaf, due to the kneading arm of the machine. Maharaja laughed and said, "aah, the bread machine must have been designed by someone in Durban to make bunny chow!"

Guru Maharaja, thank you for all the wonderful interactions that have endeared you to us. On this auspicious day, I humbly beg you for your blessings to continue serving you and Srila Prabhupada with love and devotion.

Your indebted daughter

Radhakunda-Devi dasi

Radhavinoda Devi Dasi

My Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious day.

Guru Maharaja You are very dear to my heart and always will be. I may not take Your darshan often enough, but that does not mean I do not miss it nor that I do not care for Your darshan. I miss your association whenever You are not in Durban.

Guru Maharaja, please bless us, your disciples, as we hanker your association. I love your classes which are full of nectar, especially when you describe the past times of Lord Krishna.

When we met in India, Guru Maharaja, you said that You were happy to see me in India. This meant a lot to me Guru Maharaja; to receive Your blessing to visit India and especially to receive Your blessing at Govardhan Hill.

Guru Maharaja, thank You for everything You do for us. May you have a blessed Vyasa Puja.

Your servant

Radhavinoda Devi Dasi

Radhika Reddy

*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.

My Dearest Srila Gurudev,

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

I never quite understood how significant this verse is, especially to me. Even on my worse day just a glance from you turned everything around. Gurudev, I'll never have the right words or right actions to show you how thankful I am to you for really opening up my eyes with this torch of knowledge. You pulled me out of my darkest space and gave me words of encouragement. For this I'll be forever grateful.

Gurudev, Thank you for all the laughs, all the smiles and for even explaining the jokes you'd say to me when I never quite understood your wittiness but most importantly thank you for always caring for me unconditionally ever since I was a little girl especially by giving me my mum, Damayanti.

One of my most fondest memories with you was going on Govardhan parikrama for my 16th birthday. It was the best way to ever spend it, I remember us visiting the temples in Jaipur as well where we stopped at various places while you told us all sweet nectarian pastimes of the Lord. Gurudev, these moments will never be forgotten as I am the happiest just by listening to you.

I beg for your mercy so that someday I may be able to go on more parikramas with you again.

Your most fallen grand daughter
Radhika Reddy

Radhika Priya Devi Dasi

Dearest Gurudev,

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

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

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

According to their karma, all living entities are wandering throughout the entire universe. Some of them are being elevated to the upper planetary systems, and some are going down into the lower planetary systems. Out of many millions of wandering living entities, one who is very fortunate gets an opportunity to associate with a bona fide spiritual master by the grace of Kṛṣṇa. By the mercy of both Kṛṣṇa and the spiritual master, such a person receives the seed of the creeper of devotional service. (CC Madya 19.151)

I feel very fortunate , Gurudev as I remember the early days ever since a child , you have always shown much compassion and kindness towards me and then blessed me with initiation , thereafter the title of brahman even though i am most undeserving . How do i ever repay you ?

Although it is stated that it is extremely difficult for one to understand the secret of Krsna Consciousness, one can still become successful if he merely follows the instructions and in the footsteps of the spiritual master. Gurudev, you have given up all other activities and you have dedicated your life to working only for the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krsna, Please continue to bless me that I may follow in your footsteps and become successful in all my endeavours.

I pray that I may always remain under your shelter and at your lotus feet.

Your most fallen servant

Radhika Priya Devi Dasi

Ram Govinda dasa, Damayanti Devi Dasi & Family

Dearest Srila Gurudeva,

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

On this wonderful celebration of Sri Vyasa Puja, we would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to Srila Gurudeva for all the guidance and steering us through the stormy waters of this material world.

Indeed Srila Gurudeva is an inspiration to us all and your words are beacons of light in our lives giving hope when it seems impossible.

We are deeply grateful for all the sacrifices Srila Gurudeva makes by traveling constantly to spread Krsna Consciousness to the thirsty souls around the world. The annual parikrams to the Holy Dham are like an oasis to revive and rejuvenate our spiritual lives. We really appreciate the time Srila Gurudeva takes to explain the wonderful pastimes and help all the devotees delve into the pastimes of every holy place. These are indeed memories that create deep impressions in the heart.

Thank you Srila Gurudeva. May Srila Prabhupada bless you in all your endeavors in taking His wonderful Iskcon to greater heights. Please Srila Gurudeva, bless us to always being engaged in devotional service.

Hare Krsna!

Your servants

Ram Govinda dasa , Damayanti Devi Dasi, Radhika and Manjari

Rasabihari dasa

*Nama om Vishnu-padaya Krishna-preshtaya bhu-tale.
Srimate Bhakti Caitanya swamin iti namine.*

*Namami bhakti-caitanyam prabhupadanusevinam
Sri-vraja-dhana-mahatmya-pradarsakam krparnavam*

*I offer my respectful obeisance unto His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami, who is very dear to
Lord Krishna, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.*

*Yasya prasada bhagavat-prasado
Yasayaprasadan na gatih juto pi
Dhyayan stuvams tasya yasas tri-sandhyam
Vande guroh sri caranarvindam*

*By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Krishna. Without the grace
of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always
remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my
respectful obeisance unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.*

Please accept my humble obeisance in the dust of your Lotus Feet. All Glories to you on this
most auspicious Vyasa puja day.

Dear Guru Maharaja, your constant emphasis on humility, tolerance, and sincere
service inspires me the most. You are the embodiment of the qualities; you lived all your life
in this mood.

As I recall on my memories I realise that from the very beginning, Your Holiness has
given us so much of care and guidance thus creating a foundation for our spiritual lives. Your
Holiness has extended Yourself even further by giving us more mercy though Your
wonderful classes, Parikramas, Kirtans, DVDs, CDs, books and association which give us
pillars of support that we can grasp onto at any time. Your Holiness is so expert in every
aspect of Krishna consciousness that we automatically feel protected and inspired. Your
books have given us even more confirmation of this. Your Holiness has so selflessly
dedicated Your life in saving us fallen souls.

We are eternally grateful to your wondrous service to Srila Prabhupada, your caring for your disciples, for all your spiritual nephews and nieces, and for the well-being of those who have yet to come to Krishna Consciousness. Out of your own selfless love, you are dedicating your very life to deliver Prabhupada's compelling message of surrender and service to the Supreme Lord, and herein lies the secret of your spiritual accomplishment.

For me, you are Srila Prabhupada's instructions in action. When I read Srila Prabhupada's books, I find your message of humility, tolerance, simplicity and loving service in those divine books. Earlier I used to find only philosophy but now I also find Bhakti. Dear Guru Maharaja, you have revealed Srila Bhakti-Vedanta Swami to me, for that I will be ever grateful to you.

Gurudev, I pray to the Lord that he keeps you in good health so that you can continue with your selfless service. Gurudev please keep me at your lotus feet so that I can serve you constantly and bless me so that I may be able to assist you in your service to Srila Prabhupada and Lord Caitanya

May their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Radhanath please bless my Gurudev.

Your humble servant

Rasabihari dasa

Rasamandala dasa & Rasalila-Devi dasi

All Glories to Lord Jagannath , Baladeva and Subadra, Sri Sri Radha Radhanath, Gaura Natai

Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept our humble Obeisance's. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada, All Glories to You, Our beloved Srila Gurudeva.

On this very auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja we reflect on the years that have gone by so quickly and we think of your greatness in humility and the wonderful spiritual Association you have given all our devotees here in South Africa and overseas; Not only devotees but others as well. You've been consistently a pillar of strength here in ISKCON South Africa and abroad. Over the year you have guided so many devotees in the

development of our spiritual lives; you're ever so caring and willing to listen to our "stories" even if we seem to be out of line; You kindly advise and correct us. We thank you Gurudeva for all that you do and is still doing for our devotee community and the world at large. You're Srila Prabhupada's humble servant but our Great spiritual leader and father, we consider ourselves privileged to be your disciples.

Please keep us always at your lotus feet. Have a wonderful Vyasa Puja, and many more in the future, Hare Krsna.

Your disciples and servants

Rasamandala dasa and Rasalila-Devi dasi.

Rasarani Devi Dasi

Dearest Srila Gurudev

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

In Srimad Bhagvatam, it says, "...symptoms of a sadhu are that he is tolerant, merciful and friendly to all living entities. He has no enemies. He is peaceful, he abides by the scriptures and all his characters are sublime."

Srila Gurudev, you are a perfect sadhu. You are a steady source of inspiration to me in my spiritual and material life.

Every year I try to think of a worthy offering that I can offer to You on Your Vyasapuja; this year yet again I have failed. The devotional service I offer to Sri Sri Radha Radhanath, Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada I offer on your behalf, praying that this pleases you and that one day I may be a worthy disciple.

Your daughter

Rasarani Devi Dasi

“My path is very difficult. I am blind, and my feet are slipping again and again. Therefore, may the saints help me by granting me the stick of their mercy as my support.”
(Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Antya-lila 1.2)

Jaya Srila Gurudeva, Hare Krishna.

Please accept our respectful obeisances. All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

“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.” (Srimad Bhagavatam, 11.17.27)

In the purport, Srila Prabhupada writes: “Only out of His immense compassion does the Personality of Godhead reveal Himself as the spiritual master. Therefore in the dealings of an ācārya there are no activities but those of transcendental loving service to the Lord. He is the Supreme Personality of Servitor Godhead. It is worthwhile to take shelter of such a steady devotee, who is called *ācārya-vigraha*, or the manifestation or form of the Lord of whom one must take shelter.”

Over the years, we have observed that your compassion always prevailed in all circumstances and situations, both favourable and unfavourable. You are steady in distributing Kṛṣṇa’s immense compassion, because this compassion is manifested in you. We are happy that you are our *ācārya-vigraha*. Srila Prabhupada confirms this: “*It is worthwhile to take shelter of such a steady devotee, who is called ācārya-vigraha, or the manifestation or form of the Lord of whom one must take shelter.*”

Srila Prabhupada also writes: “A spiritual master is not an enjoyer of facilities offered by his disciples. He is like a parent. Without the attentive service of his parents, a child cannot grow to manhood; similarly, without the care of the spiritual master one cannot rise to the plane of transcendental service.”

We are eternally appreciative of your care and attention.

*Our Gurudeva,
Krishna's representative,
caring and compassionate,
gentle and kind,
saving us from Maya's might,
always bright,
never to slight,
in Krishna Consciousness our eternal guide,
Our Gurudeva,
Srila Prabhupada's pride.*

Thank you Srila Gurudeva! On this auspicious occasion of your Vyasa-puja, we offer our prostrated obeisances at your lotus feet. We love you.

Your servants

Rasika Mohan dasa , Vrajarenu Devi Dasi and Saradiya Rasa

Remuna-Priya dasi

Hare Krsna dearest Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you on the occasion of your Vyasa Puja.

Another year has passed Maharaja where we use the opportunity of your Vyasa Puja to show gratitude for your presence in our lives. I remain indebted to you for your constant guidance and advice on issues that impact our lives both spiritually and even materially.

Every request for advice and guidance is answered promptly with such clarity and spiritual authority - I truly cannot fathom where in your hectic schedule you make the time to respond to me, let alone your 1000's of global disciples and well-wishers.

That you travel as much as you do, visiting so many countries, taking the time to learn the language of your disciples and that you still have time for your own sadhna is not the work of an ordinary human being. If anything this has the markings of a truly empowered individual. Someone empowered so wholly, by the Holy Name and by HDG AC Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada.

I am so grateful to Srila Prabhupada for bringing you to us. We have in you a spiritual yard stick who imbibes the philosophy of Krsna Consciousness so purely, so effortlessly and so simply.

You act as our protector, as Karna's shield protects him. You share your wisdom with us as grandfather Bhishma did with his family. You sing to us your melodious tunes as Mother Yashoda sang to her little Gopal. You teach us the values of devotional service and not being attached to fruitive activities, just as Lord Krsna instructed Arjun on the battlefield of Kurukshethra. In simple terms, you are our one-stop Krsna Consciousness shop. And we adore you for that.

It's been many months since we had your association Maharaja and I thank you for agreeing to have your Vyasa Puja in Jhb again. It allows us a glimpse into your Krsna Consciousness and we remain indebted to you for that. The many lessons that you teach us so tacitly and sometimes explicitly is so appreciated – an example to follow – that's what you are!

Shyam Mohan, our sons, my mum, mum-in-law and I look forward to you gracing our home with your presence soon. Hare Krsna!

I shall forever remain,

Your servant,

Remuna-Priya dasi

Saci Devi Dasi

*Om ajnana-timirandhasya
Jnananjana-salakaya
Caksur unmilitam yena
Tasmai Sri-gurave namah*

"I was born in the darkness of ignorance and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torch light of knowledge. I offer my respectful obeisance's unto him"

My Dearest Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your most divine lotus feet. All glories to Their Lordships Jaganath, Baladev and Subhadra Maharani. All glories to Nitai Gaura Hari.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to You! On this most auspicious day of Your vyasa puja 2015.

Gurudev, when I think back on the past year, it brings me to tears. You have bestowed your mercy on this worthless beggar by allowing me to take initiation under You. Oh what doors You have opened up that I never knew existed. I have had the opportunity to cook for Their Lordships Jaganath Baladev & Subadhra Maharani as well as Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari. I never thought switching a stove on and putting ghee in a pot will consume me with such anxiety, nerves, excitement, gratitude and a bundle of emotions. I am eternally grateful to You for giving me the opportunity to do some small service.

This past year I also had to move away from home and NJP, it made me despondent on numerous occasions trying to figure out whether I will be able to manage, new surroundings, new people. But with Pure devotees like You propagating Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu's mission of having a temple in every town and village and devotees ever ready to care take of someone, it is more than manageable.

*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi
dhyāyan stuvamś tasya yaśas tri-sandhyam'
vande guroḥ śrī-carāṇāravindam*

By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.

Thank you Gurudev, despite Your Health You continue to please, You had taken the time to attend my wedding this year. You are ever- giving and an ever well-wisher. I love you. And Thank You again for everything that you do. Please bless me so that I can serve you better.

Trying to be a servant

Saci Devi Dasi

Dear: His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya swami Maharaja

It is only Srila Bhakti Caitanya swami that deserves honor, credit and glory on this auspicious *vyasa-puja*. All glories to you again and again.

It is to be understood that the key foundation of successful gardening rests on the quality or richness of the Soil. The significant nutrients from the fertile Soil embraces the growth of the creeper or plant. Similarly, you resemble the soil that embraces the growth of the devotee's creeper of devotion. Phenomenally, just as certain elements from the soil travels into the metabolic nature of the plant and encourages the burgeoning of few leaves, your instructions enhances the creeper to beget two fundamental leaves known as *Vaidhi-bhakti* and *Raga-bhakti*. Since any plant unfurls marvelous leaves when happily situated, the devotee's creeper of devotion brings forth beautiful and elegant leaves known as *anubhava* when the devotee is jubilantly situated in the loving service of Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami. When the devotee nurtures these leaves by hearing and chanting, fruits of containing the seeds that are to be offered back to the soil avails.

Within the purport of Bg 7.15 Srila prabhupad mentions: *"The swine who eat the night soil do not care to accept sweetmeats made of sugar and ghee. Similarly, the foolish worker will untiringly continue to hear of the sense-enjoyable tidings of the flickering mundane world, but will have very little time to hear about the eternal living force that moves the material world."* My true farther, I resemble the foolish worker with distaste for spiritual knowledge and apathy to water the creeper of devotion. I cannot even follow the simplest instructions you prescribe. My only wish is for you to bestow your mercy unto me to become a majestic tree that never doubts the soil. I love you

Your doubtful disciple with no bhakti lata

Sacidulal dasa

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrimate bhaktivedānta-svāminn iti nāmine
namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-prācarīṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tārīṇe*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami, who is very dear to Lord Krishna, having taken shelter at His Lotus Feet. I offer my humble obeisances unto Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami, an ocean of mercy, Who faithfully serves Srila Prabhupada and reveals the greatness of the treasure of Sri Vraja

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

Hare Krishna, Dear *Gurudeva*,

As I sit here reading about the meaning of Vyasa Puja and Vyasa Puja offering, I have many, many thoughts of appreciation for *Srila Prabhupada* and Yourself, *Gurudeva*.

Recently I have been really appreciating everything that *Srila Prabhupada* has given us, a home, a family, the holy name, devotional service, beautiful deities... The list keeps going on and on...

Thank you accepting me as your disciple, thank you for your endless mercy, the thing that I am most thankful for, is for your warm and loving *Smile*

Gurudeva, thank you for being so tolerant and merciful towards me and for truly displaying all the wonderful characteristics of a sadhu

Your stories of *Srila Prabhupada* and *Lord Krishna* are always captivating and I eagerly await to hear them

I am grateful for You, *Gurudeva*, for giving me to an opportunity to serve You, *Srila Prabhupada* and the wonderful *Devotees*

I cannot thank You or glorify You enough. Just knowing that You have accepted me as Your disciple, gives me strength to serve and continue in my devotional service

All glories, all glories, all glories to You, dear *Gurudeva*, on this most auspicious Vyasa Puja!

May your glories be spread throughout the three worlds!

Your dull headed son,

Sadhu Seva dasa

Satyabhama Gounden

My Dear Guru Maharaja

Please Accept My humble Obeisances, All Glories to Srila Prabhupada.

It is stated in the Srimad Bhagavatam that: *'the symptoms of a sadhu are that he is tolerant, merciful and friendly to all living entities. He has no enemies. He is peaceful, he abides by the scriptures and all of his characteristics are sublime'* (SB, Canto 3 chap 25 text 21).

Gurudev, on this auspicious day of your Vyasa puja, I would like to humbly thank you for everything that you have done for me. You have most certainly been very tolerant, merciful and kind unto me. Your care, compassion and amazing discussions have helped me overcome many struggles that I had been facing in the past 2 years. I do not think that I would have recovered from my difficulties, had you not provided me with so much of guidance and support. Even at times when I never contacted you, you would make the effort to find out about my wellbeing. There has been many times in which I wrote to you about certain problems that I had been facing and you so kindly took the time out of your busy schedule to reply back with the most amazing, wonderful and inspiring letters. Through many of the obstacles that I had been facing, you have been my pillar of strength and you have shown me a great amount of mercy in which I do not deserve.

Gurudev, on this auspicious day of your Vyasa puja, I do not have enough words to describe how much you have done for me. You have given me everything that I will ever need and yet I have nothing to give you. I will forever be indebted to you, knowing that I will never be able to repay you in any amount of life times to come. I would like to wish you a very happy Vyasa Puja and I hope that I will get many opportunities to serve your divine grace.

Your Fallen Servant

Bhaktin Satyabhama

Siddhanta dasa & Bhava-Bhavini-Devi dasi & family

Dearest Gurudeva,

Please accept our most humble obeisance's at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your divine grace on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja.

All glories to Sri Sri Radha Syamasundra. All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari. All glories to Giri Govardhan. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Dearest Gurudeva we wish to acknowledge with gratitude the shelter that you he given us at your lotus feet during this age of Kali Yuga which is the safest place to surrender and take shelter. Despite the odds in this day and age, we are always trying to follow your simple instructions, engage in devotional service and chant our rounds daily.

Gurudeva by your compassion and causeless mercy and by the mercy of your beloved Spiritual Master, Srila Prabhupada, you have saved many fallen souls like us. Despite your ill-health at times, you always have times for your disciples and devotees in need of spiritual guidance and directing them to the path of bhakti yoga.

Certainly without any cast of doubt You are truly a Srila Prabhupada man which is further exemplified by your dedication and purity to Srila Prabhupada's mission, GBC and the South African Yatra

Our prayer to you Srila Gurudeva on this most auspicious day is that you keep showering your mercy upon us so we can continue to serve in Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON.

It is said in the (CC Madhya Lila, 19:151) ,

According to their Karma all living entities are wondering throughout the entire universe. Some of them are being elevated to the upper planetary systems and some are going to the lower planetary systems. Out of millions of wandering living entities, one who is fortunate gets a spiritual master. By the mercy of both Krsna and the spiritual master, such a person receives the seed of the creeper of devotional service.

Gurudeva as the years progress it is astounding how many disciples have now taken shelter of you and ISKCON. This is because more and more devotees are realising your causeless mercy, your kindness to the fallen souls and your empowered ability to spiritual guide them to the lotus feet of Radha and Krsna, notwithstanding the fact that the only escape from Maya is taking shelter of a bona-fide Spiritual Master, like your Divine Grace.

As unworthy servants of yours, thanking you Gurudeva for accepting us and giving us Krishna Consciousness. We humbly beg that you shower us with your mercy and constantly provide guidance to us in advancing spiritually at your Divine Lotus Feet, Srila Prabhupada and Radha & Krsna.

On this auspicious day of your vyasa puja, we beg forgiveness for any offenses that we may have committed knowingly or unknowingly

Your eternal servants

Siddhanta dasa , Bhava-Bhavini-Devi dasi, Advaita Acarya, Rasalila

Shyama Kishori Dasi

*Nama Om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale
Shrimate Bhakti Caitanya Svamin Iti Namine*

*Nama Om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale
shrimate Bhaktivindenta Svamin Iti namine*

*Namas Te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracharine
nirvishesha-shunyavadi-pashcatya-desha-tarine*

My Dear Srila Gurudeva please accept my humble obeisance's at the dust of your divine lotus feet all glories to you on this most auspicious day of your Sri Vyasapuja.

The Lotus feet of our spiritual master are the only ways by which we can attain pure devotional service. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart and offer sincere prayers with all my soul for allowing me to perform my devotional services here in this new environment. I would have never been able to move forward if it was not your grace and mercy.

Inspite of the struggles that I have had to overcome in the past year, it is by your constant shelter care and grace that I have managed to continue with my services .Each day is a new beginning for me to become stronger in my Krishna Consciousness and that you are the reminder as to why I have to go on.

Your constant teachings and blessings is my shelter and protection in this material world. Thank you for everything that you have done for me Gurudev and everything that you continue to do for me.

I pray that I may always be able to serve you in some minute way and be pleasing to you and Srila Prabhupada.

Yours most fallen servant

Shyama Kishori Dasi.

Sita Carana-Devi dasi

Dearest Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja.

Gurudeva, I want to utter strong words of gratitude and be very eloquent but the truth is even my best effort is not befitting of your grace. I'm am because you are... because you are patient, because you are kind, because you are merciful, because no matter how much I muck things up you are always there to lend a helping hand, to offer a second chance.

I use to say this but I realise that I'm only beginning to scratch the surface of trying to understand it now that I'm a little older.

They say the love a mother has for her child is the closest thing to true love... today I boldly beg to differ... the love you have for all of us is surely stronger. The love you have for your spiritual master is surely stronger. You take up the responsibility to nurture this complete stranger with bad habits and no etiquette without expecting much in return.

I am because you are the best "thing" that has ever happened to me. I owe everything I have to you...I remain in Srila Prabhupada's grace all because you have accepted me as your daughter and encourage me to remain here. Sometimes we don't see you for what feels like

ages but my mere existence is a reminder of your grace. I could have been a totally different me but by your mercy I always have your lotus feet as a safe haven. You inspire me to be a better person.

Sometimes, well mostly lately I feel like I really suck at life and that the space could have been used better... but just as you have accepted me as your disciple I have accepted you as my guru and will therefore keep trying to be better at life.

What I'm trying to say Srila Gurudeva is thank you, thank you for making so much space in your heart for us & thank you for always encouraging me to be a better version of myself. Happy Vyasa Puja Srila Gurudeva.

Your aspiring servant,

Sita Carana-Devi dasi

Sridama dasa

Hare Krishna dear Srila Gurudeva,

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

I thank You from the bottom of my heart for accepting me as your unworthy servant.

On Your Vyasa Puja, I pray for Lord Nrisima to always protect you in Your travels, to keep You in good health for many, many more years to come and for Srimati Radharani to bestow Her choicest blessings on You.

I am forever indebted to You my beloved Srila Guru Maharaja. Bless me to always serve You, our Vaisnava's around the world, and to always make a positive contribution to Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON.

Your lowly servant,

Sridama dasa

*Mukham Karoti Vaacaalam Panggum Langghayate Girim
Yat-Krpaa Tamaham Vande Param-Aananda Maadhavam*

*nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshtaya bhu-tale
srimate Bhakti caitanya-svamin iti namine*

*nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshtaya bhu-tale
srimate Bhatedanta-svamin iti namine*

My dearest Gurudev,

A life dedicated to serving Srila Prabhupada,

A heart filled with kindness, compassion, understanding,

Kirtans that make us want to jump and chant in ecstasy,

Pastimes of the lord that are narrated and told so transcendently,

Taking us to different holy places from Sridham mayapur to Sri vrindavan Dham,

Always being there for us with no judgement, but understanding.

Gurudev these are just a few things that you do for us. It's a few but words fail to say how much you do for us. **No** words could ever express how much we appreciate you Gurudev. **You** have always been a part of my life. Inspiring, motivating, guiding and instructing me.

Just as the boat sail at night the light from the lighthouse guides these boat back to shore, without the light from the lighthouse the boats would find it difficult to find they way and it will take them longer. Similarly Srila Gurudev you are our light in our lives and without you we can't find our way back home back to **Godhead**

Thank you Srila Gurudev for always being in my life

Your most fallen servant

Sri Prahlad dasa

Sundarananda dasa, Subhadra-Devi dasi dasi & Family

Hare Krishna Guru Maharaja,

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

This year has been particularly trying, materially, and aspiring to be spiritually balanced has been difficult. However, when I feel overwhelmed I just think of You and how equipoised You always are. Despite a hectic travelling schedule You still manage to set an outstanding example of sadhana for us to follow, You are always preaching, and You always have a spiritual project, like a book or DVD, filling up Your schedule to the brim. Your example inspires me to detach myself from my problems and rely more on Krishna.

At this part of the year I always feel inadequate in that I am not able to serve more. All I can do is thank You from the bottom of my heart for being merciful to me and accepting me as Your disciple. Thank You particularly for accepting Vrinda Kund as Your disciple last year. Thank You for inspiring us with Your daily diary and for being our ever well-wisher.

We pray to Krishna that You have a wonderful Vyasapuja day and that we can one day be worthy of being called Your disciples.

Your servants always,

Sundarananda dasa, Subhadra-Devi dasi, Sita devi and Vrinda Kund-Devi dasi

My dear-most Guru Maharaja,

Hare Krishna. Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of Your divine lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari. All glories to Your divine grace, on this most auspicious occasion of Your Sri Vyasa Puja.

While thinking about Your glories, I was meditating about Your position on this planet. I realized that You are so glorious that it is actually offensive for me to compare You to some Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Isaac Newton, or similar. Each of these people has contributed something toward this planet but only on the material platform. None of them have solved the problems of life, which includes the skin disease, birth, death, old-age, disease and death. They may have done some temporary good toward the planet but, despite their efforts, Kali-Yuga is rapidly nullifying their futile contributions.

On the other hand, Srila Gurudev, You have dedicated Your life to giving every living being an eternal gift. A gift that is beyond anything material: The peace formula, an eternal solution to the headache of this material world, or, the happiness formula of Krishna Bhakti. Your life is solely dedicated to spreading this top-most knowledge of Krishna Consciousness, which is the beginning of all auspiciousness and transcendental pleasure for every living being. Also, You do so without any motivation, without any personal comfort, and without desire for name, fame, wealth or worship. This also shows how compassionate You are. The results of Your contribution to this world include the thousands of happy Krishna conscious devotees who are enthusiastic, purposeful and who are first class ladies and gentlemen, due to Your preaching and encouragement. In other words, You, along with Your dear God-brothers and God-sisters, are the top-most personalities on this planet.

People idolize mundane people in this world; yet they fail to recognize You as a top-most person on this planet. You are the representative of Sri Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead - the controller of the three worlds. You are a first-class, exemplary, disciple of Srila Prabhupada. I struggle to understand how an insignificant person like me has been awarded direct access to Your lotus feet. I am unable to meet a mundane person like the president of this country, yet I am able to be in Your direct and indirect association. I am too dull-headed to understand my great fortune. All I can try to do is attempt to express my gratitude to You.

Thank You from the bottom of my heart, Srila Gurudev, for accepting me as Your disciple. Thank You for being my solid link to Srila Prabhupada. Thank You for being patient with me. Thank You for tolerating me. I am a shortfall. Thank You for encouraging me even when we are far apart and not in contact. Our relationship, the relationship between a Guru and disciple, is not only a teacher-student relationship; it is a relationship that goes beyond that. You are the external manifestation of the Super-soul in my heart.

It is due to Your encouragement that I have begun to study and appreciate the nectar of Srila Prabhupada's books. I am fascinated by the depth of Your knowledge of Vedic literature. After listening to Your Bhagavad Gita VIHE seminars which you delivered some time before 1994, I have become convinced that You are one of the most learned authorities in spiritual literature in our movement and, thus, on this planet. Even before those days, Your knowledge of Prabhupada's books has been (and still is) incredibly vast. Your explanations make our philosophy so comprehensive, palatable, relishable and transferable. I pray to study Srila Prabhupada's books in great detail, so that I may represent You properly.

It is only due to Your causeless mercy that I have the undeserving fortune of being able to worship Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari. I still struggle to believe that I have such a rare privilege of being able to engage in this precious service.

Gurudev, You are my confidence. You are my conscience that keeps me in check. Your care and gentle guidance gives me strength.

On this day of Your Sri Vyasa Puja, I sincerely beg you, with straw between my teeth, to remove my false ego, my pride and my desire for name and fame. These desires are the disgusting challenging obstacles that I am facing. I am struggling to cope with them. I humbly submit this prayer to Your lotus feet.

These days, my mind is so busy and irresolute, since there is so much I am forced to focus on. I rarely get time to apply my intelligence in Krishna Consciousness. Please help me with that. My desire is to do something big for Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON but I am too thick-headed to figure out what to do or how to do it. Please bless me with the intelligence so that I may become innovative for Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON.

My goal in life is to please You and to represent You to the best of my ability. Please bless me to do so. Please pray for this useless disciple of Yours. I need strength from Your

blessings and prayers. I also pray that You kindly bless my family, who play such an important role in my spiritual life.

Please forgive me for all my short-comings. I will strive to improve. Hare Krishna, my dearest Gurudev.

Your dull-headed disciple,

Syama Kishor dasa

Syama Mohan dasa

My dearest Gurudev,

Hare Krsna. Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and our Hare Krsna Movement. All glories to You Gurudev on this wonderful occasion of Your Vyasapuja.

Every day I pay respects to You Gurudev, thanking you for being so merciful to me by accepting me as Your disciple. That despite my many flaws and being so undeserving of Your mercy You nevertheless offered me shelter under Your wings. This is the magnanimity of a spiritual master. I pray to Krsna daily that I am afforded the ability, intelligence, and humility to remain fully surrendered to You Gurudev, to remain submissive and always render service to You.

In the BG 4.34 Srila Prabhupada explains in His purport: “*The path of spiritual realisation is undoubtedly difficult. The Lord therefore advises to us to approach a bona fide spiritual master in the line of disciplic succession from the Lord Himself. No one can be a bona fide spiritual master without following this principle of disciplic succession. The Lord is the original spiritual master, and a person in the disciplic succession can convey the message of the Lord as it is to His disciple. No one can be spiritually realised by manufacturing his own process, as is the fashion of the foolish pretenders. The Bhagavatam (6.3.19) says dharmam tu saksad bhagavat-pranitam: the path of religion is directly enunciated by the Lord. Therefore, mental speculation or dry arguments cannot help lead one to the right path. Nor by independent study of books of knowledge can one progress in spiritual life. One has to approach a bona fide spiritual master to receive the knowledge.*

Such a spiritual master should be accepted in full surrender, and one should serve the spiritual master like a menial servant, without false prestige. Satisfaction of the self-realised spiritual master is the secret of advancement in spiritual life. Inquiries and submission constitute the proper combination for spiritual understanding. Unless there is submission and service, inquiries from the learned spiritual master will not be effective. 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. In this verse, both blind following and absurd inquiries are condemned. Not only should one hear submissively from the spiritual master, but one must also get a clear understanding from him, in submission and service and inquiries. A bona fide spiritual master is by nature very kind toward the disciple. Therefore when the student is submissive and is always ready to render service, the reciprocation of knowledge and inquiries become perfect”.

I therefore, with all of my heart, express gratitude to You Gurudev and thank you again and again for being so merciful towards me. Because of You I am now connected to Srila Prabhupada. After millions of births and deaths I have finally come to reconnect my lost relationship with Lord Krsna. This is only possible because of You Gurudev. This is not because of chance. Krsna has made it possible for me to remember Him and reconnect with Him through You. You have saved me, and for that I shall always remain grateful and indebted to You.

I wish You good health and fortitude Gurudev on this special day. Please continue to inspire us with Your wonderful discourses that You so expertly execute. Srila Prabhupada must be so proud of You.

Happy Appearance Day.

Your servant always

Syama Mohan dasa

Syama Mohini Devi Dasi & Radha Mohan dasa

namo om vishnu padaya krishna prestaya bhutale

sri mate bhakti caitany swamin itimamine

namami Bhakti Caitanya Prabupadanusevinam

Sri Vraja Dhan Mahatmya Pradarshakam Kriparanavam

My Dearest Gurudev,

When I first saw your smiling face I had no idea that I would be so fortunate as to take shelter at Your Lotus Feet, insignificant as I am.

I dont have enough words to express my deep appreciation for what You have done and doing for us all because even the word "thank you" is so minor for all Your kind efforts in bringing us closer to Krishna because if we hadnt come into Srila Prabhupad's movement we would never know Love of God (Sri Krishna).

Please bless us to follow in Krishna Conscious without any obstacles. Bless us to never lose taste in chanting the Holy Name. Bless us to move out of the darkness and into the beautiful light You have shown us. Bless us to absorb all literature You are providing and those of Srila Prabhupada, to enable us closer to Krishna. Happy Vyasa Puja Dearest Gurudev

Your servants always

Syama Mohini Devi Dasi & Radha Mohan dasa

Ujjvala Rasa dasi

Nama om visnu-padaya Krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

Srimate bhakti caitainya Svamin iti namine

Namami bhakti-caitanyam prabhupadanusevinam

Sri-vraja-dhana-mahatmya-pradarsakam krparnavam

My Dearest Srila Gurudeva,

All Glories to Your Holiness and to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada!

Hare Krsna,

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

Recently I have been reflecting upon the verses of the Sri Sri Gurv-astaka prayers and my appreciation for you has deepened. I consider myself most fortunate to be under the shelter of your lotus feet.

You are most expert at narrating and presenting the transcendental conjugal pastimes of Radhika and Madhava and Their qualities, names and forms. You are teaching us by your own example how to remember Krsna and how to engage in pure devotional service.

When I see how my god-sisters and god-brothers are engaged in serving Sri Sri Radha-Radhanath, I think how glorious and merciful you are. They dress the Deities beautifully, cook for Their Lordships, perform Deity worship, make attractive garlands, serving prasadam to the devotees, doing sankirtan and book distribution and preaching Krsna-katha at various programmes. My admiration for you and for them grows. By seeing them perform their devotional service, I am inspired to serve too, hoping to please you. For me, for my own purification and still hoping to please you and Srila Prabhupada, I am attempting to write the Bhakti Sastri Exam.

“By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Krsna. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.”

Thank you dear Srila Gurudeva for giving me shelter at your lotus feet. I am unqualified, but I am most fortunate, for you are an ocean of mercy and auspicious qualities. Thank you for always showering your mercy and blessings upon me, especially benedicting me never to take birth again in this material world. I continue to beg you to please bless me so that I may advance in spiritual life under the shelter of your lotus feet, by serving Guru, Guaranga and the Vaisnavas.

Hare Krsna.

Your grateful daughter, your servant,

Ujjvala Rasa dasi

Ujjvala Prema-Devi dasi

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble offering. A tribute to Your Divine Grace in a sort of poetic style that best expresses my thoughts and my appreciation.

A little baby I was
carried from one hand to another in the clutches of Maya

Left alone to crawl in Her house
I search from room to room

When hope is but lost
I hear the sacred chant by Your Divine Father

A room so effulgent
You appear, my Divine Master
Just a finger u lend
I hold it till the end

By Your Divine Grace
I start to stand
By Your Divine Instruction

I start to walk
By Your Divine Mercy
I start to dance

Dance to that Sacred Chant
And fall at Your Divine Lotus Feet again and again.

Thank you, Thank you and Thank you
My Master and My Saviour.

Your eternal servant,
Ujjvala Prema-Devi dasi.

Vaisnava Carana dasa

*api cet su-duracaro bhajate mam ananya-bhak
sadhur eva sa mantavyah samyag vyavasito hi sah*

*Even if one commits the most abominable actions, if he is engaged in
devotional service, he is to be considered saintly because he is
properly situated. (Bg 9.30)*

My Dear, Beloved Guru Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you on this most auspicious Vyasa Puja celebration.

Many times have I heard this wonderful verse being preached yet very seldom have I seen it being practiced.

Dear Guru Maharaja, you however are a master practitioner and a true representative of the mercy expressed in this verse.

His Holiness Indradyumna Maharaja once mentioned in a class that it is not about how you start this journey but rather, it is about how you finish. I stand here before you today dear Guru Maharaja with a prayer and a lot of determination that I will someday finish at the dust of your lotus feet.

Thank you, dear Guru Maharaja for handling this fragile soul with so much love and care.

Your servant eternally,

Vaisnava Carana dasa

Vaisnavi Carana Devi Dasi

*Nama Om Visnu Padaya Krsna Presthaya Buthale
Srimati Bhakti Caitanya Swamin Iti Namine*

*Namāmi bhakti-caitanyam prabhupada anusevinam
Sri-vraja-dhana-mahatmya-pradarcsaka kriparnavam*

Supreme master and eternal well-wisher, My dearest Srila Guru Deva,

Happy Vyasa Puja, dear Srila Guru Deva.

I am ever so grateful to Srila Prabhupada and Gauranga for blessing me with you as my spiritual master; you are not just my spiritual guide, but also my spiritual father

You are Prabhupada's man, as you follow in your spiritual master's footsteps. Thank you for always being there for my family and I, thank you for your amazing advice, energetic kirtans, beautiful lectures, thank you for your witty sense of humour, thank you for being so understanding, thank you for your love and devotion to Srila Prabhupada and Gauranga's mission. You continuously inspire me in my Krsna consciousness, I am grateful to Srila Prabhupada and Gauranga for you.

Recently when I went through a few challenges, I thought I could overcome it fast, however after a few months I realised I cannot do this on my own, as you are my link to Srila Prabhupada, Gauranga and the disciplic succession, thank you for helping me through that difficult period in my life, I can't imagine my life without you.

My only mission is to please you, and by doing so I get to please Srila Prabhupada and Sri Krsna, Thank you so much for giving me such an awesome opportunity.

Thank you again and again and again for your causeless mercy and love. I pray that I may always somehow serve you, Srila Prabhupada and the mission of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu eternally! Please forgive me for my innumerable offenses!

Begging to remain at your lotus feet always and forever.

Your most fallen daughter and most insignificant servant,

Vaisnavi Carana Devi Dasi

*Om ajnana timirandhasya Jnananjana salakaya
Caksur unmilitam yena Tasmai sri guruve namah*

*Nama Om Visnu padaya Krishna prescaya bhutale
Srimati Bhakti Caitanya Svamin Iti Namine
Namami Bhakti Caitanyam Prabhupada anusevynam
Sri Vraja Dhana Mahatmya pradarsakam krparnavam*

*Nama Om Visnu padaya Krishna prescaya bhutale
Srimati Bhaktivedanta Svamin iti Namine
Nameste Saravati Devi Gaura vani precarine
Nirvisesa sunyavadi prascetya desa tarine*

*Vancha kalpatarubhyas ca
Krupa sindhubhya eva ca
Patitanam pavanebhyo
Vaisnavebhyo namo namah*

Hare Krishna

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. My Dearest Guru Maharaja, All glories at the dust of your Lotus Feet.

Maharaja, I am so fortunate to have You for my Spiritual Master. You are the Star that guides me through this darkness that we call life. You are full of Light and Love for everyone. Whether I am in your presence or not I can relate to your Love. There are no words needed, just emotions overflow in my heart and I become drowned in Your energy full of Love which radiates from Your body like a guiding light to a lost soul. When I am in your presence, I cannot talk and sometimes I cannot stop my tears. This is the effect that You have over me. In Your presence, silence is all I need to feel the safety and comfort that Your unconditional Love provides, like an Umbrella, protecting me from the rain of suffering being cast by Maya. Nothing and no one can shake this bond that I have with You.

You have surrendered your heart and life to Krishna in order to teach us how to love Him. It is through your example and by your mercy that I, and so many other devotees, are in ISKCON today.

You are so selfless that You really appreciate the insignificant things that I do in order to stay in the shade of Your Lotus Feet. I know this truth that without Your unconditional Love I amount to Zero. Thank You for making me a minute fraction of a number in Krishna's World.

I am grateful to Srila Prabhupada, Lord Caitanya, Srimati Radharani and Lord Krishna, on this auspicious day in Your life as without them I would never have found You. Please bless me in order that I may remain in Your shelter eternally.

Your grateful servant

Varsana-Devi dasi

Vraja Priya-Devi dasi and Revati-Devi dasi

*Nama om Visnu Padaya Krsna Presthaya Bhutale
Srimati Bhakti Caitanya Swami iti namine*

I offer my humble obeisances unto Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami an Ocean of mercy, who faithfully services Srila Prabhupada and reveals the greatness of the treasure of Sri Vraja (Sri Sri Radha-Krsna)

*Nama om Visnu Padaya Krsna Presthaya Bhutale
Srimati Bhaktivedante swami iti namine*

Hare Krsna Gurudeva

Please accept our humble obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. All Glories to Your divine grace our dear Spiritual Father.

Dearest Gurudeva, on this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja we would like to humbly, sincerely and with heartfelt prayers at Your lotus feet thank You for the highest and rarest gift of Krsna Consciousness that You have given us all despite our disqualifications.

It always brings us most happy thoughts and expressions of gratitude and sincere love when we think of You. It is other times somewhat difficult to naturally express ourselves like this, but it happens so spontaneously when Your image and thoughts are with us. Our deep love for You is a feeling that blooms and flourishes from within like a natural flowering process of nature, it just happens. This is welcoming and soft to the heart. A feeling that

cannot be bought or traded for. It is overwhelmingly beautiful, a complete sense of protection and an opportunity for a perfection in feeling. Where would we have been without You and Srila Prabhupada. Lost in this vast universe searching for what? A sad picture comes to mind.

Thank You Dearest Gurudeva for allowing us to be part of this wonderful Krsna Consciousness movement. What have we done to deserve such mercy from You we battle to answer, but we feel ever fortunate that You have been kind to us, receiving us in some sincere service to the Lord.

Lord Krsna truly blessed us by bringing Your presence into our lives, Your grace and into Your association in this lifetime of ours. You have touched our lives and souls in so many ways that we know will carry us through anything that comes our way. Our devotion, love and faith for Lord Krsna and His devotees grows with Your mercy.

Gurudeva You are special to us and Worthy of every accolade. Please accept our sincere, warmest wishes on this very auspicious day which we call a Gift to the world, a day that brought change of extraordinary calibre that is of no comparison to mundane, futile wordly change. A day were the seed of Universal connection back to Godhead has been sowed.

Gurudeva we surrender ourselves to Your divine Lotus Feet and beg for Your mercy upon these undeserving souls. Please accept our most respectful obeisances at the dust of Your divine Lotus Feet on this most glorious day of Your Vyasa Puja. We love You unconditionally Gurudeva.

Your most fallen daughters

Vraja Priya-Devi dasi and Revati-Devi dasi

Vraja Vilasini-Devi dasi

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada, All glories to You dear Guru Maharaja on this most auspicious day of Your appearance.

“Oh my Lord, I do not have any love for you, nor am I qualified for discharging devotional service by chanting or hearing. Nor do I possess the mystic power of a Vaisnava, knowledge or pious activities. Nor do I belong to a very high-caste family. On the whole, I do not possess anything. Still, oh beloved of the gopis, because you bestow your mercy on the most fallen, I have an unbreakable hope that is constantly in my heart. That hope is giving me pain.” (CC. Madhya 23.29)

I pray that all is well with You. This past year has been quite a challenge for me in many ways – materially and spiritually. Whilst I may not always be in regular contact with You, I think of You each day and am grateful for being accepted by You. I do not feel that I am doing any worthy of being Your disciple. I am a sinner, with a hard heart. Yet time and time again You bestow Your mercy upon a most undeserving soul. And I throw away that mercy. I have no idea how to reciprocate with You, my days are spent uselessly. But due to Your mercy and shelter, hopefully my dry and barren heart will begin to sprout love for Krishna.

Somehow by Your mercy and my great fortune I have the good fortune of serving the lotus feet of Sri Sri Nitai Mayapurcandra and Srila Prabhupada in Cape Town. That is my only offering of service to You.

Due to my work I travel to many parts of the world, I am so lucky that wherever I go I get to meet devotees and get *prasadam* somehow. During these travels I have realised how fortunate I am; the first question I get asked, who is your spiritual master – when I say it is His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami. I am told how very fortunate I must be to have such a glorious spiritual master. You are indeed one of Srila Prabhupada’s glorious sons that is a beacon of inspiration for so many devotees in ISKCON, and such a powerful force for spreading Krsna consciousness all over the world. I pray that I too can become a worthy daughter to You and I am able to always serve You and Srila Prabhupada.

So on this day, this sacred day, Gurumaharaj’s appearance in this world, I offer my humble respects at Gurumaharaj’s lotus feet, and I offer my prayers to Srila Prabhupada and Sri Sri Nitai Mayapurcandra that I may always serve You life after life.

As always I pray that you desire for Your desire to become my desire; I pray that Your instructions may be my life and soul.

Your daughter always

Vraja Vilasini devi dasi

Vrajesvari-Devi dasi

Dearest Gurudev

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

As I sit to write I imagine what it will be like on this day of your Vyasa Puja... Devotees from far and wide, bringing you their best offerings of *prasada*, opulent garlands and sweet words of love and appreciation. And I think even this loving gesture is not enough to glorify you, our most merciful Gurudev! In some cultures when someone saves your life, you repay them by becoming their servant, each day serving them dutifully. You have saved us. Gurudev, saved us! Yet I go through life, day by day, not feeling I am able to serve you like I should. Despite my uselessness, you show me nothing but kindness...

Narrotam dasa sings that he is most fallen and prays to the Lord hear his pleas first. Oh Gurudev I am most fallen! I'm so fallen I forget I'm fallen and when I remember, I know I can reach out and there I'll find your ever extended hand. I am so fallen, the most fallen, I pray please save me, please save me. Please hear my pleas first, save me I pray save me.

I pray that I can be better, a better servant, a better daughter. Without you Gurudev, I am nothing.

On this most auspicious day, please bless me with strength so that I may always endeavour to serve with great enthusiasm.

I pray for your good health and happy smile always,

Your daughter,

Vrajesvari-Devi dasi

Vrndavana dasa Thakura dasa

*Nama om Visnu padaya Krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bhakti Caitanya swami iti namine.*

My Dear Lord and Master

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

In Canto 1, Chapter 5 of Srimad Bhagavatam Sri Narada Muni gives personal experience of the most feasible and practical way to gain release from the clutches of maya and relief from the pangs of material miseries, which is submissive hearing of the transcendental pastimes of the Lord from the right and bona fide sources. By Narada Muni simply serving and hearing from the pure devotees, although he was not properly educated, because he was engaged in the service of the pure devotees he became an immortal sage.

Srila Prabhupada writes in his purport to SB 1.5.23 that service of the Lord begins with service of the Lords bonafide servants. The Lord says that service of his pure devotees is more valuable than His personal service. Srila Prabhupada writes further that we should choose a bona fide servant of the Lord constantly engaged in the Lords service and accept such a servant as the spiritual master and engage himself in the spiritual master's service. A bonafide spiritual master is the transparent medium by which to visualise the Lord who is beyond the conception of our material senses. By serving the spiritual master the Lord consents to reveal Himself in proportion the service rendered. The expert spiritual master knows the art of using everything in the Lords service, therefore by his grace the whole world can be turned into the spiritual abode. The pure devotee is one who has fully dedicated his life to the service of the Lord by engaging in the service of his spiritual master, he travels the world preaching the glories of the Lord.

All these descriptions of the pure devotee are apt descriptions of my Lord and master, Srila Gurudev whom I am attempting to praise with my limited abilities. I have written these words in your honour, but also to remind me of your purity and your greatness. Each year I engage in this task but I fail to assimilate what I have written, as result I feel disconnected from you, Srila Prabhupada and Krsna. From the example of Sri Narada Muni I hope to learn that service to Gurudev by following your instructions is the only way in which I can advance and feel connected with Gurudev, Srila Prabhupada and Krsna.

Your servant

Vrndavana dasa Thakura dasa

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

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

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhakticaitanya-svamin iti namine
namami bhakti-caitanyam prabhupadanusevinam
sri-vraja-dhana-mahatmya-pradarsakam krparnavam*

*I offer my humble obeisances unto Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami, an ocean of mercy, who
faithfully serves Srila Prabhupada and reveals the greatness of the treasure of Sri Vraja (Sri
Sri Radha-Krsna)*

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

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

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

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

My dearest Srila Gurudeva:

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. All Glories to
Your Lotus Feet, Their being my only shelter.

Hare Krishna Srila Gurudeva: All glories to You on this most auspicious event of
Your Sri Vyasa-Puja!

It's that time of the year again for your Sri Vyasa-Puja. As usual, I am not entirely
sure of what to say. I am very much grateful for your presence in my life, without your divine
presence; what would be the purpose of living? This year I have not had much of your
association as I am no longer staying in Sri Sri Radha Radhanath temple. I miss seeing You
during Japa and for Srila Prabhupada's Guru-Puja as well as the morning Srimad Bhagavatam
class.

Srila Gurudeva, You have given me two very personal instructions which are to engage in Book Distribution and Deity Worship. Unfortunately, most of my time this year is devoted to campus which means there isn't too much time for me to fulfill these two instructions. I am eagerly awaiting for the end of the year when I will no longer have any campus commitments and I can do the December book marathon whilst engaging in some Deity service as well. I remember I wrote to You in a previous email that when I find it difficult to distribute books; I used to constantly chant Your Pranama Mantras and thereafter many books used to get distributed. This I can attribute to Your potency and mercy. Additionally, I am also sending lectures via Dropbox as per Your request and I am also helping with the decor for the various festivals at Sri Sri Radha Radhanath temple.

Srila Gurudeva, I want to assure You that I will never leave Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON and that I will always remain in the shelter of ISKCON. My only aspiration is that I have the opportunity to serve You by abiding by your instructions and having Your association. That is the secret to achieving success because if You are pleased then Krishna will simultaneously be pleased as well. After all, that is the aim of life. Srila Gurudeva, I am extremely foolish and I am completely dependent on Your mercy.

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

By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Krsna. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.

Please be merciful to me so that I can make progress on the path of Krishna Consciousness. I am sincerely grateful to You for giving me such a wonderful God-Family who are extremely supportive and encouraging with regards to my development as a devotee. I am extremely neophyte as it is awfully difficult for me to associate with You by following Your instructions, therefore, I constantly find myself wanting to be in Your association and presence even though this may not always be possible. I admire Your qualities so much; especially Your dedication to preach the Sankirtan movement of Lord Caitanya. You have no concern for Yourself as everything You do is for Srila Prabhupada and Lord Caitanya and You risk everything such as Your safety and health by preaching in the numerous countries

that You visit. Of course this would not be at all possible for an ordinary person- but then again, Srila Gurudeva, You are by no means an ordinary person at all. You always give Your time so freely to devotees and You are always pushing Yourself to engage in preaching work. Often times when You are in Durban; You attend one program after another and this leaves me in awe as to how You can continue to push Yourself for the preaching work of Srila Prabhupada and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. You have a very hectic travelling schedule visiting different countries in Europe and travelling all around South Africa and India; yet You do not allow this to affect Your Sadhana at all. That is truly admirable, Srila Gurudeva.

The way You interact with devotees is also one of your unlimited qualities that I admire as You are a perfect gentleman. Srila Prabhupada was once asked as to how do you recognize a Vaishnava? Srila Prabhupada replied, "He is a perfect gentleman." I have no doubt that this statement applies to You Srila Gurudeva as You are a perfect gentleman in every single thing that You do. I am so happy to call myself Your disciple in this lifetime; of course I have a long way to go to on the path of Krishna Consciousness, but, I am truly grateful to have Your guidance and presence in my life. Srila Gurudeva; please forgive me for any offences that I may have caused to You both knowingly or unknowingly.

Hoping this meets You well and in the best of health.

Trying to be useful,

Your most fallen servant,

Yogendra dasa

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(End)