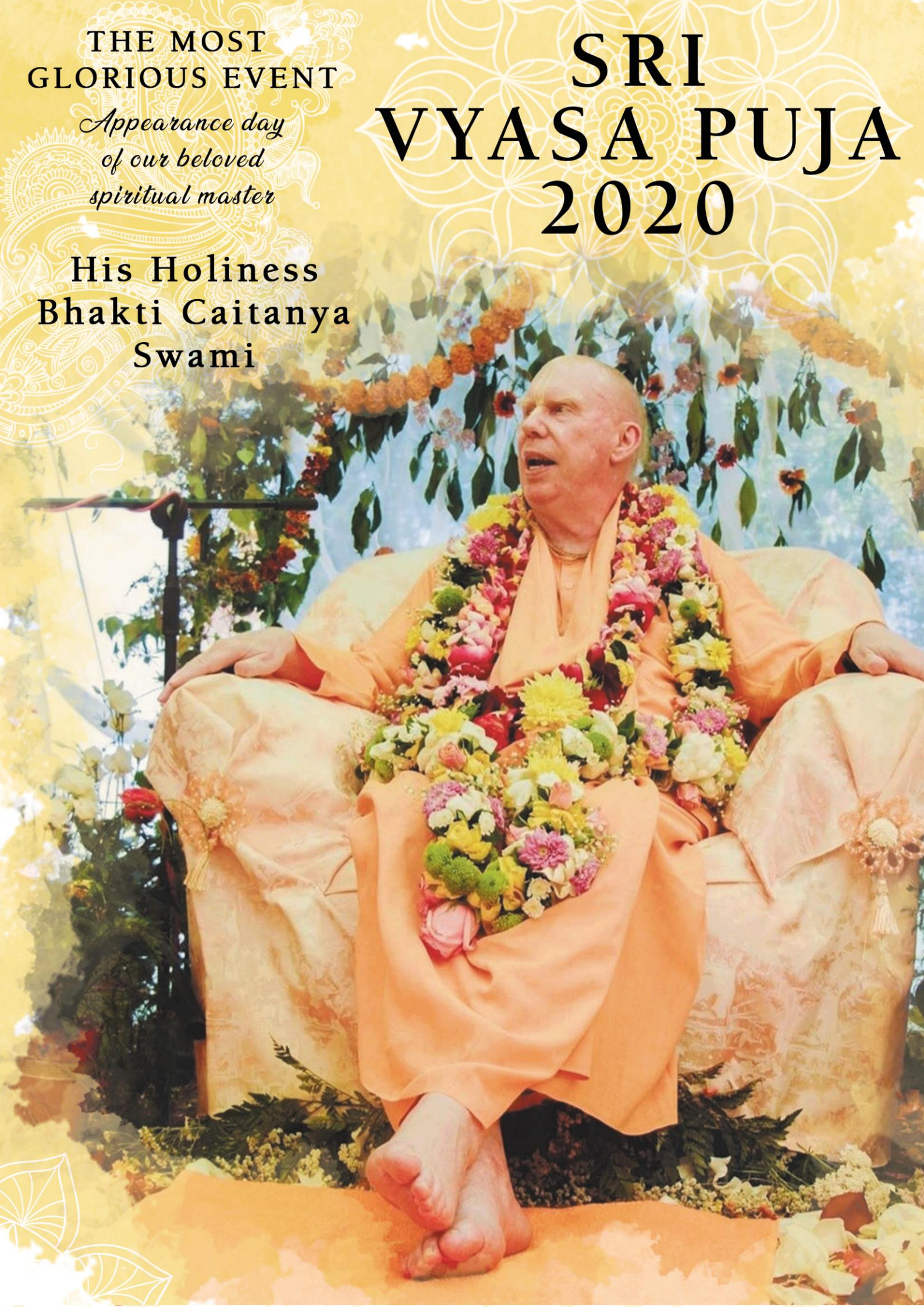


THE MOST
GLORIOUS EVENT

*Appearance day
of our beloved
spiritual master*

His Holiness
Bhakti Caitanya
Swami

SRI VYASA PUJA 2020







SRI VYASA PUJA

APPEARANCE DAY OF OUR
BELOVED SPIRITUAL MASTER
HH BHAKTI CAITANYA SWAMI
14TH AUGUST

Contents

..... i	Dvarakadisa das and Rukmini Priya
..... ii	devi dasi..... 37
..... iii	Gangotri Devi Dasi 38
..... iv	Gaurachandra Das and Bhaktin
..... iv	Ishwary 40
Meaning of Vyasa Puja..... 1	Gita Govinda Devi Dasi..... 42
..... 3	Gokulesvari dasi 43
Meaning of Vyasa Puja 2..... 4	Haridas, Hari Priya, Shakti and
Gurudev's Offering..... 6	Daksha 44
..... 8	Hari Murari Das, Nikunja Rasa Devi
Advaita Acarya das 9	Dasi, Bhakta Mehul and Bhaktin
Akincana Krishna das and Hariprya	Meera. 46
devi dasi 10	Hari Vallabha Devi Dasi 47
Ananda Caitanya Dasa Anu Dasa 12	Isvari Kripa Devi Dasi..... 48
Ananda Gaurangi Devi Dasi..... 13	Jagannath das..... 50
Ananda Vrindavana dasi 13	Jagannatha Caran Das & Devahuti
Anandini Devi Dasi 16	Devi Dasi 51
Ananga Manjari dd..... 17	Jagannatha Priya das..... 52
Ananga Mohini devi dasi 19	Jagannathesvari Devi Dasi 53
Bhakti Devi Dasi..... 20	Jai Radhika Devi Dasi 56
Bhakti-Rasa devi dasi 22	Jayadeva dasa..... 58
Caitanya Carana dasa, Sumalini	Jay Jagannath Das 59
Lalita Devi Dasi & Bhaktin	Kaishori Devi Dasi..... 60
Jagannatha Priya 24	Kama Gayatri devi dasi..... 61
Caitanya Lila Dasi 25	Karunamayi Devi Dasi..... 62
Damodara dasa..... 27	Kasturi Manjari Devi Dasi 64
Damodar Gopal Das, Lalita Gopal	Kishori Radhe Devi Dasi 65
Devi Dasi and granddaughter	Lalita Gopal Devi Dasi..... 69
Vaishnavi..... 29	Lila Vrindavana Devi Dasi..... 70
Damodar Prasad das..... 30	Lokanath das 71
Devadeva das..... 31	Madan Gopal Das. 73
Dhaneshvara das 34	Madhava Mohini Devi Dasi 74
Dhaneshvari Devi Dasi..... 35	Madhu Govinda Dasa, Madhu Priya
Divya Sakti Devi Dasi and	Devi Dasi, Gokula Taruni Devi Dasi,
Krishnacandra Das 36	Bhakta Dhiven, Goloka Taruni Devi
Draupadi Devi Dasi 37	Dasi, Bhakta Shalen 75
	Maha Laksmi Devi Dasi..... 77

Vyasa Puja 2020

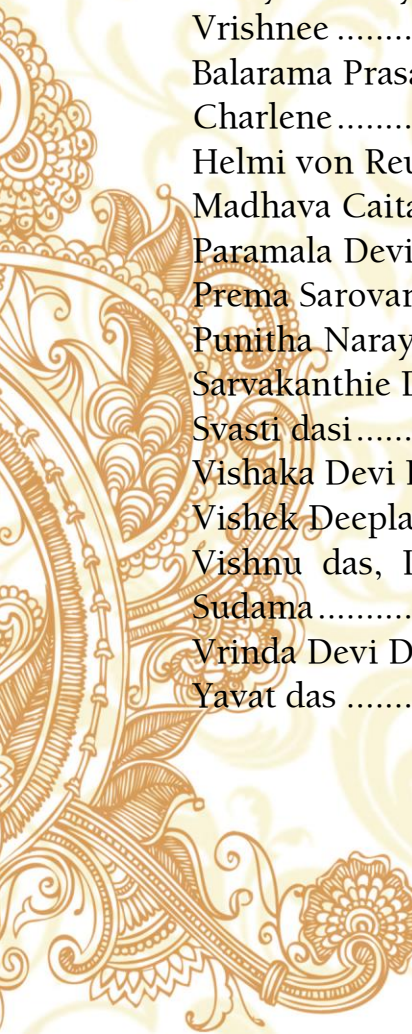
Mathura Mohan das, Mathura Mohini devi dasi, Prahlad and Jagannath	78	Shyama Kishori Dasi	116
Mohini Radha Devi Dasi	79	Siddhanta das, Bhava Bhavini devi dasi and Rasalila	117
Nanda Gopal and Maduriya Rasa	80	Sivarama das	119
Nanda Maharaja dasa	80	Sri Caitanya Das, Caitanya Premi Devi Dasi & Yamuna Sundari Devi Dasi	120
Nandanandini Devi Dasi	82	Subhadra Mayi Devi Dasi	121
Nandarani devi dasi, Krishna Balarama dasa, Nitai Pada dasa and Nimai Sundara dasa	84	Sundarananda das, Subhadra devi dasi, Sita and Vrindakund devi dasi	122
Namacarya dasa	86	Syama charan das Radhika charan dd Bhakta Rehva Bhaktin Marthinie	123
Nandaraj das	87	Syama Kishor das	124
Nayana Gopi Devi Dasi	88	Syama Vallabhi Devi Dasi	127
Nilacala Chandra Das	88	Tulsi Dasi Soriakumar	130
Padma Malini devi dasi	90	Tulsi Priya Dasi	131
Padmini Priya devi dasi	91	Ujjvala Prema devi dasi	132
Paramatma Dasa	92	Ujjvala Rasa dasi	133
Paramisvara das and Paramisvari devi dasi	93	Usha Devi Dasi	135
Pranesvari devi dasi	95	Varsana Devi Dasi	136
Prema Kishori Devi Dasi	96	Vijaya Baladeva das and Sita Carana devi dasi	137
Priya Kishori Devi Dasi	97	Vilasa Manjari	138
Radha Darshani Devi Dasi	98	Visvambhara dasa	139
Radha Mohan das and Syama Mohini Devi Dasi	99	Vraja Devi Dasi	141
Radha Ramana Das	100	Vraja Priya devi dasi and Revati devi dasi	141
Radha Priya Devi Dasi	101	Vraja Sakhi Devi Dasi	143
Radhikarani devi dasi	101	Vraja Vilasini devi dasi	144
Ranganath Das	103	Vrinda Kund Devi Dasi	147
Rasabihari das	104	Vrndavana dasa Thakura dasa	148
Rasa Lila Devi Dasi	106	Vrindavani Devi Dasi	149
Rasamandala Das	107	Yamaraja dasa	149
Rasarani devi dasi	108	Yogendra dasa	150
Saci Devi Dasi	109	Yogeshvari Devi Dasi	153
Sachi Prema Devi Dasi	110	Bhaktin Priyanka	157
Sacimata Devi Dasi	111	Indira Maharaj	158
Sakhi Vrinda Devi Dasi	112		
Shamalata Devi Dasi	113		
Shukadev das	114		



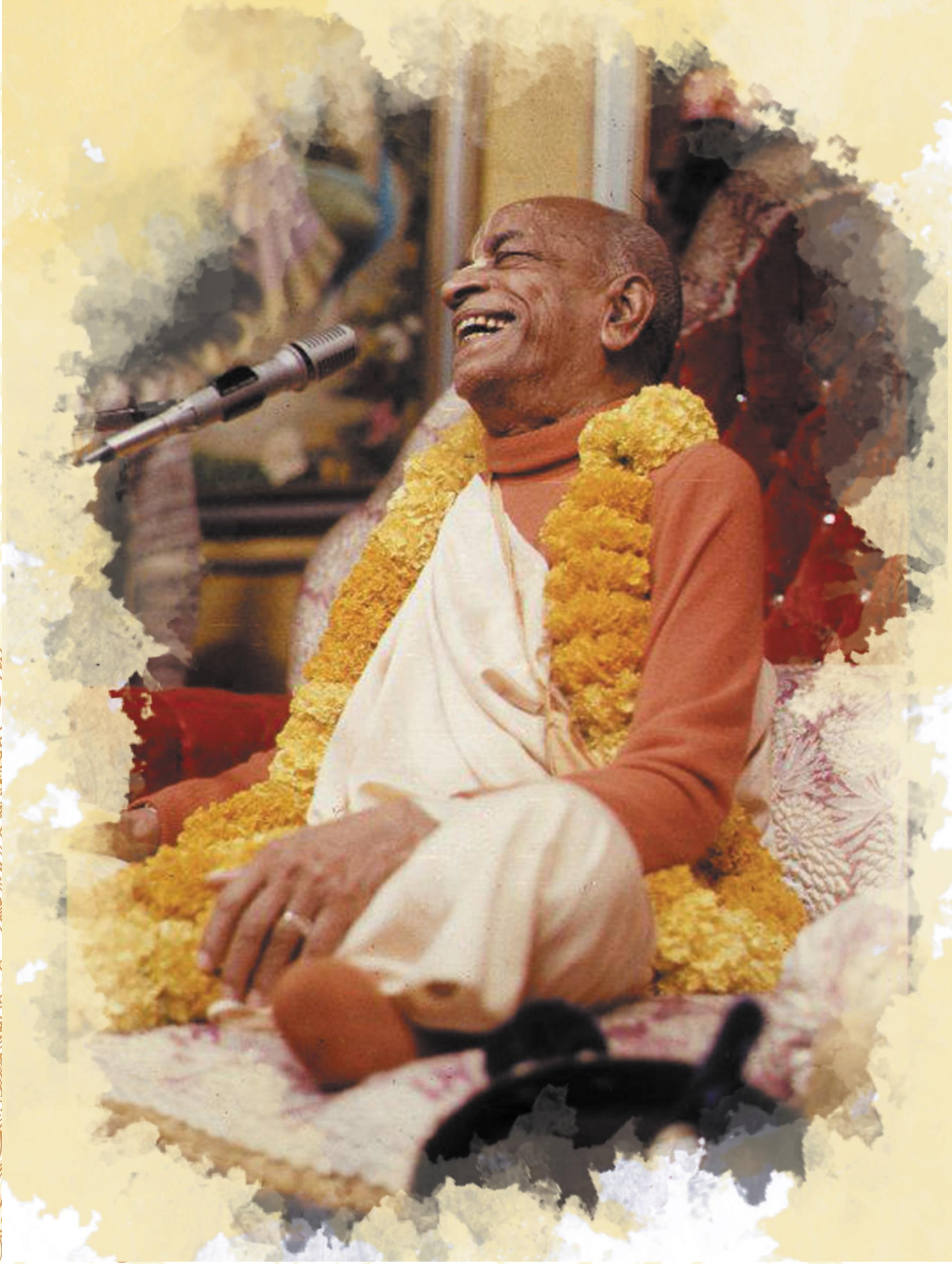
Vyasa Puja 2020



Jayanthi Maharaj (Jenny)	159
Kalindi.....	160
Kashmira	160
Krishnachandra.....	162
Maran	163
Mikaash.....	164
Nehal.....	165
Nirvana Bissoon	166
Pratheek	167
Premila	168
Rikshana.....	170
Samandrie.....	170
Shaitala	172
Shalinee Ganeshan	173
Shreya.....	173
Shobana Veraya.....	174
Vaisnavi.....	175
Varsha, Damodara Priya & Dhanistha	176
Vidhia Bissondayal	177
Vinay Beesony	180
Vrishnee	180
Balarama Prasad dasa	184
Charlene.....	185
Helmi von Reumont.....	186
Madhava Caitanya.....	187
Paramala Devi	187
Prema Sarovara dasi	187
Punitha Narayanan	188
Sarvakanthie Devi Dasi	189
Svasti dasi.....	191
Vishaka Devi Dasi	192
Vishek Deeplal	192
Vishnu das, Laksmi Priya dasi & Sudama.....	193
Vrinda Devi Dasi	194
Yavat das	195



HIS DIVINE GRACE A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA
FOUNDER ACARYA OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS



Meaning of Vyasa Puja

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti-caitanya-svamin iti namine

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine

Hare Krsna,

Our desired goal, life after life is to worship our Supreme Lord Krsna.

We understand that it is extremely rare to achieve this, but if one secures the shelter of a genuine, bonafide Guru, then this almost unattainable goal can be attained.

We have to surrender to the lotus feet of our Spiritual Master and serve Their Lordships under his instructions and we will then attain the transcendental loving service of Sri Sri Radha Krsna.

Guru is the mercy incarnation of Krsna.

The Spiritual master is called Guru because he is heavy with knowledge.

He lives completely in accordance with the vedas.

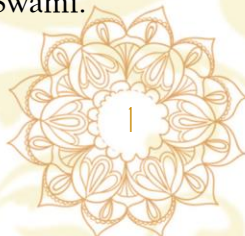
His presence in our lives is so important because only through the gift of knowledge, guidance, encouragement and correction, our Spiritual Master takes us personally over the horrendous waves of repeated birth and death.

Just like a tiger, leaping from one place to another, all that he carries, be it an ant or an insect are transported with him.

Similarly, we too can be transported to a better place because of our deep connection with our Spiritual Master.

This world is like a quicksand of ignorance and we are being sucked deeper into it by our complacent and arrogant nature which helps to keep us ignorant of the ignorance.

Srila Prabhupada kindly rescued us from this ignorance by sharing spiritual knowledge and love which he gave to his disciples, and today we are the recipients of such love by the mercy of our Spiritual Master HH Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami.





Vyasa Puja 2020

Srila Prabhupada's lecture on the 23 of August 1971.

"Even though we may not have the good fortune to contact the Supreme Lord personally.

The Lord's representative is good as the Lord Himself because such a representative does not say anything unless it's spoken by the Supreme Lord Himself.

Sri Caitanya Maha Prabhu gives a definition of Guru in Caitanya Caritamrita Madhya Lila 7.128.

The bonafide Guru is he who advises his disciples exactly in accordance with the principles spoken by Krsna. So a bonafide Guru is he who has accepted Sri Krsna as Guru.

This is the Guru parampara system.

The original Guru is Srila Vyasadeva.

Krsna is the speaker of the Bhagavat Gita and the Srimad Bhagavatam wherein everything spoken relates to Krsna. Therefore Guru Puja is known as Vyasa Puja.

In the final analysis, the original Guru is Sri Krsna. His disciple is Narada muni whose disciple is Vyasadeva.

In this way, we gradually come in touch with the Guru parampara.

One cannot become a Guru if he does not know what the Supreme Personality of Godhead or His incarnation want. The mission of the Guru is the mission of the Supreme Personality of Godhead to spread Krsna Consciousness all over the world".

The Spiritual Master not only come in parampara, but he ensures that the parampara continues by making the Vedas accessible and intelligible and the essential spiritual techniques practicable by initiating and training his disciples. In this way, the ancient knowledge and tradition are preserved yet kept fresh.

One should try to grasp the mood of the spiritual master and follow in his footsteps by rendering loving devotional service to Their Lordships.

Reading from scriptures alone does not help us to understand the Lord.

The sincere attitude of a receptive devotee and his steady service towards the representative of Srila Vyasadeva can bring about a full understanding of the deeper meaning from within the heart of the disciple.

Vyasa Puja 2020

On this most auspicious day, we bow down to the lotus feet of our beloved spiritual master and pray incessantly that he allows us to surrender completely just so we engage fully in pure devotional service to our beloved Lord Sri Krsna.

HH Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami ki Jai.

His divine grace Srila Prabhupada ki jai.

Assembled Vaisnavas ki Jai.

Lalita kunda devi Dasi



Meaning of Vyasa Puja 2

On the 22 August 1973, a day after the installation of Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda in London, Srila Prabhupada spoke at His Vyasa puja celebration in which He gave a clear understanding of the meaning of Vyasa Puja.

Srila Prabhupada: “So this Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony means to offer our thanks to the Supreme Personality of Godhead because He is the original *guru*. As we receive this message through *paramparā* system from Kṛṣṇa to Brahmā, Brahmā to Nārada, Nārada to Vyāsadeva, Vyāsadeva to Madhvācārya, in this way, Mādhavendra Purī, then Īśvara Purī, then Caitanya Mahāprabhu, then six Gosvāmīs, then others, Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, Jagannātha dāsa Bābājī, Gaura Kiśora dāsa Bābājī Mahārāja, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī. Then we have taken.

So this . . . as we have come to this Kṛṣṇa consciousness understanding through this long *paramparā*, similarly, in the Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony, whatever respect, honor and presentation you give, that goes to Kṛṣṇa through that *paramparā* system, from down. As it is received through the *paramparā* system, so similarly, your offerings also go through this *paramparā* system to the Supreme. The connection.

Our system is *gopī-bhārtur pāda-kamalayor dāsa-dāsānudāsaḥ* (CC Madhya 13.80). It is sometimes called bureaucracy. If you apply something, at least in India, to the President, you'll have to submit to the local collector. The collector will submit to somebody else, somebody else, then secretary, you go—then to the President. So our system is that. So it is not that I am training my disciples to worship me, man-worship, I'm getting some honor from them for nothing. No. It is not that. Whatever honor, whatever respect, whatever presentation you are giving to your spiritual master, it will go to Kṛṣṇa by *paramparā* system. This is Vyāsa-pūjā. Therefore, it is called Vyāsa-pūjā.”

In this same address, Srila Prabhupada gives an understanding of how the living entity and the Guru are introduced to each other. He says: “When Kṛṣṇa sees that a living entity is very anxious to understand Him or to revive his Kṛṣṇa consciousness, then Kṛṣṇa gives him all opportunity, especially by manifesting Himself as the spiritual master. *Antar bahiḥ*. The spiritual master is, therefore, Kṛṣṇa's manifestation, Kṛṣṇa's mercy manifestation to help a person to develop his Kṛṣṇa consciousness. From within He's helping. Therefore He's called *caitya-guru*, and from without, He sends His representative to help how to become advanced in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Therefore, to advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness we require two kinds of help—one from Kṛṣṇa and another from the spiritual master.”

We can, therefore, appreciate that the relationship with the spiritual master is not some material co-incidence, but an intervention created by Lord Krishna as the Supersoul or Caitya Guru to assist the devotee in their spiritual progress.

An aspect of this relationship is understanding the mood of the spiritual master and serving Him according to that mood. In an offering to His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī in 1961, Srila Prabhupada gives us an intimate glimpse of one expression of His mood in regards to His spiritual master. He writes: “On that day, in pain of separation, oh Lord! I was grief-stricken, unable to tolerate being apart from my spiritual master.” Srila Prabhupada is showing here that the relationship with the spiritual master is deeply heartfelt and affects the disciple at the very core of existence.

The year 2020 has been tumultuous and will certainly go down in annals of life. It has created unprecedented turmoil, grief, and uncertainties. Although this is seen as a time of immense pain, it is also a time the saintly make unprecedented advancement. Today we are again physically disconnected, yet we are intimately connected through Sri Guru and have been from the very start of this lockdown period. To conclude this Meaning of Vyasa Puja section of 2020, let us console and deepen our thoughts of Sri Guru by again referring to the 1961 Vyasa Puja offering of Srila Prabhupada, where He says: “But a festival of flowers and fruits is not the real worship, one who serves the guru's message really worships him.”

Hare Krishna.

Krishna Balarama dasa

Johannesburg, South Africa

Gurudev's Offering

My dear Lord and Master Srila Prabhupada,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you.

Now the world is in the grip of a fever regarding the so-called coronavirus. I have been wondering how you would have reacted to all this. I feel you would point out how the material world is always full of danger, and that this is just a further example of that.

Currently, I am in our Sri Sri Radha Radhanatha temple in Durban, South Africa, and we are under what is called “lockdown” meaning that no one in the country can go out of their houses unless they have an extremely good reason. We have not had a regular preaching program for almost two weeks, and we don't know when we will be able to, although it will not be soon.

I remember when you were with us there were accusations in America that we were “brainwashing” people to get them to become devotees. Some devotees did not know how to respond to these accusations, but you, as always were very clear about addressing the situations.

You said: “Yes. We are brainwashing from bad to good. That is our business. We are washing the brain from all rascaldom. That is our business. You are... ‘Your brain is filled up with all rubbish things: meat-eating and illicit sex, gambling. So we are washing them.’ Ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam [Cc. Antya 20.12]. Śṛṇvatām sva-kathāḥ kṛṣṇaḥ puṇya-śravaṇa-kīrtanaḥ, hr̥dy antaḥ-stho abhadrāṇi [SB 1.2.17]. Abhadrāṇi washing. Abhadrāṇi means bad things. The bad things should be washed off. Don't you cleanse your home? Don't you cleanse your room? Is not that brainwashing? So if you wash your room very cleansed, who blames you? But you are so rascal that ‘Why you are washing this garbage?’ you are protesting.”

You also said: “If you have got brain... You are trying to brainwash. Actually, you have no brain, see how important it is, this movement. You are trying to brainwash. We are not brainwashing. We are giving you good brain. That is our mission. That you are so dull-headed we have come to give you good brain. Su-medhasaḥ. Yajñaiḥ saṅkīrtana-prayair yajanti hi su-medhasaḥ [SB 11.5.32]. We have come to make you intelligent. Receive us well, for your benefit. Tell them like that. Bring one court case, and I shall sit, go and sleep there. And expose them. Item by item. I know my case is strong.

Vyasa Puja 2020

So I am sure you would have many things to say to clarify how this virus situation has arisen, due to the degraded habits of the majority of people, and you would have many ideas how we can spread Krishna consciousness under these circumstances, even though so many people and countries have become practically paralyzed and have practically no idea what to do.

And you would have many ideas how we can make the most of these situations to find creative ways to spread Krishna consciousness.

You say in your purport to Caitanya Caritamrita, Adi Lila 7.31-32: “Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu wanted to invent a way to capture the Māyāvādīs and others who did not take interest in the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. This is the symptom of an ācārya. An ācārya who comes for the service of the Lord cannot be expected to conform to a stereotype, for he must find the ways and means by which Kṛṣṇa consciousness may be spread.”

By your mercy, devotees are finding ways to preach Krishna consciousness through the internet and similar means, and some extraordinary results are coming.

In many ways your example and instructions were revolutionary, and therefore your movement has had such an effect on this world. We are praying on this most sacred day to get a little empowerment from you so we can represent you, and carry things on in such ways that you will be pleased. Only in this way can we be successful.

Your eternal servant,

Bhakti Caitanya Swami



OFFERINGS FROM



DISCIPLES

Advaita Acarya das

Hare Krishna Dear Gurudev, please accept my humble obeisances.

All Glories to Sri Sri Radha Shyamsundhar, All Glories to Srila Prabhupada,

All Glories to You Srila Gurudev.

I would like to wish you a Happy Vyasa-Puja Srila Gurudev. I pray to Srimati Radharani and Her beloved Sri Shyamsundhar to always keep you in good health so that you may continue serving their dearest Srila Prabhupada.

Gurudev, I do not have the words to appropriately describe Your affectionate and loving attitude towards me. I don't know what I have done to have received such great fortune, but I would like to express my deepest gratitude to You. I often reflect back on my memories with Srila Gurudev, and one memory, in particular, comes to heart was when we used to go on Japa walks on the beachfront when we had briefly stayed in East London. I always wondered how Gurudev was able to walk so fast and I, a young boy at the time, was falling behind and would have to run to catch up as a child would run to a parent. In a similar manner I find myself, continuously running to grab hold of your mercy and to hold on tightly to Your lotus feet and that of Srila Prabhupada's so that I may try to serve Sri Sri Radha Shyamsundhar without any desire for material gain, but with pure love and conviction in the Holy Name as You have.

We sometimes forget how lucky we are to have the shelter of a Spiritual Master such as Yourself; under whose guidance we can successfully receive the mercy of Srila Prabhupada and their Lordships. Please continue to keep me engaged in service at Your lotus feet, as it only by the grace of the Spiritual Master that one is able to overcome material suffering and obtain the mercy of their Lordships.

On this auspicious day, I pray at Your lotus feet for forgiveness if there are any offences that I may have committed knowingly or unknowingly. May Sri Sri Radha Shyamsundhar always keep You healthy and energetic so You may keep distributing Their love to millions of conditioned souls.

Your eternal servant,

Advaita Acarya das

Akincana Krishna das and Hariprya devi dasi

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti-caitanya-svamin iti namine

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine

namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine

nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-desat-tarine

Hare Krishna Dear Gurudeva

Please accept our humble obeisances in the Dust of Your Divine Lotus Feet. All glories to Sri Sri Krishna Balaram, all glories to Srila Prabhupada, all glories to You Gurudeva on this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja.

We are eternally indebted to You for opening our eyes and showing us the way forward in Krishna Consciousness.

In this time when the coronavirus has placed so many restrictions on our daily lives, we have come to the realisation that Krishna Consciousness is and should always be the single most important pillar in our lives.

Your insightful classes and communication via social media are constant reminders that You are always guiding us on our spiritual journey.

Thank You Gurudeva, we are indeed grateful.

Earlier this year the announcement of your health condition came as a huge shock to us all, we could only imagine how traumatised You must have felt dealing with such an experience, it is not easy and requires a lot of faith, courage and strength. All our God family and devotees prayed very sincerely to Krishna for Your well-being. Nanda Baba, Yasoda Mayi, Haripriya and I chanted extra rounds for Your well-being and we will continue to do so in future.

We pray that we will always endeavour to execute Your instructions, and overcome any challenges we may face in our lives. We want to give pleasure to the Lord by serving You and all His wonderful devotees nicely.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Please pray that we can assist Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON in spreading the message of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu so that each and every soul can awaken their Krishna Consciousness.

Eager to serve at Your Divine Lotus Feet

Your most fallen servants,

Akincana Krishna das and Hariprya devi dasi



Ananda Caitanya Dasa Anu Dasa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept most humble obeisances at Your lotus feet.

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupada!

On this most auspicious day of Your appearance, I want to offer my deepest gratitude and express my limitless fortune for meeting You on my wandering throughout the material creation. You are the savour of the conditioned souls, awakening them for the real-life, devotional service to Śrī Radha Krishna. Faithfully following in the footsteps of His Divine Grace Abhay Caranaravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupada, You personify a perfect disciple of Your Guru Maharaja.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, who said, *iha-sabara kon mate ha-ibe nistara*: "How will all these yavanas be delivered?" Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu was always anxious to deliver the fallen souls because their fallen condition gave Him great unhappiness. That is the platform on which one can propagate the mission of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

By Your mercy, such fallen souls reestablish their relationship with the Lord through authorised parampara system and reawaken their desire to serve Śrī Śrī Radha Radhanath and Śrī Śrī Radha Govinda 🙏

There is a brilliant verse in Śrīmad Bhagavatam:

SB 6.2.35 „I am such a sinful person, but since I have now gotten this opportunity, I must completely control my mind, life and senses and always engage in devotional service so that I may not fall again into the deep darkness and ignorance of material life.”

Please grant me the opportunity to serve You and my god family, so that I can purify my heart and please You with my devotional service. If I make a mistake, I feel remorse, trying to purify myself, asking for forgiveness and waiting for that forgiveness to be bestowed upon me and then go on with my devotional service. Please be merciful to me letting to continue with my devotional duties.

Falling again and again at Your lotus feet with the hope against the hope, that one day I will be allowed to wash Your lotus feet at this amazing ceremony of Vyasa Puja.

Your servant,

Ananda Caitanya Dasa Anu Dasa

Ananda Gaurangi Devi Dasi

Dear Guru Maharaj

Please accept my humble obeisance,

All glories to Srila Prabhupada,

All glories to your Divine Grace.

I would like to wish you a Happy Vyasa-Puja day.

Guru Maharaj thank you for being my spiritual master. I am overwhelmed by your grace and your limitless kindness and mercy. Last year for the Kartik Parikrama at Govardhan was amazing, thank you. Guru Maharaj thank you for the Japa sessions every morning. Thank you for always guiding me. Please help me to become more devotional and always engaged in Krishna consciousness.

May Lord Krishna and Radharani bless you with good health. Have a wonderful Vyasa-puja day.

Your humble servant,

Ananda Gaurangi Devi Dasi

Ananda Vrindavana dasi

Hare Krsna dearest Guru Maharaj. Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of Your most merciful lotus feet.

All glories to HDG most merciful Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to dear Guru Maharaj on this most merciful day of Your Sri Vyasa-puja.

"samsara-davanala-lida-loka

tranaya- karunya-ghanaghanatvam

praptasya kalyana-gunaravasya

vande guroh sri-caranaravindam"

Guru Maharaj, a fool like me remains eternally indebted to You for all You have done for me over the long years... Last year, You helped and guided with a most difficult task and I remain eternally grateful to You for that, and this year Your mercy is amazing.



Vyasa Puja 2020

During this lockdown, I had the causeless mercy of living in God's house for 65 days and having Your sacred association, guidance and care over those days that will remain in my heart eternally.

Guru Maharaj, being with the devotees in Your presence I watched and heard You and realised how tirelessly You were serving so that devotees and people around

would be still blissful in Krsna consciousness because of temples being closed. From mangal arati to night, You would be going on, and checking on everyone: temple devotees and around the world, at the same time making sure that they are alright. I remain ever so grateful to You for that. You would personally walk into the Deity kitchen and talk to us, encouraging us on and complimenting us.

*"sri vigrahadhana nitya nana
srngara tan mandira marjanadau.
yuktasya bhaktas ca niyunjato pi
vande guroh sri caranaravindam."*

No matter what the weather was, You just carried on. I remember how we sat in the thunder and lightning with You on evening of 11 June, mesmerised by Nectar of Devotion class, forgetting about outside weather.

Listening to You physically daily, I realised that You are super intelligent and not an ordinary human being and my sense of awe increased.

How could someone be so intelligent? Even after class finished, You would explain further...can only be that You are Srimati Radharani's associate.

Initially, I would do my service and leave but when I spent more time there and saw where You were walking etc, I would make an extra effort to do the service favourably because Your merciful lotus feet touched that ground. Thank You Guru Maharaj for teaching me such valuable lessons, by personal example.

On the 18 June, I saw how You had so much genuine love for Your Godbrother HH Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaj when You lead such a heart-wrenching kirtan for Guru Puja. It was very inspiring.

Guru Maharaj, thank You for one real treasure of having had spent Fathers' Day in Your association this year. For me that was priceless.



Vyasa Puja 2020

In Your class, You said the word "very" is used to place emphasis on something.

Today I am using the word "very" due to how important You are to me.

Guru Maharaj, thank You very very very much for bestowing causeless mercy upon a fool as myself, for keeping me in Your family and for never giving up on me. I remain very indebted to You eternally.

It is only due to the mercy of the Spiritual Master that one receives devotional service and one should be always grateful and respectful of the Spiritual Master. Thank You very much Guru Maharaj.

*"saksad dharitvena samasta sastrair
uktas tatha bhavyata eva sadbhih
kintu prabhor yah prius eva tasya
vande guroh sri caranaravindam
yasyaprasadad bhagavat prasado
yasyaprasadan na gatih kuto pi
dhyayan stuvams tasya yasas tri sandhyam
vande guroh sri caranaravindam"*

Happy Vyasa-puja.

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of Your most merciful lotus feet.

Your foolish servant,

Ananda Vrindavana dasi

Anandini Devi Dasi

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

Dear Guru Maharaj, I feel like a small and insignificant part of dust which adhered to Your lotus feet. Just lucky enough, but haven't any respectful qualities, neither patience, firmness, nor straight determination in my life. This world attracts me occasionally, call nicely and try to pull back. But Your faith and perseverance are so strong, that it holds me on. You follow the way that Srila Prabhupada walked. And fortunately, do I, as attached to You.

Frequently my heart brakes during morning's Japa time at Instagram. At times I see how it's hard for You. Sometimes You feel sleepy, sometimes hard because of tiredness, sometimes You stop for a while in silence, to pray, sometimes I see tears in Your eyes. But despite of it, You just keep chanting, welcome everyone, stay grateful for emoji garlands and other offerings, answer questions and inspire us "just go on, keep chanting very carefully". Only because of you I sincerely understand how it's important. Now meditation of Holy Names became the most important part of my new day.

You are always alongside with me when I start my service and don't know could I do something useful. Then I beg You, "please help", and You support me - peacefulness comes and everything takes place very well. It wouldn't be done without Your presence.

Very often Your attendance comes through devotees, who are very simple in relationship, careful and nice during talk, and just kind-hearted. It helps me to feel the sweetness of truthfulness relationship that is almost lost in this world, but alive between devotees. My wish to return Home become stronger.

Through association with You, I start to confide in Krishna, just put myself in His hands and accept everything that comes - even that I don't want, need, understand or that inflict pain. I try to stay thankful no matter how it touches me. During parikrama in Vraja Mandala, I absorbed Your stories of Krishna's past times, felt the nectar of association with devotees, made services and it all together transformed my inner world and perception. Not long ago I wanted liberation, but now I'm ready to go anywhere, with the hope and wish - "please let me remember You, Krishna, please give me the chance to serve You again".

Recently you mentioned "The door back to godhead is open to you. It just depends on you accepting it sincerely and seriously". I see how You stay next to this door. You wave me "hey, come here, don't hesitate, there is no need to extend suffering. Let's go Home!". And there is a



Vyasa Puja 2020

Prabhupada behind this door. You see Him, I'm not. And He also waves to You. You hear a sweet play on a flute and boy's giggling. A blissful shining surrounds You. You don't see anything else.

Thank You for an ocean of mercy and loving heart. You are my greatest luck and example in this life. Hare Krishna!

Your servant with love,

Anandini Devi Dasi

Riga, Latvia

Ananga Manjari dd

Dear Gurudev, Pamho

Dear Father,

I was born in the darkest ignorance and my Spiritual master open. My eyes with a touch of knowledge.

The spiritual master is the captain of the ship and he Navigates the surrendered soul trough external and internal anarthas like

Kaliya snake which represents (Anger)

Aghasura serpent which represents (Envy)

Putna which represents (mind and false Guru) by that I mean the anarthas that these demons represent in one's heart, outside of the heart and in the hearts of those around us.

Vani or instruction from the spiritual master or Guru and it is the Guru or spiritual master that is sharing their innermost feeling from the heart as how Guru or spiritual master wants to please Srila Prabhupada.

Therefore an instruction from Guru is the mercy of Krishna coming through parampara and blossom into an instruction. (from Radhanath swami)

An instruction removes all obstacles, offences and anarthas in the heart. And protects one from external and internal obstacles and anarthas as well

To find a spiritual master is as rare as getting your head stuck is a log floating in the ocean



Vyasa Puja 2020

There was so many times that we need to call each other.

Our natural Love for Radha Krishna has turned into lust due to contact with this material modes of nature, however, Krishna conscious is so powerful that even a late beginner can become a lover of God by following the regulative principles of devotional service and thus turn lust into love. BG ch3. 41

I will never forget the spiritual happiness I felt in cooking, dressing, and making Garlands for SSNGH as well as the BYS service. The UJ DFC bys room had such a transcendental feeling like walking into the temple room

The beginning of spiritual life is to understand that You are not the body your the soul and that only spiritual happiness can make one happy.

Thank you for being my Guru dev and loving me according to Prabhupada Vani. Thank you for taking up this service of caring for the Vaishnavas devotional service

I only heard Radhanath swami 2008 lecture, I did to see him till Dec 2011. I became attached to Maharaj and I accepted him as a siksha Guru just by hearing His lectures.

Brahma made an animal without the spiritual master's blessing and he made a buffalo whose milk makes the brain dull and has 50% more fat and with his spiritual master the supreme lord's blessing he made an animal called the cow whose milk nourishes the brain's finer tissue to help with spiritual understanding and even the dung and urine are use full as antiseptic and purifying.

Haridas Thakur initiated a prostitute and she became a wonderful Vaishnava and stopped all sinful habits. This is the power of the holy name as stated in siksha astika verse 2.

Thank you for Helping me with the negative energy

Even though you are so I'll health-wise you took out special time to help me.

Forgive me for my offences.

I am so glad to be under your shelter this is the best decision I made to take shelter of you by Srila Prabhupad mercy.

I love you and I want to be in your Association all ways.

Ys,

Ananga Manjari dd, Lenasia, South Africa

Ananga Mohini devi dasi

Hare Krishna Dearest Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to our beloved Srila Prabhupada! All glories to Your divine grace Gurudev. Happy Vyasa Puja, Gurudev.

Gurudev, on this most glorious occasion of Your Vyasa Puja, even though I don't qualify, I will try to glorify Your divine self.

Firstly Gurudev, I thank You profusely for giving this fallen soul shelter at Your lotus feet. This itself shows how merciful you are Gurudev.

Gurudev, You are a loving father to all Your disciples in every sense. You are always ready to give up Your time for us, whether it is chanting Japa in the morning, or doing seminars, or responding to our emails. You are always giving us Your Personal love and care. I still remember clearly, two years ago when I was in Sri Dham Mayapur, it was the day you were leaving Mayapur after Your long stay in February. We had all gathered in Your apartment to see You leave and You gave us a small talk – in which You requested that those disciples who don't see you often, must please write to You informing You of our whereabouts at least every six months. Thank You, Gurudev, for always making time to give us Your loving guidance and care in our spiritual lives.

Last year, in February, it was a day after Your glorious arrival in Sri Dham Mayapur, when my Mum had left her body. You took the time from Your busy schedule to personally call me and comfort me during this most difficult time in my life. I was shattered with her leaving, but Your encouraging words had given me the strength to travel from Mayapur Dham to South Africa for her funeral. Thank You, Gurudev, for Your support and comfort during my difficulties.

At the moment, while the whole world is experiencing a most difficult challenge due to the pandemic, we are most fortunate to have Your exalted association everyday, chanting Japa with You and anxiously hearing Your enriching seminars, which leaves us blissful every day. Even though You had health challenges, You still gave us Your divine association every day. Thank You, Gurudev for these precious moments in Your divine association.

Dearest Gurudev, I humbly beg to remain at the shelter of Your lotus feet eternally and to be constantly engaged in the loving service of the Lord favourably. Gurudev, I am nothing without Your mercy, I sincerely pray



Vyasa Puja 2020

to get a tiny drop of Your mercy that will help me to advance in my Krishna consciousness. Thank You Gurudev for everything in our lives.

Begging to remain Your humble servant and daughter,

Ananga Mohini devi dasi

Bhakti Devi Dasi

namo om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale

srimate bhakti caitanya swami iti namine

namami bhakti caitanyam prabhupadanusevinam

sri- vraja- dhana- mahatmya pradarsakam krparnavam

Dear Guru Maharaj

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to you on this most blessed day.

Lord Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita chapter 10 text 9 :

"The thoughts of My pure devotees dwell in Me, their lives are fully devoted to my service, and they derive great satisfaction and bliss from always enlightening one another and conversing about Me".

Guru Maharaj, the above verse perfectly describes you.

Everything that you do, your every action, your every desire is focused on Lord Krishna 's service.

By your kindness, compassion and mercy, you are sharing Krishna Consciousness with whomever you meet.

Thousands of devotees around the world are becoming inspired and enthused in their spiritual lives simply by hearing your lectures which are full of nectar, attending your amazing retreats and transcendental Japa sessions.

You are always engaged in spiritual activities, working tirelessly, selflessly and at a great personal cost to your physical well-being.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Srila Prabhupada, the Guru Parampara, Lord Caitanya and Lord Krishna are definitely pleased by your sincere efforts, endeavours and total surrender and you are most dear to Them.

Although I am not qualified but still, I pray that They bless you with a long healthy life so you may continue to discharge your noble services and that your path to the Lord be swept of all obstruction and difficulty.

Coming to ISKCON and being accepted as your disciple is the most precious and valuable gift that my family and I have received.

This is our good fortune and I am eternally grateful to you for giving so much of yourself.

It is only by your causeless mercy that I am engaged in devotional service.

But what have I given you Guru Maharaj ...What can I offer you...

It is not possible for the disciple to repay the debt to the spiritual master but as Srila Prabhupada says in a letter to Sons and Daughters Bombay dated 14 August 1976 " Our only business is to be fixed up in devotional service by pleasing the spiritual master."

So my prayer to you on this most auspicious day is that you please continue to bless me so I may one day become fully surrendered and perform my devotional service in a way that is pleasing to you.

I offer my immense gratitude and humble obeisances to you again and again.

Thank you from the depths of my impure heart.

Hare Krishna

Your eternal servant and daughter,

Bhakti Devi Dasi

Bhakti-Rasa devi dasi

Dear Srila Gurudev,

*nama om visnu padaya krsna presthaya buthale, srimati bhakti caitanya
swamin iti namine*

*namami bhakti-caitanyam prabhupada anusevinam, sri-vraja-dhana-
mahatmya-pradarcsaka kriparnavam*

*nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhutale; srimate
bhaktivedanta-swamin iti namine*

namas te saraswate deve gaura-vani-pracharine

nirvishesha shunyavadi pashchatya desha tarine

Please accept my humble obeisances at Your Divine Lotus Feet Srila Gurudev. All glories to you. All glories to our dearest Srila Prabhupada.

How does one express their absolute appreciation and love to such a divine soul who has taken the responsibility to nurture, educate and cultivate his children towards spiritual advancement.

There are no words to describe the love, mercy and care that you give to each one of us. I am forever grateful that despite my fallen state and the mistakes that I make, you have still accepted me as your disciple and your daughter.

I am most grateful to you for connecting us to Srila Prabhupada through the absolute love and service that you render upon Him. Through the exemplary and loving manner in which you serve Srila Prabhupada, you encourage and engage us even more in remembering, first and foremost, to always please Srila Prabhupada in everything we do, and this in itself, will bring us closer to Him and never want to leave ISKCON.

I thank you for the engagement, the association and the attentiveness that you give to me. I thank you for making Krishna Consciousness so simple, easy and wonderful for a newcomer like myself to understand and grasp, and also for the seriousness with which you urge us to become more Krishna conscious, as well as being more attentive in chanting the Holy Names of the Lord.

Thank you for the inspiration, love, kindness, humour and seriousness with which you so ecstatically preach Krishna Consciousness. I love how I am always seriously learning but in such a joyful mood [with a huge smile] when you give a class.



Vyasa Puja 2020

I am forever grateful that we are being presented with opportunities to always to serve Srila Prabhupada in this lifetime by Your mercy and in honour of you. Please shower Your mercy upon me so that I may endeavour more, and make more of an effort to better serve the devotees and Srila Prabhupada. Please bless me to desire a serious appetite to sincerely and humbly serve at the Lotus Feet of Srila Prabhupada as I am extremely fallen.

Despite not deserving it, thank you Gurudev for giving me shelter at your Divine Lotus Feet. I pray that I always remember how fortunate I am to be a part of this beautiful sankirtan movement of Lord Caitanya, and never take it for granted.

Dear Gurudev, on this auspicious day of your appearance, I pray that their Lordships, Sri Sri Radha Radhanath, Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari and Lord Nṛsimhadeva, as well as Srila Prabhupada, always keep you safe, and most importantly healthy, as you continue to serve at their divine Lotus Feet.

You are truly loved my dear father, teacher, friend, confidant and master. Thank you for everything, and thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve our magnanimous Srila Prabhupada, who built a beautiful home for all of us to live in, in which we can serve the Lordships and, most importantly, love and cooperate with each other.

Thank you for giving us Srila Prabhupada through your pastimes in this world - in doing so, you have given us EVERYTHING we need Gurudev. I offer my respectful obeisances at Your Lotus Feet millions and millions and millions of times with respect, love, and appreciation for you - my dear Lord and Master.

With love,

Your most insignificant servant and daughter,

Bhakti-Rasa devi dasi

ISKCON Midrand

Caitanya Carana dasa, Sumalini Lalita Devi Dasi & Bhaktin Jagannatha Priya

Hare Krsna, Guru Maharaja.

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Your Divine Self on this most blessed occasion of Your Vyasa puja.

I'm writing this offering to you from Sridham Mayapur on the most important occasion of the Disappearance Day of Srila Rupa Gosvami. These two facts are very significant. Firstly, the fact that I can reside in Mayapur is only because my great good fortune which has been created by your constant prayers and blessings upon me.

Secondly, Srila Rupa Gosvami is our glorious previous acarya, whose books form the basis for our guidance in Krsna consciousness, hence we consider ourselves Rupanugas - followers of Srila Rupa Gosvami. His blessings are also readily available to those who seek them out through heartfelt prayers and sincerely following his teachings.

The vital importance of these two aspects of the blessings of the spiritual masters and our sincere following of their teachings (Vani) has become crystal clear to me in the wake of this Covid-19 pandemic.

This year 2020 has been riddled with difficulties, misfortune, tests and trials.

Difficulty in just managing to exist in the surreal circumstances created by the Covid-19 pandemic. The most difficult challenge is the lack of Vaisnava association, especially yours Gurudev. But your vani is my constant shelter - everpresent and reassuring.

Misfortune was felt tangibly with the departure of HH Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaja. It is something that we will probably never fully recover from... But still, his vani is there.

We've been tested in the most extreme ways due to lack of interaction with Vaisnavas. At these times, the vani of Srila Prabhupada and your regular live broadcasts on Facebook give us a strong support. Just to see and hear you always my doubts and soothes my aching heart.

The trials that mankind is facing are new but not surprising. We should be sober. You have set an excellent example by what you are focusing on in your Facebook sessions. Your regular postings on chanting japa, seminars and Bhagavatam classes indicate where your heart lies - in



Vyasa Puja 2020

refining your own practice of Krsna consciousness by practicing what you preach whilst inspiring as many devotees as possible to do the same.

I'm trying to do my part by regular Facebook posts and weekly classes, but whatever I accomplish is only by Your grace, blessings and empowerment.

Actually, the whole Covid-19 catastrophe can be viewed as a massive opportunity. An opportunity to go deeper into reading, hearing and chanting. An opportunity to network with the existing Vaisnava community online and simultaneously to do some online outreach to newcomers and people who haven't even heard of Krsna. The possibilities are unlimited.

So, on this blessed day, we remind ourselves that life is very short and totally unpredictable. We keep ourselves grounded in good consciousness by immersing ourselves into your vani. In that way, we are always with you...

Your servant,

Caitanya Carana dasa

(Along with Sumalini Lalita Devi Dasi and Bhaktin Jagannatha Priya)

Caitanya Lila Dasi

Dear Gurudev,

*nama om visnu padaya krsna presthaya buthale, srimati bhakti caitanya
swamin iti namine*

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

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the Dust of your Divine Lotus Feet.

All Glories to Your Divine Grace. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada.

On this day of your Sri Vyasa Puja, I would like to wish Gurudev, Happy Vyasa Puja.

Another year, another offering and I am still lost for words.

How do I glorify my Gurudev, How do I show appreciation?

By the mercy of Krsna, one finds a bonafide spiritual master



Vyasa Puja 2020

and by the mercy of the spiritual master, one finds Kṛṣṇa.

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

When I think of You Gurudev, I immediately think of You as being a Prabhupada Man. Gurudev Srila Prabhupada and His Iskcon are your life and soul. I beg for mercy that I can become a dedicated disciple to you as you are to Srila Prabhupada.

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 [Kṛṣṇa].

Worship of The Lotus Feet of The Spiritual Master

Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura

Worship of The Lotus Feet of The Spiritual Master: There is no work as auspicious as serving the spiritual master. Of all worship, the worship of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is the greatest but the worship of the lotus feet of the spiritual master is even greater than the worship of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Unless this is firmly realized we cannot understand what saintly association means, we cannot understand what the shelter of a spiritual master means, we cannot understand that we are dependent and he is our maintainer.

Gurudev today I pray that I am able to serve you better. I am so fortunate to have your wonderful association, guidance and shelter.

As per Srimad Bhagavatam, The spiritual master is worshipped as one who delivers the disciple with a torchlight of Knowledge.

Paragam refers to one who can take the disciple to the other side, the side of light.

It is said that this form of life is the only means to cross over the nescience of material existence.

Vyasa Puja 2020

We have a very efficient boat, Scriptural injunctions which are the favourable winds. and an expert captain which is you Srila Gurudev, our dear spiritual master.

Gurudev thank you for your mercy and giving me shelter at your Divine Lotus feet.

Please forgive me for all the offences that I have committed knowingly and unknowingly.

Please continue to guide me and always give me your shelter.

Your daughter always,

Caitanya Lila Dasi

Damodara dasa

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

Guru Maharaja, thank you for preaching Krishna Consciousness in different countries around the world. You have taught us through your own example how to practice and preach Krishna Consciousness under all circumstances.

In Srimad Bhagavatam 10.31.9, the gopi's song of separation states-

tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

kavibhir īditaṁ kalmaṣāpaham

śravaṇa-maṅgalaṁ śrīmad-ātataṁ

bhuvi gṛṇanti ye bhūridā janāḥ

“My Lord, the nectar of Your words and the descriptions of Your activities are the life and soul of those who are always aggrieved in this material world. These narrations are transmitted by exalted personalities, and they eradicate all sinful reactions. Whoever hears these narrations attains all good fortune. These narrations are broadcast all over the world and are filled with spiritual power. Those who spread the message of Godhead are certainly the most munificent welfare workers.”



Vyasa Puja 2020

During this year (2020), the people around the world are engulfed by the COVID 19 pandemic. This pandemic has created havoc in people lives and people have had to make adjustments in terms of work, social life

and recreational life. Many people have become anxious and bewildered by the whole situation.

Srila Prabhupada has explained many times that the real suffering of humanity is forgetfulness of one's relationship with Krishna and due to a lack of Krishna Consciousness.

Guru Maharaja, you are most munificent because you are helping people to revive their forgotten relationship with Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Thank you Guru Maharaja, for preaching Krishna Consciousness through using technology as a means of preaching, even during these challenging times of the Covid19 pandemic.

We pray that you have good health and that we may continue to have your loving fatherly association for many years to come.

Please bless me with your mercy so that I may imbibe your spirit of practicing Krishna Consciousness with all sincerity and seriousness.

Your son,

Damodara dasa

Damodar Gopal Das, Lalita Gopal Devi Dasi and granddaughter Vaishnavi

Dear Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet which are my way only back to the spiritual world.

Dear Gurudev I humbly beg for your mercy as I try to glorify you with this Vyasa puja offering for I am not qualified to do so.

It is described in Sri Sri Gurb-astaka prayers by Srila Visvanatha Chakravarti Thakura that "the spiritual master is always eager to hear and chant about the unlimited conjugal pastimes of Radhika and Madhava and their qualities, names, and forms and that one should offer his obeisances to such a spiritual master"

Dear Gurudev, Srila Prabhupada has empowered you in many ways possible one of which is the way you preach. I admire your preaching and your extraordinary memory to remember the beautiful pastimes of Radha and Krishna. These amazing pastimes simply flow out of your lotus mouth and because they are spoken with so much of love for the Supreme Lord many people are becoming attracted to our movement giving up their old habits and dedicating their lives to Srila Prabhupada's movement. You constantly travelling around the world transforming the atmosphere by your presence, inspiring and educating the fallen souls to take to Krishna consciousness, for this Lord Nityananda will certainly be pleased.

In spite of the difficulties, you encounter with your health, whatever obstacles may be in your path or challenges you may face in life I can truly say I have the most elevated spiritual master that never gives up in pushing forward Srila Prabhupada's movement.

Dear Gurudev, you are certainly an ocean of mercy taking my family under your shelter, guiding, protecting and inspiring us time and time again like only a father will do. I humbly beg at your lotus feet to continue to guide our family and your granddaughter Vaishnavi so she can follow in your footsteps and develop your transcendental qualities.

Your most fallen servant,

Damodar Gopal Das, Lalita Gopal Devi Dasi and granddaughter Vaishnavi

Damodar Prasad das

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect (Mathew, 5.48)

Believing in God is something, but believing in His devotee?

To believe in His devotee is to believe in mortal purity,

And to believe in mortal purity is to believe in our own,

If we will

But remaining to lust closely wedded, believing that's what I am

How can I believe that Thou art free?

All I can do is to believe, and by the fruits judge the tree

(The warmth of simple heart's love for Thee)

Let me but cling to Sri Krsna's Lotus Feet

(His Name, His devotees)

When my mind, slaked in sin, whispers silent blasphemies

For by the Lord's mercy may I believe

And weep for my wickedness at Thy feet

Then shalt Thy garland bless me

And the forgiving joy of Thy mercy

Damodar Prasad das

Lenasia, South Africa

Devadeva das

* I will never leave you, my Lord and Master! *

My Dearest Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances

All glories to Srila Prabhupada

All glories to You, my Lord and Master.

Over the past year, we faced so many calamities in our life. To a large degree, I thought of escaping the suffering by running away to another country which was seemingly better. Of course, I posed my pea-brained idea of emigrating to you via email and your response was, "you may decide what was best." So in my stupidity, I started an elaborate plan to outlay hundreds of thousands of rands to create a comfortable situation for our emigration. Various interviews and payments were made during the few weeks you were away from South Africa. When you returned to SSRRT, you personally called me to you. You said, "I plan on spending most of my time here at SSRRT in my retirement years and I would have wanted you here with me." I felt your disappointment and it struck me deeply. It never occurred to me that I would ever be without you.

How dare I think I could have left you! You defeated my elaborate plans with just one sentence. "I would have wanted you here with me." All my big plans immediately crushed with just a few words. We so happily immediately changed everything to remain in your direct association.

A few weeks later the real test was thrown at me. The scare that you may not be on this planet for much longer consumed me. Cancer had developed in your body and you had to go for an operation. There was a complication while you were in theater. Your SATS dropped and things seemed to be heading downhill. Upon hearing this my heart froze. The reality of us actually losing you sank deep. A 40-minute procedure became an hour and then 2, eventually, 3 hours later you was transferred into the ICU. As you regained consciousness, I stood beside you and you turned slightly towards me saying, "It's Hellish, it's just Hellish,!"

You then began to cough up blood, constant incessant coughing. You couldn't move, I reached for the tissues as you coughed up blood in my hands and I cleaned your mouth. You looked to me and said, "thank you for being here with me. It really helps." again you coughed up more blood. "I'm sorry," you said, "it's just hellish!"



Vyasa Puja 2020

Immediately I thought the body of the spiritual master is spiritual and the suffering is only because of his disciples.

Srila Prabhupada comments in this regard in his purport to SB 9.5.5

"Sometimes the spiritual master after accepting a disciple, must take charge of that disciple's past sinful activities and, being overloaded, must sometimes suffer - if not fully, then partially - for the sinful acts of the disciple."

Tears began to well up in my eyes," I am sorry you have to go through this Srila Gurudev, for us, for me."

Your words "I would have wanted you here with me" resounded in my mind. How dare I leave you and go anywhere. You wanted me here with you and I will be nowhere else but at your side and there we remained in the days that followed your surgery. Day and night we waited for the slightest sound or movement from you to spring into action.

As the days progressed and various test results emerged my anxiety grew. The thought of losing you was real. Day and night I would try to be at your call. At night I would wake up sporadically, and repeatedly would leave my daughter sleeping alone and walk down to your rooms to check on you. A few times you were in excruciating pain but never were you bothered about your self. My stress was greater than yours. You repeatedly told me, "whatever Krishna wants, what can we do, He is in control ultimately. Your faith and conviction even at this time showed us how fully surrendered you are. Post-surgery once you regained consciousness, the first thing you asked for was your bead bag. You couldn't even move but you wanted to chant. I had to put your bead bag into your hand and give you the head bead so that you could chant. On that day you were heavily sedated. You fell in and out of consciousness, your drip had infiltrated and despite the pain, you continued to chant. Later, I saw you falling asleep so I tried to remove your bead bag from your hand but you told me, "I didn't finish my rounds, I must chant." Despite the severe pain and discomfort, you were in, your vow to your spiritual master was foremost on your mind, to finish your rounds. Please bless me to also have this determination in fulfilling my vows to you even in such difficult times.

As the days, weeks, months had passed and your body slowly healed, you would repeatedly say, "Thank you, you are saving my life."

Following that, you wrote me a letter, with a deep appreciation for me and my service to you. My realizations from that are as follows:

You thanked me for my kindness but you taught me to be kind by your own example.



Vyasa Puja 2020

You praised my efficiency in carrying out my service to you, this is because you taught me how to be efficient and to be on the ball.

You taught me to be punctual, meticulous, to never waste time and to keep myself always busy in service because you practice these.

You praised my caring nature, this is only because you showed me how to love by you loving me.

You moulded me and my unrefined temperament into something a little more tolerable.

Now please mould me further into your worthy servant and give me your shelter to always remain with you eternally, in your service. I have no other desire!

"A perfect disciple knows what the Spiritual master needs even before the Spiritual master himself realizes that he needs it." His Holiness Tamal Krishna Goswami Maharaj.

I pray to someday become such a disciple to you, Srila Gurudev.

I will never leave you my Lord and Master and today I beg that you never leave me...

Your fallen servant,

Devadeva das

Hillcrest, South Africa

Dhaneshvara das

Dearest Srila Gurudeva

Please accept our most humble obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada

All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your appearance.

Srila Gurudeva, you make many wonderful arrangements, not only for your disciples but for humanity at large through your many innovative ways of preaching, your lectures and live internet broadcasts. I am very fortunate that I have your association and the auspicious opportunity to hear the chanting of the Holy Names of the Lord and the glories of Lord Krishna.

In every activity of yours, you never fail to strengthen our commitment and conviction to Srila Prabhupada. In a very exemplary way, you teach the mood of becoming an eternal shishya by displaying your unconditional pure love for Srila Prabhupada.

As my Gurudeva, I am eternally indebted to you for so amazingly and expertly exposing my bad qualities that impedes me in giving myself fully to this process.

Please Gurudeva, instil in my heart a drop of that mood of servitorship for your divine grace as you have for Srila Prabhupada.

It is Your mercy that I am Your disciple. I don't have the qualification to be so.

I pray to Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari to bestow upon you good health so that you continue to shower Your mercy on suffering living entities like me and take us back to Godhead.

Your aspiring servant and son,

Dhaneshvara das

Dhaneshvari Devi Dasi

My dear Spiritual Master,

I offer my respectful obeisances unto my spiritual master, the deliverer of the fallen souls.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyasa puja.

I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful Spiritual Master.

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, thank you, dear Gurudev, for giving me the opportunity to advance in my spiritual life. Thank you for everything you do for us in Krishna consciousness.

Thank you for chanting with us every morning and evening, giving us the sweet nectar of the holy name. Thank you for the awesome class, truly Blissful.

By your sweet mercy, I got the opportunity to serve our Lordships from Iskcon Lenasia during this pandemic.

May I always remain at your sweet lotus feet forever dear Gurudev.

Thank you, dear Srila Prabhupada, for blessing me with such a wonderful Spiritual Master.

Your humble servant,

Dhaneshvari Devi Dasi

Divya Sakti Devi Dasi and Krishnacandra Das

Hare Krsna Dearest Gurudev,

Please accept my most humble obeisance

All glories unto Srila Prabhupada

All glories unto Gurudev

Dearest Guru Maharaj, please accept our heartiest thanks for accepting Divya Sakti Devi Dasi and I to take shelter at Guru Maharaj's Lotus feet.

All thanks to Guru Maharaj for giving us the opportunity to receive the sweetest nectar of the Vedic scriptures. The river of sweet Vedic nectar flows so freely from Guru Maharaj. We are so fortunate that we have the opportunity of receiving Guru Maharaj's association in morning with Japa and then again in the afternoon with Japa and sweet vedic nectar. As Sri Krsna says in the Bhagavad Gita 4.34

tad viddhi pranipatena

pariprasnena sevaya

upadeksyanti te jnanam

jnaninas tattva-darsinah

“Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realised soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth.”

Please, if Guru Maharaj so desires, bless us with Guru Maharaj's mercy so that we can take advantage of this opportunity and continue to receive Guru Maharaj's association. Also, by the mercy of Guru Maharaj, we hope to continue rendering service unto Guru Maharaj.

Both Divya Sakti and I are eternally grateful for being allowed to receive Guru Maharaj's association and shelter.

Your servants forever,

Divya Sakti Devi Dasi and Krishnacandra Das

Draupadi Devi Dasi

Hare Krsna Gurudev,

All glories to Sri Prabhupada.

All glories to you Gurudev.

On this special occasion, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation.

Thank you Gurudev for enlightening and giving me, your insignificant, unworthy disciple, the connection to Lord Caitanya & Srila Prabhupada.

Thank you Gurudev for the holy name and the sweet lectures.

Thank you Gurudev for allowing me to serve SSRR, it's only by your divine mercy a disciple can serve their Lordships.

Thank you Gurudev as you know everything within my heart. It's very difficult to practise and maintain Krsna consciousness however the little I do, it's only by your divine mercy. I desire to serve eternally.

Every day I thank Radharani for the connection to your lotus feet.

I hope I can have the pleasure to serve you eternally as there is nothing more special.

Your insignificant servant,

Draupadi Devi Dasi

Dvarakadisa das and Rukmini Priya devi dasi

Dear Gurumaharaja,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your *vyasapuja*.

*śrī guru-caraṇa-kamala bhaja man
guru-kṛpā binā nāhi koi sādhana-bal,
bhaja mana bhaja anukṣaṇa*

“O mind, just worship the lotus feet of the bona fide spiritual master. Without receiving the mercy of the pure devotee, one will not have the potency to execute regulative spiritual practices. Therefore, O my dear mind, I urge you to worship him. Please worship him at every moment.”

Vyasa Puja 2020

This year has been one of growth and connection to your divine association and instructions, especially in the last few months. We recollect the wonders of your powerful yet gentle preaching. You patiently attract the attention of so many inquisitive minds to Krishna.

While we struggle to balance our lives, you show us how to make service the goal of our life. You have often mentioned how service to the devotees is the secret to spiritual progress.

Gurudev, your contribution most recently through online preaching to the youth from across continents and all walks of life is commendable. We live in an era of confusion and this preaching stands out as a beacon of hope and guidance.

May we serve your divine instruction with all sincerity and please you. We pray Krishna that may remove all obstacles in your path and bless you with good health.

May we remain under your divine shelter eternally.

Your grateful servants,

Dvarakadisa Das and Rukmini Priya Devi Dasi

Gangotri Devi Dasi

nama om vishnu-padya krishna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti chaitanya swami iti namine

namami bhakti-caitanyaa prabhupadanusevinam

sri-vraja-dhana-mahatmya-pradarsakam krparnavam

nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine

namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine

nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-desat-tarine

Hare Krishana Dearest Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All Glories to Guru Maharaj on this auspicious Vyasa Puja day. I pray at the lotus feet of Sri Sri Gaura Nitai to shower you with many many more Vyasa puja days. May Lord Krishna and Srimati



Vyasa Puja 2020

Radharani always keep you healthy and energetic so you can continue with the mission of Srila Prabhupada.

Whilst, the world has been drawn into slowdown and shutdown, it is impressive on how Prabhupada's ISKCON, worldwide has used this setback period by engaging "Zoom" and "Fb" as a nonstop aggressive preaching tool. It is also simply amazing how Guru Maharaj took on, almost immediately to these tools, how quickly you adapted and even specialized in the usage of these gadgets; just so that all we fallen souls could remain connected in bhakti. Personally, this has been the most precious time of my life, having the opportunity to listen to Gurudev twice daily and feel so very much connected to your lotus feet. I have since realized the meaning of "Bliss" and the power and mercy of the Spiritual Master in last few months, thank you Gurudev. Now that I have gained more understanding on 'mature sinful' reactions during Nectar of Devotion classes, I am now even more grateful to you for accepting me as your spiritual daughter, giving me, this unworthy soul an opportunity for devotional service, association with devotees and simply making life purposeful. You are so encouraging, kind and tolerating like an ever-patient father. I pray to Guru Maharaj to kindly shower your mercy on me so that I am able to engage more actively and take on some services. Currently, my engagements are very much on an ad hoc basis due to my being stuck still with material level occupations for family livelihood and commitments. Please bless me so that I can chant without any offences and that I can be of some use to you in your service to Srila Prabhupada. On this most auspicious day, I am praying at your lotus feet to please forgive me for any offences and to always allow me to take shelter of your lotus feet.

Your humble servant,

Gangotri Devi Dasi

Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Gaurachandra Das and Bhaktin Ishwary

Mukam karoti vachalam

Pangum langhayate grim

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 visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti-caitanya-svamin iti namine

namami bhakti caitanyam prabhupadanusevinam

sri vraja dhana mahatmya pradarsakam krparnavam

Hare Krsna Guru Maharaj. Please accept my humble respectful obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and all glories to your Holiness on this auspicious day of your Vyasa-puja.

On this auspicious 69th appearance day, we would like to say somethings about Guru Maharaj.

It is unfortunate that we don't have the parikrama this year but it is the will of Krsna and on the bright side we could have a very good one next year. It seems to have Guru Maharaj take the rest from travelling too much and nurture the health.

On this auspicious day of your appearance, we humbly request your blessings to please let our minds be fixed in Krsna and on Krsna conscious service so that we can advance in our spiritual journey. We hope to be of service to Srila Prabhupada and hope that one day to be qualified enough to be a good servant.

We pray to Sri Sri Nitai Sundar Gaura Hari, Sri Sri Sri Jaganath Baladeva and Subhadra and Sri Sri Radha Syamasunder to bless you with good health and long life, for us to have opportunity more association with Gurumaharaj and Gurumaharaj can continue preaching in this difficult material world. Ishwary has done her required readings and is chanting 16 rounds since October last year. She would like your mercy so that she can chant 16 rounds without difficulty and take more shelter at your lotus feet.



Vyasa Puja 2020

My service is pujari once a month, general kitchen Sunday feast cooking one a month, Srila Prabhupada dressing once a week and other services in festivals and any other services temple requires from me. Because of lockdown we seem to be doing less this year, Ishwary does book distribution and flower decoration and Sunday feast cooking at times.

We are indebted to you and hope to improve in our devotional service under your guidance

Your humble servants

Gaurachandra Das and Bhaktin Ishwary

Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Gita Govinda Devi Dasi

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Your Holiness.

On this most auspicious day of your appearance, I would like to offer my humble prayers for your good health and safety.

This year has brought many upheavals and changes to our lives. This COVID 19 pandemic has changed everyone's day to day life. It is scary and makes me realise how precious the gift of Krishna Consciousness is. As material interactions, possessions and the things that we tend to take shelter of fall away, I realise the increased necessity to turn inwards. It is only through dependence on the mercy of Srila Prabhupada and Krishna that we are going to survive this.

This year has also seen HH Bhakti Caru Swami leaving his body. As I see my friends and fellow devotees feeling separation from their Guru Maharaja, It makes me appreciate you more and more. I know that it is inevitable that Srila Prabhupada's sons will return to him it emphasises to me that I should treasure you more and more.

Now that we cannot even visit the temple, attend and host festivals I realise how I was taking these activities for granted. Not being able to take darshan of Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari and not being able to perform service at the temple is painful.

I am grateful for whatever service I can do at home. On this day I sincerely pray that you I will remain in your shelter and that I will increase my faith and devotion to you, Srila Prabhupada and Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari.

Your grateful and indebted daughter,

Gita Govinda devi dasi

Lenasia, South Africa

Gokulesvari dasi

*namo om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale srimate bhakti caitanya
svamin it namine*

*namo om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale srimate bhaktivedanta-
svamin iti namine*

Hare Krishna dearest Gurudev, Please accept my humble obeisance's all glories to Srila Prabhupada, all glories to your divine grace.

On this most auspicious occasion, of your Vyasa puja, I want to wish you a very happy birthday 🎂 good health and strength.

Thank you, Gurudev for the most loving association we get every day, it's wonderful with so much mercy it's most amazing absolute spiritually encouraging and heartwarming.

Your outstanding mood of devotion and service, taking care of us in this way spiritually is very gratifying.

Gurudev even though we had gone through a very painful experience with the passing of HH Bhakti Charu swami the emotions were high and no so easy to deal with you taught us that Krishna's service must continue when it was time for Japa and class you were fixed in service but we knew you were in pain of losing you brother, lessons learned.

Your compassion and loving care you take for each and every one.

During Japa greeting individually with a Haribol so happy to see the devotees gathering even though we are in different parts of the world so far yet so near I'm deeply touched with emotion at this heartwarming exchanges lessons learned.

Thank you, Gurudev it's love for Krishna and his devotees.

Srila Prabhupada took so much effort at his age to give us this loving relationship we have to pass it on until our last breath this is the most important duty we have to carry out this lifetime.

I am very happy knowing that every day morning and evening that I'll be chanting and associating with Gurudev and all Krishna's sincere devotees

I'm sincerely glad with our daily program and classes it's very informative yet sensational

We miss our Harinam and book distribution programs.



Vyasa Puja 2020

The situation with the virus is quite harsh and straining to people all over the world but as devotees, we are very fortunate to have our Krishna consciousness philosophy.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada Mercy

Thank you Gurudev for coming to South Africa it's only by your causeless mercy that I'm a part of Lord Caitanya's sankirtan movement.

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

Your humble servant always,

Gokulesvari dasi

Haridas, Hari Priya, Shakti and Daksha

The light of knowledge is given by the guru:

This world is smothered in darkness and ignorance, but Kṛṣṇa consciousness is transcendental to this material world. In Kṛṣṇa consciousness, there is no darkness but simply light. As one tries to discover things at night, it is readily apparent that it is a challenge; however, in the daytime, there is an ease of purpose. Sastras dictate that we consciously abandon the darkness and come to light. This light is given by the guru.

om ajñāna-timirāndhasya,

jñānāñjana-śalākayā

cakṣur unmīlitaṁ yena

tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ

“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.”

It is the guru's business to give light by knowledge. The guru has completely assimilated the Vedic essence of life. Teachings of Lord Caitanya



Vyasa Puja 2020

Dear Guru Maharaj,

The year 2020 has been a great year of realization for Daksha, Shakti, Hari Priya and I. We have encountered serious material issues that may have halted us in our tracks and eroded our faith in Guru and Lord had this been experienced a few years earlier. Thanks to Gurudev and all the devotees and the years of association with the Hare Krsna fraternity, we are impelled to dive deeper into self -realization, submission and devotional service.

The spiritual master's eternal identity and occupation:

Every living entity is eternally a servant of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya; therefore, the spiritual master cannot be other than a servant of Lord Caitanya. The spiritual master's eternal occupation is to expand the service of the Lord by training disciples in a service attitude.

Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Ādi-līlā 1.44

The disciple must inquire from the spiritual master all about the process of devotional service:

In the process of devotional service, the first step is to take shelter of the spiritual master and then in-quire from the spiritual master all about the process. This inquiry is essential for immunity to all kinds of offences on the path of devotional service. Even if one is fixed in devotional service like Mahārāja Parīkṣit, he must still inquire from the realized spiritual master all about this. Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 2.8.7

On behalf of my family, I wish you a Happy Appearance day and wish that we have your intimate association for as long as possible. Gurudev, you are special to us and we love your voice, your humour, your storytelling, your classes, your email replies, your chastisement...the list is endless. To get to the point, we LOVE YOU always.

Haridas, Hari Priya, Shakti and Daksha

Pietemaritzburg

Hari Murari Das, Nikunja Rasa Devi Dasi, Bhakta Mehul and Bhaktin Meera.

Nama Om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

Srimate bhakti Caitanya Svamin iti namine

Namami bhakti-Caitanyam Prabhupadanusevinam

Sri-Vraja-dhana-mahatmya Pradarsakam Kṛparnavam

I offer my humble obeisance's 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- Krishna).

Dearest Gurudev

Please accept our most humble and respectful obeisance's at Your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Guru Maharaja on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja.

Maharaja, You have been our only beacon of hope. Words are not enough to express our gratitude to you. We are forever indebted to Maharaja. By Your mercy, we have been given the opportunity to serve Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari, Srila Prabhupada, Gurudeva and the Vaishnava devotees. Thank You for always leading by example with your Japa and Bhagavatam classes through the various social media platforms. Maharaja's intelligence and knowledge of Vedic literature never ceases to leave us in absolute awe and serves as a consistent inspiration to us.

By Your mercy, we hope to learn, share and spread the Holy Name of the Lord. Please forgive us for all of our numerous offences and shortcomings. We are forever indebted and blessed beyond comprehension for Maharaja's constant guidance. The shelter under Maharaja's lotus feet alone can take us back home, back to Krishna.

Thank You for always granting us your loving blessings and expert guidance. We beg that you always keep us under your shelter.

Thank you for everything Gurudev.

Your most indebted, insignificant and fallen servants,

Hari Murari Das, Nikunja Rasa Devi Dasi, Bhakta Mehul and Bhaktin Meera.

Hari Vallabha Devi Dasi

*nama om visnu padaya krishna prestaya bhutale srimati bhaktivedanta
swami iti namine*

*nama om visnu padaya krishna prestaya bhutale srimati bhakti caitanya
swami iti namine*

*namami bhakti caitanyam prabhupadanusevanum sri vraja dhana
mahatma ya pradasakam kripa navam*

om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana salakaya

caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri gurave namah

Hare Krishna dear Gurudev. Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to the dust of your lotus feet.

Gurudeva I want to thank you a thousand folds for your loving dedication to us. Your selfless services by engaging us in the Japa session has helped me a lot. I have benefited from the nectar of devotion classes tremendously. It has helped me to realize the importance of accepting a spiritual master and taking instruction from him.. Gurudeva I have made many mistakes and offences along my way please forgive me.

I am truly blessed by having your constant association daily. When I used to read the Bhagavad Gita I always desired that my spiritual master would guide me through it and I am so fortunate that you are teaching us the Bhagavad Gita step by step. For that, I am forever indebted to you Gurudeva.

A very happy Vyasa puja to you dear Gurudeva. May Lord Nirshinga Deva always keep you in good health. May Sri Sri Radha Radhanath always keep me under the shelter of your lotus feet. Thank you for always showering your words of wisdom and comfort during my trying times.

Please forgive me for not expressing my appreciation clearly as I am so useless with words.

Trying to be a servant of the servant,

Hari Vallabha Devi Dasi

Isvari Kripa Devi Dasi

Hare Krishna Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All Glories to Jagad Guru, Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to your loving Divine Grace.

I wish you a very Happy Vyasa Puja. These past years have been materially tough but praying to you and keeping you at the centre of my life made me realize how causeless your mercy is.

You are in the true sense the soldier of Srila Prabhupada. During this tough time when the whole world is going through a pandemic, you made sure that our sadhana is intact. Association with devotees is so important. In spite of the challenges, you made sure that all your children get association with you and with other devotees by chanting online, giving classes and most importantly starting the Bhakti Shastri course. Srila Prabhupada multiple times in his comments, lectures and letters he emphasized the systematic studies of Shastra for preaching "I want that all of my spiritual sons and daughters inherit this title of Bhaktivedanta. One who will pass this examination will be awarded with the title of Bhaktivedanta. I want that all of my spiritual sons and daughters will inherit this title of Bhaktivedanta so that the family transcendental diploma will continue through the generations... That is my program. So we should not simply publish these books for reading by outsiders, but our students must be well versed in all of our books so that we can be prepared to defeat all opposing parties in the matter of self-realization. - Letter to: Hamsaduta, Los Angeles 3 January 1969". Srila Gurudev, during these tough times where it is easy to digress from spiritual life due to lack of association and guidance, you made sure that we all stay in the path. "Jadī nāma kinbe, bhāi āmār saṅge calo, mahājaner kāche jāi" This line by Srila Bhakti Binod Thakur perfectly describes you. You are "The Mahajan" who is distributing Krishna and His Name so freely.

This only further shows how kind and merciful you are. Coming from a place where getting any kind of service is a battle, you gave me the opportunity to serve you even though I am undeserving. Anyone coming from India will know how rare it is to get any kind of service, especially when someone in a woman's body and personally serving one's Guru is the rarest kind. You made everything possible with your causeless mercy. When first I got the opportunity to serve you, I pinched myself to make sure it was real. I couldn't sleep the whole night thinking about what I would cook, what would you like, What If I failed and I never get this



Vyasa Puja 2020

opportunity. I asked you "what would you like to eat ?" and you asked me "Can you make shukto?" Bengalis love to cook and feed and when I saw you honouring prasad I was so ecstatic. I told myself that I am supposed to cook for the pleasure of Guru Maharaj, and not for myself. But I could not contain it and I was happy. Though I failed so many times in serving you nicely but you were so tolerant of all my faults. I pray to Srimati Radharani, may all my material nights be such sleepless where I can mediate how to serve you.

Despite your ill health, you are always preaching. You show us by example how Krishna Conscious life should be, how we can serve Srila Prabhupada's mission. Even though, when you are tired and sleeping late after coming from a preaching program, you still get up early in the morning. You endure so much pain by travelling constantly to give Krishna to everyone. In spite of your heavy duties as a GBC member, your preaching programs and multiple services, you learned Russian, a completely new language, so that you can preach. This shows that your compassion has no bounds.

On this day of your Vaysa Puja, I pray unto you "ekaki amara nahi paya bala, hari-nama-sankirtane, tumi krpa kari, sraddha-bindu diya. deha' krsna-nama-dhane" - Alone I do not have the ability to properly chant the Lord's Name. Mercifully give me a drop of faith and bestow upon me the wealth of Krishna's Name.

Thank you Srila Gurudev for everything.

Your servant,

Isvari Kripa Devi Dasi

Jagannath das

Dearest Gurudev, Hare Krishna

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

All glories to our Srila Prabhupada! All glories to You Gurudev and Happy Vyasa puja to You.

Gurudev, I, first of all, want to Thank You from the bottom of my heart for all the ways You have positively affected my life. Purely due to Your mercy, I have had many wonderful opportunities that I am not worthy of, which I am extremely grateful for. Only with Your blessings was I able to grow up in Shri Mayapur Dham an experience such a bliss full Krishna Conscious way of life. I am forever indebted to You dear Gurudev.

You have once again showered Your mercy upon me by guiding me in how to proceed with the next chapter in my life. I remember around this time last year my mom and I were struggling to find a suitable university for me to complete my education, and it was not working out. After receiving Your guidance and mercy, everything fell into place. My mom got a job and I got into a recognised tertiary institute. This was only possible by Your mercy and prayers, dear Gurudev.

Dear Gurudev, on this auspicious day of Your Vyasa puja I humbly beg for Your blessings that I continue to serve Lord Krishna and His devotees eternally and remain under the shelter of Your lotus feet. I pray that someday I will be able to serve Your lotus feet with all my dedication.

Your humble servant and aspiring disciple,

Jagannath das

Jagannatha Caran Das & Devahuti Devi Dasi

Dearest Gurudev,

Please Accept Our Most Humble Obeisances At The Dust Of Your Lotus Feet.

All Glories To Srila Prabhupada.

We would like to take this opportunity on this most glorious day to wish Maharaj a very happy Vyasa puja, thank you for always being our guiding light. Our heartfelt prayers to Srila Prabhupada & Krishna to always keep Gurudev in the best of health.

This pandemic has brought about a lot of uncertainty and distress in our lives but with Gurudev's mercy and association via the different social media platforms, we gained stability in our devotional life. We have truly appreciated and relished this nectar we have received during the lockdown period.

These daily Japa sessions are really inspiring us to chant more attentively in a deep meditative mood, while the seminars are very instructive and nectarian to the soul. Gurudev you work so hard and tirelessly to prepare these classes and seminar for our spiritual benefit, we are forever grateful for this. You have taught us by example thru the continuous efforts you put in to improve the sound and video quality of the seminars that we should also never be complacent in our devotional services and always try to do better.

Your inspiration and love keeps us going on in Krishna Consciousness, Thank you Gurudev for always showering your mercy upon us.

Your insignificant servants,

Jagannatha Caran Das & Devahuti Devi Dasi

Jagannatha Priya das

My Dearest Guru Maharaja

nama om vishnu pādāya kṛṣṇa-presthāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhakti caitanya svāmin iti nāmine

nama om vishnu pādāya kṛṣṇa presthāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhaktivedānta svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vūnī-pracūrīne

nirviśesa-sūnyavādī-pāścātya-deśa-tārīne

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet, on this sacred occasion of your Vyasa Puja. All glories to you Maharaja. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. I beg for forgiveness for any offences that I may have committed to you and any other devotee.

Another year has passed and I begin to pay homage to Your Holiness. Words fail me again. I am still spiritually immature, full of offences and unworthy of your association. Yet how fortunate am I that I am blessed to get your divine association and mercy whenever you give me the opportunity to rest at your lotus feet. Just a little glance or mention of my name from you enlivens me to move forward serve you better. It was way back in 1995 that I had the most wonderful opportunity of getting your association for the first time at a school in Lenasia. Here was I trying to lead others onto a righteous path when I myself had no idea where I was going to. Today I am so elated that you are my spiritual master, leader and guide. I just have to follow you and your instructions. Even this task of just following you sometimes becomes difficult.

Covid-19 has brought its own challenges, temples being closed to us, lockdown and staying at home. Yet again, Maharaja has come to our rescue with daily japa sessions and most uplifting spiritual discourses.

I thank Maharaja once again for being merciful toward me and giving me a new life at your lotus feet. I pray that I may always remember your instructions and engage fully in serving your lotus feet.

On this sacred day I beg that you may always keep me engaged in your service.

Your insignificant servant,

Jagannatha Priya das

Jagannathesvari Devi Dasi

mukam karoti vachalam

pangum langhayate girim

yat-kripa tam aham vande

shri-gurum dina-taranam

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

My dear father,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your Divine Grace. I want to wish you a wonderful birthday on this auspicious occasion.

While reflecting on the meaning of the word 'gratitude', I always come up with a different conclusion each time. It makes me wonder, how can a child be grateful to everything their parents have done for them? How can this unlimited debt be paid? Similarly, I cannot think about how to repay you, for sowing the bhakti lata bija in my heart. The sastras sing of the glories of the spiritual master throughout the 3 worlds and only by the mercy of a spiritual master can one make advancement. Only by your mercy is this dumb daughter of yours trying to be Krsna conscious.

I want to thank you for being there in every part of my life. You have tolerated me as a silly, stubborn child who would speak to you for hours and yet, you would attentively listen and give me your blessings. You have seen me grow into a rascal teenager, then into a young adult, then becoming a married woman and now a mother-to-be (or perhaps a mother already!). You have always guided me so kindly, never judged me and always had the right thing to say to empower me and make me strong. This reflects on your humility and your kindness. The Bhagavad Gita describes how "The humble sages, by virtue of true knowledge, see with equal vision a learned and gentle brāhmaṇa, a cow, an elephant, a dog and a dog-eater [outcaste]". Similarly, you have always supported this insignificant daughter of yours. I admire how you always have something nice to say to everyone, the way you care about all your disciples and well-wishers. Your kindness is unlimited and I pray that one day, I will be able to follow in your footsteps.

This year, I was excited about your visit to Newcastle and I kept on thinking about how amazing it would be for me and my unborn baby to



Vyasa Puja 2020

serve you. I had already made so many plans. I know you said that the only complaint you have when you visit here is that there is too much prasadam! However, I could not help myself, so I was planning and practicing new dishes that I could make for you. When I heard about the lockdown, I was extremely disappointed and felt so much separation from you. I was convinced that I was the unluckiest person in the world as I would not be able to serve you, little did I know that the world pandemic was a blessing in disguise. Through this strange situation, we were blessed with your association on a daily basis. Chanting with you, listening to the beautiful pastimes of the Lord. Throughout the past few months, I have learned how close you are to your Godbrothers and how much you care about your spiritual nieces and nephews. You are a true 'Prabhupada man' and selflessly serve others. Your actions reflect your love for your beloved spiritual master. Srila Prabhupada once mentioned that 'Your love for me will be shown by how much you cooperate to keep this institution together after I am gone' and this is what you are teaching us.

You recently mentioned while giving a zoom class for ISKCON Newcastle that the relationship of the spiritual master and disciple continues birth after birth, cakshu-dan dilo jei, janme janme prabhu sei. I have heard you mention the same point in other classes before and I wanted to tell you that I would like to serve you birth after birth, even if I am born as an insignificant worm, I will try my best to please you eternally. I have written a song for you to show my gratitude to you (I will also email you the recording, in case I cannot attend your virtual Vyasa Puja ceremony).

I was born in the darkest ignorance

You opened my eyes

With the torch of knowledge

You have lifted me

From this turmoil of suffering

And have bestowed me

With the bhakti lata bija



Vyasa Puja 2020

Birth after birth

You've looked after me

You've watched out for me

Selflessly

Life after life

You've saved me again

From this ocean of misery

Gurudev

I want to thank you

For everything you have done for me

Gurudev

I want you to know

I'm eternally grateful

For everything you've done

Your most insignificant daughter,

Jagannathesvari Devi Dasi

Jai Radhika Devi Dasi

Dear Father,

Please accept my respectful obeisance. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev.

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for accepting me as your disciple and always knowing my heart and what is best for my spiritual advancement even when I don't know it or understand it. I have realised over the years that every breath I take is only so that I can serve you and hope to serve you eternally. Every year the Lord finds new ways to grant me mercy in the disguise of challenges in the material world which always seems to turn the material world upside down but each year I have gotten used to the fact that a silver lining in the form of real mercy always lies at the end. This poem that I wrote inspired by May Angelo is my offering to you on your auspicious Vyasa Pooja 2020.

The materialist wonder where my secret lies.

I'm not their typical ruthless woman nor am I built to suit the ideal stature to of illusioned strength of this world.

But when I start to tell them,

They think I'm telling lies

I say,

It's in his merciful servant's strength that carries me

The span of his servant's wisdom

The stride of his servant's Dance

The sound of his servant's song

I'm a spirit soul

Phenomenally.

Phenomenally the servant of the servant


That's me.

I walk into a room

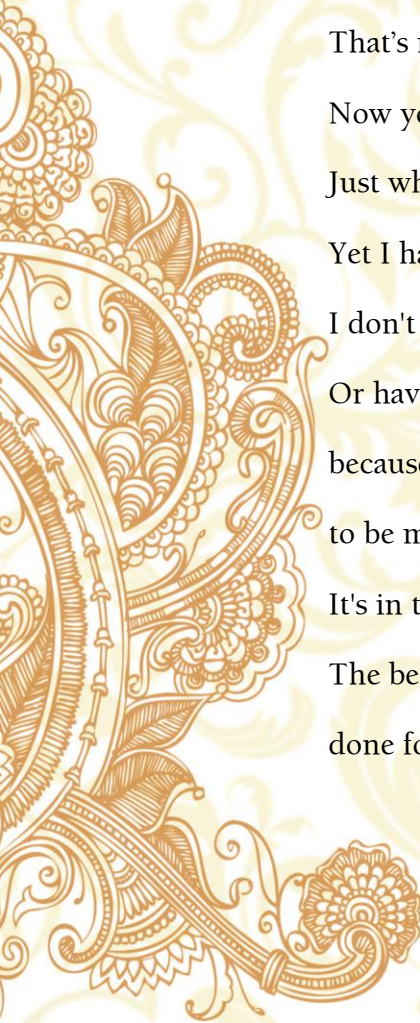
Just as cool as you please,



Vyasa Puja 2020



And screaming out the mantra of my soul
kept silent in the black heart of this Fallen soul for many lifetimes
brought to its surface by his servant's mercy
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.
And they wonder what is my secret
I say,
It's the fire of my lord's servants vision for me
And the power of his flashes of mercy
The compassion of his pure heart
And the joy in the maha-mantra that he dispenses.
I'm a spirit soul
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal servant of the servant
That's me.
Now you understand
Just why my head's always bowed
Yet I have a blazing fire of strength that you cannot break
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
because your mercy gives me the strength
to be me
It's in the beauty of my Tilak
The beauty of sari
done for the pleasure





Vyasa Puja 2020

Of my lord's servant

'Cause I'm a spirit soul

Phenomenally.

Phenomenal servant of the servant

That's me.

Eternal servant of Bhakti Caitanya Swami.

Your servant,

Your daughter,

Jai Radhika Devi Dasi

Jayadeva dasa

Hare Krsna Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to you on your auspicious Vyasa Puja day.

To have a spiritual master is a great benediction, an opportunity that comes after millions of years. By the mercy of Guru, as a disciple I am able to revive my relationship with the Lord again after hovering for a long time in the material world, as Srila Sridhara Swami is quoted in the Bhagavatam 11.87.33, "O transcendently blissful guru, when my mind finally achieves a place at your lotus feet, all the tiresome labour of my spiritual practices will be finished, and by your mercy I will experience the greatest happiness." So by the grace of Guru, confusion and doubts are destroyed because from Guru one gains transcendental knowledge. Therefore Guru Maharaja, the mercy you bestow upon us (disciples), is unimaginable.

Vyasa Puja is thus a special and auspicious day, a day in which we solidify our relationship with our spiritual master and reflect on the importance of following his orders. It is a day on which, we disciples get the opportunity to show gratitude to our spiritual master for all the blessings and guidance we gain from him.

Another notable point is that Guru Maharaja has sacrificed his life for the benefit of many people all over the world. This is the highest level of



Vyasa Puja 2020

preaching and it is a difficult task. There are two important verses spoken by Krsna to Arjuna in the Bhagavad-gita (18.68-69). Firstly he says, “For one who explains this supreme secret to the devotees, pure devotional service is guaranteed, and at the end, he will come back to me”, then he goes on to say “there is no servant in this world more dear to me than he, nor will there ever be one more dear”. In the purport of one of the above-quoted verses (18.68), Srila Prabhupada makes a wonderful statement that a devotee who preaches the message of the Lord as it is, will advance in devotional service and attain the stage of pure devotional service.

In this way, I am pleased to see that Guru Maharaja is firmly situated in Krsna consciousness and thus being very dear to the Lord. I am grateful that I have come in contact with you and have taken shelter at your lotus feet. You are always an inspiration not only to us disciples but also many other devotees.

This is my humble offering to Guru Maharaja. Please bestow mercy upon me so that I can remain forever under your protection. Please bless me that I may be able to please you. Hare Krsna.

Your servant,

Jayadeva dasa

Jay Jagannath Das

My dear Guru Maharaj,

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

I wish you a very happy Vyasa Puja. May Sri Krsna keep you in good health and gift you a long life so that we could keep on receiving your teachings in order to keep on progressing on the path of spirituality. Unfortunately this year, we will not be able to travel and be present for your Vyasa Puja due to the coronavirus, however, Sri Krsna gave us other means of communications, such as Facebook or Instagram, in order to still be in contact with you. I would like to thank you, Guru Maharaj, for the mercy and compassion that you granted us through your Japa sessions and your various classes. It motivates me greatly to go further on the spiritual path.

Haribol.

Your servant,

Jay Jagannath Das

Kaishori Devi Dasi

Hare Krishna Dearest Guru Maharaja

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

Guru Maharaja, this year, I have really a lot to be grateful and thankful for. I am truly indebted to Your Divine Grace.

You give us Your kind and generous association through Your causeless Mercy. The Japa sessions are what gets me out of bed quicker, even during the Gauteng cold winter mornings. Knowing I can switch on the tv and chant Japa with my Gurudev is very inspiring. I am grateful for this. It makes all the difference to the materialistic working day ahead.

Your morning classes are superb and so well explained, even I can follow.

Gurudev, Your evening classes are just perfect and like a dream come true. Previously, when we would attend Guru Maharaja's class at a program, it was like a total distressing experience and helped me forget about the day which I just had. I can focus on Your class and have a spiritual experience and be with the wonderful devotees. Now, we get that opportunity daily. I do miss the association of the devotees a lot during this lockdown and I miss Darshan of Their Lordships and of You, Srila Gurudev.

You give us fallen souls, all Your time even in preparing for the classes. I cannot imagine what has to happen in the background and you do all this just out of Your Mercy. I always admire Your intelligence and I cannot relate to how You can remember and quote from so many books and sources. This is beyond my understanding, including all Your technical knowledge and equipment involved and to so seamlessly be managed. You have so many more important duties and meetings and correspondence to also attend to daily. Yet, You still make time for us. It is amazing how you spend all your time in the service of Srimati Radharani, Lord Krishna and Srila Prabhupada.

You don't let Your health slow you down. I feel really sad that You have that difficulty. It feels unfair because You are such a perfect and pure devotee.

Thank You, Guru Maharaja, for Your support and guidance earlier this year when I lost my family members. I really appreciate and treasure Your kind messages.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Gurudev, I beg for Your Mercy on this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja. I also beg for Your blessings to help me chant my rounds more attentively. Then, maybe Krishna will want to take me back to Godhead.

Haribol

Your most insignificant daughter,

Kaishori Devi Dasi

Gauteng, South Africa

Kama Gayatri devi dasi

My dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my obeisances unto Your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Guru Maharaja, on the occasion of Your Vyasa puja day I would like to thank You for Your constant attempt to help conditioned souls to come closer to Krishna. In this age of Kali, sense enjoyment is propagated to be the goal of life. People are heading towards degradation very fast. It takes so much courage and dedication to try to save the fallen souls like myself. You are a true follower of Srila Prabhupada and undoubtedly very dear to Krishna.

As time passes I can see that being a spiritual master is such a hard task and I am grateful to You for being my spiritual master. Every day I constantly remember You and Your instructions. Please forgive me for not following them perfectly. I am really trying.

Thank You for Your patience. You are always very kind to me. Thank You for the opportunity to serve Your lotus feet.

Your servant,

Kama Gayatri devi dasi

Helsinki

Karunamayī Devī Dasi

Dearest Srīla Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Srīla Prabhupada.

All glories to your divine lotus feet.

This has been a difficult year for all of us. This whole corona situation has turned our lives upside down. I know this is ultimately Krishna pushing us to surrender more and give up our material attachments.

Just prior to hearing news about Bhakti Charu Maharaj, I also was going through my own challenge with the big Corona. Talking about leaving your family and realizing that is totally different! Indeed, on one hand, I was not ready to leave but on the other hand, I wished that I could have swapped places with Maharaj. Losing Bhakti Charu Maharaj has been an eye-opening and soul-shattering experience. His passing has made me reflect and I have come to the realization that I am very attached to your personal association and I do not want to think of ever not having that. The fear of not being able to serve you and not having your guidance, love and support is something that is unbearable.

In the purport of Srimad Bhagavatam,

Canto 4-Chapter 28, the disappearance of the spiritual master and how the disciple should serve even in separation is discussed. Prabhupada explains that

the disciple and the spiritual master are never separated because the spiritual master always keeps company with the disciple as long as the disciple follows strictly the instructions of the spiritual master. This is called the association of vani (words). Physical presence is called vapu. As long as the spiritual master is physically present, the disciple should serve the physical body of the spiritual master, and when the spiritual master is no longer physically existing, the disciple should serve the instructions of the spiritual master.

The instruction—“As long as the spiritual master is physically present, the disciple should serve the physical body of the spiritual master, and when the spiritual master is no longer physically existing, the disciple should serve the instructions of the spiritual master” seems simple enough, but like almost all of Srīla Prabhupāda’s instructions, to follow it properly requires deep faith, surrender, and realization. Srīla Gurudeva I don’t have any of these qualities. I am really attached to your Vapu, Srīla



Vyasa Puja 2020

Gurudeva and beg you to allow us to serve you physically for as long as possible. We all need you here with us.

Serving in separation, serving without the association of the devotees and without having darshan of the lord has been emotionally draining. Not seeing family does not bother me but not having sadhu sanga is so much harder.

All this makes me realize how neophyte I am. I constantly rely on physical association, and this is a big anartha of mine. You have made all of this a lot more bearable by taking so much of your time to give class so often and we are especially fortunate that you have agreed to conduct the online Bhakti Sastri program. We get to hear and see you more often than we previously could and I think that somehow we need to continue live streaming your classes wherever you may go. I know how much of your time and effort it takes to plan this and most people will not take on such a mammoth task. I am not surprised though as your dedication to preaching and sankirtana is unwavering even when they are physical barriers to your preaching. You have thought of this novel way to address this and continue spreading the holy name, inspiring thousands to read and study Srila Prabhupada's books seriously. I know despite your health challenges you still soldier on and I'm sure Prabhupada is smiling knowing that he has you in his army.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyasa Puja, I wish you a happy birthday Gurudeva and pray for you to be able to celebrate many more with us.

I pray someday to have the dedication and intelligence to carry out Srila Prabhupada's and your instructions. I pray that someday you will be proud to say "Yes she is my disciple and I am pleased with her".

Thank you Gurudev for all your love and care, for tolerating this fallen soul, for giving me shelter and accepting me despite my faults as your daughter.

Your fallen daughter,
Karunamayi Devi Dasi
Hillcrest, South Africa

Kasturi Manjari Devi Dasi

Dearest Srila Gurudev

Please accept my humble obeisances at your most glorious lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your divine self. All glories to vaisnava sanga.

Wishing you a very happy appearance day. First of all I would like to sincerely thank you so much for accepting this most insignificant soul under the shelter of your most glorious lotus feet. I strongly believe that your blessings are safeguarding me and my spiritual life as well as my material life. Another year has passed in my krsna consciousness life. When i look back and reflect on my life before krsna consciousness, i realise how fortunate I am to be in your association and in krsna consciousness movement. I am very grateful for the spiritual treasures you have given me such as increased taste for reading Srila Prabhupada's books, associating with devotees and taste for chanting. Your mercy and belief upon me gives me the inspiration to serve you and Srila Prabhupada to the best of my ability.

In CC Madhya Lila 22.54 it is said:

sadhu sanga sadhu sanga sarva sastre kaya

lava matra sadhu sange sarva siddhi haya

The verdict of all revealed scriptures is that by even a moment's association with pure devotee one can attain all success.

This is absolutely something that I am realising now in my life. I feel so fortunate to have your most valuable association every day and because of which I can see how my consciousness is aspiring to change for better. I am making every sincere effort to be your good servant. Your mercy and compassion have changed even my material circumstances making it more favourable for me to practise Krsna consciousness nicely.

The intense love you have for Srila Prabhupada and your service attitude towards Srila Prabhupada is what I meditate upon every minute to achieve for you. My eyes were filled with tears when you first spoke to me about doing the online preaching for your Facebook page. I feel so unqualified yet you have shown so much faith upon me. I am eternally indebted to you. Srila Gurudev I only have your mercy to depend upon for my spiritual journey. You have proven to me time and again how the spiritual master understands the disciple's mind and heart. You have understood me so deeply that most times you would just talk my mind. Everything about you truly amazes me. I remember listening to one of



Vyasa Puja 2020

your lecture where you mentioned that Krsna doesn't even know his own qualities as they keep increasing. I feel the same for you.

Srila Gurudev I am simply a beggar who has nothing but your mercy.

On this auspicious day, I beg at your lotus feet for giving me shelter at your lotus feet birth after birth. My only desire is to serve you sincerely with love and devotion.

Praying for your healthy life so you can inspire more and more unqualified souls like me. Please forgive me for all my shortcomings.

Koti koti dhanyawad aapke charan kamalo mein Srila Gurudev. Thank for mercifully teaching few Russian words to me.

HH Bhakti caitanya swami maharaj ki jai!!!

Srila Prabhupada ki jai!!!

Srila Gurudev's vyasa puja maha mahotsav ki jai!!!

Aspiring to be your servant eternally,

Kasturi Manjari Devi Dasi

Kishori Radhe Devi Dasi

4000 SUITCASES...

As I stood next in line to board the coolest cruise ship,

A suitcase of mine slowly starts to slip.

The 40 other passengers stop to stare

Seeing my 4000 suitcases,

They give me an ominous glare

'Show me your Crewship visa!' asked the captain Maya,

Controller of this ocean yet she is also fire.

She glanced at me again then shouted with laughter:

"You! You're back so quick I just can't believe, you're here again to travel on my ocean of misery.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Won't you tell me how's the Yamadutas doing? And what's Lord Yamaraj's new tricks?"

I told her all about Lord Yamaraj's new colour-coded game, called the "Colours of flame"

Where you have to be **bruised blue** to bathe in the **blue sea**,

And roasted **red** to live in the **red room** with **red air**.

Astonished, Maya praised me as if I was a champion,

For being through hell yet continuing my restless rebellion.

For placing implicit faith in her and the deep blue sea,

For abandoning prayer to invite an infinite grief.

In a sympathetic tone she then enquired:

"4000 suitcases? My child by now, you should've retired!"

Like a sluggish snail carrying his heavy home,

I carried this luggage load all alone.

Countless times had I tried to renounce the outer shell,

But each time it cracked, a new one grew,

I was forced to compel.

Like a terrorist contemplating suicide,

Each suitcase nurtured a bomb ticking to explode,

Strapped by my own weapon I suffocate to suffer,

I try to escape the toughness, but life only gets tougher.

In tears, I stop and exhale,

lost, but I attempt to pray.

Crying incessantly with a soft and sincere Plea,

This time I wished wholeheartedly

That someone surely comes to save me.



Vyasa Puja 2020

To my surprise, a divine intervention,

A locksmith appeared to save me from my critical condition.

With Lotus hands as soft as rose petals,

He took out his master key, and opened a suitcase

In the first suitcase I saw a life full of sin, I saw every scene and exactly how Karma became a baggage shackled to me.

With eyes full of sadness, he looked down on me and in a deep, trembling voice he Began to speak:

"I love you my child and there is good in your heart. You asked for my help today because you were falling apart. It saddens me to watch you live your life this way. If only you would have called upon me more often, you would have seen better days".

Helpless, I cried even louder and this time I held tightly onto His Lotus feet.

In that moment I accepted all responsibility for my lifetimes of sins,

Yet also so fearful to face the futures pending punishments.

In that moment, Srila Gurudev, you so mercifully took out your master key again, and at that time of initiation, you opened all 4000 suitcases.

I heard the sound of shrewd demons cry,

as thousands and thousands of my old bodily forms began to rise,

A whirlwind came and took the baggage away in thin air.

By the mercy of your lotus feet,

for the first time my hands were free and bare.

Then you mercifully glanced at me and said: **"My child, your 4000 suitcases have now disappeared, you just carry this one Japa bead bag and need not have any more fear."**

Srila Gurudev, I am certain that there is nothing pious I could have performed in my many past lives.

It is by your unconditional compassion that I am just making it to survive.

Although I belong in the lowest region of hell,



Vyasa Puja 2020

Knowing this still Srila Gurudev you appear repeatedly to help.

I cry relentlessly but still I am unable to comprehend,

For lifetimes I have only been my own enemy but still you extend your
Lotus hand to become my dear most friend.

My life was so difficult with the load I had,

The 4000 suitcases of karma I dreadfully dragged,

The countless diseases I have to endure,

Until I become more and more mature.

This material energy is so insurmountable,

That only by surrendering unto Your Lotus feet does one become capable.

In this darkening nightmare, your unconditional mercy is as peaceful as
the moonlight,

Srila Gurudev, your boat offers eternal protection,

To travel on Mayas cruise ship now who shall make such a daring
decision?

Beneath this boat I can hear the roaring of the oceans storm,

But with your divine direction, you point out to the breaking of dawn.

And this illusory shadow slowly dissipates.

Surrendering at the shelter of your Lotus feet I have complete faith.

All Glories unto the Divine Srimad Bhagavatam

All Glories unto Bhakti Caitanya Swami

All Glories unto his Divine Grace A. C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Your servant,

Kishori Radhe Devi Dasi

Lalita Gopal Devi Dasi

To my Dearest Father,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet, on this most glorious occasion of Your Vyasa Puja.

All Glories to Their Lordships Sri Sri Jagannath Baladev and Subhadra Maharani

All Glories to Their Lordships Sri Sri Nitai Gaurasundara

All Glories to Srila Prabhupad

All Glories to You

Srila Gurudev, the words Thank you simply does not have enough potency to express the love, appreciation and gratitude I have towards you.

With our current situation in this material world, being prisoners in our own homes, with no contact beyond the boundaries of the walls that surround our home, many were losing their minds. Some were bored, some were slowly slipping into depression having their freedom taken away from them. Through all this mayhem, I never, not for a minute, of the hour, of the day, had I felt any of those emotions, and it was all because of You. With your online Japa sessions that you chanted so eloquently and the discourses that You rendered so transcendently, You gave us something to look forward to, something to get excited about, a total opposite feeling to what the entire world was experiencing. I keep telling myself, this is Krishna consciousness. This is what our previous Acharyas and Srila Prabhupad brought for us all. This is eternal bliss. You have allowed me the good fortune to experience this, in the most scariest of times, amongst a global pandemic. You have so much potency that you have allowed me to keep sane in this insane world. And not just sane, but happy and joyful to be in Your association. You truly are my saviour Gurudev.

Srila Prabhupad once said in an interview ' " Yes I am the messiah, the saviour of the people" not because God sent me, but because " my spiritual master sent me to do this"

Thank you Srila Prabhupad for sending my Gurudev.

By the mercy of Srila Prabhupad, I have you in my life and by the mercy of Lord Krishna, I pray never to lose You.



Vyasa Puja 2020

This most unworthy servant of your servant, of your servant, bows down to your lotus feet over and over again.

I Love You Srila Gurudev

Your undeserving daughter,

Lalita Gopal Devi Dasi

New Jagannath Puri, Durban, Phoenix

Lila Vrindavana Devi Dasi

nama om visnu-padaya krisna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti caitanya-svamin iti namine

namami bhakti-caitanyam prabhupadanusevinam

sri-vraja-dhana-mahatmya-pradarsakam krparnavam

My dear Guru Maharaj,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet and my congratulations on the occasion of your appearance in this world.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to you, dearest Gurudev.

Every time when we chant Mangala Carana we pray to the spiritual master who mercifully opened our darkened eyes with the light of the transcendental knowledge. By your mercy, dear Guru Maharaj, I just begin to understand what it means. The conditioned souls are born in full ignorance which becomes manifest in their conception of being eternal bodies. A child does not believe that he will die. A teenager starts noticing death around but thinks that it's something unnatural. A young adult is sure that it may happen to others but definitely not to him. A middle-aged person has already some doubts in him being eternal. An old man doesn't want to think about what finally seems very inevitable. In this way, they waste their lives in complete ignorance which is so deep-rooted that even common sense doesn't appeal to them. But the mercy of the spiritual master, who is sent to them directly by Lord Krishna, they are able to open their eyes and understand the temporary nature of this world. During one of your online classes, I was shaken by your words when you looked at Sri Sri Radha Radhanath and said that what we see on the altar is much more real than it seems to us. When we finally wake up to realize how little time is left for us in these bodies, it makes us

Vyasa Puja 2020

desire to shape our life in such a way that we can return to that beautiful eternal reality. Thank you for the wake-up calls, dear Guru Maharaj. Thank you for making the spiritual world look so real.

While the whole world is in the state of a total confusion, we have a chance to become closer to you and the spiritual reality. You are the most munificent as you don't spare yourself but give us so much of your association. I feel so close to you as I have never felt before although I didn't see you for so long. I keep praying to Krishna that He allows you to be with us, that your health improves and you will be able to travel if you want to. I am praying to you to always remain with me at every moment of my existence in my thoughts, words and actions. Please forgive my mistakes. Please keep me at the shelter of your lotus feet and give me enough intelligence to understand how to make you happy with my service.

My obeisances to you, again and again, dearest Guru Maharaj.

Your servant and daughter,

Lila Vrindavana dd

Mayapur

Lokanath das

*nama om visnu padaya krsna prestaya bu tale srimate bhakti caitanya
swamin iti namine*

*namami bhakti caitanyam prabhupada anu sevinam sri vraja dhana
mahatmya pradarshakam kriparnavam*

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your transcendental service at his lotus feet. All glories to you dear Guru Maharaja.

In this time of lockdown, you have shown us that you are dependable no matter what may come our way. As soon as the lockdown started, you started the classes and Japa programs. It was very difficult for me to deal with the lockdown initially in terms of my freedom being taken away and your association was an immediate safety net for me. The timing was also perfect in the sense that I was able to give you my attention under the circumstances. In fact, this program that you started at the beginning of lockdown uplifted my spiritual life immensely, to a higher place than I had been before the lockdown. This is your transcendental expertise in



Vyasa Puja 2020

propagating Krsna consciousness and caring for your disciples and the devotees in general, to benefit us and serve the devotees and help us all come closer to Krsna.

As Srila Narothona das Thakur sings; vede gay jahara carito, “the vedic scriptures sing of the character of the spiritual master”. Your character is glorious Guru Maharaja.

I get very distracted and disturbed by material circumstances but you are fixed in serving Srila Prabhupada and Krsna under all circumstances. You are my “rock”. Your association is a blessing. Your instructions are infallible.

Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu says in Sikshastakam 3: Kirtaniyah sada harih: “In a humble state of mind one can chant the holy name of the Lord constantly”

When I was trying to understand how to be humble constantly you explained that humility means to do one's duty, one's service without reservation, without hesitation. One needs to serve constantly and so I aspire to remember you constantly because I can only serve Krsna and His devotees by serving you. Please bless me that the quality of my service can be enthusiastic, selfless, confident, full of certainty and resolve.

Srila Prabhupada says in the purport to CC Adi Lila 1.35 “The service of the spiritual master is essential. If there is no chance to serve the spiritual master directly, a devotee should serve him by remembering his instructions. There is no difference between the spiritual masters' instructions and the spiritual master himself. In his absence, therefore, his words of direction should be the pride of the disciple.”

Srila Vishvanath Chakravarty Thakur says “My spiritual master's instructions are my sadhana and my life in the beginning stages of bhakti as well as in bhakti's perfectional stage”

On this auspicious occasion, I pray that I may remember you within my heart always, throughout the day. I pray that I come to the point where all the activities in my life are service to you. That I do no other activities. I aspire to have the presence of mind and Krsna consciousness to see you in every area of my life, in everything I do.

Srila Narothona das Thakur sings about the relationship with the spiritual master:

sri guru-carane rati, ei se uttama-gati

“Attachment to his lotus feet is the perfection that fulfills all desires.”



Vyasa Puja 2020

As His Holiness Bhakti Charu Maharaja would often say: “give this one life to Kṛṣṇa”. I pray that I can do this by your mercy and for your pleasure.

Your humble eternal servant,

Lokanath das

Johannesburg, South Africa

Madan Gopal Das.

Dear Guru Maharaj,

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

In the last few months, we received the news of the illness that your body was diagnosed with. Not long after that, we had the wonderful benefit of being able to see you on Facebook doing Japa and giving classes during the worldwide lockdown. I was amazed to see, however, that you were your same jolly self despite the material circumstances. It made me realize that your usual happy disposition that I witness in hearing your lectures, or in having served you in person when I was a Brahmachari, was due to your being Krishna conscious and was not dependent on your material circumstances. I realized that you are a living example of Krishna’s statement in the 18th chapter of Bhagavad-Gita, where Krishna states:

Brahma-bhūtaḥ prasannātmā

na śocati na kāṅkṣati

samaḥ sarveṣu bhūteṣu

mad-bhaktiṁ labhate parām

One who is thus transcendently situated at once realizes the Supreme Brahman and becomes fully joyful. He never laments or desires to have anything. He is equally disposed toward every living entity. In that state, he attains pure devotional service unto Me.

(Bg 18,54)

Of course, you are beyond even brahman realization and are situated at the lotus feet of Krishna, being constantly absorbed in pure devotional service, which is the real reason for your general state of jolliness. You thus demonstrate by your practical example, not only how to be Krishna conscious, but also what it looks like to be Krishna conscious.



Vyasa Puja 2020

This is very inspiring for all of us who are fortunate enough to be connected to you. We get spiritual strength and nourishment from hearing your lectures and having your darshan, which also purifies our otherwise contaminated vision and state of consciousness. Remembering your glorious sacrifices in devotional service, both in the past and in the present, give me both strength and inspiration in my own Krishna consciousness.

I attempt every day to follow your instructions of being steady in my practice of Krishna consciousness and trying within my means to give the process of Krishna consciousness to others. There is nothing else worth pursuing within the three worlds and I beg your strength to continue doing so and also to inspire others to do the same.

Your insignificant and unworthy servant,

Madan Gopal Das.

Madhava Mohini Devi Dasi

Dear Guru Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada, all glories to you on this auspicious day of Vyasa-puja. With great pleasure, again I got an opportunity to write in the praise of you for Vyasa-puja offering. Guru Maharaja, You gave me shelter of your lotus feet. I am not qualified to get shelter of your lotus feet but still out of causeless mercy you gave me your shelter. Because you are very dear to Lord Krishna, He has made you a recipient of His mercy and it's delivering all the conditioned souls, including myself. I am very grateful to you for your kind compassion unto this fallen soul.

Guru Maharaja, it was always difficult for me to follow the spiritual path because of my conditioned position and attachment to sense gratification, but I always pray to the Lord so that I could always follow your instructions and have your blessings so that

I could go through all the obstacles. Guru Maharaja, I am the most fallen of human being, but somehow, by my good fortune, I have received the shelter of your lotus feet.

Guru Maharaja, please give me strength and right intelligence so that I can continue in this spiritual path properly. I pray that I can try my best to take shelter of your lotus feet and other devotees.

I am so thankful to your mercy for having the possibility to serve your lotus feet and the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada, Sri-Sri Gaura Nitai, and



Vyasa Puja 2020

Sri-Sri Radha Krishna. Happily bowing down at your lotus feet I pray millions of time to be your humble servant. All glories to Your Lotus Feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Your insignificant servant,

Madhava Mohini Devi Dasi.

Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

**Madhu Govinda Dasa, Madhu Priya Devi Dasi,
Gokula Taruni Devi Dasi, Bhakta Dhiven, Goloka
Taruni Devi Dasi, Bhakta Shalen**

namo om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti caitanya-svamin iti namine

I offer my respectful obeisances unto Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami, Who is very dear to Lord Krsna on this earth, having taken shelter at His Lotus feet.

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)

O Dearest Srila Gurudeva!

O Grandsire of Transcendental Knowledge and Reservoir of the Most Munificent Benedictions!

On this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja, we would like to offer You our most humble and respectful obeisances at the dust of Your Lotus feet, along with our heartfelt thanks and some humble words of praise.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

All glories to Your Divine Grace!



Vyasa Puja 2020

If it wasn't for You, Our dearest Srila Gurudeva, we would be entangled in the cycle of birth and death and we would have missed the opportunity of associating with the dear Vaisnavas. It is only through Your grace and by Your mercy that we are able to chant the Holy Names of Sri Krsna, which is impossible for such sinful and undeserving souls like ours without Your mercy.

The Holy Names of the Lord can only be chanted successfully by all those who have exhausted all material desires, whereas we are still trapped and yet it is through Your grace alone that we are able to chant Krsna's names, which are the only means for us to be freed from such conditions of life.

We offer our respectful obeisances at Your Lotus Feet, please protect us from all our offences. We beg for shelter at Your Lotus Feet and please give us the strength, courage and protection to endeavour in Our Krsna Consciousness. We humbly pray at Your Lotus feet to bless us and permit us to move forward in our attempts to boldly glorify Srila Prabhupada and the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krsna.

Our most beloved Srila Gurudeva, on this most auspicious day of Your Divine appearance, we pray that You remain eternally blessed at the Lotus feet of Srimati Radharani and may Sri Krsna hold You dear to Him and bless You so that You may continue to spread the glories of The Holy Name wherever You go.

We beg that You humbly accept this offering as an attempt to reciprocate with Your causeless mercy. Furthermore, we beg that You kindly bless us to eradicate our ignorance that is presently covering us so that we can properly receive and follow Your instruction and try and serve at Your lotus feet with ever-increasing purity, love and devotion. You are the epicentre of our lives and Your causeless mercy is the pivotal sustaining pillar of our whole existence. We pledge to dedicate our lives, actions and activities to Sri Sri Radha-Krsna, Srila Prabhupada, to You and our Krsna Consciousness that You so mercifully gave to us. Srila Gurudev thank You for blessing us to move forward and hosting our programs in propagating the Holy Names and Srila Prabhupada's mission.

We remain eternally indebted to YOU.

We Thank YOU!

With much Love,

Your eternal and most insignificant servants,

Madhu Govinda Dasa, Madhu Priya Devi Dasi, Gokula Taruni Devi Dasi,
Bhakta Dhiven, Goloka Taruni Devi Dasi, Bhakta Shalen

Maha Laksmi Devi Dasi

Nama Om Visnu padaya Krsna presthaya bhutale

Srimate bhakti Caitanya swamin iti namine

Nama Om Visnu padaya Krsna presthaya bhutale

Srimate bhakti Vedanta swamin iti namine

Hare Krsna Dear Gurudev,

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

All glories to Srila Prabhupada

All glories, All glories to my dear Gurudev.

Koti Koti Dhandavat Pranams

Happy Birthday, My Dearest Father. Another rotation around Surya and here we are again to celebrate another joyous occasion of your appearance day.

How fortunate am I to be in your close-knit family. This is only by the mercy of our Dear Srila Prabhupada who saw me roaming in this material realm like a lost lamb. By the causeless mercy of Sri Sri Radha Govinda and Srila Prabhupada, I was directed to Your Divine Lotus Feet for guidance and knowledge.

The start of this year was most overwhelming with the onslaught of the covid 19 pandemic which forced us into total lockdown. YOU, my Dear Gurudev, the Knight in Krsna's army came to the rescue by your online Japa sessions, how I am relishing your consistent association. How lucky am I. The morning Bhagavatam classes, afternoon Japa and then the wonderful seminars and now the Nectar of Devotion classes. The Nectar does not stop. My entire family are relishing the Devine nectar flowing from your lotus mouth.

My whole day is immersed in devotional service. This was not possible during normal working days. I am forever grateful to you for all your guidance in my spiritual life.

Gurudev, You are most merciful to this insignificant fool, you have even engaged me in your service. That is something every child hopes and prays for. How can I serve my father? What can I do to please him? I have been trying so hard to better my spiritual life and being engaged in worldly affairs contaminates my mind.

Vyasa Puja 2020

During this lockdown, I have been drowning in Japa sessions which was like a disinfectant scrubbing my dirty heart and the words emanating from your lotus mouth were like the sanitizer for my consciousness which needed some deep deep cleansing.

Now my intelligence has been awakened to transcendental knowledge, and my lusty desires are being smashed. I am done servicing these desires. You, my Dearest Gurudev, is dissipating the darkness of ignorance and taking me by the hand to the Lotus Feet of Sri Sri Radha and Krsna.

I am forever indebted to You.

A very Happy Birthday My Dearest Gurudev

Lots of Love

Your humble daughter,

Maha Laksmi Devi Dasi

**Mathura Mohan das, Mathura Mohini devi dasi,
Prahlad and Jagannath**

HARE KRISHNA

Dear Srila Gurudev

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. All Glories to Guru Maharaj.

All Glories to you on this most auspicious day of your VYASAPUJA!

The blessings you have given to us is beyond comparison.

Gurudev the material world has become a very unpleasant place and looking into it we can see very much suffering, but by your divine mercy, you have lifted us up with your association. By your blessings, Gurudev, you have saved many fallen souls to become KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS. GURUDEV, you have given us the beautiful, priceless knowledge of SRI SRI RADHASHYMA SUNDARA.

Due to COVID19 for the past months, we had no chance to go to the temple and have direct association with the devotees, but Guru Maharaj make it easy for us to associate within through facebook and zoom. Gurudev without having you in our life. We would be lost and useless, with your guidance we get through this minefield of problems.



Vyasa Puja 2020

We thank you GURUDEV for engaging us in devotional service and follow on the spiritual path.

We pray beyond that we are able to wholeheartedly surrender ourselves to your lotus feet and remain there for eternity.

THANK YOU!

Your insignificant servants

Mathura Mohan das, Mathura Mohini devi dasi, Prahlad and Jagannath

Mohini Radha Devi Dasi

My dear Guru Maharaj

Please except my humble obeisances

All glories to Srila Prabhupada

All glories to you my dear Guru Maharaj

A very Happy and blessed Vyasa Puja to you.

Thank you, my dear Guru Maharaj, for all your blessings, for excepting me as your disciple. I am blessed to have your association, to be able to listen to your classes and estatic kirtan. To read your books for so much inspiration. It's thorough your blessings that I can now serve the lord directly which I am so thankful for. Your guidance and prayers have always kept me in steady service to the lorships and. Prabhupada. Thank you Guru Maharaj I am eternally grateful to you please always pray for me and bless me to honor you in every step I take as a devotee.

Your Servant and daughter

Mohini Radha Devi Dasi

Nanda Gopal and Maduriya Rasa

Dear Guru Maharaj,

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

We want to express our gratitude to you dear Gurudev, for your very determined and steady effort to preach Srila Prabhupada's mission.

How clear you must be to Krishna, your faithful service to Srila Prabhupada. You are always absorbed in your service to your spiritual master, setting such exalted examples for your disciples to follow.

Maharaj, all your chanting sessions and classes had got us all absorbed in service. Please bless us so we can chant attentively as you have instructed.

Your lovely servants,

Nanda Gopal and Maduriya Rasa

Nanda Maharaja dasa

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti caitanya-svamin iti namine

I offer my respectful obeisances unto Srila Bhakti Chaitanya Swami, who is very dear to Lord Krsna, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

namami bhakti-caitanyam prabhupadanusevinam

sri-vraja-dhana-mahatmya - pradarsakam krparnavam

I offer my humble obeisances unto Srila Bhakti Chaitanya 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 Gurumaharaja, please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and all glories to your Divine Grace on this auspicious day of your Vyasa-puja.

We are indeed grateful to the Lord for allowing us your physical presence in this world and the opportunity to associate with you, especially since the unexpected departure of HH Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaja.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Gurumaharaja we continuously petition the Lord to allow us many more years of association with you and pray for your good health.

Gurumaharaja. We are very grateful for your daily association and darshan right in our very homes through the online Japa sessions and classes that you so mercifully have blessed us with, selflessly giving us your time.

The Japa sessions have impacted significantly on my own Japa through the kind association of yourself Gurumaharaja and devotees from other parts of the world. It is like to row on a rowing boat, all rowing together in unison, easing the boat through the waters. Such has been the impact on my Japa that I complete all my rounds before I leave for work. Your online nectarean classes are on another level altogether and deepened my understanding of the Bhakti Sastri course which i did a few years ago. I shall forever treasure these classes.

One thing that has stood out for me was when you said we must learn to depend on the Lord Gurumaharaja. I have taken this to heart and can now see the Lord's hand in my daily life and all situations. Thank you for this encouragement and mercy Gurumaharaja.

During the lockdown we have been fortunate, by your mercy, to continue serving Their Lordships Sri Sri Dayal Nitai Gaura Hari in Pietermaritzburg.

Gurumaharaja in your 2010 offering to Srila Prabhupada you stated: "Your sincere followers know nobody but you. I wish to be counted as one of them in due course. Im convinced there is no higher aspiration than this, and it is foremost in my mind, despite many lifetimes of material activity in this sick material world."

You have always been a Prabhupada man, Srila Gurudeva, hundred per cent sincere Prabhupada follower.

Whatever the outcome of my life I will always consider it a great success just because of my good fortune to have come under your shelter in this lifetime, although I am so unworthy and undeserving.

I remain indebted to you Gurumaharaja.

Your insignificant servant.

Nanda Maharaja dasa

Pietermaritzburg

Nandanandini Devi Dasi

Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of Your divine lotus feet. All glories to You on this most auspicious day of Your Appearance. All glories to Your spiritual father, Srila Prabhupada!

Guru maharajah, I hope you are well and the best news this year was when I heard You were cleared of cancer. I know there are still ongoing tests to be done but I am praying You will be rid of this disease once and for all.

Guru Maharajah, when this lockdown happened I was wondering, how life is going to be especially our temple is closed and no more temple services available for us. As I was meditating on this, and coming to terms with the new normal, Guru Maharajah, You wasted no time in starting online classes, seminars and now Bhakti Shastri courses on the different social media platforms. It is so wonderful! Everyone watching Your classes are in awe of Your expertise in hi-tech, let alone the deep subject matter You teach! I can't even express how these classes are filling the void I was experiencing.

Guru Maharajah, Your seminar on the demons of Vrndavana and the anarthas they represent together with the deep Vrndavana pastimes became my daily dose of nectar. I was thinking how fortunate I am. I remember when I was little, my father used to receive magazines from Chennai and they were animated stories of Mahabarat and Ramayana. My father used to read these stories to us and sometimes on some auspicious prayer occasion, would re-enact these pastimes. I used to enjoy them very much, although I did not understand at that time that these were the Lord's pastimes.

I was reflecting how, now, so many years later, I am still listening to the Lords' pastimes, and relishing more and more. My father is no more, but my spiritual father is now teaching me through these stories. How fortunate I am to be able to listen to Your wonderful narrations, as they are so, so deep.

It is understood that Srimad Bhagavatam is like a ripened fruit and when a self-realized person passes that knowledge of the Lord it becomes more nectarean and sublime. Lord Caitanya recommended we learn from such a self-realised person. Such a person is called bhagavatam – one in relationship with the Supreme Personality of Godhead. This knowledge becomes more relishable when it passes from the mouth of such a person, a Bhagavatam.



Vyasa Puja 2020

An example is given in Nectar of Devotion of a ripe fruit that's been bitten by a parrot becomes sweeter. This is also confirmed by Sukadev Goswami, admitting that although he was liberated from being in His mother's womb, it was only after relishing Srimad Bhagavatam that he became a pure devotee. Guru Maharajah, just like Srila Prabhupada passed this to You and now You are freely giving that much-sweetened fruit to us. It now tastes so much sweeter coming from your lotus lips.

Guru Maharajah, when I hear You speak these transcendental pastimes, I am thinking of the verse from the Sri Sri Gurv-astaka: “sri radhika-madhavayor apara-madhurhuya-lila-guna-rupa-namnam, prati-ksanasvadanal-lolupasya,vande guroh sri-caranaravindam”, The spiritual master is always eager to hear and chant about the unlimited conjugal pastimes of Radhika and Madhava and Their qualities, names and forms. The spiritual master aspires to relish these at every moment. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

During this lockdown, You have been my constant association. I've been listening to the daily evening classes and the morning classes when you speak.

Guru Maharajah, as time passes by I learn more and more of Your Divine position in my life. Please accept this meagre offering at Your divine lotus. I pray that one day I can truly write to glorify You better than I'm doing now, as I know you deserve so much better than I can offer. This can be done only by Your blessings & mercy.

Your begging daughter

Nandanandini devi dasi

Nandarani devi dasi, Krishna Balarama dasa, Nitai Pada dasa and Nimai Sundara dasa

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to You. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to the devotees.

As a result of the lockdown, we found ourselves in a situation that demanded new levels of tolerance, patience, humility, forgiveness and compassion. There are many times that we resist the growth, but it is unavoidable. We have had to grow as a family, together. To this end, this year we decided to write an offering as a family. We have not done this in a while, but we were inspired to do so as an act of unity and dedication, an act that we hope will please you Gurumaharaja. It symbolizes and offers our relationships as a family in love and dedication at your lotus feet. The reason for this act is to acknowledge and declare how essential your support has been. From the beginning of our relationship, it continued through every phase of the development of our family. You have played such a role in many devotees lives. Today, we would like you to know how much it means to us, in our lives. Your personal involvement, your encouragement when we feel as though we just have had enough, your loving words to heal an unhappy heart, your objective responses when we stray into an emotional tangent and your compassionate advice when our egos start to get ahead of us.

The concept of family struck deeply, particularly during the departure of our mom, Bhaktin Angela. It happened very suddenly and took us totally by surprise. Although the relationship was born of a material affiliation, it morphed over the years into one of a spiritual connection, where her every day would be a day filled with devotional service. Covid-19 was certainly a blessing in disguise, in this regards, as it brought us together chanting Japa every day. We sat around a screen and chanted together with yourself. On the Thursday before her passing away, she asked Krishna Balarama Dasa, “what time is Japa?” This is already known because we did it everyday, but went on to say, “we have to make sure we on time chanting with Gurumaharaja.” This lightened our hearts at that point, to see how serious she was about chanting with you. Normally she would just chant her rounds on her own, sitting outside. In her last days, however, she became attached to chanting with you. We are grateful for that and we grateful that you had such a deep impact on her life and her journey in Krishna consciousness.

Another significant and heart-wrenching time, that showed us the importance of family was the passing of HH Srila Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaja. Devotees bonded together, undertaking acts of service and



Vyasa Puja 2020

prayer. A willingness to appeal to Lord Krishna and Srila Prabhupada in a united, integrated manner. We tangibly experienced the famous saying that Srila Prabhupada built a house in which the whole world can live. The disciples of Bhakti Charu Swami were constantly reminded and supported by you, of support, love and care.

Over the years, there is so much that has changed in our lives, from us being single and surrendering to you, us getting married and formulating new ways of connecting to you, having children and again adapting our services to you, and now as we mature out, again adapting to improved ways of serving you, lots of change and adaption, but you have always been that constant beacon shining guidance, love and care to us. A steady and constant guide.

Being in lockdown has been like again being full-time temple devotees. We get up in the mornings and chant with you and have a morning program. We serve the deities and Srila Prabhupada, cook and then offer. We go out and do our daily services (well, we actually stay at home), and while doing that, meditating on things you said earlier in the day or the previous night. Later in the day we again chant with you and then sit for an hour's class. We put the deities and Srila Prabhupada to rest and as a family read a chapter of Srimad Bhagavatam. It is only by your mercy. Thank you for taking time to be with us, and give us your association.

How our times of difficulty has become our treasures of eternity, thank you Srila Gurudeva.

Please always keep us as your servants, and allow us to be surrendered with humility at your lotus feet.

Your servants,

Nandarani devi dasi, Krishna Balarama dasa, Nitai Pada dasa and Nimai Sundara dasa

Namacarya dasa

Dearest Guru Maharaja

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

On this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja, I want to thank You again for accepting me as Your disciple. I feel blessed to be Your disciple although I am unworthy.

This year will be remembered in History as the year of a Pandemic which took the lives of thousands of people around the globe and a very hopeless picture for many. I had a different type of experience I found that my Krishna consciousness improved somewhat. I never had before so many Japa sessions with you and listened to Srimalad Bhagavatam lectures from Your Lotus lips. The seminars are so in-depth and professionally delivered and now I have a better understanding of Nectar of Devotion. This year for me so far has been the greatest year spiritually.

Sadly our spiritual uncle HH Bhakti Caru Swami left us all of a sudden. Although Maharaja is still around in His Vani but I still miss His darshan especially His smiling face and warm embrace. Thank you Guru Maharaja, if it was not for You we would not have this relationship.

I hope and pray that I have more of this close relationship with You so that my Krishna consciousness improves and I get closely attached to Krishna. You are my only hope to escape this material world which is full of miseries and flickering happiness.

I praying to remain eternally as a speck of dust on Your Divine Lotus Feet.

Your unworthy son

Namacarya dasa

Johannesburg

Nandaraj das

Dear Srila Gurudev

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of Your Lotus Feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to You Gurudev.

On the most auspicious occasion of Your Vyasa Puja, we are forced to celebrate this day in isolation, away from You, away from the devotees, no big program, no rocking Kirtan's, which for me, now becomes an internal celebration, a grand celebration within the heart. The heart is where Krsna resides, the same heart where Srila Prabhupada resides, the same heart where You reside and the same heart where this fallen servant of yours resides.

In my heart, I search for a place, a place called Vrindavan where Krsna resides, He is there, but I cannot see him. I follow the sound of the Holy Name for where His names are being chanted, that place is Vrindavan, but still, I cannot see Him.

He is forever present, You are forever present, but it's me who lost, who keeps on wondering, being lost in my mind and not in my heart.

I call out Krsna's name, but I can't see Him, I call out again but still, He doesn't appear. I call out 'Hare' with full conviction, appealing to Sri Radhe to allow me a glimpse of Her beloveds Lotus Feet, but still to these material eyes, He does not appear.

I turn to You Gurudev and I look at You, I see You fixed, fixed in service to Srila Prabhupada, fixed in Krsna Consciousness, I see Your steadiness, Your determination, Your love and compassion, I look at you Gurudev and i see Krsna, i see Him through You, and only by your mercy.

Lost in this heart, I found what i was searching for and I wish to remain in this place, where Krsna is visible. I pray to You Dearest Gurudev, to keep me close to you, for I know that on my own, I will always be lost. I pray to You, to engage me in transcendental loving service, and to develop Your transcendental qualities by following in Your footsteps. I pray to You, to pray for me, to become more like You and less like me.

Your fallen servant

Nandaraj das

Nayana Gopi Devi Dasi

My Dearest Father,

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

Most Happiest Birthday to you Gurudev.

I can't really fathom what I would do if i didn't have you in my life. The fundamental role you play in all the decisions i need to make on a daily basis is phenomenal on this journey.

Thank you for continuously instilling in me the values of a Vaishnavi. Your online classes have helped me and others stay above board with our vedic scriptures. I am the most fortunate soul to have you as my Gurudev in this life. I pray that i would continue to relish the pastimes of Sri Krishna from your lotus lips always.

Our relationship is one of kindred souls. May i grow to serve you better and better on this onward journey. Thank you for accepting this most fallen insignificant soul.

With Love Always

Your Fallen Servant

Nayana Gopi Devi Dasi

Nilacala Chandra Das

nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine

namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracharine

nirvishesha-shunyavadi-pashchatya-desha-tarine

I offer my respectful obeisances unto Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa on this earth, 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(Sri Sri Radha-Kṛṣṇa).



Vyasa Puja 2020

Dear Gurumaharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisance. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your vyasapuja

titiksavah karunikah

Suhrdah sarva-dehinam

ajata-satravah santah

sadhavah sadhu-bhusanah

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

Maharaj, this wonderful verse reminds me of you. It is so inspiring to see how much you are dedicated to serving your Spiritual Master Srila Prabhupada, and the exemplary mood you are doing it in. You are always so strong and willing to assist no matter what. We have to adapt with the times and you have been such a good example, dedicating your time to present the Bhakti satri online, for our benefit.

If one of your innumerable good qualities could rub off on me, it would be your attachment to the holy places where Krishna and His devotees perform their pastimes, and maybe I'll try and steal the quality of how much you are attached to the beautiful forms of the Deities. Your photo's always bring transcendental vibrancy, so beautiful.

There are many things which I would like to offer this year, but I'm still maturing and hopefully, my eagerness for devotee association will bring the positive transformation required to achieve this in due time. I have started translation of "Krishna, reservoir of pleasure", in simple common Afrikaans, for the layman. It's not done yet, but as soon as I'm done, I will get it proofread and sent to you. I've found that the current Afrikaans translations are quite academic and hard for even myself to understand. So, an attempt is made from me to serve you in some small way. And if it works out, further translations can follow.

Thank you so much for your well wishes and expert guidance. I'm hopeful that our relationship will reach higher and higher levels, as I find ways to really surrender at your lotus feet with utmost humility, sincerity and an overwhelming thirst to receive, with open arms, the mercy you are so freely distributing to us all.

Please extend your cloth length by 2 more fingers so that I can grab hold tightly and follow you as a qualified servant, wherever you may go.



Vyasa Puja 2020

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

Your humble servant

Nilacala Chandra Das

(Iskcon Port Elizabeth)

Padma Malini devi dasi

nama om visnu-padaya

krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti-caitanya-

svamin iti namine

namami bhakti-caitanya

prabhupadanusevinam

sri-vraja-dhana-mahatmya-

pradarsakakriparevam

I offer my respectful obeisances unto Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami, who is very dear to Lord Krsna, 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 (Sri Sri Radha-Krsna).

Dearest Guru Maharaja! Please accept my humble obeisances unto the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

On this glorious day of your Vyasa puja, your disciples and followers take turn to emphasise all prominent qualities of their spiritual master who is the reservoir of knowledge and a plentiful source of inspiration. As it was already mentioned before by many devotees, Srila Gurudev is renowned for his being the most affectionate. Never misses he an opportunity to encourage anyone into devotional service in the most heartwarming and personal way. Gurudev's ability to remember such an incredible number of names and details about every devotee is just inconceivable. The most amazing is Gurudev's genuine interest in each of us and his true care.

Vyasa Puja 2020

No less outstanding are Gurudev's perfect analytical powers in getting across the most difficult philosophy. Kali-yuga weak intelligence often prevents some of us from gaining insight into the most sacred parts of the revealed scriptures. We are eternally indebted to Srila Gurudev for that gigantic opulence of mercy bestowed on us daily during the lockdown, his patience and gift for preaching. Therefore our love for him grows stronger and stronger. I feel endlessly happy to be acquainted with such an extraordinary personality and do my devotional service under his guidance. Bhakti Caitanya Maharaj ki – jai!

Your humble servant,

Padma Malini devi dasi

Hurghada, Egypt

Padmini Priya devi dasi

Most Respected Guru Maharaj,

Hare Krishna! Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev!

On this most auspicious day, I take this opportunity to pray to the Almighty Lord to give all protection to you and make your preaching efforts in service to Srila Prabhupada a big success. I am feeling extremely fortunate to have your shelter in guiding me in overcoming my obstacles in the path of my devotional service. Very mercifully you gave me initiation although I am absolutely unqualified as a disciple, making me connected to the disciplic succession. This has humbled me and made me more committed to be of service to you and Srila Prabhupada. It has made me more committed in serving this temple, like taking responsibility for Rajbhog offering to their Lordship in this temple. I am extremely obliged to you for always keeping me in your thoughts and prayers.

It is always very heart touching to see you taking your precious time to write to your disciples. Your recent letter to give mercy to YamarajPrabhu's grandmother when she left her body was very heart touching. It was extremely inspiring to see your compassion in reaching out to Bhakti Charu Maharaj's disciples during the most difficult and testing times of Bhakti Charu Maharaj's falling sick and then leaving the body. It is amazing to see how you always are so enthusiastic to serve Srila Prabhupada in all possible ways even during this pandemic. I sincerely pray at your lotus feet to engage me in your service. With your causeless mercy, I would like to dedicate myself in whatever capacity I can in serving you and Srila Prabhupada! Please forgive me for any



Vyasa Puja 2020

offences done in serving you. Again I sincerely pray to the Supreme Lord to enable your compassion to reach far and wide making many more very fortunate like me. Thanking you,

Yours fallen yet aspiring servant,

Padmini Priya devi dasi

Paramatma Dasa

My Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada

Krsna & his loving devotees are so kind. I always admire the patience, enthusiasm and dedication that you have in spreading Krishna Consciousness so nicely by always trying to help others to revive their lost relationship with Krishna. This reminds me of the verse which I have heard from you from the Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 10, verse 9: “The thoughts of My pure devotees dwell in Me, their lives are surrendered to Me, and they derive great satisfaction and bliss enlightening one another and conversing about Me”. I am also feeling the satisfaction and bliss by hearing the glories of Sri Krsna. Srila Prabhupada & the disciplic succession would be very pleased with you as you are continuing with this mission to spread Krishna Consciousness very nicely & lovingly.

Thank you very much for the wonderful online classes.

Your servant & ever well-wisher,

Paramatma Dasa

Durban, South Africa

Paramisvara das and Paramisvari devi dasi

om ajnana timirandhasa

jnananjana salakaya

caksur unmilitam yena

tasmai sri guruve namah

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti-caitanya-svamin 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-pascatya-desat-tarine

Hare Krishna our dearest Lord and Master, Srila Gurudeva.

Please accept our humble obeisances as we bow down to the dust at your divine lotus Feet.

All glories to His Divine Grace AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to Your Holiness, Srila Gurudeva.

Dearest Srila Gurudeva, we are writing to You to offer our deepest love for You on this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa puja. Please forgive our inability to describe Your sweetness, Your kind, loving and caring nature and Your most beautiful Fatherly attention that You bestow upon all of us.

We beg You to please accept this simple and humble offering, dear Srila Gurudeva.

Although we were really put into difficult situations during the last few months, the one thing that brightened this entire situation was the very fact that we were all able to directly see Your glorious moonlike face and taste the pure nectar that flowed from Your divine Lips in the form of



Vyasa Puja 2020

chanting, lectures and discourses. Never before have we ever had the opportunity to enjoy so much of Vapu and Vani association of You, both at the same time. Using whatever means available to You, You have made Yourself available to the entire world. The mercy of the Supreme Lord is constantly flowing like an ocean upon the entire creation. If one wants to benefit from this mercy, all they have to do is simply reach out and take it. In this same way, You have constantly let Your mercy flow through the means of technology and all we disciples had to do was simply connect with You and take it.

His Divine Grace A C Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada worked tirelessly to ensure that we were all given the best possible opportunity to connect with the Supreme Lord. You are so wonderfully representing Srila Prabhupada, by also working tirelessly to ensure that we get and stay connected to the Supreme Lord. How can we ever thank You Oh Lord and Master. Like a loving Father, You are always deeply concerned about us, reminding us of our purpose, and giving us personal attention and guidance.

We thank You with all our hearts and offer our deepest love to Your divine Lotus Feet.

We wish You a very happy Vyasa Puja Srila Gurudeva. We pray from the bottom of our hearts to the Supreme Lords, Sri Sri Radha Radhanath and Srila Prabhupada to always keep You in good health because, without You, we will be totally lost and without any direction.

Please take care Srila Gurudeva.

Hare Krishna

Jai Srila Prabhupada ki Jai

Jai Srila Gurudeva ki Jai

Your most insignificant servants,

Paramisvara das and Paramisvari devi dasi

(King Williams Town, South Africa)

Pranesvari devi dasi

Dear Gurumaharaj,

Please accept my humble and respectful obeisance unto your Lotus feet! All glories to Srila Prabhupada. Happy Appearance Day! Wishing you best of health and all the best in the service of Srila Prabhupada.

My eternal gratitude for accepting me as your disciple and connecting me into this wonderful glorious parampara of Srila Prabhupada. Otherwise I can't imagine in what wretched situation I will be in.

Gurumaharaj, we're blessed to follow your online lectures and bhakti satri classes, it's so nectarian and purified by hearing about Lord Krishna and His associates. You explained the details very nicely that it has become simple and easy to understand.

Srila Rupa Goswami in his Bhakti Rasamrita Sindhu has listed 3 categories of devotional service. When I read the definition of Vaidhi sadhana bhakti, it's duly by your mercy that we can follow the regulated principles. To advance in Krishna consciousness, spiritual master is most important. Without your vapu and vani, it will be challenging to engage in bhakti life as the influence of material energy is very strong. We were looking forward for your vapu association in Kuala Lumpur and also during parikrama, but both doesn't seems to happen due to covid19 pandemic. But we are grateful for the invention of modern technology, that daily we can get your darshan very nicely and above all else the opportunity to take bhakti satri course.

Gurumaharaj, I'm seeking for your blessing again and again so that we can be useful and advance in our path of Krishna consciousness. I'm trying to engage in devotional activities in the temple to my capability. I pray to Lord Narasimha, to always keep you healthy and protect you as you're very dear to all of us. I pray to you on this day for the strength to remain close to your lotus feet, and the lotus feet of those close to you, for in good association everything becomes possible.

Please forgive my repeated offences and shower your kindness upon me so that I can advance in Krishna consciousness.

All glories to you my dear gurumaharaj!

Your eternal servant,

Pranesvari Devi Dasi

Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Prema Kishori Devi Dasi

*om ajnana – timirandhasya jnananjana – salakaya caksur unmilitan
yena tasmai sri gurave namah*

Hare Krishna Gurudeva,

All glories to Guru, all glories to Gauranga, all glories to Srila Prabhupada, all glories to your Divine Self.

Now it is that time of the year when I must pen a few words for your Vyasa Puja. What to say? I am not even qualified to write about your greatness, but I shall try. Gurudeva, you have all the good qualities of an exalted soul. You are always being alert about devotees. One example is the Facebook service incident. Facebook gives us spiritual education and it is just a click away. One moment of seeing a pure devotee gives one great spiritual benefit. Gurudeva, I am a very busy person. I am often questioned – how do you manage? And my answer is simple. I have Srila Prabhupada's mercy and not forgetting your mercy.

You have extended yourself to this fallen soul so graciously and patiently, amidst my trials and tribulations, you have been there for me. You initiated me and for that, I am very grateful, actually, I never imagined being initiated in this lifetime. Your fervent prayers assisted in this endeavour.

You have all the good qualities. Your compassion, empathy, purity, renunciation, gentleness, boldness – I could fill this page, but I need to stop.

Indeed, you are so popular. Proudly I mention that my Gurudeva is on the Ratha Yatra cart. Oh! You are speaking about the Guru who gives us sweets and sprays water on us. There you go! The famous Bhakti Caitanya Swami. the rock of Gibraltar and the leader of the G.B.C.

This verse in the Srimad Bhagavatam appeals to me, “tvam nah sandarsito dhatra” which translates, “the age of Kali is very dangerous for the human being”

Canto one, chapter one, text 22. Amidst the desolation, the grief, the loneliness, the fear and anxiety of COVID 19 – you have emerged like the colossus.

Gurudeva you are the oasis in the desert. The bright light at the end of the dark tunnel. The lighthouse – the beacon of hope for the weary sailors. You are transcendental and glowing. You remind me of springtime and all the fresh flowers. Spring is in the air.



Vyasa Puja 2020

How do I describe how my emotions are? Gurudeva, even though I do not have physical association with you – I am elated because you are in Chatsworth and that gives me a sense of pride and security, a feeling of warmth!

Gurudeva, I pray for your health and may Lord Nrsingadeva bless you and protect you. Thank you for taking Iskcon to great heights. We love you Srila Prabhupada. We love you Srila Gurudeva.

Happy Vyasa Puja Day.

I remain your humble servant,

Prema Kishori Devi Dasi

Priya Kishori Devi Dasi

Dear Guru Maharaj,

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

Happy Vyasa Puja!

Guru Maharaj, thank you for everything you do to not only help me stay in Krishna consciousness but to really be happy and committed to this journey. Your daily Japa sessions have helped me regulate my sadhana and has given social media a purpose to me.

Over this lockdown period, I had the good fortune to be engaged in the admin team for the Nectar of Devotion course. Honestly Guru Maharaj, I have never had a service this 'hands on' before, however, it has given me hope and a connection to you and the Lord, especially during these uncertain and challenging times.

Guru Maharaj, you hold Srila Prabhupada deep within your heart and with this attachment, you execute your duties far exceeding any expectation. You treat each position, project, disciple and well-wisher with the utmost care and respect. You are a true gentleman of note.

In Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 9, Verse 14, Lord Krishna describes a great soul as:

Always chanting My glories, endeavoring with great determination, bowing down before Me, these great souls perpetually worship Me with devotion.

Vyasa Puja 2020

Guru Maharaj, this verse defines you and your commitment to Srila Prabhupada. You face challenges head-on with the intention to always please Lord Krishna. Thank you, Guru Maharaj, for being an example to follow.

Recently, I had made an error in a service and it made me feel a bit hopeless and depressed as I felt I really messed up. However, Guru Maharaj, your response to this incident lifted me up and brought back my enthusiasm as you reminded me that service is meant for the pleasure of the devotees and Krishna. Thank you for helping me remember this.

On this auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja, I pray to Sri Sri Radha Radhanatha to keep you in good health and I pray that I may lead my life in a way that is suitable enough to be an offering to you and Srila Prabhupada.

Your foolish daughter,

Priya Kishori devi dasi

Durban, South Africa

Radha Darshani Devi Dasi

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine

namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine

nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatya-desat-tarine

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti-caitanya-svamin iti namine

namami bhakti caitanyam prabhupadanusevinam

sri vraja dhana mahatmya pradarsakam krparnavam

Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisance. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you GuruDev. GuruDev you have always encouraged us with our devotional service in Krishna consciousness. Your lotus like smiley face always gives me so much of inspiration to do service to all devotees who are fulfilling Prabhupada's mission to spread Krishna consciousness.



Vyasa Puja 2020

GuruDev every night listening to your lecture is just so inspiring to a fallen soul like me.

GuruDev please shower your mercy upon us so we can do service to Radha Krishna and to the devotees who dedicated their lives to Krishna consciousness. It's only because of your mercy we can do service and only with your mercy can we chant sincerely. Please bless us GuruDev so that we can fulfill Srilla Prabhupada's mission.

GuruDev, please place us by your lotus feet so that we can always stay by your lotus feet and serve you and Srilla Prabhupada

Your servant,

Radha Darshani Devi Dasi

Radha Mohan das and Syama Mohini Devi Dasi

Dearest Srila Gurudev,

Please accept our most humble obeisances.

All glories unto the divine lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada.

All glories unto your divine lotus feet.

nama om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhaktivedanta svami iti namine

namas te sarasvate deve gaura vani pracarine

nirvesesa sunyavadi pascatyā desa tarine

nama om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti caitanya svami iti namine

2020 has been such an unprecedented year where COVID-19 has put a lot of devotees in a state of despair of not having the association of the devotees and Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Radhanath here in Durban, South Africa, but at least we have gained your association through Facebook land, and devotees around the world got a chance to dive into Srila Prabhupada's books and associate with Srila Prabhupada.

On this most blessed day, we are reminded of our great fortune, and how merciful Krsna is to allow us to have your association, association



Vyasa Puja 2020

with a great soul who has accepted shelter under senapati bhakti, a very rare opportunity.

It is only through your mercy and the mercy of Srila Prabhupada that we can ever succeed as disciples. On this most auspicious day, we humbly beg for your blessings to always be sincere in maintaining our vows and that we always remember Krsna and never forget Him.

Your eternal servants,

Radha Mohan das and Syama Mohini Devi Dasi

Radha Ramana Das.

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your appearance in this material world.

Thank you for dedicating your life to the service of Srila Prabhupada. I'm sure maya has given you many tests and challenges in your devotional career but you are still dedicated and steadfast in the Srila Prabhupada's service. Your sadhana is impeccable, you always deal with the devotees in an exemplary way, you are the personification of discipline, self-control and at the same time very tolerant and gentle with other faults. I pray that someday, I may imbibe some of your qualities.

Your servant,

Radha Ramana Das.

Radha Priya Devi Dasi

Hare Krishna Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisance's, All Glories to Srila Prabhupada, All Glories to our most beloved Gurudev.

I am so grateful to you Gurudev for accepting me as your disciple.

I am missing your association. Due to the lockdown regulations of the COVID19 pandemic I last heard your inspiring lecture and kirtan on Gaura Purnima, I did not want to leave Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple.

This holy occasion of your Vyasa Puja gives me an opportunity to pray to the Supreme Personality of Godhead to keep you in good health so that you can continue with your service to Srila Prabhupada & Krishna.

I would like to wish you a very happy Vyasa Puja may you have many, many more.

Your fallen servant,

Radha Priya Devi Dasi

Durban

Radhikarani devi dasi

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhutale

srimate bhakti caitanya -svamin iti namine

nama om visnu padaya krsna-presthaya bhutale

srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine

namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani pracarine

nirvesesha-sunyavadi-pascatya-desa tarine

Hare Krishna Guru Maharaj,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to this most auspicious day of your Sri Vyasa Puja. All glories to your Divine Grace. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Guru Maharaj, on this auspicious day of your Sri Vyasa Puja, I feel very unqualify and unable to glorify a great personality like yourself.

Your heart is an ocean of transcendental qualities. So deep do they flow and so many waves do they appear that I cannot understand their extent.

Guru Maharaj, you are the very example of what you preach.

Anyone who comes in contact with you appreciates your purity, kindness and compassion. You very attentively and patiently listen to one's problem and deal accordingly with each. You so expertly deal with them that when they leave you, they always come out with a new smile.

Guru Maharaj, I have committed many sins to deserve the severest punishment of the Supreme Lord, but only due to your shelter and compassion I am still able to chant the holy name.

Please Guru Maharaj, do not give up on me. Please give me the shade of your lotus feet in order to keep me always in an enthusiastic spirit for rendering devotional service.

Begging to become your menial servant and the servant of all the devotees,

Your unworthy servant,

Radhikarani devi dasi

Mauritius

Ranganath Das

Dear Guru Maharaj,

Please accept my most humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada, All glories to your loving Divine Grace. Wishing you a very Happy Vyasa Puja on the auspicious occasion of your appearance day.

O Gurudeva, You have given Krishna to us, how can we (disciples) ever repay you for this invaluable gift. As such, we remain as the servant of yours for eternity. I make the following humble offering. It is verses from scriptures.

Srimad Bhagavatam 11.17.27

ācāryam mām vijāniyān nāvamanyeta karhicit

na martya-buddhyāsūyeta sarva-deva-mayo guruh

“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.”

Sri Caitanya-caritāmṛta Ādi-līlā 1.45

guru Krishna-rūpa hana

sāstrera pramāṇe

guru-rūpe kṛṣṇa kṛpā

karena bhakta-gaṇe

According to the deliberate opinion of all revealed scriptures, the spiritual master is Non different from Krishna. Lord Krishna in the form of the spiritual master delivers His devotees. The relationship of a disciple with his spiritual master is as good as his relationship with the Supreme Lord.

Many times, due to my negligence I may have caused discomforts to Your Lotus Feet, please do forgive me and kindly instruct me to improve my services unto Your Grace. Thank you for the wonderful presentations. Most important for all of us here is your health. We sincerely pray to their Lordship Sri Sri Jaganath Baladev Subhadra, Nitai Sundar Gaura Hari, Sri Radha Syamasundar and Srila Prabhupada to always keep you in good health.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Looking forward for the day that we can have your personal association and serve your lotus feet.

Your Servant,

Ranganath Das

Malaysia Kuala Lumpur

Rasabihari das

nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti caitanya swamin iti namine

namami bhakti-caitanyam prabhupada nusevinam

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.

Dear Srila Gurudev,

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

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

All Glories to you Srila Gurudev and your wonderful service to Srila Prabhupada.

In SB 11.3.21 it is said:

tasmad gurum prapadyeta

jijñasuh sreya uttamam

sabde pare ca nisnatam

brahmany upasamasrayam

Therefore, any person who seriously desires real happiness must seek a bona fide spiritual master and take shelter of him by initiation. The qualification of the bona fide guru is that he has realized the conclusions of the scriptures by deliberation and is able to convince others of these conclusions. Such great personalities, who have taken shelter of the Supreme Godhead, leaving aside all material considerations, should be understood to be bona fide spiritual master.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Srila Gurudev, the above verse exemplifies your service to Srila Prabhupada and his Iskcon society. You have with unflinching faith and devotion continued with all your preaching services during this global pandemic. Withstanding your personal health issues and pushing through the material pangs and demands of the body, I personally witnessed how you rose above the bodily platform to continue with your devotional service. I had the good fortune to be able to offer some menial service to you and be in your association during your health challenges. This was your mercy on this fallen soul and through your divine association, I was able to purify my consciousness and try to follow your example. I witnessed your complete surrender and unflinching faith in the process of Krishna Consciousness regardless of what the material world put in your path.

During this lockdown period, we are forced to practice in isolation being denied the personal association of the Lord through our regular services, devoid of the devotee association and the opportunity to personally serve you. You have continued to keep us enthused by giving us your association via your daily online Japa sessions and classes. You have personally taken the responsibility to offer accredited online Bhakti Sastri courses. The love and affection that you show the devotee community magnifies your qualities of selflessness and compassion for all living entities and your complete surrender to Srila Prabhupada.

Please excuse my attempt to glorify you. No words, feelings and emotions can do justice in glorifying your exemplary service and character. I am most fortunate to have taken shelter of your lotus feet and only by your mercy can I offer any service to their Lordships, Srila Prabhupada and the devotees.

I pray to you on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja to please keep me at the dust of your lotus feet engaging me in your service and service to Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON.

I pray to their Lordships, Sri Sri Radha Radhanath, to bless my Gurudev with good health and spiritual prosperity. May your fame be spread all over the world and may you be known as a Srila Prabhupada Man.

Your servant,

Rasabihari das

Durban, South Africa

Rasa Lila Devi Dasi

My Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your Divine Lotus Feet!

All Glories to SRI SRI RADHA RADHANATH, ALL GLORIES TO LORD JAGANNATH, BALADEV AND SUBHADRA DEVI.

ALL GLORIES TO SRILA PRABHUPADA, ALL GLORIES TO YOU MY DEAR SPIRITUAL FATHER.

Gurudev, you are a true representative of our Supreme Lord Krishna!

śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma, kevala-bhakati-sadma,

bando muṣi sāvadhāna mate

jāhāra prasāde bhāi, e bhava toriyā jāi,

kṛṣṇa-prāpti hoy jāhā ha'te

The lotus feet of our spiritual master are the only way by which we can attain pure devotional service.

I bow to his lotus feet with great awe and reverence. By his grace, one can cross the ocean of material suffering, and obtain the mercy of Krishna.

My Dearest Gurudev, on this auspicious occasion of your Vyasa Puja, I wish you the very best today and always, may the blessings of our dear Lordships always be with you.

Gurudev, I sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart for the encouragement, support and blessings that you have given me and my family throughout the years we have known you.

You are truly a divine being, an outstanding spiritual leader, and the most kind-hearted, intelligent, and loving soul I have ever met.

Gurudev, it can never ever be possible to thank you sufficiently, for having come into my life and saving me.

You have the gift of being a great spiritual teacher, to make the most complicated situations so simple.

It is such a wonderful experience chanting together with you everyday Gurudev, Thank you for the sweet Darshan of their Lordships and Giriraj, Jai!



Vyasa Puja 2020

I really enjoy the excursions that you so lovingly take us through into Radha Radhanath Temple, such an awesome experience.

When you sing the Nsringadev Pranam, it is so divine.

I pray to our dear Lord Nsringadev to always protect you, and keep you in good health.

I LOVE YOU MY DEAR FATHER

Your daughter,

Rasa Lila Devi Dasi

Rasamandala Das

All Glories to Lord Jagannath, Baladeva and Subadra Maharani, Sri Sri Radha Radhanath, Sri Sri Gaura Nitai. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. And All Glories to Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja on this very special day.

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances on this very auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja. In my previous offerings at your lotus feet, I've talked about how well you're carrying out the instructions of your Guru Maharaja, Srila Prabhupada in so many wonderful ways. I've mentioned how you're travelling almost the entire world encouraging devotees and well-wishers to take to Krishna Consciousness seriously.

Now Gurudev, due to Covid-19, you don't travel anymore, at least for the moment; you're based in Chatsworth, at Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple, yet we're so fortunate that we take more of your association now than ever before. To continue your service to your Srila Prabhupada, you consistently on a daily basis make yourself available to thousands of devotees and friends worldwide, starting the day with a very nice interactive Japa session which we really appreciate, then the evening class.

Sometimes I wonder where you get the energy and the determination from, then I came to a realization. You're NOT just an ordinary Guru or Swami BUT a bonafide spiritual master who is actually representing all the previous acaryas coming down the disciplic succession all the way from Lord Krishna himself. You are coming in the line of the Brahma Madhva Gaudiya sampradaya, full of Vedic knowledge and an expert ability to capture the hearts of fallen souls like myself. Oh Dear Guru



Vyasa Puja 2020

Maharaj, the more I reflect on your position, the more I understand how close you are to Srila Prabhupada, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Sri Sri

Radha Radhanath, and how fortunate and lucky we are to have you here with us.

I'll pray to our Lord Jagannath, Baladeva and Subhadra Maharani for their mercy that I may always remain at the dust of your lotus feet trying very hard to follow all your instructions.

Have a wonderful Vyasa Puja Gurudev.

Rasamandala Das

NJP – Phoenix, Durban

Rasarani devi dasi

Dearest Srila Gurudev,

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

In an offering to HH Bhakti Charu Swami, you narrated a past time. Once a devotee asked Srila Prabhupada: "Prabhupada will you be our father eternally? Will you always be our spiritual master eternally?" Jokingly Srila Prabhupada said: "yes, I think so" and quoted a verse, cakhaduna dilo jei janme janme prabhu se, but Prabhupada said "janme janme pita se. The one who has opened my eyes - he is my father life after life." Dearest Srila Gurudev, I was drowning in material life, thinking that I was successful, trying to compete in the rat race until you accepted me as your disciple. The relationship between spiritual master and disciple goes far far deeper than that of father and child. In Nectar of Devotion, it is explained that the disciple should accept the spiritual master as God because he is the external manifestation of Krishna. He represents Krishna and the Supersoul as a minister will represent a king. I only got to know who God, Lord Krishna, really is after I met you and for that there is nothing equivalent as repayment. I remember clearly when I had written to you about you accepting me as your disciple and had doubts as to when it would happen. To pacify me, you perfectly responded: "In my heart, I have already accepted you as my disciple." That was the best and most amazing thing I had ever heard. Being the perfect spiritual master you always know the perfect response and perfect solution to all my trials. Even if I don't mention it to you. Once again proving you are Krishna's representative.

Prabhupada had said "Unless one is dedicated, endeavouring very hard, he cannot be successful". Gurudev, you follow all of Srila Prabhupada's



Vyasa Puja 2020

instructions perfectly. Your dedication, to preaching and spreading Krishna consciousness throughout the world even during this pandemic is seen everyday through all your activities. The departure of HH Bhakti Charu Maharaj made me think in despair, how would I react if it happened to my Gurudev? The truth be said, I don't know how I will react or respond. But once again, you have given me some pacification. After reading your offering to Maharaj, I realised I can always endeavour to serve you, even though we maybe physically separated.

I pray to always have your mercy and association forever life after life and hopefully one day, I become a worthy disciple.

Your daughter,

Rasarani Devi Dasi

Saci Devi Dasi

Dear Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Jagannath, Baladev and Subadra Maharani.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to You on this more auspicious day of your Vyasa, my Lord and Master.

Srila Gurudev, Your 2020 Vyasa-puja is going to be unprecedented given the current climate we find ourselves in. This year began tough as I had to swallow the hard pill of not being able to go to the temple, continue with deity worship, garlands and cooking all of which keeps me grounded and my mind fixed. I remember thinking there is no way that I will survive like this. As the weeks passed of the hard lockdown, You, Srila Gurudev, made the transition so easy. Suddenly I was attending Mangal aarti in Mayapur, Srimad Bhagavatam Class at Sri Radhanath and daily lectures. You are on every device in our house, the TV for a bigger screen and chanting, on the laptop for studies and on the cell phone when I am mobile - It has been simply glorious to have your voice resounding in my home. Srila Gurudev, I thank Srila Prabhupad every single day for You. Throughout all this material miseries, as a preacher being confined to one place and fighting dread diseases, still You find a way to continue preaching. You find a way for me to continue with my Sadhana and You always do it topmost, with the best technology and best set up only for us recipients to have a seamless experience. I am dumbfounded by Your magnanimity and so grateful to Krishna to get Your association.

Vyasa Puja 2020

Srila Gurudev, Bhakti Charu Maharaj has just exited this material world, leaving me in shock with the separation tearing at the strings of the heart. I used to follow His online lectures and miss Him dearly. His leaving has shaken off the complacency that I found myself being in. I promise to get more serious in my Krishna Consciousness, I promise to try to be a better disciple to You. Thank You for doing the Nectar of Devotion course, I have realised how important it is to be learned in Srila Prabhupada's literature to enable me to preach better. Like a father, You push and encourage not for Your satisfaction but for the satisfaction of others.

Thank you, Srila Gurudev, for opening the door for me to Srila Prabhupada's home, please instruct me in whichever way you please.

Trying to be your servant,

Saci Devi Dasi

RSA - Gauteng, Midrand

Sachi Prema Devi Dasi

Respected Gurudev,

All glories to Guru n Gauranga,

All glories to HDG Srila Prabhupada,

All glories to Gurudev,

Namo Om Vishnu Padaya Krishna Prestaya Bhutale

Srimathi Bhakti Caitanya Swami iti Namine.

Wishing Gurudev a wonderful Vyasa puja celebration. It's unfortunate that your disciples from other parts of the world are not there to visualize this most auspicious moment. Please find it in your most merciful heart to bless all of us to develop pure love n attachment to Lord Krishna's lotus feet soon. Only by causeless mercy can tis happen Gurudev n it's my only desire, to serve The Supreme Personality of Godhead,

Mother Radha Rani, Srila Prabhupada, and Gurudev n all Vaishnava's eternally.

This will be my best offerings ever as I have tasted pure nectar from Gurudev's classes for the Bhakti Sastri Course. The time was in standstill, It was not enough. Though it was a bad period all over the world n people were badly affected by this inauspicious period of Covid19, we devotees were in perfect bliss. We can never ever repay Gurudev for tis "PURE



Vyasa Puja 2020

NECTAR “. Your tireless mission to spread Krsna Consciousness around the globe by your exemplary teachings are outstanding.

I'm so proud to be connected to Gurudev as your humble n unworthy servant eternally. I pray with all my heart to KRISHNA that Gurudev will recover from all your illnesses soon n be blessed with more glories by Srila Prabhupada. Thank You Again for Your never-ending kindness n mercy.

I humbly request Gurudev to also please continue to bless my parents, Vadanya Nitai das, Annandasundari dd, Mahesh Advaita pr n my family with eternal devotional service to the lotus feet of Krishna n Mother RadhaRani, Srila Prabhupada, Gurudev n all Vaishnavas n that one day we all be together with Krishna. Thank You Very Much for Everything GURUDEV

Your eternal unworthy humble servant,

Sachi Prema Devi Dasi & all at home.

Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Sacimata Devi Dasi

Hare Krsna Dear Guru Maharaj,

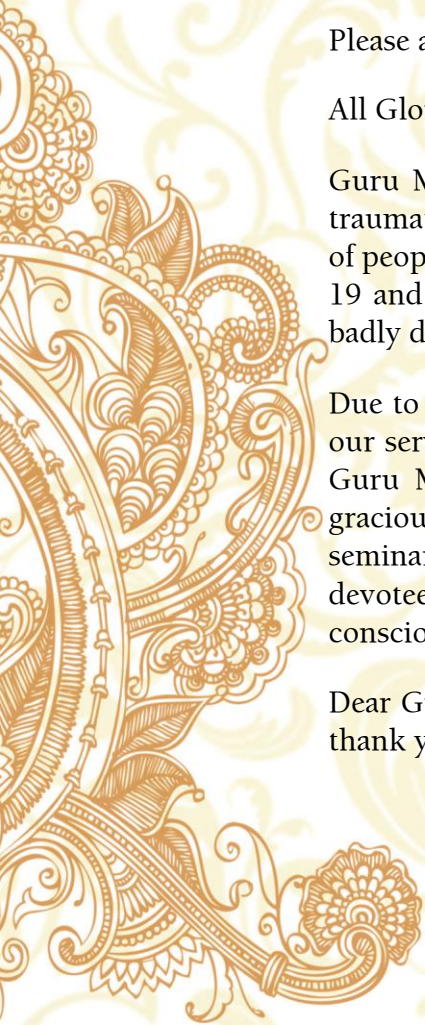
Please accept my most humble respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Guru Maharaj as you know the whole world is going through a very traumatic and difficult time due to covid 19. Hundreds and thousands of people have suffered and lost their loved ones in this battle with covid 19 and many have lost their jobs and the world economy has suffered badly due to the lockdown.

Due to lockdown we devotees too were confined to our homes and lost our services in the temple and absolutely no Association with devotees. Guru Maharaj with this black cloud hovering over all of us you so graciously brought a ray of hope and light into our lives by your daily live seminars, japa and Srimat Bhagavatam classes and gave your disciples and devotees your loving association and kept us engaged in Krishna consciousness.

Dear Guru Maharaj we thank you from the very depths of our hearts to thank you very much, for keeping us engaged in Krishna





Vyasa Puja 2020

consciousness. We pray to the merciful Lordships to keep you always in good health and protect you always.

We pray at the Lotus feet of the Lordships so that we can overcome the situation of covid 19 soon so that we can have your precious spiritual association soon in Kuala Lumpur.

Please dear Guru Maharaj forgive us for any offenses we would have committed knowingly or unknowingly and bless us to stay fixed in doing our seva and sadhana and serving the Vaisnavas sincerely.

Your very insignificant servant,

Sacimata Devi Dasi

Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Sakhi Vrinda Devi Dasi

nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti caitanya swamin iti namine

My Dearest Gurudev,

On this most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja, please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to your divine self. I pray that Sri Sri Radha Radhanath will always keep you in good health and well-being.

"Obeisances to you who have all the qualities of unique skill in preaching, competence in Vaisnava dealings, selflessness and compassion."

Gurudev, during our darkest times you have given us access to the greatest wealth in the form of knowledge of how to engage in devotional service. While preaching, you shine with purity, enthusiasm, heart-warming humour and the deepest devotion. Your lectures have always been a treasured source of shelter, inspiring me and my family to advance in some way in our Krsna Consciousness. Whenever I hear you speak, I am amazed at how you are able to say exactly what I need to hear. You soften the hearts of your disciples Gurudev and inspire them to give more in their service. You are such an expert preacher. Again, thank you for being our inspiration.

In the Srimad Bhagavatam (10.80.34), Lord Krsna says:



Vyasa Puja 2020

“I, the soul of all beings, am not as satisfied by ritual worship, brahminical initiation, penances or self-discipline as I am by faithful service rendered to one's spiritual master.”

Gurudev, you are always absorbed in your service to your spiritual master, setting such an exalted example for all your disciples to follow. Your level of dedication and enthusiasm is unwavering. You are certainly most dear to Sri Krsna for your faithful service to Srila Prabhupada. Please allow me to stay in devotional service and please allow me to stay close to your lotus feet.

Through your daily Japa sessions, you show us the power of the holy name that purifies both the mind and body from all material contamination, for ever-increasing engagement in devotional service. For this, I am eternally grateful. You teach us the simplest yet most practical of things, which we have forgotten over time but your sweet voice and loving smile has embedded it in our hearts and mind.

Gurudev, it is my sincerest desire that I may always be able to assist you, in any way, in your service to Srila Prabhupada. I simply pray that by your mercy I can remain your simple servant.

Your daughter,

Sakhi Vrinda Devi Dasi

Durban, Sri Sri Radha Radhanath

Shamalata Devi Dasi

My dearest Guru Maharaj,

Happiest of Vyasa Puja to you on this very auspicious day. May your day and years ahead be always blissful and I also wish you better health from this day forward.

Thank you Gurudev for doing the annual parikrama to the dhama. I have been on 2 of the parikramas, Badrinath in 2017 (which fulfilled my dreams) and Govardhan Hill and Vrindavan in 2019. Visiting the 12 forests was amazing.

Although You fell gravely ill after 5 days in Govardhan parikrama, we would not have known about your illness if you had not mentioned it at the end of the parikrama. Many of us fell ill too and we took rest but you did not stop to recuperate. You continued just for our satisfaction.

Vyasa Puja 2020

My greatest gratitude to you is for all the programmes you started daily morning and evening on Facebook during this COVID pandemic and lockdown. Presently, You are giving us so much more of your divine association, although You are still battling with health issues by offering online course such as Bhakti Sastri degree, starting immediately with the Nectar of Devotion. This course has engaged many devotees from here and abroad. I must add that some people did not have Facebook, but because of your endeavour, they were so happy to download and follow you on Facebook.

Gurudev, you are a real Prabhupada man stopping at nothing to keep the wheels of Krishna consciousness in motion.

May the Lord and his associates always bless you for all your endeavours, my Gurudev.

Vande Guru Sri Caranaravindam.

Your worthless disciple,

Shamalata Devi Dasi

Phoenix, Durban

Shukadev das

nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti caitanya swamin iti namine

namami bhakti-caitanya prabhupadanusevinam

sri-vraja-dhan-mahatmya-pradarshakam krparanavam

Dear Guru Maharaj. Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to You on this auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja.

May I start off with a resounding appreciation of Your presence, as always in our lives, and this I speak of as a family collectively. More and more as I've channelled through the course of life, which at every turn I'm completely oblivious of what awaits, I've come to always understand that, we in ISKCON, are very very secure and greatly so. What is the plight of a soul in this vast creation without the Guru? The more I ponder on such a thought, the more I realise, that in the house of Srila Prabhupada, there is extreme joy, to understand that we have at least taken the right course of life, by sheltering ourselves under Your care. So this appreciation is one that is the greatest. An appreciation for Your unwavering support to



Vyasa Puja 2020

so many souls out here. I'm daily trying to meditate on the good fortune we have here in ISKCON and fully trying to appreciate your guidance and support in conjunction to that of our Great Srila Prabhupada.

I hear you on many classes, asking us to keep taking stock of ourselves and deepening our dependance on Japa, go back to basics, strengthen our concentration and always maintain attentiveness in all our services to the Supreme Lord. The more I hear You reverberate these messages, the more I understand a little more, where You want us to be engaged with full consciousness and purpose. All these aspects are lost to those who have not had the good fortune of approaching a guru and for this very one reason, I am very grateful for having found You in this ocean of darkness (where my spiritual master has opened my eyes, with the torchlight of knowledge).

I realise I have still a long way to go, but I'm deeply thankful for having journeyed on the right course. I know more investment in Bhakti is bettering my own path, and it makes my heart cry, thinking of the selfless lengths You endure for our destination. Depending on the Holy Name is all you ask us to really do. Engagement in devotional service is what You always encourage us for, and pleasing as these are to You and Srila Prabhupada and Srimati Radharani, they still ultimately give us a better result! Still, we get a benefit, and this makes me understand that Krishna really loves us and we just need to see it by following the process well.

I admire your strength dear, Srila Gurudev, and I will continue to pray that Krishna keeps you well and safe, as our world will always be a brighter, happier and safer place with You. And also with You only, can we be chartered to the transcendental destination. So always living your instruction in mind, body and action, is my life purpose and anything aside from that is dim and dark, and to be guarded from.

In this year, where yet again Your impact is full of mercy and guidance, even among the dismal situation that has been brought upon us, still be a year of deeper surrender and or devotional service for us all. I personally feel there is so much more for me to accomplish, but daily reading or listening to You has made this a lot more easier and surely steps in the right direction to this goal.

Please always accept my dandavats at Your Lotus feet, and may I grow to always be pleasing to You.

Your ever grateful son,

Shukadev das

Shyama Kishori Dasi

nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti caitanya svamin iti namine

nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhaktivedanta svamin iti namine

namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracharine

nirvishesha-shunyavadi-pashcatya-desha-tarine

The Lotus Feet of our spiritual master are the only ways by which we can attain pure devotional service, I bow down to his lotus feet with great awe and reverence. By his grace, one can cross the ocean of material suffering and obtain mercy of Krishna, my only wish to have my consciousness purified by words emanating from his lotus mouth. To my Dear Srila Gurudeva, please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your Sri Vyasa-puja.

This year has been very different for the whole world. It has forced us to pause, reflect, review and deepen our Krsna conscious relationships, and all other relationships in general. We have found a new way of connecting with each other but most importantly, through you, even though our experience has been most challenging with everything happening around us, you have made a way for us to be together and associate with each other through your virtual classes, discourses and kirtans.

It can be very sad sometimes without us having “normal” interactions with you and the devotees, but still we feel your love around us and that is most comforting, that even though time place and circumstance doesn’t allow for us to physically see each other, the words that emanate from your lotus mouth during your virtual classes still purify our mind, body and soul, and we will always be grateful for that.

Your classes have benefitted us all in so many different ways and have allowed us to immerse ourselves in an ocean of nectar. In the midst of the chaos, you allow for us to just pause and be present with you, Srila Prabhupada and our Supreme Lord Sri Krsna. You are a torchlight of knowledge, dear Gurudev.

You keep us all connected, “A strong and kind of exclusive connection to Srila Prabhupada.”



Vyasa Puja 2020

I am eternally grateful to you dear Gurudev.

Hare Krsna.

Your most fallen servant,

Shyama Kishori Dasi

ISKCON Phoenix (NJP)

Siddhanta das, Bhava Bhavini devi dasi and Rasalila

Dearest Gurudev,

Please accept our humble obeisances,

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to Sri Sri Radha Shyamasundar. All glories to Your divine lotus feet.

In Caitanya Caritamrta, Madhya Lila, chapter 19 verse 151, it is said:

*brahmāṇḍa bhramite kona bhāgyavān jīva guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya
bhakti-latā-bīja*

Translation:

“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.”

Facing this global pandemic, society has taken into greater distress and they are trying to relieve their distress by part-taking in some or other sinful activities like resorting to drinking, gambling and illicit sex. However, Kṛṣṇa has been so merciful to us and has blessed us with such a wonderful spiritual master like who has implanted the seed of devotional service in our hearts, who has blessed us to serve Their Lordships and who is guiding us in our path of devotional service during this tough period in time.

Vyasa Puja 2020

This pandemic has been testing our faith from the moment it has started, but by your mercy, you have made yourself available to us through your virtual classes and Japa sessions despite your ill health. In this way, our faith is growing every moment and our creeper of devotional service is being nourished. A father helps holds his child's hand and helps them to walk, if the child falls down the father picks his child up and helps them walk again. Similarly Gurudev, you have been holding our hands and guiding us in our devotional service and when we fall down, you pick us up again and help us continue to carry out our devotional service.

In the Guruvastakam, verse 8 it says:

yasya prasada bhagavat-prasado yasyaprasadan na gatih kuto pi

dhyayan stuvams tasya yashas tri-sandhyam

vande guroh sri-charanaravindam

Translation:

“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 obeisance's unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.”

Gurudev, this offering alone cannot express our gratitude to You. We don't know what we have done in our previous birth to have a wonderful spiritual master like You. On Your Vyasa Puja, we pray that You bless us that we remain under the shelter of Your lotus feet because without You, we cannot come closer to Srila Prabhupada and Their Lordships. Please forgive us for any offence we have committed unto Your lotus feet.

Wishing you a blissful Vyasa-puja.

Your fallen eternal servants,

Siddhanta das, Bhava Bhavini devi dasi and Rasalila

Sivarama das

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

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

Every year I get a chance to take stock of my spiritual life, and every year I get to feel how lucky I am to have been accepted into your shelter. A shelter that has given me so much solace during the volatile nature of Kali Yuga.

By your own example, you have shown what it means to be steady in our Krsna consciousness. How to tolerate the pangs of disease, old age, and death. So much has happened this year. A massive pandemic sweeping across the globe claiming the lives of many, including that of devotees that are near and dear to us. You have even had to deal with you own health issues, and yet, not only do you remain completely unwavering and steadfast in your own service to Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krsna, but through your causeless mercy, you create an opportunity to inspire hundreds of new and old devotees alike to become more serious in their Krsna consciousness. We are always so blessed to be in the association of such an uttama-adhikari!

Guru Maharaj, thank you for always inspiring me to be better, and to do better. Thank you for being such a shining example of what it means to be a servant of the servant of the servant. Thank you for being a very bright light in a very dark world.

In SB 11.20.17:

nr-deham ādyam su-labham su-durlabham

plavam su-kalpam guru-kamnadhāram

mayānukūlena nabhasvateritam

pumān bhavābhim na taret sa ātma-hā

“The human body, which can award all benefit in life, is automatically obtained by the laws of nature, although it is a very rare achievement. This human body can be compared to a perfectly constructed boat having the spiritual master as the captain and the instructions of the Personality of Godhead as favourable winds impelling it on its course. Considering all these advantages, a human being who does not utilize his human life to cross the ocean of material existence must be considered the killer of his own soul.”



Vyasa Puja 2020

Thank you for being this most able captain, and for so expertly imparting the instructions of the Lord to me through all the wonderful seminars and lectures you have been holding. Without your mercy, I would be lost in material entanglement.

I pray that I will always remain in the dust of your lotus feet, never wavering, always steadfast in following your instructions as they navigate me along the path of devotion.

Your servant,

Sivarama das

Sri Caitanya Das, Caitanya Premi Devi Dasi & Yamuna Sundari Devi Dasi

All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Gurudev,

At your lotus feet, I offer my obeisances again and again.

Gurudev, you appeared in this world to bestow the priceless benediction of the Holy names and to plant within our hearts the rarest treasures - the taste for rendering pure devotion service.

Undoubtedly, you are a transcendental messenger, a pure representative of Srimati Radharani and Lord Krsna.

Dictated by lust, greed and anger, we were all on our way to hell for sure. However, thanks to your sublime mercy and our extreme good fortune, you came to our rescue.

Your kindness is without bounds.

Your mercy knows no limits.

Your knowledge is deeper than the deepest sea.

Your glories extend beyond mundane vision.

Your words of wisdom can end all depressive thoughts.

You gave us a structure made of pure love.

You saw us at the side of the road, looking for a free ride to happiness only you would bestow.

Your love for your disciples from all around the world simply grows and grows.

Vyasa Puja 2020

We love you more with each passing year and hope it somehow shows.

Forgive this unfortunate soul as I may not have fulfilled everything you wanted us to learn or perform, but I must assure you that although I'm halfway there and I know one day I'll be, what you want me to be spiritually.

Your eternal servants,

Sri Caitanya Das, Caitanya Premi Devi Dasi & Yamuna Sundari Devi Dasi

Newcastle, Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa

Subhadra Mayi Devi Dasi

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-presthāya bhū-tale

śrīmate bhakti caitanya-svāmin iti nāmine

namāmi bhakti-caitanyaṁ prabhupādānusevinam

śrī-vraja-dhana-māhātmya pradarśakaṁ kṛpāṁavam

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

My dear Guru Maharaj, I wish you a very happy Vyasa puja.

I am very grateful to Srila Prabhupada and Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya that you became my spiritual master.

You are the eternal servant of Srila Prabhupada and the Supreme Lord. Guru Maharaj, I can't serve you directly, but by following your instructions and the knowledge that you give us, I will try my best to serve you and the mission of Srila Prabhupada.

Without your guidance, my spiritual master, I can't have a spiritual life, I can't develop bhakti and come out of the darkness of ignorance.

This year, I feel particularly blessed to have your direct association with all the devotees, by your mercy, compassion, blessings and classes, I am becoming more and more Kṛṣṇa conscious.

Your dedication towards Srila Prabhupada's movement is an example for me, please Guru Maharaj, bless me so that I can become like you and



Vyasa Puja 2020

develop a very good and sincere attitude of service as to become a good devotee.

My dear Guru Maharaj, eternally you are very dear to my heart. May Srila Prabhupada and the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa keep you eternally at their lotus-feet and in their hearts.

All Glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to HH Bhakti Caitanya Swami.

Your humble servant,

Subhadra Mayi Devi Dasi

Sundarananda das, Subhadra devi dasi, Sita and Vrindakund devi dasi

Hare Krishna Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

This year, with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, it seems that life as we knew it was turned on its head. Materially, it has been a devastating year for most people, but the silver lining is that it has been a very spiritual year. This year, I feel that I am closer to You than ever before. Being able to join You for Japa every morning and do the Bhakti Sastri classes with You every evening has been spiritually enlivening. It has brought the family together on a spiritual level that we haven't experienced before. We all do mangal arati together, chant together, and listen to Your class every evening together. This pandemic has even spurred a few in the congregation to develop further in their Krishna consciousness. For instance, we started a Srīmad Bhagavatam reading group that reads 10 pages every day and discusses the reading the next day. We have a Zoom mangal arati group that encourages us to do mangal arati on time every day because we don't want to be the ones that get everyone else late. So a positive spin-off of this COVID-19 pandemic is that it has caused a lot of positive peer-pressure in Krishna consciousness that wasn't there before.

I was thinking of Bhagavad Gita 4.34, tad viddhi praṇipātena paripraśnena sevayā, "Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively...". In the morning sessions, I have seen how so many people try to approach You during the Japa session and You patiently try to encourage them in Krishna consciousness even though it disturbs Your chanting. I have also noticed



Vyasa Puja 2020

that some of them are not so “submissive” yet You graciously respond to them appropriately. On this large scale of about 300 devotees on a session, it cannot be an easy accomplishment.

Although this situation is very beneficial to us, as devotees receiving Your mercy, I do realize that it must be extremely taxing on You. You tirelessly do two to three sessions every day; sometimes more. For this, I am eternally grateful to You Guru Maharaja and hope that I can someday at least have some of the dedication You have in spreading Krishna consciousness. I pray that I may someday be a worthy devotee to You and hope You have a wonderful Vyasa Puja in the presence Your loving devotees.

Your servants always,

Sundarananda das, Subhadra devi dasi, Sita and Vrindakund devi dasi

Syama charan das Radhika charan dd Bhakta Rehva Bhaktin Marthinie

Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept our 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 the celebration of Your Vyasa Puja.

Guru Maharaja, we are truly grateful that you mercifully impart the perfect knowledge

to us in order to correct our imperfect existence. Due to Covid-19, it has made mobilization and financials to be pretty challenging. Electronic devices such as smartphones has enables us to connect with Gurumaharaj’s lectures and morning japa session. Spiritual activities delivered by Gurumaharaj has made us stronger in Krishna consciousness and to cope better with the new Covid 19 norm.

A year has passed with Gurumaharaj’s wonderful online classes, parikrama, and japa chanting sessions. We as family are blessed to have all especially on this lockdown.

Myself, Syama Charan das have been doing job as a security personnel. It has helped with monthly expenses in my household. My temple service at the Iskcon Kuala Lumpur has been paused temporarily due to the lockdown. I have been able to maintain my daily japa chanting and deity service for the deities in the house. Mataji,

Vyasa Puja 2020

Radhika Charan das has been able to prepare sweets for the dieties in Iskcon Kuala Lumpur. Mataji also have able to join Nectar of Devotion classes with the blessing of Gurumaharaj. Bhakta Rehva is moving to 3rd year in his degree course, while Bhaktin Marthinie is in her secondary school. We have able to help them in spiritual progress with blessing of Gurumaharaj. We have continuously following instruction of Gurumaharaj and beg forgiveness for any offences committed. Thank you Gurumaharaj for the blessing given by your spiritual activities. We as family will always uphold our love in Krishna Consciousness. All glories to Gurumaharaj and have a great, wonderful Vyasa Puja Celebration.

We beg to remain in your service eternally.

Syama charan das

Radhika charan dd

Bhakta Rehva

Bhaktin Marthinie

Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Syama Kishor das

*nama om vishnu-padaya krishna-preshthaya bhu-tale shrimate bhakti
chaitanya-svamin iti namine*

*namami bhakti-chaitanyam prabhupadanusevinam shri-vraja-dhana-
mahatmya-pradarshakam krparnavam*

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

*namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracharine nirvishesha-shunyavadi-
pashchatya-desha-tarine*

Hare Krishna to my dearest lord and master, Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet, again and again. All glories to ISKCON's founder acharya, His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your divine grace on this most auspicious occasion of your Sri Vyasa-puja.

Srila Gurudev, you are a glorious and exemplary representative of Srila Prabhupada. This is shown by how you do everything in your capacity to



Vyasa Puja 2020

please Srila Prabhupada, by being so loyal to Srila Prabhupada's desires and instructions.

Srila Prabhupada established the seven purposes of ISKCON which makes ISKCON what It so gloriously is. This made me meditate on how you uphold these purposes and, in this way, make such a vital contribution to maintaining ISKCON as what It truly is. Srila Prabhupada and ISKCON are one and the same. This makes you such a vital part of Srila Prabhupada's glorious body.

The way you systematically propagate spiritual knowledge makes it so absorbable into anyone's consciousness. In this way, you create peace, unity and a balance of values in the world. This is shown in your seminars and lectures on timeless spiritual wisdom (which people of all beliefs and cultures can relate to). You propagate Srila Prabhupada's books, in such a comprehensible level and pace. Your preaching is so effectively heart-transforming because of your realised knowledge of Srila Prabhupada's teachings.

By transforming the hearts of those who hear your scholarly classes on Bhagavad Gita or Srimad Bhagavatam, you awaken an increasing attraction in them to hear, chant and remember Sri Sri Radha and Krishna and Their beloved devotees. In this way, you enable so many people to develop a consciousness of Krishna. In many of your classes, I have felt that you have a deep and intimate understanding of Krishna's and Srila Prabhupada's hearts.

As a GBC leader of our ISKCON, taking on great responsibility and much personal inconvenience, you hold and bring the members of our society together, while balancing Srila Prabhupada's standards with continuously arising new and complex challenges, amidst want for change. With your expert leadership, I feel that we have become a mature and a more open-minded society, while maintaining integrity to Srila Prabhupada's standards. This achievement, I can only imagine, is an extremely challenging task. I appreciate and miss the spirit of ISKCON South Africa, which has a special, unique, energy due to your, and all the wonderful devotees', expert leadership.

Guru Maharaj, you always encourage and promote harinama sankirtan and book distribution. You are always enlivened and enthusiastic about the congregational chanting of the Holy Names. I think this has made the sankirtan movement so successful, wherever you go.

In South Africa, and in all the other parts of the world that you lead, there are vibrant transcendental holy places for the benefit of the devotees and the public. You have overseen and ensured that these transcendental places are kept at such a wonderful international standard. They are all



Vyasa Puja 2020

places of solace enabling everyone to dive deeper in devotional awakening. These holy places are oases within this passionate, heavily consuming, materialistic world. These wonderful holy places educate people about the importance of a more natural and simpler way of life - an essential contribution to the world.

You always emphasise to the devotees, and especially us, your disciples, the importance of distributing transcendental literature. You are so enlivened when devotees distribute Srila Prabhupada's books. These books give knowledge that people are hungry for.

Srila Gurudev, I am so grateful to you for everything that you do for Prabhupada's ISKCON. You are an exemplary leader. You lead with a devotional and compassionate heart. There is no way to thank you enough for all your sacrifice and commitment, which is for the benefit of all of the members of ISKCON. You ensure that our home, our ISKCON, is strong and protected. We take this for granted, some times.

Gurudev, I pray to uphold and contribute to these seven purposes, as a member of ISKCON. I pray that I may please you, one day. Please help me develop some intelligence so that I may also make a difference.

I beg you to be merciful to me. Please pray to Srila Prabhupada and Sri Sri Radha Shyamasundar for me, for They will hear your pure prayers. My desire is to please Them, to chant the Holy Names with love and full attention, to serve the devotees sincerely and to develop a personal relationship with Them.

Although I am geographically far away from your lotus feet, your lotus feet will always be firmly placed and worshipped within the core of my heart.

Hare Krishna, Gurudev.

Your useless son,

Syama Kishor das

Perth, Australia

Syama Vallabhi Devi Dasi

*sri-guru-carana-padma. kevala-bhakati-sadma, bando mui savadhana
mate, jahara prasade bhai, e bhava toriya jai, krsna-prapti hoy jaha ha te*

The lotus feet of our spiritual master are the only way by which we can attain pure devotional service. I bow down to his lotus feet with great awe and reverence. By his mercy, one can cross the ocean of material suffering and obtain the mercy of Krsna.

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

He opens my darkened eyes and fills my heart with transcendental knowledge. He is my lord, birth after birth. From him, ecstatic prema emanates. By him, ignorance is destroyed. The Vedic scriptures sing of his character.

Hare Krsna dear Gurudev

I offer my humble obeisances unto you a multitude of times. May I take this opportunity of wishing you a very happy birthday and a joyous and successful Vyasa Puja. Unfortunately, this year, it is not possible for us to be physically present to celebrate this day with you with great pomp and festivities. However, modern technology has made it possible for us to still connect with you to take your darshan.

Srila Gurudev, what a journey, it's been! The last twenty years of my life and more especially, the last two and half years since you have officially accepted me as your disciple. How my life has turned around, ever since you took pity on this poor soul. You have embraced me as your daughter and since then all my troubles seem to have vanished. There is no looking back for me. I still remember my very first darshan of you so vividly - twenty years ago. It was my birthday, and a very sad day for me indeed, as it was the funeral of my dear niece, Jadeine. But You, Srila Gurudev, was the presiding guru at her funeral service, imparting such knowledge, that changed my life forever. My tears stopped flowing as the science of self-realisation started to set in. How merciful is our Lord Sri Krsna and how much more merciful is His dear pure devotee. You are truly an Uttama Adhikari!.. An Uttama Adhikari, is described as a topmost devotee, one who has unflinching faith that Sri Krsna is the Supreme personality of Godhead, and just by his presence, can convert others into devotees of the Lord as well. Just as my being in your presence that first day, turned me into a devotee of the Lord.

Vyasa Puja 2020

It is described in CC Madhya Lila 22.65, from the teachings of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu to Sri Sanatana Goswami:-

*sastra-yukte sunipuna, drdha-sraddha yanra, "uttama-adhikari" se
taraye samsara*

"A person who is expert in understanding the conclusion of the revealed scriptures and who fully surrenders to the cause of the Lord is actually able to deliver others from the clutches of material existence."

In SB 4 .22 .16, it is also described that

Uttama adhikari is the maha-bhagavata or highly advanced devotee, one who knows the Vedas in full knowledge; and thus becomes a devotee. Indeed not only is he convinced himself, but he can convince others on the strength of Vedic evidence. Through your teachings, and your actions, you have indicated how true these words are, Srila Gurudev, You are that first Class devotee!

I thank you from the depths of my heart for inculcating within me such valuable knowledge through your classes and seminars. You are an excellent teacher, so expert in making the most difficult concepts easy to grasp. I know that other devotees all over the world feel exactly the same, as it is evident from the messages of love and gratitude that gets sent via the different platforms on social media. No doubt you are truly loved by your disciples. The more I think about it, the more I realise just how merciful you are, and just how fortunate we are to be so privileged to receive such mercy from a great soul as yourself.

You have dedicated your entire adult life in the service of The Lord. You gave up the idea of being a householder (if any) in order to fulfil the wishes of your spiritual master, His Divine grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada. You've crossed many hurdles and overcame so many difficulties, yet you remained steadfast in your duty as a disciple to your spiritual master.

Srila Gurudev, during this time when all the world is in lockdown, and no international travel is allowed, I think of how fortunate I had been to be able to join you on the Vraja mandala parikrama last November. It was my first parikrama, and all the more special that it occurred during the most auspicious month of Kartik. Prior to that I would clasp the Govardhan book close to me whilst doing my japa, and I would silently meditate on visiting Govardhan Hill. As you write in that book, "the hill that fulfils all desires", likewise my desires became fulfilled. When you demonstrated how to roll in the dust at the foot of that sacred hill, your humility and simplicity just amazed me.



Vyasa Puja 2020

As they say, you are truly “down to earth”.

Through your grace, I got to visit so many sacred temples. Although myself and several other devotees had become ill, I felt most honoured when, after hearing that I was sick, you sent your garland to me. That was the highlight of my trip. My very own Guru Maharaj taking care of me just as my father would.

Indeed, you are not just my guru and my guide, but my light in darkness - you are my father, my spiritual father. That is the duty of a father – to guide his children from darkness into light, onto the path of God consciousness. Thank you, Srila Gurudev.

At this point I must thank you for allowing me to personally serve you by preparing meals for you on so many occasions. It gives me great pleasure to serve you in this way. Not just myself, but my daughter, Alanna enjoys cooking dhall rotis and making sweet & spicy fruit chutneys or even baking little delicacies just for your pleasure. Just as a daughter would serve her father, I too get to serve you with so much love and adoration.

At this point I would I would like to offer my gratitude also to your personal servants, Devadeva Prabhu, Krsna Caitanya Prabhu and Sachi Kumar Prabhu for engaging me in your loving service. Lastly, Srila Gurudev, I wish you extremely good health and well-being, just so we get to enjoy your association for as long as possible, and relish more nectar that you have to offer. Recently when you were diagnosed with ill-health, we were deeply saddened. I wept like a child upon thinking of the pain you were in. Nevertheless, together with other disciples all over the world, we chanted fervently for your recovery. By the grace of Srila Prabhupada and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the most merciful of all incarnations of the Lord, your health has improved.

As you taught us in Nectar of Devotion, Srila Gurudev, that when a pure devotee renders unalloyed service unto the Supreme Lord, the Lord becomes purchased by such a devotee. You are such a devotee, Srila Gurudev, a true Uttama Adhikari!

Hare Krsna.

All glories to you, Srila Gurudev!

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

Your fallen servant and daughter,

Syama Vallabhi Devi Dasi

Tulsi Dasi Soriakumar

To My Eternal Spiritual Master, His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to His Divine Grace A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada.

Today I would like to ask you to please accept me as one of your disciples. I have to follow in the perfect examples set by you, your god-brothers, god-sisters and His Most Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada. In my eyes, there is no other way of living than that within the ISKCON movement. I want to constantly serve you all in any possible ways. Through such a process of devotional service please grant me the strength, wisdom and guidance that I so desperately need in this human lifetime.

Thank you for everything that you have given to me. Your amazing disciples have become a part of my growth at every stage. Your constant enthusiasm for huge Ratha Yatras all over the world and especially within South Africa. Seeing you whenever I see the beautiful deities of Lord Jagannatha, Baladeva and Lady Subhadra, I immediately become filled with joy. Your acknowledgement glances throughout many years have kept me inspired to continue on this path of Krishna Consciousness.

This struggle of material life is finally being eclipsed by this wonderful gift of ISKCON. I hope to always remain fixed in service.

Your very fallen servant,

Tulsi Dasi Soriakumar

Tulsi Priya Dasi

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti-caitanya-svamin iti namine

Dear Guru Maharaj,

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 on this most auspicious day of your Vyasa-puja.

My dear Guru Maharaj, I know that when you meet with your disciples, you fondly ask, "How can I serve you?" Maharaj, you are always ready to serve anyone and everyone, whomever it may be. This is an outstanding quality that you have. One of the outstanding experiences that I had was during the 90's. You had asked Mother Satyabarna, Mother Varshanrani and I to go with you to a house programme in Phoenix. Guru Maharaj, you were waiting for us at the car park at Shree Shree Radha Radhanath Temple. The seats in the car were taken by the boys. You looked at us and you took a few minutes and then asked whether it was okay if we sat at the back of the car which was a station wagon. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and we did not want to miss that opportunity to travel with you in the same car. We were so excited and we quickly said "Yes, Guru Maharaj." As we travelled to Phoenix, the three of us were in complete disbelief that we were actually travelling with you. After a while, you asked us whether we were comfortable. When we had arrived in Phoenix, I remember that the three of us were outside the house, chatting with a few of the members of the household, when a Bhakta came towards us saying that Guru Maharaj wanted us to take prasadam with Him. We were in awe as we turned to one another. This was a mind-blowing revelation. We were going to receive a double portion of mercy for the day! When we returned to the temple Guru Maharaj, you asked us whether we had a nice time. I will never forget that most amazing day with You, Guru Maharaj, and my favourite God sisters! This day will be etched into my memory forever!

Begging for your mercy always.

Your servant,

Tulsi Priya Dasi

Ujjvala Prema devi dasi

My Dearest Gurudev,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of Your Lotus Feet, the dust You bring from the Land of Vraja.

All glories to Jagat Guru Srila Prabhupada.

One great astrologer said, upon seeing Srila Prabhupada's birth chart:

"Nobody can read this chart; if they say they can, they are simply lying. This Personality comes and goes at His own sweet will; he is not bound by anybody or anything. The stars are lined up perfectly ---- there is no question of karma. He is working directly under the will of God. And when He writes, HIS PEN DOES HAVE IN IT INK. HIS PEN HAS IN IT FIRE WHICH WILL BURN THE IGNORANCE OF THE WHOLE WORLD!"

O Gurudev! So true are the words of this great astrology, that with this Fiery Pen, Srila Prabhupada has burnt the ignorance of so many millions out there in this world. Your great fortune to have come into direct contact with such a Divine Soul and His Fiery Pen.

O Gurudev! How fortunate You have made us, in taking up this most important mission in teaching us exactly what is coming from this Fiery Pen and burning such ignorances to ashes.

I Thank You immensely Srila Gurudev and pray sincerely to Your beloved Srimati Radharani to take care of You personally.

Your daughter and servant,

Ujjvala Prema devi dasi

Ujjvala Rasa dasi

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhakti caitanya-svamin iti namine
namani bhakti caitanyam prabhupada anu-sevanam
sri vraja dhana mahatmya pradarsakam

My Dearest Srila Gurudeva,

All Glories to You and Srila Prabhupada!

Hare Krsna.

Recently, while listening to a lecture on the Nectar of Devotion by Srila Prabhupada, he said: “The best devotee is the spiritual master. Spiritual master means representative of God. So who can become representative of God, unless he can become engaged 24hours in the service of God, Krsna? The spiritual master is as good as Hari, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.”

We see this in your person dear Gurudeva. You are resolute and fixed in preaching the message of Krishna Consciousness to the whole world, to whoever wants to listen!

BG13.26 translates:

“Again there are those who, although not conversant in spiritual knowledge, begin to worship the Supreme Person upon hearing about Him from others. Because of their tendency to hear from authorities, they also transcend the path of birth and death.”

In the purport to BG 13.26 Srila Prabhupada writes: “As for the common man, if he is a good soul, then there is chance for advancement by hearing. This hearing process is very important...In this verse particularly, the process of hearing is strongly recommended, and this is very appropriate. Although the common man is often not as capable as so-called philosophers, faithful hearing from an authoritative person will help one to transcend this material existence and go back to Godhead, back to home.”

Indeed! You are an authoritative personality, having taken shelter at the lotus feet of the divine acharya coming down in the line of disciplic succession!



Vyasa Puja 2020

During this difficult time of the pandemic lockdown, you have constantly and mercifully given us your darshan and the opportunity to hear from you. You are so kind, caring and considerate to all those who connect to get your darshan. You very lovingly and patiently wait for everyone to be connected virtually, always ensuring that the sound is good for our reception. Some days you are not well, but still, you are there, giving us your mercy. I appreciate you, dear Gurudeva.

You naturally display the twenty-six qualities of a devotee in your person.

You are an emblem of humility and respect, as you deal with everyone alike, constantly offering obeisances to all with folded palms whilst chanting the Sri Vaisnava Pranama.

I offer my humble and respectful obeisances unto you Srila Gurudeva.

Recently, during our last BTG packing session, a dear friend and I were speaking about serving our spiritual masters and she shared an exchange that she had had with her beloved spiritual master.

She said to him: “I cooked this for you. And for the ‘devotees’ I cooked this.”

Maharaj asked her with a smile: “So, if you cooked that for the ‘devotees’, then who am I? Am I a ‘demon’?”

Naturally, she was stunned, just as I was stunned, upon hearing it!

The import (our realization) of this was that we often hold our Spiritual Masters in awe and reverence (and we rightfully should!), but we forget that they are first and foremost dear devotees of Krsna and that they have feelings and needs just like us.

Without minimising the transcendental position that you are situated upon, on that day I realized that yes! my Spiritual Master is a devotee too! A real person, an exalted devotee of the Supreme Lord Krsna! Someone whom I can relate to directly as a person!

Now we have you back home with us and by the mercy of your dear son, my Godbrother Sachi Kumar Prabhu, I get to serve you directly in some tiny way. Thank you.

Sri Sri Gurb-astaka verse 7:

“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.



Vyasa Puja 2020

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].

Thank You for all the sacrifices that you make for us, for me. May Sri Sri Radha Radhanath bless you.

I beg for your mercy and shelter at your lotus feet eternally.

Your servant, your daughter,

Ujjvala Rasa dasi

Durban, South Africa

Usha Devi Dasi

Hare Krishna dearest Guru Maharaj,

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

All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Gurudev.

On this auspicious day of your divine appearance, I would like to take the opportunity to say how grateful I am for having Guru as my Spiritual Master. Guru is an inspiration to me and has profoundly impacted on my spiritual journey.

Thank you for the devotional nectar we get from engaging in Guru's morning japa, classes and seminars. Maharaj is the eternal ray of sunshine that resides in my heart.

Please bestow this insignificant soul with mercy always.

Your servant,

Usha Devi Dasi

Varsana Devi Dasi

*nama on vishnu padaya krishna prescaya bhutale srimati bhakti
caitanya svamin iti namine*

*namami bhakti caitanyam prabhupada anusevinam sri vraja dhana
mahatmya pradarshakam kriparnavam*

*nama om vishnu padaya krishna prescaya bhutale srimati bhakti
vedanta svamin iti namine*

Hare Krishna my dearest Gurudeva,

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

All glories to You Guru Maharaja.

I wish you a very happy Vyasa puja. Thank you for accepting me as your disciple.

I cannot express how you have changed my life. You have been instrumental in making me realise what is material and what is spiritual, to realise the self, and to follow yours and Still Prabhupada's teachings.

You are a treasure house of knowledge coming down in disciplic succession from our Lord Krishna through our dearest Srila Prabhupada's teachings. I don't want to think where I would be without your shelter. You are a pure soul sent to earth to benefit your disciples and ISKCON as a whole.

I want You to know that I am chanting 20 rounds minimum. I chant 40 rounds the majority of the time. I try to read at least a chapter of BG most often. I am really grateful to You.

You are a great soul. You undergo so much of difficulty travelling all over the world spreading Krishna consciousness with such ease. It is certainly admirable.

Please keep me in the safety of Your Lotus Feet always.

May Srimati Radharani, Lord Krishna, Lord Chaitanya and Srila Prabhupada always protect You.

Your most humble servant,

Varsana Devi Dasi

Bramley, Johannesburg

Vijaya Baladeva das and Sita Carana devi dasi

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

All glories to you on this most auspicious day of your appearance.

How fortunate are we that we have met you and taken shelter at your lotus feet! Nectar of Devotion stresses that accepting a bona fide spiritual master, taking initiation from him and serving him with faith are the most important items from the sixty-four items of devotional service. It also states that acceptance of a guru is a crucial point in advancement in spiritual life. Although these facts are well known to most initiated disciples, it is still important to see it in the context of the whole spiritual development from sraddha all the way to Prema bhakti. Even though these advanced stages of devotional service still feel very distant to us, it is good to know where are we heading, it is comforting to know that if we stick to the process as presented by you as the bonafide representative of the Brahma Madhva Gaudiya sampradaya, we too shall one day experience devotional ecstasy and pure love of God.

Guru Maharaja, you are such a huge inspiration for all of us, more so now in these trying times, we really appreciate how much of your time you sacrifice to give us spiritual knowledge, to help us develop our sadhana bhakti, to conquer our material desires and to become better devotees. Your daily encouragement in the Japa sessions, your laughter and even your tears that you share with us; those are real gems that we keep in our hearts. We cannot thank you enough for all these gifts that you have given us. All we can do is try as much as possible to assist you somehow in your mission to serve your dear spiritual master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, and to help you spread Krishna consciousness far and wide and also to take care of the devotees that are already in the movement.

You are such a spiritual hero and role model for us. Despite the extremely difficult and life-threatening health situation you have been dealing with especially earlier this year, despite the fact that you must have been in a lot of pain and discomfort you haven't slowed down in your devotional activities at all, on the contrary, you actually increased it by reaching out to so many devotees with your online classes and Japa session for the past several months. Being able to chant Japa in the virtual company of the pure devotee of the Lord and in the association of all the Vaishnavas have been a reason to be excited to wake up every morning. Thank you for allowing us into your very personal time with Krishna. These japa



Vyasa Puja 2020

sessions have refreshed our Japa so much and in turn, enlivened and inspired us to do better. To top that off all the trouble that you and your team have gone through to bring the Bhakti Sastri course to us. These classes have been very sweet and have helped us use our time better in our own development and hopefully the future development of others. We cannot thank you enough.

It is almost impossible to write this offering and not remember our beloved Srila Bhakti Charu Maharaja. We will surely miss him and will relish all his beautiful singing and electrifying classes. Thank you once again for giving us Srila Prabhupada thus keeping us in the association of such advanced devotees.

The current COVID 19 pandemic has taught us so much but it especially drew attention to what is important and what is not. You Srila Gurudeva and your unflinching love, care and want for us to do better is our only hope.

Thank you again and again for being you and for allowing us to grow. Please always keep us in your loving shelter. Please bless us so that we can please you and always serve Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON.

Your servants,

Vijaya Baladeva das and Sita Carana devi dasi

Vilasa Manjari

Dearest Guru Maharaj,

Please accept my humble obeisances

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada

All Glories to you on your Vyasa Puja.

Hare Krishna Maharaj,

On this very auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja, I wish you a very, very happy Vyasa Puja and pray at the feet of Sri Sri Radha Radhanath to bless you with many, many more Vyasa Puja days. May the Lord keep you in good health always, so that you can keep distributing your mercy and blessings to us conditioned souls.

Maharaj, I cannot thank you enough for the exemplary work that you are doing by your preaching and by having the Bhakti Shastri classes, the Japa sessions etc, for all of us to benefit from. You are reaching out to



Vyasa Puja 2020

hundreds of devotees, not only in South Africa but in other parts of the world as well. I am truly very fortunate to be part of it.

I pray to Srimati Radharani and Lord Krishna to bless you so you may continue to spread your knowledge together with your mercy upon us all.

I pray at your lotus feet for your blessings so that I can remain steadfast in my devotion to Krishna Consciousness.

Hare Krishna,

Your most fallen disciple,

Vilasa Manjari

Visvambhara dasa

Dearest Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your Divine Grace. All glories to the saviour of the whole world, Srila Prabhupada.

Even as we were preparing for this Vyasa-puja to be held in Cape Town this year, I was thinking about what my offering this year should focus on. I was wondering what aspect of your Divine Grace's many wonderful characteristics I should focus on. Then, along came the unimaginable situation that turned the world as we know it on its head. Krishna's energy smacked us in the form of a viral epidemic and we were quarantined and the whole world was thrown into disarray.

Through this difficult period though, we've also managed to adapt to so many new ways of living and working. Many of us, myself included have had to deliver on our work plans via alternate means by working remotely. This also forced the devotees in general to resort to alternate means of preaching, teaching, learning etc. Through this way of adapting we've seen so many wonderful things come to bear.

One of the upsides of this lockdown is that we've got a chance to listen to your many wonderful classes in the form of seminars (like the Demons of Vrndavan and the anarthas they represent) & courses (like Nectar of Devotion eligible for Bhakti Sastri).

As we see in so many cases in our Vedic scriptures, when a curse has been invoked or an apparent calamity appears, then there is invariably an upside or a blessing that comes out of that situation. Some examples

Vyasa Puja 2020

would be when the sons of Kuvera, Manigriva & Nalakuvera, were cursed by Sri Narada Muni to become trees after behaving so degradedly, their blessing became that they would meet Lord Krishna and become liberated by Him. Personal darshan of the Supreme Personality of Godhead – what a blessing! When King Pandu, the father of the Pandava brothers was cursed by the sage couple who were shot by him, that he would not be able to copulate with his spouses and hence could not have children, this curse was turned into a blessing as the sons who subsequently were born to him and his spouses were pure devotees and whose pastimes have become glorified & entrenched in history. There are so many more cases like these.

In a similar vein, the Covid-19 pandemic has forced a national lockdown in many countries even though this is such a disastrous situation from many points of view, there is a blessing in that we've managed to get so much more association from you than we would ordinarily have. Under “business as usual” situation, you would have moved around and maybe met or spoke to maybe tens or a few hundred of devotees at a time, yet we can see with this new way of preaching you are reaching a few, even several hundred devotees - every evening. That is such a remarkable thing. So many of us are now getting the advantage of your divine association every evening – in the comfort of our homes!

Looking at the pandemic from this perspective, and whilst I definitely am not on the level of the noble Queen Kunti, I can certainly appreciate the sentiment offered by her when she prays to Lord Krishna:

vipadaḥ santu tāḥ śaśvat

tatra tatra jagad-guro

bhavato darśanam yat syād

apunar bhava-darśanam

“I wish that all those calamities would happen again and again so that we could see You again and again, for seeing You means that we will no longer see repeated births and deaths”. (SB 1.8.25)

I pray to continue to study under your guidance and get your association like we are getting at the moment. These moments are sincerely cherished.

Begging to remain eternally at your lotus feet.

Your aspiring servant,

Visvambhara dasa

Vraja Devi Dasi

PAMHO Dear Gurudev,

My dear Gurudev, You are merciful, tolerant, patient and caring. In this time of the pandemic, a scary and anxious time in our lives...your disciples live...with so much bliss; the early morning chanting and evening chanting and classes in the lockdown. A void in our lives has been filled so we do not miss the seva and sanga of devotees. Daily we look forward to your association online.

Thank you, Gurudev, we are truly indebted to you.

Your humble disciple,

Vraja Devi Dasi

Vraja Priya devi dasi and Revati devi dasi

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

nama on vishnu padaya krishna prescaya bhutale srimati bhakti caitanya svamin iti namine

We offer our 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)

Hare Krsna Gurudeva,

Please accept our humble obeisances.

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada.

All Glories to Your divine grace our dear Spiritual Father.

Dear Gurudeva, every year on this most auspicious and glorious day of Your Appearance, we are given an opportunity to glorify Your greatness, Your Humility, Your perfect demeanour and Your super excellent personality. Yet due to our fallen disposition, we are not even qualified to even begin Your glorification. A Perfect Vaishnav and Prabhupada Man like Yourself is impossible for persons like ourselves to even begin to glorify due to our ignorance.

Gurudeva, You are an ocean of transcendental and serene qualities. We pray to serve You endlessly Gurudeva by your causeless mercy and



Vyasa Puja 2020

instructions. Your affection and caring towards us instils in our hearts a transcendental inspiration to be constantly engaged in devotional service.

Gurudeva we thank you for uplifting us and teaching us the path to Krishna Consciousness. We pray on this auspicious day that You bless our fallen souls so that we can continue to follow this path of Krishna Consciousness and please help us make spiritual advancement.

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 Krishna and His devotees grows with Your mercy.

Thank You, Gurudeva for all that You are and all that You do for us. We pray that we may never be bereft of Your divine, sweet and loving association and may You continue to shower Your blessings and mercy on to us.

Please accept our heartfelt appreciation Gurudeva. Your advice is so sweet and Nectarian that it has really helped us a lot. It is only by Your mercy Gurudeva that we are able to continue in our devotional service and in our Krishna Consciousness.

Thank You very much, Gurudeva with our continuous Japa sessions and classes everyday. It is totally inspiring and the closeness with all the devotees is very mindblowing.

Thank You, Gurudeva for all of Your mercy, association, kindness and compassion that You have given us. We pray and beg of Your Divine Grace that on this most auspicious day, that we may never leave the shelter of Your lotus feet.

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.

Hare Krsna,

Your most fallen daughters,

Vraja Priya devi dasi and Revati devi dasi

Vraja Sakhi Devi Dasi

Dear Guru Maharaj,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. All Glories unto Your Lotus Feet. All Glories unto you on this auspicious occasion of your Vyasa Puja.

Dear Guru Maharaj, my mother, my sister and I, all wish you a very happy auspicious Vyasa Puja. We offer our prayers to Srila Prabhupada and Sri Sri Radha Golokanda to keep you in good health, to protect you, and to keep you spreading Krishna consciousness all over the world.

Dear Guru Maharaj, I would like to seize this opportunity to show my gratitude and appreciation towards the compassion and tolerance which you have always shown me and guided me. I am very thankful for everything.

This year was quite stressful when I heard you felt sick and everyday I try to do maximum rounds so you can recover quickly but I have full faith in Srila Prabhupada and Lord Nrsimhadeva to protect you so you can continue to spread the Holy Name around the world.

During the lockdown, I was very happy to have your association everyday, thank you for giving us your time and association through the media, even you are sick, you are always here for us. Thank you and thank you again and again. I'm eternally grateful to you and you set the example. Thank you for your kindness and mercy.

Please, Dear Guru Maharaj, I beg for your blessings so I can continue to make progress and be a good devotee and serve you, Srila Prabhupada and the devotee very nicely.

Thank you for being my very special father and my Guru Maharaj.

Please forgive me for any offence I might have committed in my attempt to glorify your divine personality.

Your Daughter and Servant,

Vraja Sakhi Devi Dasi

Quatre-Bornes, Mauritius

Vraja Vilasini devi dasi

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

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

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

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

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

Last year I based my offering to you based on gratitude. But with what 2020 has brought us, I feel my debt to you has risen multiple fold... At the end of 2019, I reflected that the previous 2 years were incredibly difficult ones. 2020 started as being an extremely difficult one. Worse than ever. However, I think 2020 will end up being the year that I get to appreciate everything I have.

This led me to start to think about what Vyasa Puja means? Vyasa Puja means to honour a bonafide spiritual master or learned teacher of spiritual science who faithfully represents Srila Vyasadeva. Lord Krishna explains at the beginning of Bhagavad Gita that spiritual science descends to us by parampara or disciplic succession. In this succession, a fully Krishna Conscious teacher passes on his own perfect spiritual understanding to a fully qualified student. This year, I have the amazing opportunity to study under your guidance – even though I am far from a perfect student. Such is the mercy of the guru! For years and years, You have told me to study Srila Prabhupada's books but I have never had a taste to study! Yes, mainly due to my laziness. It was easier to say I am busy with service and material entanglements. You have been patient and never hard on me. Each year I have told myself I will study Bhakti Sastri – there are so many online courses but each year passed on. I never got around to ever finishing...

Vyasa Puja 2020

Then this year, Krishna made his own elaborate arrangements. By my greatest good fortune, I am now studying directly from You! How much more amazing can this be! Even then, You will recall how hesitant I was! “I am not sure if I will manage, work, life etc...” All my usual excuses! You encouraged me as you usually do – well try and let’s see what happens. So far so good and well now that I have started and see the great endeavour You are making to make this available for us –how can I not try? So yes, I will study and will make the most of this. Thank you dearest Guru Maharaj! You are indeed an ocean of mercy.

So now I am attempting to diligently study our beloved Srila Prabhupada’s book. Yes, it’s still not easy as my taste is so unrefined. Due to my material entanglements, it’s intense at times. However, studying these books under your guidance is nothing short of amazing and refreshing. I am seeing things in a whole new light. I am so spiritually weak and with an unpure heart however only by your mercy, I am getting this opportunity.

yasya prasādāḍ bhagavat-prasādo

yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi

dhyāyan stuvamś tasya yaśas tri-sandhyam

vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam

By satisfaction of the spiritual master, the Supreme Personality of Godhead becomes satisfied. And by not satisfying the spiritual master, there is no chance of being promoted to the plane of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I should, therefore, meditate and pray for his mercy three times a day, and offer my respectful obeisances unto him, my spiritual master.

Over the years, I have witnessed You executing the process of devotional service; which inspires and amazes me. You travel far and wide each year and it seems to increase each year even though your material body is advancing in age. And now when faced with being “locked down”, You immediately took advantage and started preaching (probably more than ever) - I am often left speechless and left to drown in an ocean of your qualities, as being so much younger I am unable to do a fraction of what you do. It is indeed due to your transcendental nature. Only by Your mercy will I be able to gain a fraction of these qualities.

You shared with us how BRS 1.1.11 is the paribhasa sutra of the Nectar of Devotion as it sums up things for us. You are showing us as living example! In order for our Krishna conscious activities to be pure, we



Vyasa Puja 2020

must be free from all material desires and philosophical speculation. This will only come with practice and more practice. The more we do, the better it will become. Even if we are not yet freed from these desires, at least our motives should be pure and we will be able to make progress. This means making everything we do about service to Krishna. There are 9 kinds of devotional service – we only need to perfect one. You gave so many examples of how we can practically engage in more than one.

So on this most auspicious day of Vyasa-puja, I pray to You to grant me the mercy to be able to gain a fraction of your faith and devotion so I am able to practice devotional service always.

Your forever indebted daughter,

Vraja Vilasini devi dasi

Cape Town, South Africa

Vrinda Kund Devi Dasi

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

All glories to You Guru Maharaja.

I once read a quote by Srila Prabhupada, in which he mentioned that “One should unhesitatingly accept Krishna as the supreme saviour of all living entities. With faith and love, one should surrender unto Him”.

However, it is not always easy to have faith *or* to surrender. In fact, at times it is almost impossible. But, listening to You and taking shelter of You, everything becomes easy. *Even* having faith and surrendering. *That* is the strength of the disciplic succession.

Thus, I am grateful that You granted me shelter. Your love and compassion can guide anyone through the miseries of the material world.

I, therefore, hope that the Lord blesses You with many more healthy Krishna Conscious years so that You can continue to guide and protect all the living entities.

My spiritual father, I take shelter of Your lotus feet and pray that Krishna showers His blessings upon You always.

Lots of love from Your daughter,

Vrinda Kund Devi Dasi

Vrndavana dasa Thakura dasa

Dear Guru Maharaj, my Lord and master,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All Glories to Your Divine Grace.

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada.

nama om visnupadaya krsna presthaya bhutale

srimate bhakti caitanya swami iti namini

Your Lordship is my only means of getting out of this darkest region of ignorance because you are my transcendental eye which, by your mercy only, I have attained after many, many births.

I am a conditioned soul in the darkest region of ignorance and entangled in sense gratification. To get out of this entanglement is very difficult, but I am fortunate in that I have your association. By your grace, I can be delivered from this ignorance.

I, therefore, worship you as one who can deliver me from ignorance with the torchlight of knowledge. You can take me to the other side of conditioned life, the side of freedom, by opening my eyes with knowledge.

I am suffering because of ignorance. By your instructions, the darkness of ignorance is removed and I will be able to go to the side of freedom.

Lord Krsna says in the Bhagavad Gita that after many births one surrenders unto Him. Similarly, after many, many births I have surrendered unto you, my Lord, a bonafide representative of Lord Krsna, who can take me to the side of light.

Your eternal servant,

Vrndavana dasa Thakura dasa

Vrindavani Devi Dasi

Hare Krishna,

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada, my humble obeisances to our Guru Maharaj Bhakti Caitanya Swami.

On this glorious celebration of your Vyasa puja, I am grateful to you for saving me from the clutches of Maya and giving me spiritual light and guidance to follow in Krishna consciousness.

Your fallen servant,

Vrindavani Devi Dasi

Durban

Yamaraja dasa

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of Your lotus feet. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. All Glories to You, Srila Gurudev.

Today is my utmost favourite day of the year, the day Srila Gurudev appeared in this material world to embark on a mission to be of service to Srila Prabhupada's master plan. Happy Birthday, Srila Gurudev.

One of the most regularly recited verses in our ISKCON community comes to my mind this year Srila Gurudev, *om ajnana-timirandhasya, jnananjana-salakaya, caksur unmilitam yena, tasmai sri-gurave namah*. I was swimming in the dark ocean of ignorance Gurudev, but You mercifully opened my eyes with the torch of knowledge passed down by Srila Prabhupada. Even after opening my eyes Gurudev, sometimes my rascal mind wants to go back into this dark ignorance, but You still mercifully keep my eyes open and keep me on the right track.

This year of 2020 has been perplexing to everyone, and yet Srila Gurudev, You are mercifully giving us Your valuable association to us all over the world daily. We may be miles apart but I feel closer to You than ever before. Being in Your service keeps me grounded in devotional life. That is my only chance to make spiritual advancement in this material world.

In Bhagavad Gita 15.6, Lord Krishna describes Goloka Vrindavana as an abode of His that if one reaches, one never returns to this material world. Gurudev, all these challenges we face daily in life are just tests to prepare us for that final test we face to get to Goloka Vrindavana. You have been

Vyasa Puja 2020

very mercifully preparing us for these tests and even in some cases, appealing to Their Lordships to grant us entry into Goloka Vrndavana. Srila Prabhupada has told us to hold on to His dhoti and He will bring us to Goloka Vrndavana. Gurudev, if You don't mind, I will be holding on to Your dhoti in an attempt to secure a place in Goloka Vrndavana so I may serve the servants of Their Lordships there eternally.

To conclude, Srila Gurudev, the verse from Bhagavad Gita 9.34, is my daily motto.

man-mana bhava mad-bhakto

mad-yaji mam namaskuru

mam evaisyasi yuktvaivam

atmanam mat-parayanah

Only by following this verse will I be able to keep my mind fixed and obey Srila Gurudev's orders unconditionally.

Thank you so much, Gurudev for Your unlimited and unceasing mercy. Please kindly forgive me for any offences I have committed knowingly or unknowingly. Please bless me that I will always remain in the service of Your lotus feet and Srila Prabhupada.

Your undeserving servant,

Yamaraja dasa

Yogendra 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*



Vyasa Puja 2020

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-pascatya-desatarine

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 on this most blessed event of your Sri Vyasa-puja!

It is safe to say that this year has not been like any one before it. Who could have known that this most awful Corona Virus would have turned this year on its head, disrupting practically everything with its associated lockdown and its extremely high infection rate? I remember that earlier this year, around February sometime, when you returned from your international travels, you would regularly do programs at the different namahattas in and around Durban. I recall typing out a list for you of all the different namahattas in Durban and on which days they host their programs, and you would call these namahatta leaders and invite yourself over (you mentioned this at one of the namahatta programs). This is because you are so eager to preach Krishna Consciousness; you always want to go out and speak the glories of Krishna's holy names and Krishna's pastimes.

In the purport to (ŚB 4.30.37), Srila Prabhupada mentions: "Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu wanted His followers to move all over the world to preach in every town and village. In the Caitanya sampradāya, those who strictly follow the principles of Lord Caitanya must travel all over the world to preach the message of Lord Caitanya, which is the same as



Vyasa Puja 2020

preaching the words of Kṛṣṇa — Bhagavad-gītā — and Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam. The more the devotees preach the principles of kṛṣṇa-kathā, the more people throughout the world will benefit.”

Srila Gurudeva, you are undoubtedly preaching the message of Lord Caitanya in every town and village and people throughout the world are certainly benefitting from your preaching. You are so expert at presenting Kṛṣṇa Consciousness that people are automatically attracted to it and take up the process so easily. To confirm this statement, there are several new devotees who have joined you in your japa sessions and who are now reading Srila Prabhupada’s books and are beginning on the path of devotional service. This is all due to your intense desire to, as Srila Prabhupada mentions in the abovementioned purport, “preach the words of Kṛṣṇa — Bhagavad-gītā — and Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam”. You are so kind that you allow all the different devotees to chant with you both in the morning and the evening, always extending yourself so freely and you even converse with people in so many different languages so as to win their trust and make them more receptive and interested in chanting Krishna’s holy names.

Your commitment to Srila Prabhupada and Lord Caitanya’s sankirtana mission is unwavering and your enthusiasm knows no bounds. Even with the lockdown, you have been so actively involved with all the different online programs; first, it was the seminar on the Six Goswamis of Vrindavan, followed by seminars on the Nectar of Instruction, the Demons of Vrindavana and then finally the pastimes of Lord Nityananda. Thereafter, we started the Bhakti Sastri course, the first of its kind in terms of being offered fully online and it being internationally recognized by the GBC’s Education Ministry. There are several hundred students who listen to you so expertly present the Bhakti Sastri course. Even the dreaded Corona Virus could not deter you from presenting Krishna Consciousness – devotees from all over the world are tuning in by the hundreds to view your morning Bhagavatam classes and evening seminars. The separation I feel from not being in your physical association is minimized, as I know you are “live” and with us during the Japa sessions and different classes.

I remember when you went to hospital this year, it was not an easy time. It was quite unbearable to see you in that condition and I wanted you to come home to the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath temple as soon as it was possible. I came to visit you on the afternoon after you had your procedure and you were experiencing so much pain and agony and I remember you distinctly saying that you chanted all your rounds every single day that you were there in hospital. This is testament to how attached you are to the holy name, and in turn, Sri Nama Prabhu is so merciful to you as he allows you to give the holy name to others. When you were discharged from hospital and came back to the temple, you



Vyasa Puja 2020

attended the morning program, as well as continued speaking at the different namahattas and house programs in and around Durban, one can only wonder how this is possible. You are on the transcendental platform; you are an *uttama-adhikārī*!

In the purport to (ŚB 3.22.21), Srila Prabhupada mentions: “Pure devotees are so absorbed in thought of Kṛṣṇa that they have no other engagement; although they may seem to think or act otherwise, they are always thinking of Kṛṣṇa.”

I think that this purport above accurately describes you in every manner possible. You are no doubt a pure devotee of Krishna and there is no one who can say otherwise. Your lips are always decorated with the holy names of Krishna and you put all personal considerations aside to preach for the pleasure of Srila Prabhupada and Lord Caitanya. Not even having a major operation can slow you down or even a global pandemic such as the Corona Virus can halt you from partaking in the sankirtan mission – that is most admirable and I am so proud to be your duly initiated disciple.

I pray to Lord Caitanya and to Srila Prabhupada that you stay physically present with us for many, many years in good health and continue to enliven us, especially me, who is in most dire need of your physical association. Please allow me to keep my head eternally at your divine lotus feet; that is my only desire.

Happy Vyasa-puja Srila Gurudeva!

Your eternal son,

Yogendra dasa

Yogeshvari Devi Dasi

My dearest Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of Your Lotus Feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Gurudev on this auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja.

Our planet is currently experiencing a global pandemic and life as we knew it has changed. There is depression, disease and death all around us.

Later it will certainly be known as the worst of times, however, for many of us, it is also the best of times.



Vyasa Puja 2020

I feel sad about the physical separation we are all experiencing but at the same time I have never felt so deeply grateful.

It is the desire of every disciple to have the personal association of their spiritual master as much as possible.

Not many can say they are able to chant the Holy names with their master daily, what to speak of, studying sastra by hearing directly from the lips of their master.

Yet, through Your incredible mercy and compassionate heart, we are fortunate to be experiencing this every day for months and we can expect this to go on for many more months.

It feels like You are holding our hands through this pandemic.

Through Your expert use of social media platforms we are chanting Japa at the correct time, we are able to take darshan of the deities in the temple, we are associating with devotees and we are taking the study of sastra more seriously.

This personal association is transforming our days and transforming our lives.

You have turned foolishness into wisdom and darkness into light.

I cannot think of any other scenario of all of us receiving this fortune on a global scale, so it is all definitely by the perfect arrangements of the Lord.

Earlier this year You experienced a health scare, it left us all feeling extremely fearful at the thought of losing Your physical presence in this world.

I pray to Sri Nitai Gaura Hari and Nrsimhadev to allow us to have a lot more time with You, we have so much more to learn from You and a long way to go.

We all need You here, please don't leave us yet Gurudev.

This year we also lost our dear Bhakti Charu Swami, it was such a shock to our hearts and is still difficult to accept but the experience also showed us the loving relationships that is in our vaisnava family. It is certainly a family that is deeply personal and You have shown us that by Your soft heart and love for Maharaj.

Gurudev, You are the most merciful master, judgement or discrimination does not exist in Your soul.



Vyasa Puja 2020

You experience criticism from individuals who fail to see You but You are not bothered and continue with grace, enthusiasm and determination for the success of Srila Prabhupada's movement.

You are the spring of hope to our winter of despair. Your example keeps us strong and inspired to soldier on.

Thank you for all that You do Gurudev.

This is the first Vyasa Puja of me being an official disciple. Thank you so much for accepting me as Your disciple.

Please let me know how I can serve You.

Your mercy is all I am made of.

Yours,

Yogeshvari Devi Dasi





OFFERINGS FROM

ASPIRING DISCIPLES

Bhaktin Priyanka

To my dearest Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the daust of Your Lotus Feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Your Holiness.

I am not sure how to praise one who is not from this world...a soul so golden and so pure that the strokes on my keyboard repeatedly fail to orchestrate words truly befitting of a most magnanimous presence, nature and life - My dearest Srila Gurudev.

For many, many years I have struggled in my Krishna Consciousness, always being lured by the illusory material energy. I felt like a lost child at a brightly lit and bustling fun-fair, frantically searching for my parents - desperately listening out for their voices, watching out for their familiar clothing, whilst simultaneously trying to enjoy the sugar-laden candy floss and horsey rides that would later make me sick in the stomach. For many lifetimes I have searched and searched for my dear parents until I finally found You - my dearmost Srila Gurudev. You gently took me by the hand, shielded me from the false, attractive fairy lights of this material world and brought me to the Lotus Feet of Sri Sri Radha and Krishna.

In the midst of a dark winter's morning, struggling to open my eyes and break free from the clutches of ignorance, I picture Your magnanimous form peacefully chanting Japa with Srila Prabhupada contently sitting next to You and I am immediately impelled to wake up and get ready for my morning Japa. I have no ability to perform any devotional service on my own strength. Whatever little I have done thus far has only been possible through Your mercy and guidance and for that, I am eternally grateful to You.

Gurudev, You are most elated when devotees progress nicely in their Krishna Consciousness, so on this most blessed event of Your Vyasa Puja, I want to make a sincere and solid promise to You that I will strive to become more serious in my Krishna Consciousness, I will try to chant more attentively, I will make a greater effort to become a more useful instrument in Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON and to spread his literature to as many people as possible. I know I can definitely be a better disciple of Yours and I will thus make every endeavour to do so. I beg Your forgiveness for taking You for granted for such a long time and for not taking my Japa as seriously as I should have been taking it. Thank You for accepting me with all my shortcomings and having faith in me even when I had given up on myself.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Thank You for the unlimited care and warmth that You continuously shower upon me. Thank You for accepting my mediocre attempts at serving You. Thank You for Your enlivening lectures that help me get a glimpse into the intricate philosophy of Krishna Consciousness. I thoroughly enjoy your renditions of your earlier pastimes in Krishna Consciousness - especially the story of when you had to stay behind as Temple Commander and take care of the Janmastami programme - that story has helped me realise the importance of following instruction and I pray to You to please allow me to also develop that level of sincerity, faith and devotion so that I can also follow Your every instruction without deviation, and eternally reside at the most sacred and sublime place - at the Dust of Your Lotus Feet.

Thank You for saving me over and over and over again. I will try to be better for You and do better for You, my dearest Srila Gurudev.

Happy Vyasa Puja!

Your humble servant and daughter,

Bhaktin Priyanka

Indira Maharaj

Hare Krishna Srila Gurudev,

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

Please accept my best wishes on this most auspicious appearance day of Srila Gurudev...May Lord Nrsingadev bless you and keep you protected always...

As we have been through this tragic pandemic and from my personal experience of having this virus and being in the hospital for many weeks.... I have had the time to access my spiritual life and my offering to you Srila Gurudev is that I am going to take my spiritual life more seriously and having such a close encounter...I will really like to go through the initiation process and secure my spiritual life...

It is only with the love and support and prayers and guidance that i have received from Srila Gurudev that I am here today alive and well....through the hardest days in hospital I took out my bead bag and chanted for good health...not only for me...but all the other souls that needed prayer and I saw the power of my bead bag through you my dearest Gurudev and by all your emails and communication i sit here today...recovering and getting stronger...



Vyasa Puja 2020

I am so blessed to even share your month of birth...what else can I ask for....but for the Lord to bless and protect you eternally...

Your most fallen and most insignificant servant...

Indira Maharaj

Hare Krishna

Jayanthi Maharaj (Jenny)

Dearest Guru Maharaj,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at Your lotus feet.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

On this auspicious day of Your appearance, I pray Radha Rani grants you all that You desire.

You are so selfless, always striving to serve the welfare of us lost souls. You are so merciful that just by Your instructions I feel that I have grown exponentially in my Krishna consciences. I have been a part of ISKCON for just over 9 years however I have never experienced the growth and connection I have since You have taken me under your shelter. The saying that “one cannot progress in Krishna consciousness without a Spiritual Master” really holds true! Thank You for taking the time to show us how to chant nicely during Brahma Muhurta! You will never know how much Your morning sessions have helped me with my chanting. You are an inspiration to many others and to me.

Thank You for taking me under Your shelter! Happy appearance day!

Your humble servant,

Jayanthi Maharaj (Jenny)

Kalindi

Hare Krishna Dearest Guru Maharaj,

Please accept my Humble obeisances all glories to Srila Prabhupada and All Glories to the dust of your lotus feet on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyasa-puja.

I would like to begin by thanking you dearest Gurudev for being so inspiring to me, it was only by Your causeless mercy that I came closer to the Lord. I find some inspiration on a daily basis just by hearing you and it motivates me to work harder in my Krsna Consciousness. As I wrote this I thought that this year all the devotees would have gathered together at the temple for your Vyasa Puja however this year the circumstances are much more different, this time we get to serve you from our homes.

Thank you Maharaj for always being so compassionate and caring towards all of us.

Your humble servant,

Bhaktin Kalindi

ISKCON Lenasia

Kashmira

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti-caitanya-svamin iti namine

namami bhakti caitanyam prabhupadanusevinam

sri vraja dhana mahatmya pradarsakam krparnavam

Hare Krishna Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your Divine self on this most auspicious occasion of your Sri Vyasa puja.

Guru Maharaja the coronavirus outbreak has foiled so many of our plans and most importantly the one of celebrating your Sri Vyasa puja here in Cape Town. We were really so excited to get this opportunity and I pray



Vyasa Puja 2020

that next year you will agree to celebrating your 70th Sri Vyasa puja with us!

In some way, the coronavirus outbreak has also been a blessing as we have been able to associate with you more, albeit virtually.

Guru Maharaja through this virtual association it has been so wonderful to see how you caringly interact with everyone. To also see how particular you are with certain things and how you want everything to be perfect. There is so much that you need to do every minute of the day and you do it with such sophisticated composure.

You have such a knack of presenting something complex in a more understanding way, with that unique touch of humour.

I imagine that Srila Prabhupada is this way too.

Thank you for being our torchlight of knowledge and for being so merciful to us by dedicating all of your time so that we can advance in Krishna consciousness.

Unknown to us you must be taking so much strain, but you just continue selflessly.

Guru Maharaja during the nectar of devotion course you explained the analogy of the transformation of bell metal into gold by the mixture of mercury. You mentioned that the process of initiation involves having to be accepted within the heart of the spiritual master. Those words never fail to move me, and leave me in wonder of the compassion that you have for all of us.

You are the mercury in my life Guru Maharaja and I will never be able to repay you for all that you do and will continue to do eternally.

Your foolish child,

Bhaktin Kashmiri

ISKCON CPT

Krishnachandra

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

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

My Dear Gurumaharaja.

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you!

During these unprecedented times, I find myself thinking of the many moments I was fortunate to receive your association. They are simply inconceivable. I cherish those moments and hope to render some service to you in person when Krsna allows us.

I often find myself thinking of all the great service you have rendered to Srila Prabhupada and his movement. We have seen you tirelessly preaching his glories in all parts of the world. You have also served countless vaisnavas within the movement at great expense of your personal time and health. You continue to do so without any intention of stopping. Whenever I think of you, I immediately feel that you are definitely a Prabhupada man. I thank you for always inspiring and engaging me and I hope to humbly follow in your footsteps.

Srila Prabhupada said the following in a lecture on the Srimad Bhagavatam in Vrindavan 5th August 1975 “Through the mercy of spiritual... Guru-kṛṣṇa-kṛpā. There must be mercy both of them, guru and Kṛṣṇa. Without guru's kṛpā, one cannot reach Kṛṣṇa, and without Kṛṣṇa's kṛpā, one cannot get a bona fide spiritual master. This is correlative terms.”

I try to constantly meditate on this. I realise that without your mercy I am nothing. I pray to always be engaged in your service and to spread Srila Prabhupada's movement.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for revealing the Dham to us. Last year when I had the good fortune to be with you in Vrindavan Dham I realised that the holy places are revealed to the struggling, conditioned souls, like me, only through the mercy of the pure devotee of the Lord. We see you have such a deep love for the Dham and you have shared it with thousands of devotees through your videos and books. I am truly grateful for all that you have done.

In your Vyasa Puja offering to Srila Prabhupada last year you wrote:” In great humility Jīva Gosvāmī then talks of himself: “A jīva gradually



Vyasa Puja 2020

growing old in Vṛndāvana tells his mind: ‘Fool, now you are close to death. Drink this nectar I give you. O mind, as you drink this nectar think of yourself as being in Gokula and think of the loving service you wish to offer the Lord.’ May the gopa-prince Kṛṣṇa, who makes the devotees blossom with happiness and who is the auspiciousness of all the worlds and the gopīs’ beloved, protect us.” We are struggling through old age ourselves and are praying for the protection our ācārya is requesting. By your grace, Śrīla Prabhupāda, it may be possible for us to receive it. We prostrate ourselves at your lotus feet.”

In the same way, I am constantly praying for your protection and well-being. I hope to constantly be engaged in your service to Sri Sri Radha Shyamasundar and Srila Prabhupada.

Your humble servant,

Krishnachandra

Maran

Hare Krsna Guru Maharaj

Happy Vyasa puja. May Their Lordships Lord Jagannath, Baladev and Subhadra Maharani and our dearest Srila Prabhupada bless you with good health so that You may continue touching the lives of others. Amidst this Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown, it is so inspiring to see that Guru Dev continues to bless us with his mercy via online daily Japa sessions, Srīmad Bhagavatam & Bhagavad Gita discourses and seminars. This has encouraged me so much that I have decided for Guru Dev’s pleasure that I will make 365 non-devotees to chant the Hare Krsna maha-mantra from now till next year’s Vyasa puja.

Hope you have a blessed day Maharaj

Your servant,

Bhakta Maran

ISKCON Phoenix, Durban, South Africa

Mikaash

Hare Krishna oh merciful Gurudev,

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

All glories to my master on this very auspicious day, who is expert at preaching Lord Chaitanya's mission, who is incredibly intelligent to utilize this quarantine time to set a preaching program, which connected devotees and people all around the world. My material mind cannot fathom your spiritual strength to give everyone your so precious, glorious, sweet smile twice a day. Your presence and footprints turn this material world spiritual. I am so unqualified to glorify my master's magnanimous personality who is in fact glorified even by the demigods over the three worlds.

I am that fallen servant, who desires to be your sandal that can move wherever your lotus feet is about to step, so your lotus feet does not incur any difficulties but in reality, Gurudev took this sandal and strapped them to his soft lotus feet and carries me ever so mercifully. I am nothing without your straps except a burden. My heart longs for just 1 moment that I can serve, so that Gurudev can continue to preach for the benefit of this world. Gurudev, I am your servant that sees Srila Prabhupada so sweetly smiling towards you because you have so expertly exceeded in fulfilling his instructions and more. In the same mood of pleasing Gurudev, I will continue to persevere and endeavour.

In the same way how Gurudev brilliantly utilized material technology to preach Krishna consciousness around this world, may Guru see me as 1 of those material objects to utilise in serving Srila Prabhupada's mission.

I am indebted to your causeless mercy upon me forever,

Mikaash

Nehal

Hare Krishna dearest Guru Maharaj,

Koti Koti Pranam.

Please accept my humble worship in your lotus feet.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to your divine grace dearest Gurudev.

What can I write to you Srila Gurudev, the way you gave me bundle of blessings I am not even worth for that, Srila Gurudeva.

Still asking for more blessings that when I close my eyes I can see Supreme Lord and your lotus.

If I speak, I only speak about Supreme Lord's pastime and your glories, dearest Gurudeva.

If I hear, I only hear about Supreme Lord's beautiful stories and about you only,

I want to surrender myself in lotus feet of dear Lord and in your Lotus feet, Srila Gurudev.

I love to serve, put my all senses unto your lotus feet and in Supreme Lord service.

I love to see you soon, Srila Gurudeva.

Please bless me I can spread Krishna consciousness in Limpopo too.

I am thanking you abundantly for your mercy. Without you, I am nothing Srila Guru Maharaj.

Dandavat Pranam.

Your forever servant,

Nehal

Nirvana Bissoon

All Glories to His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami

All Glories to AC Bhakti Vedanta Swami Srila Prabhupad

Please accept my humble obeisances at the Your Divine Lotus Feet

Hare Krsna,

" I was born in the darkest ignorance and my Guru, my Spiritual Master, opened my eyes with the torch of knowledge. I offer my respectful obeisances unto Him."

tad viddhi pranipatena,

pariprasnena sevaya,

upadeksyanti te jnanam,

jnaninas tattva-darsinah.

It is with heartfelt gratitude and intense admiration that I feel today in offering my humble respects to My Dear GuruMaharaj. The past few months in lockdown due to the covid virus has been the most amazing Spiritual advancement of my life. Having been in GuruMaharajs association daily mornings and evenings in blissful Japa and Vedic scriptural classes has elated me to ecstatic Krsna Consciousness. I'm totally relishing all His nectar that He intellectually imbibes upon us during classes of Nectar of Devotion and presently, in Bhagavad Gita.

I continually pray that we may have GuruMaharajs sublime intimate association for eternity.

Humble Obeisances

Your daughter

Nirvana Bissoon

Pratheek

Hare Krishna Dear Maharaj,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet on this very auspicious day of yours and all glories to Srila Prabhupada!

I still vividly remember myself presenting my offering last year at Newcastle with you and all the devotees, and after I had made my offering, all the devotees came around to tell me how they noticed that I wrote the offering from the bottom of my heart. It was only then I realised how powerful and important the relationship is between the spiritual master and the devotee.

Srila Prabhupada mentions in the Bhagavad-Gita that only with a spiritual master can one progress in their Krishna Consciousness life and seeing you as a disciple of Srila Prabhupada, it has given me the motivation and the desire to continue to improve in my spiritual practice.

Krishna says in Bhagavad-Gita 18.55,

bhaktyā mām abhijānāti

yāvān yaś cāsmi tattvataḥ

tato mām tattvato jñātvā

viśate tad-anantaram

“One can understand Me as I am, as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, only by devotional service. And when one is in full consciousness of Me by such devotion, he can enter into the kingdom of God.”

I have taken this text and Srila Prabhupada’s statement as an inspiration in improving my devotional service, especially during these times where we are all in lockdown. I have been chanting all my rounds since the last update in November and now I have set myself a routine during these times where rather than demotivating me, I have taken the opportunity to set goals for myself to achieve in my devotional service such as listening to more lectures, chanting more attentively with your wonderful Japa sessions and doing more kirtans at the temple.

The qualities of a spiritual master can be seen in their disciples. I am very fortunate to be in the association of your disciples in Newcastle, especially with Jagannathesvari Devi Dasi and Saradiya Rasa Devi Dasi helping me improve in my spiritual life. However, this would not be possible without your association.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Your dedication and love towards Srila Prabhupada, fellow godbrothers and godsisters and all the devotees is simply immeasurable. Allowing the devotees to be part of the Japa sessions and all the seminars was a great way to let us devotees be in your association despite the long distance between us and you physically.

Back in 2018 when you visited Dubai to see all the devotees in the kirtan festival, my parents had the service to take you to and from the airport and the kirtan festival in the city centre. Since you just finished a parikrama trip in South India, your fluency in Tamil surprised both of my parents. Drinking saffron milk, you said 'this is very good' in Tamil. It still makes me smile and laugh since I would not have expected to hear that from someone elevated as you back then.

Please give all of us the motivation, the knowledge and the inspiration in continuing in our spiritual life.

Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaj Ki Jai! Srila Prabhupada Ki Jai!

Your humble servant,

Bhakta Pratheek

Premila

Dear Bhakti Chaitanya Maharaj

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to Sri Sri Radha Radhanath! All glories to you dear Maharaj! My obeisances unto your lotus feet!

I wish you only the best of health and happiness on your Appearance Day. I pray that Lord Narasimha always protects you in all directions from all dangers. I pray for your health and happiness always.

I do not know how to glorify you enough Maharaj. You amaze me. You have sacrificed your entire life for your dear beloved spiritual master, you render endless devotional service by continually preaching and spreading the Lord's glories and names. You are tireless in your efforts, even now during COVID-19, you have found ways to reach hundreds and thousands of devotees using technology and spend 5, 6, 7 hours a day just doing that so we can have that mercy available. A true spiritual master leads by example and in his presence, one remembers Krishna because he is always speaking of Krishna, and that is how I feel whenever I listen to you. You have the ability to transform any place into Vrindavan.

Vyasa Puja 2020

I do not know how to glorify you enough Maharaj. Forgive me. No matter who one is, from whatever walk of life one comes from, you dear Maharaj do not judge that person, you mercifully accept them in your endeavour to help and engage. You have made yourself accessible to anyone and everyone and that is not an easy thing to do...but you do it anyway.

I do not know how to glorify you enough Maharaj. Forgive me. To preach, you sacrifice your bodily requirements, you undergo austerities, preaching in various places with varied climates and it all takes its toll on the body...but due to your kindness to useless people like me, you still continue on. You are such a perfect son to Srila Prabhupada, you are such a perfect example of what a devotee should be and how one should serve the spiritual master.

I do not know how to glorify you enough Maharaj. Forgive me for my offences for not appreciating you sooner. I'm just very useless Maharaj. I've wasted most of my life on useless things. I pray to you for mercy to become better...to advance in Krishna consciousness and to become worthy of being your spiritual daughter.

"kāṇḍiyā kāṇḍiyā bole āmi to' adhama

śikhāye śaraṇāgati koro he uttama"

I am the lowest of the low and just beg for your mercy dear Maharaj...

"kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dīte pāro,

tomāra śakati āche

āmi to' kāṅgāla, 'kṛṣṇa' 'kṛṣṇa' boli',

dhāi tava pāche pāche

Krishna is yours. You have the power to give Him to me. I am simply your servant running behind you shouting,

"Krishna! Krishna!"

I do not know how to glorify you enough Maharaj. Forgive me. My prayers are silly for one who is always with Kṛṣṇa in thoughts and deeds, but I pray anyway, for your happiness, health and safety, and the shelter and refuge of your lotus feet.

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

HH Bhakti Chaitanya Swami Maharaj ki Jai.

With love,



Vyasa Puja 2020

Your lowly and useless servant,

Premila

Rikshana

Hare Krsna dear Srila Gurudev,

Please accept my humble obeisances!

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada!

All Glories at your Lotus feet!

Thank you Srila Gurudev for your endless glorious wonderful mercy that you bestow upon me and all the Vaishnavas. Your love is soothing to the soul and inspiration to serve enthusiastically in our wonderful mission. Your effulgent smile and presence, even online, is simply wonderful. Fortune is certainly mine to have you as my Srila Gurudev and to receive your wonderful, kind mercy. I often weep knowing how fortunate I am to have you in my life. You touch everyone that you meet with love and wonderment of Srila Prabhupada's mission and love. Each time I receive your association, my growth in KC is exponential; such is your mercy and soon I hope to become initiated by Krsna's mercy. Please allow me to serve you birth after birth by dear Guru Maharaj.

Your most fallen servant,

Rikshana

Samandrie

Hare Krsna Dearest HH Bhakti Caitanya Swami,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you, our dear Srila Gurudeva, on this auspicious day of your Vyasa-Puja. On this Krsna-Ordained day of your Vyasa puja, I would like to wish Guru Maharaja choicest blessings and spiritual fortitude on your appearance day.

So many magnanimous things you always do

Beyond your calling As a Guru

You readily avail your time

To share your spiritual reasons and rhyme



Vyasa Puja 2020

Your tireless efforts are not in vain

For every devotee, there is so much to gain

Come Thunder Lightning or Rain

You are steadfast and without complaint

Bringing your Godchildren together

With great love and rever

With each measured step you take

An indelible impression you always make

For all these things and many more....

It is my gratitude to you I show

My greatest thanks to you for accepting me under your shelter and I pray
that Srila Prabhupada will always keep me protected by your Lotus Feet.

I also pray that I am not a burden to you and please forgive me for any
offences that I may have caused.

Your aspiring servant,

Samandrie mataji

Sri Sri Radha Radhanath, Durban

South Africa

Shaitala

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

Happy Vyasa Puja Maharaj. I'm sure we all wish to be in Your association on Your special day, but there is certainly still a way to be with You, atleast virtually. From the day You named me, until the last moment I will remember, I thank you for all the special moments when we have Your association, while serving You, Your amazing classes, powerful Kirtans and many many reminisable childhood memories which have stuck to me and will forever stick with me. I came across a video where myself (8 years old), Vaisnavi (5 years old) and Nandini (9 years old) were massaging Your feet while telling You stories about Ratha Yatra Festivals and how many rounds of Japa we would do. It was the same day myself and Nandini were rollerblading outside and you came out of Your room, while chanting your Japa, to check on us if we were okay and if we didn't hurt ourselves and still telling us to be careful. Your loving nature and compassion towards many devotees and devotee children, including myself, are not ordinary experiences. there is never a day where I feel like for such a stumbled and foolish daughter I still manage to receive such love and compassion in abundance. You have also been strict especially when it came to chanting attentively and attending seminars but that all comes out strictly because you have such a caring nature towards everyone.

All my accomplishments have always been prepared by You with accompaniment of a lot of Your mercy. Please dear Gurudev, forever keep me dancing ecstatically, chanting attentively and serving with high standards. May I always get the creativity and service to paint many beautiful artworks and make many garlands for the Lord, Prabhupada and You. May I always be under Your guidance and always, always, always serving You to please You.

I wanted to also tell You that I really miss serving you, Maharaj. I can't thank You enough for all that you have done and still continue doing for me.

Your indebted servant and daughter,

Shaitala

15 years

Midrand, Gauteng

Shalinee Ganeshan

Hare Krishna Dearest Guru Maharaja.

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to Your Divine Grace.

Happy Vyasa Puja, Dearest Guru Maharaj. I am most thankful to Lord Krishna for the gift of your divine grace. Your grace japa sessions online are so blissful, thank you for giving your divine mercy, association and love to the world.

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyasa Puja, my heartfelt gratitude and humble thanks for accepting this fallen soul as your aspiring servant. I humbly beg at your lotus feet for your mercy and divine instructions.

May their lordships Sri Sri Radha Radhanath always keep your divine grace in good health and happy. All glories to you, Guru Maharaj.

Your aspiring servant,

Shalinee Ganeshan

Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Shreya

Dear Father,

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

I love you Gurudev. You are the best. You are the light in the dark. You are the dolphin over the shark. Thank you for your mercy on me. The pain you go through for us and that you never disappoint us if you say you are coming to visit. I know you are representative of the Lord because you showed it to me when:

1. At SSRR, Govardhana Puja, I prayed to the Lord silently that I will get the fruit garland from the Abhishek and you gave it to me.
2. 2016 SSRR, Prabhupada Disappearance Day, I prayed I will get the Abhishek garland from Srila Prabhupada and you threw it to me.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Thank you for your mercy so I can chant my rounds. Happy birthday.

Your servant,

Your daughter,

Bhaktin Shreya

Shobana Veraya.

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

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

*nama om vishnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale srimate
bhaktivedanata-svamin iti namine*

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

Dear Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami Guru Maharaj,

On this auspicious 69th Vyasa Puja ceremony, I only seek your merciful blessings unto this fallen soul to be eternally under the shelter of Guru and Gauranga. The last that we virtually met was during a Zoom call on 08/06/2020. You had graciously found some time in your tight schedule to bless us Malaysian devotees. I remember being extremely excited and had ensured to complete all my rounds throughout the days leading to the Zoom call. The slightly pixelated image of your face gracing all of us is still fresh in my memory.

During this pandemic, I am happy to report that my prabhu, Jaganmohana Jagadisa Das (JPS), had kept me on track with my spiritual life. I am forever grateful to Guru and Krishna for blessing me with an exemplary husband. We do as many rounds together in the early mornings before leaving to work and through him, I now serve Sri Jagannatha Mandir Kuala Lumpur with an additional seva, alongside Gokul Garden, the patron department.

I seek nothing more than your blessings on this auspicious day. Please grant your mercy unto me and my family in that we always stay within the shelter of Srila Prabhupad and Krishna. I am truly humbled that Guru Maharaj you even glanced through these words of mine. Please do forgive me for any offences made knowingly or unknowingly in this letter.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Your eternal servant,

Shobana Veraya

Sri Jagannatha Mandir Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Vaisnavi

Hare Krishna Dear Guru Maharaj,

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

Happy Vyasa Puja to you Guru Maharaj.

I am praying to the Lord that he keeps you in good health.

During online schooling, I had to do a presentation on a leader. I chose Srila Prabhupada as a leader who helped the world in so many ways.

My teacher was really impressed by Srila Prabhupada's leadership qualities. During this lockdown, I realised that we need Krishna's mercy more than ever. Thank you, Maharaj, for making us realize that there is many problems in this world but we have to carry on no matter how difficult our situation is and always to think of Krishna.

Thank you Guru Maharaj for always being so caring.

Hare Krishna,

From your granddaughter and servant always,

Vaisnavi

Varsha, Damodara Priya & Dhanistha

Hare Krishna Dear Merciful Maharaj,

Please accept our most humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to the dust from your lotus feet.

Maharaj, we would like to take this opportunity to thank You from the bottom of our hearts for all the online association that Maharaj has sacrificed to give us this year.

From the beginning of lockdown until today, we have had a house full of Kirtan, chanting and online classes day after day because of Your mercy.

We are so fortunate to have Maharaj in our lives and to be able to write this offering on this special day of Maharaj's Vyasa Puja. You always guide us and take care of our spiritual lives. You are always concerned about how we are doing in our spiritual life and always asking how many rounds the girls are chanting.

Please bless this fallen, lowly servant that someday, I will be able to take initiation from you and serve you as my Guru Maharaj. I am so far behind in my spiritual life compared to your wonderful, dedicated disciples. Please have mercy upon me that someday I can serve You as nicely as Your disciples serve you.

I pray for Maharaj's health to always be in good health so that we can serve you and see you soon.

Your aspiring fallen servants,

Bhaktin Varsha,

Bhaktin Damodara Priya

Bhaktin Dhanistha

Vidhia Bissondayal

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale

srimate bhakti caitanya swami iti namine

namaste sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine

nirvisesa sunyavadi pascatya-desa-tarine

Dearest Srila Gurudeva,

Hare Krishna. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your Divine self. Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. I wish you a very happy Vyasa Puja. On this auspicious day of your appearance, I thank you for all your efforts and sterling work in ISKCON. You joined ISKCON at a very tender age and gave this one life to Lord Krishna. Lord Krishna has sent you to help Srila Prabhupada spread Krishna consciousness throughout the world. It is now almost half a century of devotional service. What an amazing achievement!

You have excelled in everything-initiating spiritual master, filmmaker, author, lecturer, leader of GBC, preacher-the list is endless. Despite the challenges you have experienced with your health, you still remain steadfast and continue your preaching work. Even COVID19 could not stop you in any way. Rather you took to live preaching and the teaching of Bhagavad Gita. You adapted to time, place and circumstances just as Srila Prabhupada did. You are also using your expert knowledge of modern technology to preach, thus reaching out to people all around the world. You are giving shelter to so many devotees. Although my meetings with you were short and although you had a busy schedule at Ratha Yatra, you still listened attentively to the calamities that I have to endure. I thank you most sincerely for your prayers for me. This material world is full of suffering and misery and Krishna Consciousness is my only ray of hope amidst all my difficulties. Thank you for your kindness and compassion. I was so impressed with your message to the disciples of HH Bhakti Charu Swami on 5 July 2020. It reflected your love, warmth, care and concern in the sweet way you addressed them, encouraged and supported them in these trying times. Srila Gurudeva, may Lord Narasimhadeva always protect your health and keep you safe. Have a blissful Vyasa Puja Day. Please accept my feeble attempt in the poem which I wrote, trying to glorify Your Divine Grace.

A struggling soul,

Vidhia Bissondayal

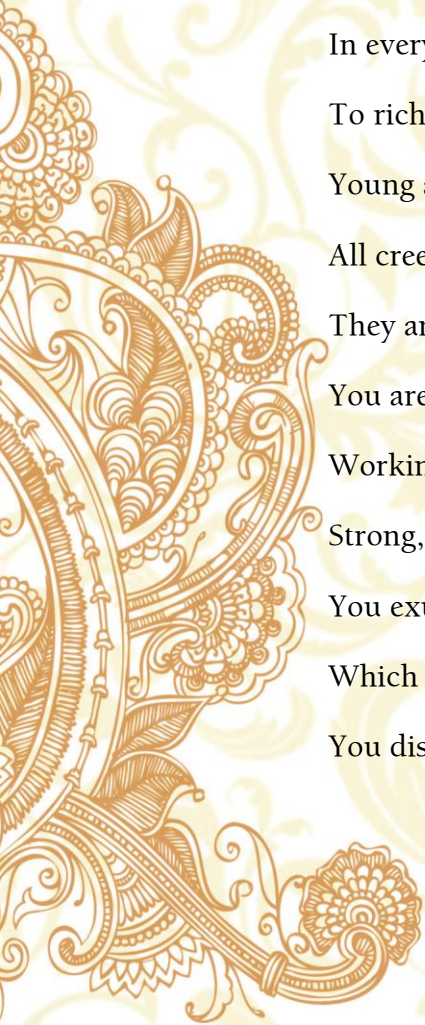


Vyasa Puja 2020

Lord Krishna's Divine Preacher

You tread the globe
In your flowing saffron robe
Your Divine Grace
Goes to every place.
You glow like the sun in the west
No doubt you are the best.
From dawn to dusk
Morning and night
You bring the divine light
Preaching with all your might.
Spreading the name and fame

Of Krishna's Holy Name
In every town and village.
To rich and poor
Young and old
All creeds and colours
They are all the same.
You are Gibraltar's Rock
Working around the clock
Strong, steadfast and sublime.
You exude warmth and love
Which is coming from Above
You display much compassion





Vyasa Puja 2020

On your exalted mission.
Saving the fallen souls
Whom you desire to mould
Through your powerful teaching
And sweet divine preaching.
You do not hesitate to take the risk
But Krishna protects you with His Sudarshana Disc.
Srila Prabhupada's valiant son
Can be so much fun
Narrating stories of Govardhan Hill
And demons that Krishna will kill.
Lord Krishna gave us a treasure
That we cannot even measure
But it is our divine pleasure
And for us to treasure.
Vidhia Bissondayal



Vinay Beesony

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale srimate bhakti
chaitanya swami namine*

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

All glories to Srila Prabhupada

All glories to Sri Guru

All glories to Sri Gauranga

All glories to Sri Sri Radha Radhanath

Hare Krishna dearest guru Maharaj please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. I am very happy to get your association with you every day in the Facebook millionaires of times thank you dearest gurumaharaj you are very far but you are very near to my heart.

May I get your mercy in the future for my spiritual life, may I follow all the instructions and knowledge given by you daily dearest gurumaharaj just remaining at the shade of your dust of lotus feet.

Vinay Beesony

Vrishnee

My dear Gurudev,

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

I wish you a very happy Vyasa Puja dear Gurudev.

Srila Prabhupada explains in the Nectar of Devotion how devotional service can only be attained through the mercy of a pure devotee. Recently, I was thinking about how fortunate we are, how fortunate I am, to even get some opportunity to try to render some service, in whatever capacity I can. It is only by the mercy of a pure devotee - it is only by YOUR mercy, Srila Gurudev.

I don't know how I can ever thank you for your presence in my life. You are so important to me and I am so sorry if I don't always show that.



Vyasa Puja 2020

You are such a wonderful, caring and understanding father and well-wisher to every single one of us. You always make sure that everyone is alright in all aspects. You strive to help all of us in the best way possible, and I really appreciate how you put aside time to respond to each of us, despite your busy schedule. I cannot imagine how you do it. Thank you, Gurudev, for being such an exemplary spiritual master and such an exemplary devotee of the Lord. You inspire us in so many ways. I deeply admire your strong endeavours to serve your spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada, Krsna, and all others without fail.

A while ago, a friend asked me what my favourite verse of the Bhagavad-gita was. On the spot, I went a bit blank, but after meditating on this question for a while, this verse always came to mind:

tad viddhi praṇipātena

paripraśnena sevayā

upadekṣyanti te jñānaṁ

jñāninas tattva-darśinaḥ

“Just try 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.” – BG 4.34

You are a walking example of a self-realised soul, Gurudev. With your remarkable knowledge of sastra and your narrations full of nectar, you teach us so wonderfully, and it is only by your mercy that we can attempt to learn anything.

In the purport of this verse, Srila Prabhupada mentions how the bonafide spiritual master is always very kind by nature toward his disciple. This is you, Gurudev. You are always so kind towards me and to all of us. Thank you for your kindness and care. I am also very thankful that you have given us the opportunity to chant with you every day, Gurudev. This is our fortune, that Krsna has sent us such a thoughtful, intelligent, and compassionate spiritual father. Thank you for always guiding me. You have kept me on the right track. I am forever grateful to you for everything that you have done for me and for everything that you continue to do.

Please forgive me for any offences that I may have made, Gurudev.



Vyasa Puja 2020

I sincerely pray and beg for your blessings to remain at the dust of your lotus feet and serve you and Srila Prabhupada in whichever way you please.

Your unworthy servant and daughter,

Vrishnee



OFFERINGS FROM

SWAMISHERS



Balarama Prasad dasa

Hare Krishna dear Maharaj,

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

Many things in life have changed since I attempted to surrender to Your instructions, guidance and mercy. From as far back as I can remember You have been in my memory. From Durban Ratha Yatra to Nama Hatta programs all around Pietermaritzburg, You have always been someone with so much consistency and steadiness in mood and practice. Due to my stubbornness and ignorance, I was very reluctant to accept Your teachings, examples and association. But now I see how foolish I was and still am for not taking Your association seriously. I'm only realising now how much of an impact You have on my life even though it was only passively.

Attempting to surrender to Your instructions, guidance and mercy have uncovered for me what Guru is in a very personal way. My only prayer is that I can continue surrendering more and more to You, trying to please You and help You with Your mission of pronouncing Srila Prabhupada's movement.

I'm very excited to be joining the online Bhakti Sastri very soon with Bhagavad Gita. I'm really looking forward to spending every evening hearing from You.

If there is something specific I can do for You please let me know.


Thank you from the depths of my heart for changing my life in the best ways.

Your eternal loving servant,

Balarama Prasad dasa

Charlene

Dearest Maharaj,
Please accept my humble obeisances,
All Glories to Srila Prabhupada
Oh dear humble soul
So enlightened
Emitting a radiant light
Always chanting and lecturing
And engaged in so many other services
For our dear Srila Prabhupada
You are so determined
So punctual
Fighting diseases gracefully
But never faltering in Your devotional service
Always ready to serve the Vaishnavas
And help them in their path to bhakti
We are so grateful and fortunate
To have you in our midst
To hear you online and in-person
To see you every day
Is the greatest treasure
You avail yourself to us
And teach us so many wonderful things about Krishna
My debt to you is eternal
My love for you is eternal too





Vyasa Puja 2020

And I seek your blessings to behave in a manner pleasing to you

And assist in Your mission to Srila Prabhupada

Your insignificant servant,

Charlene

Johannesburg, South Africa

Helmi von Reumont

Dear Bhakti Caitanya Swami,

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

As the mother of my first-born son Lokanatha, I am very interested in the ISKCON movement.

One activity stands out for me: Johannesburg devotees had organised a kirtan on a Saturday morning downtown. Lokanatha was leading, I was blessed to visit my family on that weekend.

We chanted and stopped for a longer time in front of a mother – sitting on the floor with her spastic and very disabled young son of 6 years... We chanted in front of mother and child, we chanted, we chanted, we chanted. The young mother smiled, it was such a beautiful moment for me, feeling the spiritual love coming through into my heart and soul, remembering this moment forever.

Question = Why are people scared of a spiritual life? Why does it seem so difficult to respect the human kind?

Your friend,

Helmi von Reumont

KZN – Ramsgate

Madhava Caitanya

Hare Krsna Maharaj, Happy Birthday.

Madhava

Paramala Devi

Dear Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisance. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your Vyasa-puja.

Hope guru maharaj is in good health.

Thank you so much for Maharaj association during parikrama. It was a wonderful spiritual experiences and looking forward to the next one.

Please forgive me for my offenses and kindly shower mercy upon me to advance in Krishna consciousness

Your Servant,

Paramala Devi

Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Prema Sarovara dasi

My Dear Spiritual Uncle,

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

Six months ago (February this year), I remember being told of your diagnosis of having cancer and then we saw your preaching schedule - amazingly this did not stop your preaching program in the least; which, even though concerning, was inspirational.

“Gratitude doesn’t mean simply saying thank you. Real gratitude means reciprocation. If we are actually grateful to someone, we will reciprocate even if it means great sacrifice.” – Radhanath Swami

This was a reminder for me that even though I am sure there was great discomfort, still you continued to serve your Lord and Master, Srila Prabhupada, with single-minded determination.

Vyasa Puja 2020

We are shown how much sacrifice you endure in your service to Srila Prabhupada, from travelling constantly, to preaching even at great bodily discomfort, to making yourself available to anyone at any time, always eager to help and always reciprocating with the devotees. You give great shelter to the devotees in South Africa and remain an amazing example as a son of Srila Prabhupada, as you follow in Prabhupada's Divine Footsteps and as you teach both through words and also through example.

Maharaj, I pray that in some lifetime I can endeavour to serve and express my gratitude to my spiritual teachers by following your amazing example.

Maharaj, I am eternally grateful to you for your kindness, protection and shelter you so compassionately give us.

I can only pray as a beggar with open palms for your continued shelter and kindness upon us.

Thank You, Maharaj, for all that you do for us.

Eternally indebted,

Your Insignificant niece,

Prema Sarovara dasi

Punitha Narayanan

Dear Gurumaharaj,

mukam karoti vacalam

pangum langhayate girim

yat-krpa tam aham vande

sri-gurum dina – taranam

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

Please accept my humble obeisances, all glories to Srila Prabhupada, Guru, Gauranga and to you on this auspicious day of your vyasapuja.

Kindly forgive me as I am not so expressive with words but will try my best to convey a short and sweet note on this special day. For the past



Vyasa Puja 2020

two years, I consider myself a fortunate person for being able to participate in your wonderful parikramas.

It was such an eye-opening journey for me. I had learnt a lot during these parikramas. I understand that Krishna doesn't only belong to Hindus, and that Hinduism is not only for "Hindus" but being born as a Hindu, I had always taken Hinduism for granted till I saw the Russian devotees during the parikrama.

They had so much conviction in their belief and love for Krishna, I had so much admiration for their unquavering faith. Even though some of them seemed to not be so materially opulent, they had unshaken faith and sincerity in their devotion to Krishna.

In my heart I feel that their devotion is only possible because of their long association with a pure soul like Your Holiness.

I will forever be immensely grateful to have been able get their wonderful association. My one desire is that you'll have a healthy and long life, so that you will be able to take us on more blissful parikramas in the future.

Your most fallen servant,

Punitha Narayanan

Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Sarvakanthie Devi Dasi

My Dearest Guru Maharaj,

Hare Krishna. PAMHO. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada.

On this very auspicious day your Vyasa-puja, I would like to say a few words of praise to you.

BHAKTI CAITANYA SWAMI

B - You are the Best.

H - You are Heavy when the need arises.

A - You are a Computer Artist very expert.

K - You travel to far off places like Siberia where no one dares to go it is so so cold.

Vyasa Puja 2020

T - You gave us Vrindavan Dham Tales of Sacred Places (Pastime places in Vraja)

I - You are an International Guru Constantly travelling all over the world lecturing on Vedic subjects.

C - You are Compassion personified. You gave us Govardhan, The Hill that full Fills all Desires.

A - "Angora! Aniyora! Anyiyora!" There were rivers of milk, lakes of yoghurt and waterfalls of ghee in various places on the hill, and later these areas became known by the names of the sweets offered there such as apu-pika and saskulika. From Aniyora to Puncari

I - Indra becomes offensive to Krsna. Following the Govardhan Puja, the Vrajavasis and all living entities were extremely happy except for one.

Lord Indra, He was furious that Krsna had diverted the Puja intended for him, and became absorbed in thoughts of revenge.

T - The Road to Govardhan Town, between Jaipur and Govardhan Town, the Parikrama paths are same distance from the hill. The dirt path next to the tar road is quite pleasant and now there is a third path a little close to the hill where devotees are gradually trying to improve the walk by planting trees.

On entering Govardhan Town at the T junction you turn left and walk 5 metres, then turn right and walk through the major bazaar in the town parikrama through Anna-kuta ksetra, Narada Kundan, Yugala Kundan, Airavata Sila

There was a great storm so much on that day. Surrender is the name of the game. 'Always think of me, become my devotee.'

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you Guru Mahaj. Thank you Maharaj.

For training me up to become the devotee of the Lord.

'Always think of me, become my devotee, worship Me and offer your homage unto Me. Thus you will come to me without fail. I promise you this because you are my very dear friend.'

Guru Maharaj, you have a wonderful celebration and may Krishna bless you with many many more Vyasa-pujas.

I remain,

Your not so humble niece,



Vyasa Puja 2020

Sarvakanthie Devi Dasi

Svasti dasi

Dearest Maharaj,

Please accept my humble obeisance's

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada

All Glories to Your Lotus Feet

I wanted to take this advantage and opportunity to Thank you soo very much for all that you do for the South African Yatra and actually all that you do for the entire world by your dedication and enthusiasm of preaching and teaching us the science of Krishna Consciousness.

Through the entire COVID pandemic, I have had the good fortune to increase my hearing and been following your classes. I've even done something that I never thought I would do and that's to get an opportunity to study our books and work towards my Bhakti Sastri degree. Being a practicing devotee for so many years, this was never available to me or maybe I somehow never put much importance to it. But through your mercy, I am taking steps to make further spiritual advancement.

I really did not want to waste this opportunity to say Thank you for helping me develop more spiritually and guiding me to get a better understanding of Krishna Consciousness. I humbly offer my obeisance's to Your services.

Thank you , Thank you , Thank you, Maharaj, for all the time, love and effort you put in to ensure we perfect our lives. I am in awe of your dedication to ISKCON and Srila Prabhupada. Praying to follow in Your footsteps and live by Your example.

With much love, gratitude and appreciation.

Your niece,

Svasti dasi

Midrand, Gauteng

Vishaka Devi Dasi

Hare Krishna Maharaja,

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

All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari.

All glories to Sri ri Radha Radhanath.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to your grace His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami.

On this very auspicious day of your Vyasa-puja Maharaja, I am sure all the acaryas must be showering their utmost blessings upon you.

Now as HH Bhakti Caru Swami Maharaja s with Srila Prabhupada he must be very joyous and showering his blessings as well.

Your glories are unlimited Maharaja. On this auspicious day, I thank you, Maharaja, over and over again for being with us. So much sacrifice, love and care for our spiritual progress, no words can describe that. Now with this lockdown, we can understand how precious your care is.

I pray to Krishna for your good health Maharaja so that we can continue having your beautiful and nourishing association.

Your servant,

Vishaka Devi Dasi

Lenasia, South Africa

Vishek Deeplal

Hare Krishna Dear Maharaj,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Today, I have just written my Nectar of Devotion exams and I am filled with immense gratitude within myself for your association and sincere efforts to save as many fallen souls as possible in this world, such as myself, by engaging us and uplifting us in our devotional lives and service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Please continue to give us your association and mercy that we are so fortunate to have and receive. Even whilst the whole world is in a lockdown state from the COVID pandemic, even while our temple doors are closed to the public and while we have not had the opportunity to personally associate with devotees; you have managed to bring many hundreds of devotees together to commit to this wonderful course, the Nectar of Devotion that I find so vital in understanding as it has given me spiritual vision, an inner awakening and a greater desire to be a servant.

May you have all the mercy of Gauranga Mahaprabhu for spreading the Hare Krishna movement.

All glories to you Dear Maharaj.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Your fallen servant,

Vishek Deeplal

Vishnu das, Laksmi Priya dasi & Sudama

Hare Krsna dear Maharaj. Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you on your most auspicious Vyasa Puja.

This is the first time we are writing an offering to you and wished we had done so sooner. Maharaj we would just like to thank you for all that you have done for us in South Africa and for your constant love, guidance and support over the years.

We really are so fortunate to have so much of your association during these trying times of the Covid pandemic, you have extended yourself so much to nurture our Krsna consciousness and keep us motivated. The pandemic is actually our great fortune so that we can get more of your association.

Thank you for your japa sessions, which enthuses our japa each day and thank you for facilitating the Bhakti Shastri course. This has brought so many devotees forward to study and grow in knowledge of our philosophy. You have made it so easy and have been so encouraging to us to study Srila Prabhupada's books.

We hope that we can contribute something significant to Srila Prabhupada's Iskcon and make our Gurus proud of us. Please bless us so that we may continue to serve Srila Prabhupada and the vaisnavas.



Vyasa Puja 2020

Your eternal servants,

Vishnu das, Laksmi Priya dasi and little Sudama (disciples of His Holiness Partha Sarathi Das Goswami Maharaj)

ISKCON Midrand

Vrinda Devi Dasi

Dear beloved Maharaj,

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

Thank you so much for everything you do for me and my family.

On this auspicious day, I wish to express my gratitude for what you did for my whole family.

Accepting my two children as your disciples and allowing me to have you as a Siksha guru.

Thank you for visiting us.

Thank you for allowing me to cook for you.

Thank you for staying at our place.

Thank you for showering your mercy on us.

Please give me the intelligence to understand that we are dependent on Srila Prabhupada and you.

What you did for us has no comparison and your compassion to us has no limits.

Please Maharaj I pray I always stay under the shelter of guru, and please keep showering your mercy on me.

Your very fallen servant,

Vrinda

Yavat das

Dear Maharaj, Hare Krishna.

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

Ever since the first time I heard you speak, I became mesmerised by your incredible ability to narrate and bring to life the pastimes of Lord Krishna, and His dear devotees.

Following this, I remember experiencing you lead a few stand up kirtans, at local temples, and then at the Durban Ratha Yatra. They were incredible!

Next, I was fortunate enough to be able to facilitate your visiting the University of Pretoria's Bhakti Yoga Society, and there I witnessed how you so very patiently and compassionately dealt with every student and their enquiries.

As time marched on, I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to do some menial service for the Regional Secretary's office, in Gauteng, and here I was amazed not just at how intelligently you proposed solutions to current challenges, but more so at how you carefully spent hours listening and valuing the input of the various devotees serving in management.

One of the most prominent qualities of a Vaisnava is that he/she is dakṣa - expert.

You, dear Maharaj, exemplify this with every thought, word, and deed, and I am ever so grateful to have lived in a time where I have basked in your example and association.

Thank you for everything you have done for Srila Prabhupada, his devotees, and this glorious movement. Thank you for always encouraging me despite my faults and shortcomings.

We appreciate you and love you dearly.

With love,

Your servant,

Yavat das



THE LOTUS FEET OF OUR SPIRITUAL MASTER ARE THE ONLY WAY BY WHICH WE CAN ATTAIN PURE DEVOTIONAL SERVICE. I BOW TO HIS LOTUS FEET WITH GREAT AWE AND REVERENCE. BY HIS GRACE ONE CAN CROSS THE OCEAN OF MATERIAL SUFFERING AND OBTAIN THE MERCY OF KRSNA.

