

THE MEANING OF VYASA PUJA

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate Bhakti Caitanya-svāmin iti nāmine
nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate Bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te Sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe*

Hare Kṛṣṇa !

Dear Godbrothers. Godsisters, friends and well-wishers

We are assembled here to celebrate the Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony of the appearance day of our beloved spiritual master, His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja.

Vyāsa-pūjā is the day on which we glorify the bona fide spiritual master appearing in disciplic succession from Śrīla Vyāsadeva. The disciplic succession is an unbroken chain through which Vedic knowledge is passed down from the spiritual master to the disciple. Lord Kṛṣṇa first imparted the Vedic knowledge to Lord Brahma within his heart. Lord Brahma then spoke it to Nārada muni, and Nārada muni explained this spiritual science to Srila Vyāsadeva. Srila Vyāsadeva is known as the literary incarnation because he compiled the Vedas and put them into written language. The word pūjā means "worship." So Srila Vyāsadeva is our ācārya, therefore we offer Vyāsa-pūjā. On the appearance day of the guru we offer vyāsa-pūjā. Actually, it is not directly Vyāsa, but because the bona fide guru represents Vyāsadeva, his pūjā is also vyāsa-pūjā.

Nobody can understand Kṛṣṇa without going through His most confidential servant. Therefore Caitanya Mahāprabhu says, "guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja [Cc. Madhya 19.151]. That is the Vedic injunction. Tad viddhi praṇipātena paripraśnena sevayā[Bg. 4.34]. Nobody can understand Kṛṣṇa without going through His most confidential servant. This is the meaning of this Vyāsa-pūjā.

You cannot bypass the spiritual master. Srila Prabhupada states that "if you think that you have become very learned and very advanced, now you can avoid the spiritual master and you understand Kṛṣṇa, then that is bogus." Therefore we should always pray, "yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādaḥ Yasya prasādād- only by the grace of spiritual master can we achieve the grace or mercy of Kṛṣṇa. This is the meaning of this Vyāsa-pūjā, offering obeisance's via the paramparā system.

So, today we are worshiping our beloved Srila Gurudeva, HH Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja, who is part of the unbroken chain of disciplic succession from Śrī Kṛṣṇa. As a bona fide spiritual master he is well versed in the Vedic conclusion and spiritually situated on the path of unalloyed devotional service. Therefore, we must understand that this Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony is not something whimsical nor is it some recent invention or fad. This celebration

is an ancient tradition rooted in the Vedic heritage which we all embrace and practice in this International Society for Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

So on Sri Vyāsa Pūjā, the disciples, on this occasion, present their offering of love to the spiritual master, expressing their gratitude for his having lifted them out of the material world which is compared to darkness.

Om ajñāna-timirāndhasya
jñānāñjana-śalākaya
cakṣur unmlitaṁ yena
tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ

So ajñāna-timirāndhasya is darkness. Ignorance or stupidity is compared with darkness. Ajñāna means ignorance, without knowledge. The spiritual masters business is to bring out the disciples from darkness to light. The spiritual master takes the torchlight of knowledge and presents this before the ignorant or the disciple in darkness and that gives him, relieves him from the sufferings of darkness or ignorance. That is the business of the spiritual master.

The absolute necessity of the guru is further elaborated in the following verse that says “ tad-vijñānārtham sa gurum evābhigacchet

samit-pāṇiḥ śrotriyaṁ brahma-niṣṭham.

[MU 1.2.12]

This is a Vedic injunction. The Vedas say tad-vijñānārtham. Tad-vijñāna means spiritual knowledge for acquiring spiritual knowledge—therefore tad-vijñānārtham. Sa—one; gurum eva—eva means must; gurum—to a guru. We must go to guru. Not "a" guru; "the" guru. Guru is one. This is because the guru is coming from the disciplic succession. Whatever was instructed five thousand years ago by Srila Vyāsadeva or Sri Kṛṣṇa, the same instruction is being given by the guru in this disciplic succession. Therefore there is no difference between the instructions being given. Therefore guru is one. Although hundreds and thousands of ācāryas have come and gone the message is one. Therefore guru cannot be two. Real guru will not talk differently. Srila Prabhupada has stated one guru will say that "In my opinion, you should do like this," and some guru will say, "In my opinion you'll do this"—they are not guru; they are all rascals. Guru has no "own" opinion. Guru has got only one opinion, the same opinion which was expressed by Kṛṣṇa, Vyāsadeva or Nārada or Arjuna or Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu or the Gosvāmīs. You'll find the same thing. Five thousand years ago, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa spoke Bhagavad-gītā and Vyāsadeva wrote it- recorded it. Vyāsadeva does not say that "It is my opinion." Vyāsadeva writes, Srī Bhagavān uvāca: "Whatever he is writing is spoken by the Supreme Personality of Godhead." He's not giving his own opinion. Therefore he is guru. He is not misinterpreting the words of Kṛṣṇa. He's giving as it is. He is just like a messenger. Somebody has written you a letter and the postman has got the letter. It does not mean he has to correct it or edit it. No. He'll present it as it was given to him. That is his duty. Then he is guru. He's honest. Similarly, guru cannot be two. The person may be different, but the message is the same. Therefore guru is one. And we see also, practically, in the disciplic succession of the guru, the same thing is spoken by the guru.

Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu says the same thing, the Gosvāmīs say the same thing, and our Guru also speaks the same thing. There is no difference... Guru must come from the

paramparā system by disciplic succession. Five thousand years or five millions of years, what was spoken by Sri Kṛṣṇa or guru, the present guru also will say the same thing. That is the guru. That is the bona fide guru. Otherwise, he's not guru. The simple definition is that the Guru cannot change any word of the predecessor gurus. That is the process. Tad viddhi pranipātena paripraśnena sevayā [Bg. 4.34]. Guru means Kṛṣṇa's representative or the former acharyas' representative. All acharyas are representative of Kṛṣṇa; therefore guru should be offered the same respect as you offer to Kṛṣṇa.

Therefore Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura says yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo... Because the guru is the bona fide representative of God, or Kṛṣṇa, if you surrender to the bona fide guru, that means you surrender to Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa is accepting your surrender through the guru. So guru is the representative of Kṛṣṇa. Therefore in the prayers glorifying the guru Srila Viśvanath Cakravati Thakura says sākṣād-dharitvena samasta-śāstrair. Guru is as good as Kṛṣṇa. Here, on this Vyāsa-pūjā day this is what we practically demonstrate in offering respect to guru. That means that we are all learning how to offer respect to Kṛṣṇa. This is a requirement. Because we are all trying to be Kṛṣṇa conscious, we must learn how to offer respect to Kṛṣṇa or Kṛṣṇa's representative. This is an essential requirement for success in our spiritual lives. Therefore Srila Viśvanātha Cakravartī says... Kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya. Guru is offered the same respect as we offer respect to Kṛṣṇa. Therefore it is the disciple's duty is to offer respect to guru as he offers respect to Kṛṣṇa.

Therefore on this most auspicious day of all days, we must bow down at the lotus feet of our eternal spiritual master and pray that he will always allow us to surrender fully at his divine lotus feet, so that we may always be engaged in pure devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Kṛṣṇa.

Hare Kṛṣṇa!

Syamasundara dasa

Hare Krishna Bhakti Chaitanya Swami

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabupada. All glories to Sri Sri

Nitai Gaura Hari.

I wish to thank you for all your assistance rendered to my family and I.

December 2002 was the year I entered the Hare Krishna temple. My life has changed and I have progressed so much it is amazing. I know now that this is not my endeavours entirely but help from Lord Krsna through his wonderful devotees and senior sannyasi's such as yourself.

Maharaja, I have approached you personally, once with Ananga Mohini. It was a life changing event. I was at the lowest point I have ever been. My health was bad, my husband had just passed on. I now had the responsibility of taking care of three small children and your kind words soothed my soul as nothing else had up to that point. My faith increased at that instant and I knew that everything was going to be alright. I was now in the hands of Lord Krsna and nothing would hurt me to such extremes anymore. I have since then realised my purpose on earth and now only wish to serve Lord Krsna further.

Please bless me in this endeavour further , Maharaja.

Yours humbly in Lord Krsna's service
Kumeri, Eelendri , Thessan and Thamarai

Dear Maharaj

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

On this auspicious day I wanted to glorify you, Maharaja by revisiting the jewels that each letter in your name conveys to me.

B - Bold in your preaching of Krishna consciousness

H - humble and always teaching others how to have that quality

A – Attached to Krishna completely

K - kind to all living entities

T – teaches by example

I - intelligent

C - Compassionate to all

A – ability to present Krishna consciousness in a very appealing way

I – your incredible DVD's that allows us to bring the holy Dham right to our homes

T – tolerates everything

A – always giving guidance

N – narrating the sweet and loving past times of Sri Krishna

Y – yearning for Krishna

A – always chanting and glorifying the names of Hari

S - surrendered to the order of Srila Prabhupada

W – well wisher to all and endeavoring for the welfare of all living entities

A– Amazing kirtans that you lead

M – merciful to us fallen souls

I - inspirational

Thank you for everything that you have done for me
hope you have a splendid day

Praying to always be the recipient of your mercy,

Your servant,

Bhaktin Levina - Iskcon Pretoria

Dear Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet.
All glories to you on the celebration of your appearance day!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

"Kindness is a cure for any ailment. It is a prescription often given but rarely taken..."

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all the kindness you have shown towards my family and I.

Krsna has been very merciful towards us, for He has richly blessed our lives by giving us an opportunity of knowing such a wonderful person like you!

May Sri Krsna hold you dear to Him, richly bless you and keep you in His everlasting love,
ALWAYS!

Your ever well wisher
Bhaktin Thaashna

Please accept my humble obeisances in the dust of Your Lotus Feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada ! All glories to You Maharaja !

Please accept my feeble attempt at an offering on Your auspicious Vyasa Puja.

From the sacred groves of Sri Vrndavana Dhama
To the urban sprawl of Gauteng
Your unflinching preaching mood prevails
as You freely give your association
even to those who have no qualification to receive it

to misunderstand You to be an ordinary person
is an offense of paramount proportions
yet by Your heart melting humility
You appear to be such a person

a sincere servant of Srila Prabhupada
Your only mission is His lifes mission
forsaking all comforts and personal happiness
You are dragging conditioned souls
from the fire of material life

I barely know You, barely speak to You
Yet you have touched my heart
So many wonderful spiritual memories
It is You to whom they are connected

As we trekked through the vast beauty
Of the birthplace of Syamasundara
The mountains of Kedarnatha
The canopy of Ter Kadamba
The alleyways of Vrndavana

I realised that I am being guided by a Brijbasi
One who carries Vrndavana and its mood within His heart
Guided always by that very same Vraja-Nandana- Krishna
The Lord of Vrndavana

Blessed are Your disciples
For they have your blessings

Blessed are those who are dear to You
For they have Your love

Blessed are the fallen
For they shall receive Your mercy

Your insignificant servant
Halayudha das

Dear Maharaja.

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

We have known each other for twelve years now. Some of it has been painful and some joyous but always illuminating. I have recently made contact again with Your Holliness. I am very glad for it because slowly my life is changing again for the better. I have always known Maharaja as an astute scholar and a fair diplomat. I am glad to have your association again and look forward to spending more time in your presence, especially listening to your lectures.

I hope that Maharaja can stay with us for many years to come, to help us and guide us as a light bearer of knowledge which You do with so much love and devotion on behalf of Your Guru Maharaja, His Divine Grace A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, without whom, we would not have hope, no direction and no sufficient understanding of our true spiritual selves, the universe we live in and news from our true home, Goloka Vrndavana. Thank you for being there for me and I hope that I can one day return the favour, although this is not possible for any disciple as the Gurus' mercy is endless.

Your well wisher,

Jack Conellan, musician.

Dearest Maharaja

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

While I skirt around the periphery of ISKCON and spiritual life in general, I am increasingly aware and appreciative of the association that keeps me in orbit, so to say, around Srila Prabhupada. Your lectures on CD and in person are a significant influence in my life, and have contributed largely to me retaining some sense of identity as a devotee. So on this auspicious occasion I wish to thank you very much for perfecting the art of conveying the philosophy so expertly, and for making your association so accessible. I am also deeply appreciative to your disciples for their efforts and enthusiasm in making your lectures available. Please continue to instruct me in Prabhupada's mood and guide me in how to serve the South African yatra.

Yours in service to Srila Prabhupada,

Jivananda dasa.

Dearest Maharaja

Please accept our most respectful obeisances
All glories to Srila Prabhupada

Please accept this as our humble offering.

Daily, we thank Krishna for letting us have found someone like You who is ever so eager to guide us in our spiritual lives. Having Your association is the best. You are our pillar of strength and always have the right explanation to all our unanswered questions. Thank You Maharaj for everything You have done. Maharaja, You are the best. You are Krishna's gift to us.

Hare Krishna
Joshni and family

Dear Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari. All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Your Holiness.

Maharaja, as I am thinking of ways of glorifying you, images of Vrindavan come into mind. From my first visit to the Dhama to all the association that we have had with Your Holiness is like a “pot of gold”. As I begin to delve deep into this pot I relish these precious moments. I cannot comprehend how fortunate we are to have Your association. Many souls desperately search for this rare gem yet You have so kindly given us Your shelter.

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

Your book has given us even more confirmation of this. Your Holiness has so selflessly dedicated Your life in saving us fallen souls. You are truly special.

Maharaja, I feel so ashamed to only open this “pot of gold” on few occasions like this auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja. I pray that my heart will be cleansed so that these memories continuously flood through my mind - with the hope that it will be ingrained in my soul.

Aspiring to be your servant
Kandarpa Manjari Devi dasi

Dear Maharaja

Please accept my sincere pranams on this glorious occasion of your Vyasapuja. As we honor you on this day of your appearance, I reflect upon the glory of your spiritual father and mentor, HDG Śrīla Prabhupāda. You, like all your god brothers and god sisters, use these transcendental festivals as Vedic sacrifices to honour Śrīla Prabhupāda. Your Vyasa puja celebration affords a spiritual conduit for outpourings of love and eternal gratitude to your divine spiritual master, with the fervent desire that every offering made by your disciples, fans the flame of devotion and eternal gratitude to Srila Prabhupāda, burning ever brighter and stronger in the hearts of all the vaisnavas of ISKCON.

The reign of your successes in the presentation of Krishna consciousness is no mystery at all, for they evolve from your fixed submission to the Lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada, and it is that process of your unconditional surrender that sustains and empowers you as one of Prabhupada's many faithful disciples. Your regular talks and inspirational messages always revolve around your admiration of Srila Prabhupāda as being Lord Kṛṣṇa's sincere messenger. Your heartfelt appreciation of your personal love for him, and the compassion that exudes from your voice, are powerful tools that amplify our desire to be with you, as you tend to the many floundering souls in this ocean of nescience.

The emotions that you exude when you reminisce about Srila Prabhupāda - your reverence and gratitude, the love and humility and esteem, all deepen and enhance my resolve in always trying to do everything within my capacity to help to push forward Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON. It is from such disposition that a disciple's commitment deepens and matures, and the confidence you, as my siksa guru, inculcate within me, heightens my service spirit, and naturally increases my bhakti.

As you steer our gratitude to the most outstanding representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva, we nevertheless, do not lose sight of your own wondrous service to Srila Prabhupada; your caring for your disciples, for all your spiritual nephews and nieces, and for the well being of those who have yet to come to Krishna Consciousness. Out of your own selfless love, you are dedicating your very life to deliver Prabhupada's compelling message of surrender and service to the Supreme Lord, and herein lies the secret of your spiritual accomplishment.

I personally, am honored to feel that I am in some little way your servitor, and I become jubilant as you glorify your divine master, and unceasingly convey his flow of mercy to us all.

I pray that the strong emotions we feel on this occasion, through the many spoken and written homage made to you, as we participate in this happy event, will propel us all to greater heights of appreciation of all the vaisnavas of this wonderful International community, and that we will each take upon ourselves the commitment to further the mission of Srila Prabhupada, with unstinting love and devotion.

I also pray to Śrī-Śrī Gaura-Nitāi that you will always be overflowing with Their divine instructions, and that you become even more attached to serving Their lotus feet.

Hare Krishna!

Your servants, as always,
PrabhaVisnu Dasa
Prema Bhakti Devi Dasi
The Singh Family
Alberton, South Africa.

My Dearest Spiritual Uncle

Please accept my humble obeissances at your Lotus Feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your Divine Grace.

"A Krsna conscious person does not make much endeavor even to maintain his body."
(Bg4.22 Purport)

Maharaj, you live by the above point made by Srila Prabhupada. You are often known to be going from one program to another to yet another, selflessly serving the Lotus Feet of your spiritual Master, Srila Prabhupada, ignoring all bodily comforts.

Srila Prabhupada says; 'The secret of success in advancement in spiritual life is the firm faith of the disciple in the orders of his spiritual master.'

Just like Srila Prabhupada had been focused solely on fulfilling his spiritual masters instructions and pleasing his Guru Maharaja, you too inspire us through your single minded goal and determination to please and follow Srila Prabhupada's instruction.

Not only are you preaching and attracting lost souls to the Lotus Feet of Guru and Krsna but you are also maintaining struggling souls like myself by encouraging, guiding and making sure that we don't loose sight of the goal.

I am very grateful to you for always being available to give me time (out of your already hectic schedule), care and guidance whenever I come seeking it.

Thank you Maharaja for being such a wonderful spiritual uncle, hopefully I will gain the intelligence to seek your shelter more often.

I pray on this most auspicious day for some mercy to help me learn from your example and become a better disciple of my spiritual master and grand disciple to Srila Prabhupada.

Always hankering to be in your association

Your Struggling niece

Prema Sarovara dasi

Dear Maharaja,

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

Dear Maharaja, two months back when your book “Travelling in the service of Srila Prabhupada” was released our book club immediately decided that, that would be our next book to read. And it was really very nice! Our appreciation for you and in fact all the spiritual masters have increased so much. It is incredible how much you sacrifice to travel all around the world to please and encourage the devotees. Even when you are in Vrindavan, where most devotees go, to focus more on their own sadhana, Your Holiness still finds it in your heart to be available to the devotees in such a great big way: by taking us on parikrams and planning for those incredible DVDs.

Maharaja, you are truly one in a million. A truly inspiring personality so clear in your dedication to fulfilling the purpose of Srila Prabhupada’s ISKCON; an incredible role model showing us how to behave in perfect Krishna consciousness and how to execute the process of Krishna consciousness without deviation.

Thank you, Maharaja, for giving so much of yourself to us. I offer my respectful obeisance to you and hope that you will please be merciful to a simple beggar like me. I am unintelligent and slow in actually practicing Krishna consciousness. My only hope is the causeless mercy of the devotees. Please be merciful unto me.

Your servant,
Sitata devi dasi

Dear Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja,

Please accept our most humble and sincere obeisances. All Glories to Your Divine Grace and Srila Prabhupada!

Oh, most beloved Maharaja, we as the South Peacock Bhakti Vriksha group would love to convey our kind regards and well wishes to you on this most auspicious and wonderful day of your Vyasa Puja. Words cannot express our gratitude and appreciation towards You, dear Maharaja, for bestowing upon us your causeless, unconditional love and mercy. We would like to thank you very much for your association and love, and for the wonderful devotees you have bestowed upon us that has helped us and guided us on this wonderful journey of Krishna consciousness. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, oh dear Maharaja, for answering all our questions in such a caring, considerate and heartfelt manner. Thank you for leading us in this path of Krishna consciousness and helping us receive His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada's message of love of God. Thank you so much, dear Maharaja, for guiding us, supporting us, and for dispelling any doubts from us with the shining torch of knowledge. Thank you for your kind and caring radiant love. Thank you so much Maharaja for helping us on the right path and inspiring us to excel beyond limitations.

We wish we can obtain more of your divine association and hope to see much more of You in the near future.

We love you lots and lots.

Your servants in Krishna consciousness,
THE South Peacock Bhakti Vrksha Group

Nama om visnu padaya
Krsna presthaya bhutale
Srimate bhakti caitanya swamin iti namine

A busy airport
In a foreign land.
Past the chaos and flurry
Of crowds and queues,
There in the quiet
Of a transit lounge,
As if a rare jewel hidden
Deep within,
Sits a vaishnava
Peaceful and composed.

***SB 1.18.13:** The value of a moment's association with the devotee of the Lord cannot even be compared to the attainment of heavenly planets or liberation from matter, and what to speak of worldly benedictions in the form of material prosperity, which are for those who are meant for death.*

To the icy wastelands of Siberia
Where few have ventured
You shall go.
Should a devotee not lead
The Lord's mercy shall not follow.
Sowing the seeds of bhakti,
Servant of the great gardener,
You shall tend to them
With the delightful shower of your words
And the sunshine of your smiling eyes.

CC Madhya 8.251: Then Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu asked, "Out of all auspicious and beneficial activities, which is best for the living entity?" Rāmānanda Rāya replied, "The only auspicious activity is association with the devotees of Kṛṣṇa."

Last boarding call..

Dear Sannyasi,

To the great master who has given you the pure name

You honour with your life, your words, your unflinching service.

To those who attempt to serve you

You evoke a joy within their hearts

A joy beyond all the joys of the mortal world

O spotless sannyasi,

You are kind. Always positive.

Balanced.

Gentle. Friendly to all.

Lavish in your appreciation and ever attentive in your service.

May we who are rotting in this material world

Always have a vision of your transcendental form

And the dust of your lotus feet on our heads.

SB.1.19.33: "There is no doubt about one's becoming freed from all reactions to sinful activities after visiting a devotee or touching his lotus feet or giving him a sitting place. Even by remembering the activities of such a Vaisnava, one becomes purified, along with one's whole family. And what, then, can be said of rendering direct service to him?"

Your unworthy servants,

Subal sakha das, Balarama and Baura

Hare Krishna Maharaja,

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

On this very auspicious day of your vrasapuja, I am sure Srila Prabhupada must be showering his utmost blessings. We are very fortunate to be in ISKCON. We are blessed to have your association. I was very fortunate to be with Your Holiness for the 2008 Vraja Mandala parikrama and I have been telling everybody that I wish I could repeat every moment of it, the bus rides and all.

Once we were going in the wrong direction but with your kind guidance, we ran to take darshan of Sri Gopinath. It was a very beautiful evening and the big wide streets were very busy. But we made it. The experience is something very difficult to describe but I know that was absolute mercy from Your Holiness, Maharaja.

Once when we were at your class at Govindaji temple we saw a very beautiful greeting between you and a God brother whom you met after a very long time. Being a Srila Prabhupada disciple we were asking him about Srila Prabhupada and with a lot of enthusiasm and with wide eyes he said in Hindi "Prabhupada is IN you!" How true this is and we all know that but to hear that in the most holy dham made our hearts melt.

On this day of your vrasapuja, I pray for your mercy, for some intelligence, devotion and strength so that I can make some difference for the better in serving Sri Sri Nitai Gaura-Hari and our most important movement ISKCON, which is the ONLY way out in this progressing age of Kali.

Your humble servant,
Vishaka devi dasi

Dear Bhakti Caitanya Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabupada. All glories to Sri Sri Gaura Nitai.

Dear Maharaja,

Happy Vyasa Puja. I hope Maharaja had a good day so far. On this auspicious occasion of Maharaja's Vyasa puja I would like to thank Maharaja for all the mercy Maharaja has given me. When Maharaja came to our house some time ago we had got dairy free tofu ice cream for Maharaja. It was cholesterol free and fat free. When we told Maharaja he said "oh that sounds like fun." So then we served Maharaja, the ice cream.

I would like to thank Maharaja for making such wonderful DVD's of the holy places in Vrindavana. Maharaja puts them together very well. My favourite DVD is the one on Varshana. Maharaja describes the eight principle gopis. Maharaja also narrated the story of the tax collection on one of the DVD's which by far is my favourite story. I really like the way Maharaja narrates the stories as he says it in the most wonderful way which is easy to understand.

Please give me your blessings to become a sincere devotee.

From your servant
Vrindavani.

Dear Guru Maharaja

Please accept my obeisances.

I'm feel very strong sense of duty towards Srila Prabhupada, You and devotees, because You save my life, care about me.

I want to become useful in Srila Prabhupada's mission, start to look after younger devotees, distributing books, chant Holy Name clear. Thanks to You I have this chance. It is a great luck that I met You, by Krishna's mercy and devotees it happened! Thank You for care, spiritual support and chance to serve You.

Your disciple,

Alexander Popov.

Dearest Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my respectful obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to You, Srila Gurudeva on Your auspicious Vyasa Puja! All glories to His Divine Grace, Srila Prabhupada.

The time has finally come for your auspicious Vyasa Puja, Gurudeva. I always look forward to this moment where i can offer prayers and glorify You and this is the ideal moment to do so. Srila Gurudeva, this most fallen daughter of Yours, would like to thank You from the bottom of her heart with the little gratitude that she has as an offering to your Lotus feet. Thank you over and over again Srila Gurudeva, for everything that You have done for me. In this lifetime there is no way this fallen soul can ever repay all the wonderful things You have done for me from coming to support the Bhakti Yoga Society at the University of Pretoria to all the personal instructions that You have given me in my spiritual life. Thank You for the best Diwali gift that I have ever received in my entire lifetime that that was the day that you accepted me as your aspiring disciple. Thank you! Thank you! Thank You!

I pray to You on this most auspicious day that I do follow each and every instruction that You have given me, Srila Gurudev as these are a repetition of what Srila Prabhupada has instructed us to do. Although I am very fallen and unable to understand in full the essence of these instructions, I pray with great sincerity that someday I can carry out all Your instructions as this is what Sri Krishna desires of me.

I pray to serve our Jagat Guru, Saviour of the whole world and master of all of the devotees, His Divine Grace, Srila Prabhupada and his glorious movement, ISKCON with great humility and gratitude throughout my life in any minute way possible. There is no possible way that this fallen soul can repay what Srila Prabhupada had given to this world and especially to me and my family. This beggar would like to surrender her whole life for Srila Prabhupada and this movement as this is the only way Srila Prabhupada and You, Srila Gurudeva, will be pleased.

On this day, I also pray that I can chant the Holy names of the Lord with some love and devotion as this is the key to success in spiritual life. As everything is present in the Maha mantra, I sincerely pray and have some faith to chant with some affection so that Srimati Radharani and Sri Krishna will see my meek attempt to please Them and Their devotees. This day is not enough for me to express my gratitude to You, Srila Gurudeva. Every moment in Your association is a moment for gratitude and appreciation for me as You take an endless amount of time and effort to help this fallen soul understand and learn things in Krishna consciousness. Gurudeva, you are the only way that I have that can take me back home, back to Godhead and ultimately love Sri Krishna with all my heart.

I hope to be a good and faithful servant to You, Srila Gurudeva as ultimately Sri Krishna is the only master and we are all servants. If i can serve and please You, Srila Gurudeva and the devotees of the Lord with great love and care then Sri Krishna will be pleased with this most fallen soul. I hope that someday You will be pleased with this fallen soul.

Many devotees express their appreciation to Your stalwart preaching, Srila Gurudeva. I also hope to follow in Your Footsteps as Sri Krishna mentions in the Bhagavad-gita that there is no one as Dear to Me than he who preaches My glories. Preaching is an art that can only be learnt from someone that has perfected that art and for me Gurudeva, You have certainly perfected this art as a perfect artist.

Gurudeva, we often hear that spiritual life is difficult and material life is impossible. I do pray to Your Lotus Feet that all the hurdles that I may face during my spiritual life maybe overcome by the association and the mercy of the Vaisnavas and my faith constantly remains in the chanting of the holy names of the Lord and surrendering unto the Lotus feet of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

My final prayer to You is that I can stay a devotee throughout my life and dedicate it very seriously and sincerely in propagating this movement of Srila Prabhupada. Only by Your mercy, Gurudeva and the mercy of the devotees is this possible. I hope my prayers to You, reflect a small glimpse of what a wonderful Vaisnava You are. My gratitude towards You is endless Gurudeva, therefore my prayers are all that i can offer to You.

Lastly, I hope you accept this small offering to the dust of your feet in the attempt to glorify You on this most awaited day.

All glories to You, Srila Gurudeva once again on your auspicious Vyasa Puja.

Your lowly and fallen servant
Bhaktin Avisha

My dear spiritual master. Please accept my humble obbesences. All glories to Srila Prabupada.
All glories to the the dust of Your lotus feet

Hare Krsna Guru Maharaja

On this great day of your vyasa puja all glories to you again and again. Thank you for keeping me motivated in my Krishna Consciousness and for your guidance over the years. You and your writings have kept me afloat in this material world. Thank you for all the mercy that you have showerd upon this fallen and undeserving servant. May their lordships Sri Sri Radha and Radhanatha always keep you in good health to continue your great preaching around the world.

aspiring to serve

avith chatturgoon

Hare Krishna

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your Divine Grace. Offering to my dearest Gurumaharaja.

My dearest Gurudev, you are my saviour, you are my inspiration and you are the reason that I am not completely lost in this intimidating material creation. "O beloved Guru Maharaja, please award me service at your lotus-like feet, which are the proprietors of devotional service. Please place me in the ocean of joy by bestowing upon me happiness by serving at the feet of Sri Radha. My dear Gurudev, you are the deliverer of fallen souls. Your mercy turns the most fallen souls such as myself into eloquent speakers and enables us to cross mountains. My dear spiritual master, I continually offer my obeisances unto you. You are always in the presence of Srimati Radharani and you are very much devoted to Her. You are the abode of loving devotion to Krishna. I bow down to the beautiful lotus feet of my spiritual master, by whose causeless mercy I have obtained the supreme holy name and mantra meditation. O dear Gurudeva, giver of wisdom and friend of the fallen, you are the giver of your own bliss and you are the ocean of mercy. Although you eternally reside in Vrindavan, you have descended for the welfare of fallen souls like myself and you are preaching the divine love of Radha for Krishna. Please be kind upon me dear Gurumaharaja. I am a minute insignificant part and parcel of the Supreme Lord and I am always and in every way His eternal servant. As I am always hoping for His mercy and kindness, I offer myself to His most dear servitor, your Divine Grace.

Your Most Fallen Servant
Bhakta Mahesh

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

Dearest Guru Maharaja

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

Gurudeva, this day of Your Vyasa Puja is so auspicious and so incredibly special. It is on this day, Lord Sri Krsna blessed the world with the most precious gift, a remarkable jewel, that is Your Divine Grace.

Guru Maharaja, thank You for extending Yourself by giving Your valuable time and energy to me. Thank You for Your compassion, care and encouragement.

I am so unworthy. I am actually a great liability. I am ignorant, foolish and pretentious and yet You so mercifully saw past that and accepted me as Your aspiring disciple. Thank You Gurudeva for Your shelter. Thank You for accepting me into Your family and linking me to Srila Prabhupada and Sri Krsna. I feel so blessed and privileged to have You as my spiritual master.

It is only by Your grace and mercy that I may make any progress in my spiritual life. I pray, please always keep me engaged in devotional service so that I may get some purification and rid my heart of all the layers of dirt that envelope it.

I am truly undeserving, but I still pray that one day I may have sincere attachment to Your lotus feet.

Your lowly and unworthy servant
bhaktin devira

Dear Bhakti Caitanya Swami, on this day of your auspicious appearance into this world, please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your Vyasa Puja celebration. All glories to your ecstatic service to Lord Krishna.

I thank Lord Krishna for the gift of your being. Humbly i bow down my head unto your lotus feet and beg for your mercy and instructions. I pray Lord Krishna to bless you with a very good health and long life. All glories to you, dear Guru Maharaja.

Your ever servant,
Bhaktin Eli.

Dearest Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja,

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

On this wonderful day of Your appearance, it is only appropriate to try to express our gratitude to You for being so instrumental in our lives. Thank you so much, Maharaja, for all the mercy that You have showered onto my family and I.

Your Mercy has inspired me to chant more dedicatedly. You have strengthened my spiritual connection to Srila Prabhupada.

Thank you, Guru Maharaja, for always enquiring about my well-being, my work and especially about my chanting. I am always amazed at how You remember to inquire as to how I am. I am so grateful for the transcendental love you show toward me; it has given me so much strength.

Thank you so much for showering so much love and mercy onto such a fallen and undeserving fool. I am eternally grateful to Krsna for You, Guru Maharaja. Where would I be without You?

Your servant in progress,
Bhaktin Kirti

Dear Guru Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of Your Lotus Feet.

I know I can never adequately put into words the feelings of love and gratitude I feel. I am so thankful that You have chosen to engage me, and keep me engaged, in Your service, no matter how laughable it may be. You always encourage me in my services, always reminding me that I can do more. You have shown such care towards me, I am sometimes overwhelmed.

I know that I will never be the best disciple, yet You urge me everyday to be better. Your example pushes me to endeavour even harder.

As Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur writes: "Gurudeva! By a drop of Your mercy make this servant of Yours more humble than a blade of grass. Give me strength to bear all trials and troubles, and free me from all desires for personal honour". I pray for this everyday. I pray that You are merciful to me and allow me to remain in the shade of Your Lotus Feet.

Guru Maharaja Ki Jai!

Your undeserving servant

Bhaktin Mirasha

Dear Srila Gurudeva

He who is an ocean of Compassion

He who is an ocean of Divine Bliss

He who is an ocean of such Mercy, and

He who is an ocean of Love, is known as Srila Gurudeva!

To You I make my salutations Gurudeva

Please accept my most humble obeisances upon your divine lotus feet.

All glories to Your Divine Grace on this auspicious day!

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

I am forever grateful to Sri Krsna and Srila Prabhupada because by Their Mercy I have been blessed with such a wonderful, bona fide spiritual master. Gurudeva, I humbly beg at your lotus feet for guidance and mercy so that one day, I too would be fortunate enough to be engaged in pure devotional service, such as planting the seed of Krsnas Love within the hearts of the people around me.

Gurudeva, I would like to take this opportunity, thanking you from the depths of my heart for being so kind , by sharing your transcendental knowledge and always guiding me through my spiritual journey.

Sri Gurudev, may Krsna always keep you close to Him, treasure you deep within His heart and drown you in His ocean of Auspicious Qualities and Love!

Lots of love

Your humble servant

Bhaktin Tharusha

Nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhuta-tale srimate caitanya svamin iti namine

Our most merciful and eternal father,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet on this most blessed occasion of your Sri Vyasa-puja. All glories to Srila Prabhupada who gave you to us. All glories to your divine appearance.

Guru Maharaja, you are so humble with unlimited transcendental qualities. We are so fallen to glorify Your Divine Grace.

Hearing from you is always a great fortune because it not only dispels the illusion but answers many questions on the mind. There were the answers we were searching for the past many years which helped us to come close to the philosophy of Krishna Consciousness.

We don't have any other word than Thank You Guru Maharaja for including us in your family. We pray on this auspicious day that you always give us your mercy so that although slowly we may progress towards the same goal. We humbly beg you to keep us under the shelter of your lotus feet so that we may follow your instructions.

Your deeply fallen, aspiring servants,

Deepa, Amar, Iswar and Geetadevi

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances in dust of Your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada! All glories to the day of Your Vyasa-puja!

Dear Srila Gurudeva, it is impossible to understand position of a spiritual master, being in conditioned situation. And only being engaged in devotional service under the guidance of the bona fide spiritual master, is it possible to come nearer on a particle to this understanding. The spiritual master is not a goldfish who will grant all our desires even if the disciple will not apply any efforts. The spiritual master gives instructions which will by all means lead to perfection if the disciple will be sincere to follow them with determination.

Srila Prabhupada has founded this Society that all mankind could take shelter in the shadow of Lotus Feet of the Lord Krishna, His instructions. And You, despite of everything, continue to inform these instructions to us.

Narottama Das Thakur sings: "Lotus feet of Lord Nityananda cool more strongly, than millions moon". The spiritual master is ambassador of Nityananda Prabhu, and His instructions are capable to extinguish the fire of the material existence which has captured our entire world. And each disciple dreams to become a small fire-engine which will deliver this mercy requiring, in the epicentre of military operations.

Thanks to seniors devotees through which You give us spiritual support and protection, younger devotees through which you give us chance to show care, I have all possibilities to execute Your instructions.

And I sincerely hope that, once, Your instructions will get into my heart of stone and then I will have an uncontrollable desire to be useful to You in Your service to Srila Prabhupada.

Your disciple,
Eksin Alexander

My Dearest Guru Maharaja,

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

"One is forbidden to accept the guru, or spiritual master, as an ordinary human being (Gurusu nara-matih). When Ramananda Raya spoke to Pradyumna Misra, Pradyumna Misra could understand that Ramananda Raya was not an ordinary human being. A spiritually advanced person who acts with authority, as the spiritual master, speaks as the Supreme Personality of Godhead dictates from within. Thus it is not he that is personally speaking. When a pure devotee or spiritual master speaks, what he says should be accepted as having been directly spoken by the Supreme Personality of Godhead in the parampara system." Purport of Sri Caitanya Caritamrta, Antya lila,chapter 5,text 71.

Dear Guru Maharaja, only a pure soul as you is capable of carrying my service to the Lord and serving you is automatically service to Lord Krishna. One can never reach for the sun but can just feel its heat and see its rays. You are those rays Guru Maharaj, who strengthens my faith day by day. I wish I had the chance to serve you more often. I wish I could be so fortunate to be in your association all year long.

I still and always remember when you had said that You are always with us, not necessarily physically, but our hearts are eternally together. I think of this, and smile comes to my face, and I say Yes, My Guru Maharaja is here, right here.in my heart accepting whatever little service I have to offer.

Thank you for being so merciful, for seeing my pitiable condition and offering me shelter under Your lotus feet. I shall be forever grateful to You, my guide, my master, my spiritual Father.

On this wonderful occasion of Your Vysa Puja, I am begging for your mercy.

Your servant,

Gandharvika

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

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

Namaste sarasvate deve gaura vani pracarine
Nirvisesa sunyavadi pascatya desa tarine

Hare Krishna Guru Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your divine lotus feet. All glories to You Guru Maharaja, on this most auspicious and joyous occasion of your vyasa-puja. All glories to Srila Prabhupada All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaurasundhar. All glories to Their Lordships Lord Jaganatha, Baladev and Subadhra devi

Happy Vyasa Puja, Guru Maharaja. May the sweet blessings of Lord Krsna and Srila Prabhupada always be with you so that You may continue Your good work of spreading the divine nectar of Krsna Consciousness.

Thank you for always encouraging us and guiding us in our spiritual lives. May we grow to make you proud.

May you have a blissful Krsna Conscious day and may the blessing of Sri Sri Radha and Krsna flow to you always.

Take care and happy vyasa puja again.

Your servants

Maran & Seshna

Hare Krishna

His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja

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

Maharaja, you are so firm in your faith and loving devotion to Srila Prabhupada's preaching mission. You are an icon in ISKCON. You are an inspiration to me and my practising of Krishna Consciousness. You are a stalwart devotee and a pillar of strength to ISKCON.

I relish the programs you conduct at New Jagganath Puri temple, especially your sweet kirtans and transcendental lectures. Most of all I look forward to your sweet and transcendental association.

Maharaja, on this auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja, kindly bless me to become more serious in my practice of Krishna consciousness.

Maharaja, I pray that you will be merciful to me and help me attain Krishna's lotus feet.

His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja Ki Jai!
Srila Prabhupada Ki Jai!

Your aspiring disciple

Mrs Amrita Rajhenal

Dear Bhakti Caitanya Maharaja

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

“I was born in the darkest ignorance, and my spiritual master opened my eyes with the torch of knowledge, I offer my respectful obeisance’s unto him”

Somehow by the mercy of the pure devotees of the lord, I have come to your lotus feet. Please, I request them to give me shelter, and make me thy servant, although I have no qualification and no ability to become a servant.

I am not very good with words, but Srila Prabhupada once said “That love of a Spiritual master means to keep the vow that one has taken at initiation”

Please give me the strength and knowledge to have this kind of love for you

Your aspiring servant
Neeha Jivan

HareKrsna Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble Obeisances To Your Lotus Feet. All Glories To Guru And Guaranga.
All Glories To Srila Prabhupada.

Guru Maharaja, I pray that with Guru, Krsna and the mercy of the Vaisnavas you will accept my offering, even though I am totally unworthy.

I pray that on this special occassion of your Vyasa Puja and every other day you will kindly bestow your mercy on me and that I will be able to follow your instructions nicely and chant inoffensively and attentively.

I also pray on this Vyasa Puja day that I become your sincere, honest and humble servant and try my best to remain steadfast in my sadhana.

Thank you, Guru Maharaja, for making this process of devotional service available to us fallen souls. Thank you for giving me light in this dark world and please guide me always.

Kabe heno krpa labhiya e jana
krtartha hoibe natha
sakti-budhi-hina ami ati dina
koro more atma-satha.

O Lord and Master; When will this devotee be blessed by obtaining your mercy? I am low, fallen and devoid of all strength and intelligence. Please make me your beloved servant.

your aspiring servant,
satte.

Dear Guru Maharaja

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

My family and I would like to take this moment of wishing you well on your Vyasa Puja. May you be blessed today and many more years to come so that we can always be showered with your blissful presence and much appreciated guidance.

Your forever servant

Shamila Mahadeo

Namo Om Vishnu Padaya Krishna Presthaya Bhuthale, Srimate Bhakti Caitanya Svamin Iti Namine.

Please accept our humble obeisances at Your Lotus Feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada, All glories to Your Divine Grace on Your appearance day.

Please accept our little endeavor to glorify you.

Gurudeva, on this day we would like to thank you for all the causeless mercy that you have constantly showered upon us. You are always very merciful, understanding, kind, caring, considerate, sincere and well wishing towards us and that is why we became so attracted to you.

Thank you for gracing our home and giving us your most precious association and the most precious gift of life. Thank you, Guru Maharaja for answering our questions and helping us in our spiritual life and for dispelling the darkness of ignorance with your warm radiant love and affection. Thank you, Maharaj for guiding us in our spiritual life for motivating and inspiring us to excel. Thank you for gracing our Bhakti Vriksha program which was the turning point in our lives. Your grace has inspired us and our family for a long time and now we are blessed and most fortunate to be under the shelter of your lotus feet.

We pray that your grace will forever shower your mercy and blessings upon our family

Your servants

Sharad, Prabha, Neeha, Jayanti, Daksha and Tina

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.

The last few steps, pushing my body forward, I was nearly done, it was nearly the end of one of my greatest achievements. I looked in the distance, my Gurudev encouraging me with hands raised in the air, standing at the finish line. The elegant Kusum Sarovara behind Him. I had just completed Govardhan Parikrama, my dream come true. The most beautiful day of my life, with my Guru Maharaja. Images of that day will forever be engraved in my heart. A memory, so treasurable, sitting on the steps of Kusum Sarovara, below my dear Gurudev. You were proud of me, just like a loving father. I pray that one day, I could please You like that again. You were the most caring, so compassionate to Your undeserving daughter.

Along the way, you would encourage me to go on. In the same way, You encourage me, as I walk through the journey of my life to reach the finish line of arriving Back to Godhead. There are so many stumbles on the way, so many stones of maya cutting me. This material world is so harsh, yet Your mercy to me and the solutions and guidance You give to me take the stones away and once again, I walk on the soft Vraj clay. I know that it is only You who can take me to that finish line of Home. Please drag me Gurudev.

So many times, I stumble off the path, I hardly ever remember the goal. I want to follow Your instructions. You never ask us to leave everything and preach to the masses and sacrifice our lives like You did. You simply ask us to stay where we are, continue with our studies or work and try to become Krishna Conscious and I cannot even do that. I still insist on walking on the stones and getting cut.

Gurudev, You do so much. You are so selfless in spreading Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON. You travel all over the world to the coldest places, doing so many programmes, encouraging and inspiring so many devotees. In so many different countries and You do this so selflessly with such determination. I pray that I can do something to serve You as You follow Srila Prabhupada with so much dedication. I pray that one day, I can become even just a little as focused as You are. You make so much time for me, yet I am such a rascal. I don't deserve all Your love and care, yet You are so merciful to Me. I feel so unworthy.

Thank You, Gurudev for encouraging me with my japa. Thank You for the sweetest parikramas. Thank You for caring me about my studies. I pray that one day, I can do well in Your books again, that is all that really matters. I want to please You, thank You for all the sacrifices you make for us and for tolerating me. If there is something I can do to please you, please instruct me. With Your mercy, I will try my best to improve my japa. I am so grateful to Srila Prabhupada for raising such a perfect Son and I am so thankful that you have accepted me as your daughter.

I pray that in some lifetime, I will reach that finish line and You will be there with your arms raised in the air, like that day in Kusum Sarovara and welcome me home and introduce me to Srila Prabhupada.

I pray to always remain serving at Your Lotus Feet and I pray to remain on the journey back home by following Your instructions.

Your struggling daughter
Yoginee

om ajnana-timirāndhasya
jnānājana-śalakyā
cakṣur unmīlitam yena
tasmai śri-gurave namah

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

Dear Gurudeva, what more can I say about how much You mean to me and what a great, positive force You are in my life? Alas, the English language does not permit such expressiveness. But I know that without You I will always remain lost in the darkness of material life. Without You I shall always be bereft of the association of devotees who care for me and guide me; without You, what chances would I have to serve the Lord and Srila Prabhupada; sadly, I would not even be attracted to such service.

My Lord, You are my personal deity who brings me hope and knowledge; it is You who following the instructions of Your spiritual master has lifted this maleccha from the gutters and given him a chance to attain the greatest good fortune. By Your mercy, this life has meaning and importance for me now, otherwise I would be just another polished animal running around trying to satisfy my senses which are insatiable.

My debt to You will ever remain unpaid dear Gurudeva, it is not possible to repay someone who has given You life, a meaningful life filled with purpose and auspiciousness and with the promise of being situated in the service of the lotus feet of the Lord and His devotees eternally. I beg that I may always carry the blessing of the dust of Your lotus feet upon my head and Your instructions may be fixed in my heart always.

Please keep me always under the shelter of Your lotus feet so that I may remain,

Your servant always,
Abhirama dasa

nama om vishnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bhakti caitanya svamin iti namine

My dearest Guru Maharaja

Please accept our humble obeisances.

All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to You Guru Maharaja on this most auspicious occasion of Your Vyasa Puja.

Guru Maharaja, we would like to glorify You for Your continuous guidance and support in our attempts to spread Krishna Consciousness. You give us strength and encouragement to overcome any obstacles that hinder our spiritual progress. Your humility and enthusiasm in Krishna Consciousness inspires us to try to become more devoted servants.

Guru Maharaja, You continue to shower us with Your mercy and You always have our spiritual well being at heart. We pray that You bless us so that these two most fallen servants always remain under the shelter of Your Divine Lotus Feet.

Your most fallen servants

Akincana Krishna dasa and Hari Priya devi dasi

Hare Krishna Guru Maharaja
Please accept our humble obeisances
All glories to Srila Prabhupada
All glories to You

On this most auspicious occasion of your Vyasa Puja, we humbly beg for your magnanimity and unlimited mercy in that you kindly forgive us for any offences at your lotus feet. We have been guilty of burdening you with our material problems. By reading your diary of your "Travels in the service of Srila Prabhupada," we have discerned your stature in our movement. We see so many people throughout the world taking inspiration from your dedication and enthusiasm from serving Srila Prabhupada. In this process, you are willing to endure many anxieties and bodily discomforts to serve a higher purpose.

It is our great love and appreciation for you that makes us determined to hold on to our Krishna Consciousness whilst Maya is snapping at our heels. Through our battle to eradicate the nescience of material illusion, we have you, a pure Vaisnava saint who is tirelessly and painstakingly attempting to infuse our hearts with the knowledge of sambandha tattva through your teachings and exemplary actions. Thank you for keeping a place for us in your heart.

Your insignificant servants,

Ananda Tirtha das,
Syama Priya devi dasi
And baby Kalindi

*namo om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bhakti-caitanya swamin iti namine*

Please accept my most humble and respectful obeisances. All Glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaura-Hari. All Glories, All Glories, All Glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva. All Glories to the dust of Your Lotus Feet on the most auspicious and glorious day of Your Vyasa-puja celebration- Your divine appearance in this material world.

My most revered Spiritual master,

Thank you Srila Gurudeva, for Your unlimited mercy that you have showered upon my family and I. Thank you for your immense compassion in accepting me as Your disciple. Thank you for giving me an exalted holy name, associated with that place where Srimati Radharani's body melted and became *Apsara-kunda* at the great Govardhana Hill- the sacred place dear to Krsna and Balarama, and our Founder-Acarya, Srila Prabhupada.

Thank you to my divine master, Srila Gurudeva, for connecting us to Lord Krsna and Srimati Radharani; and for sharing all the divine nectar of the wonderful pastimes of the Lord with us. Thank you for all Your perfect presentations which You work so tirelessly to research and present to us for our benefit. Thank you for allowing us to participate in Your parikramas-Your choice of words and the sound of Your voice is so captivating.

Oh, best of the *paramahamsas*, Srila Gurudeva, You are our spiritual inspiration. Living in this material world would not be possible without Your precise and intelligent instructions and causeless mercy. We cannot thank you enough for Your confidence in us and for wanting to serve us and save us. No words can describe my heartfelt gratitude for accepting me, a fallen soul, as Your disciple. May I always remain faithful to the Lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada and our divine revered spiritual master by whose mercy we will go back home, back to Godhead. Thank you for enlightening us with your ocean of transcendental knowledge and overflowing mercy in engaging us in devotional service to the Lord, and for empowering us to help us preach the sankirtana movement for the benefit of both ourselves and others, and allowing us to serve Srila Prabhupada's great mission.

Thank you, Srila Gurudeva, for my new birth with the Vedas as my mother and You as my father. Srila Gurudeva, You have taken the burden of accepting my past karmas, and for that I bow down to Your Divine Holy Feet.

I pray to Lord Krsna to take extra special care of You in the palm of His Lotus hands and to continue granting You the strength to help fulfill Srila Prabhupada's mission. On this auspicious day of Your Vyasa-puja celebration, I beg You to please shower my family and I with Your Divine mercy in that we may make progress in devotional service and always be engaged in Your loving service. May the dust of Your Lotus feet bless us forever in chanting *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare*.

Your ever-grateful spiritual daughter,
Apsara-kunda devi dasi.

Hare Krishna Dear Guru Maharaja

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

Dear Guru Maharaja, O best of the Brahamanas and Vaishnavas, who I consider to be as good as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, thank you for being a real father and inspiration to me.

It is said in SB 4.21.28 that the word Guru refers to one who gives proper direction under the authority of the Vedic injunctions and according to the examples of the lives of great personalities. Guru Maharaja, watching your qualities and activities, I am immediately reminded of the good qualities that all our previous acarayas must have displayed. You also have this depth of knowledge that you apply in any situation and display your love not only to strangers and ISCKON devotees, but also to all your disciples as well. You are certainly the manifested representation of Lord Krishna. Even though I do not have the good fortune of consulting with the Supreme Personality of Godhead, I consider consulting with you the same as consulting with the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Just as Lord Krishna has given real knowledge to the entire world, I see you giving the same knowledge, as it is, to all of us. I accept you as the Supreme Personality of Godhead as you are fulfilling Krishna's order and I now understand that what I have been missing in my previous lives can only be attained in this life by your Mercy. When Krishna says, "*Sarva Dharman*(BG 18.66) you took sannyas just to deliver fallen souls like myself out of this material world to return home, back to Godhead – thank you Guru Maharaja.

Just as Lord Krishna arranges for the water to be evaporated from the ocean so that we can get it to drink, so too you are an empowered soul who can tap on the ocean of Mercy and provide it to us. Guru Maharaja, on your Vyasa Puja, I pray that you be merciful upon everyone here and bless them so that they can tolerate this rascal and allow me to always remain in their association and service.

Your servant, who will always remain begging for your Mercy.
Arjunacarya das

All Glories To Srila Prabhupada, All Glories To Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

Hare Krishna My dear Gurumaharaja,

On this special occasion of your Vyasa Puja, I seize the opportunity to wish you a very Happy Vyasa day. i will also like to thank you for your all supports, guidances and precious advices, that you have been giving me. you have always understood me and supported me in every new step i have taken in my life. i am really grateful to you, Guru Maharaja, for accepting me as your disciple and for giving me the shelter of your lotus feet.

Please, my spiritual master always engage me in your service and be merciful onto me.

i hope you will have a really great day on your special day. please accept my Vyasa Puja's offering and forgive me for all the offenses i am committing.

Your Servant,

Carana Renu devi dasi

Dear Respected Guru Maharaja

Please accept my humble and respectful obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Guru Maharaja on the most auspicious Vyasa Puja day.

I am very thankful to you, Guru Maharaja for the wonderful guidance You have been providing me and for all your love and blessings you have provided myself and Radhe Syama DD and Ashvin.

I am very proud of you, Guru Maharaja for the wonderful service you are doing for your Guru Maharaja, Srila Prabhupada in your preachings. It must be tough to travel so much and care for so many disciples. But you do so. Having one son for me is already a sizeable job, you have so many children.

I am continuing my service to Krsna and yourself and to Srila Prabhupada by trying my best to be a good councillor and being a festival coordinator in Sri Jaganatha mandir, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Please bless me so that I can continue my service and do it well. Please also bless me that I will be a good soldier and preacher for Krsna.

I pray for Guru Maharaja long life and good health.

Please let me know of all my faults as soon as you see them

Your insignificant servant

Gaurachandra Das

Dearest Srila Gurudev

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

Your divine appearance has come yet again and we all attempt to justifiably glorify your personality. However, such a thing is not possible.

It is said that the spiritual master is as good as God. Some may find that hard to believe as I once did until I got your association. Through your causeless, unending mercy you accepted me as your daughter. I was so far from qualified for even being in your association yet you constantly gave me your personal association and opportunities to serve You. How many lives, You have transformed by just giving us the opportunity to see you, hear your enchanting classes, kirtans and pure nectar, one will never know. HH Partha Sarathi Das Goswami once said that we see good in others when we have a good heart. I immediately thought of what would describe your love for all living entities...and I could not explain it. You even consider someone as insignificant as me.

I pray that I forever remain your servant for then my life's desire will be fulfilled. I pray that, I can in some way assist you in serving Srila Prabhupada.

Please continue allowing me to serve you else my life is of no use.

Your most fallen aspiring servant,
Gopesvari devi dasi

My Dear Lord and Master, Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada. All Glories to Your Divine Grace, and the most auspicious occasion of Your Divine Appearance in this world.

For so many lifetimes, I have loitered on the streets of the material world, in complete ignorance of my real self. Seeing such a degraded fool, out of kindness and mercy alone, Your Divine Grace rescued me. Giving me the opportunity to take refuge at Your shelter, I have come to understand that You possess the greatest Mercy.

This Mercy can be dispensed by Your Divine Grace at Your own sweet will- such is Your power! It is known as the *greatest* mercy, because by receiving it one can attain pure devotional service to Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Even though time and time again I fail to accept this mercy from You, and fail to confidently remain fixed at Your shelter, You still encourage me to take the mercy, and *thereby* become fixed- such is the kindness and compassion of Your Divine Grace!

Taking to the shelter of Your Divine Grace, one can become free from all material anxieties, and learn the art of nectarean devotional service to the Personality of Godhead, just as You have from Your own spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada, in disciplic succession. Please let me not be still attracted by the phenomenal attractions of the material world and thus throw sand into the nectarean sweet-rice of devotional life.

Please give me the strength to take Your mercy and remain at Your shelter. In that way I can always serve Your Divine Grace and learn the art of devotional service from a bold and sincere follower of Srila Prabhupada- Your Divine Grace.

On this auspicious occasion, I pray sincerely that I may become determined to execute Your orders and instructions as the substance of my life and to serve Your Divine Grace physically. Your Divine Grace is so wonderful, that You dedicated Your entire life to the service of Srila Prabhupada- please inspire me to do the same.

When asked about the “relationship between the spiritual master and the disciple”, Your Divine Grace mentioned that there are only two aspects to such a relationship: *mercy* and *burden*. While the disciple gets the *mercy*; the spiritual master takes the *burden*.

Thank you, Srila Gurudeva, for taking me on as a burden. I am praying fervently to be a responsible disciple, and thereby reduce the burden of myself on Your Divine Grace. Thank you, Oh Ocean of mercy, for a drop powerful enough to revolutionize my whole life.

Your aspiring servant,
Isvara Puri dasa.

*nama om vishnu padaya krsna presthaya bhutale
srimate bhakti caitanya swamin iti namine*

My Dearest Guru Maharaja

Please accept my most respectful obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet, on this sacred occasion of your Vyasa Puja. All glories to your Divine Grace. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Yet another year has passed and I promised myself that in the new year, I will definitely make some significant contribution to my spiritual master. Again, I am ashamed to admit I have nothing to show you. Maharaj, we are poles apart, You an enlightened spiritual soul and me, a wreched fallen one. Whenever I contemplate some service, I wonder how stupid it may be. Will I offend my Guru Maharaja? Yet you are so kind to me. Why, I do not know, but I am very very grateful. Maybe I need to be chastised, maybe I need a “WHATEVER” across my face, but most important, maybe I need an instruction for the next year.

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

Your servant

Jagannatha Priya das

nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaki caitanya svamin iti namine

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

Our Dearest Guru Maharaja

Please accept our humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you, our ever well-wisher.

On this most auspicious occasion of your vyasa puja we are indeed fortunate to be given an opportunity to try to appreciate you.

Guru Maharaja, you are the greatest gift we have. Thank you once again for being so loving to us. We pray that we will qualify to be worthy recipients of your love.

Having recently just completed reading Sri Caitanya Bhagavata we can see that you live your every breath just as Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu did, in that you are always glorifying the Lord, giving personal association by living in the asramas of vaisnavas, dancing in ecstatic kirtana, honouring prasada and relating transcendental pastimes of the Lord.

Your approachability is one of your many best traits. Yet we have a fearful respect for you. We pray that we may always keep this respectful distance from you and at the same time hold you close to our hearts. We need not bother you with trivial matters, you have a greater purpose; preaching Lord Caitanya's message throughout the world thereby saving many more conditioned souls .

You are an ISKCON gem, a real Prabhupada man, a mahatma and the friend of all living entities. We pray that we here in South Africa can really appreciate you as you deserve to be. We pray also that Sri Krsna may grant you longevity. We need you Guru Maharaja, the whole world needs your nectar.

We pray that we may never take you for granted, Guru Maharaja. We pray that we can develop the same level of love and respect for you that you have earned throughout the world.

We are committed to following your every instruction. We remain eternally indebted to you. We shall never leave the shelter of your lotus feet or Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON which you hold so close to your heart.

Your struggling servants

Nanda Maharaja dasa, Yasoda mayi devi dasi, Devaki priya devi dasi

NAMO OM VISNU PADAYA KRSNA PRESTHAYA BHUTALE
SRIMATE BHAKTI CAITANYA SVAMIN ITI NAMINE

NAMO OM VISNU PADAYA KRSNA PRESTHAYA BHUTALE
SRIMATE BHAKTIVEDANTA SVAMIN ITI NAMINE

NAMASTE SARASVATE DEVE GAURA VANI PRACARINE
NIRVISESA SUNYAVADI PASCATYA DESATARINE

Hare Krishna dear Srila Gurudeva

Please accept our humble obeisances as we bow down to the dust at Your divine lotus feet
All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to You Srila Gurudeva.

We would like to express our profound gratitude to You, Srila Gurudeva, for Your constant guidance and care that You so lovingly give to us. You are a fountain of nectar that is constantly flowing and You allow us to drink whenever we please without ever being turned away. O Srila Gurudeva, when will we ever come to a point when tears of love for You will flow, just by hearing or seeing You.

How can we ever secure a position at Your divine lotus feet, whereby we can constantly serve You, birth after birth until You decide to take us home, back to Godhead. Lord Sri Krishna and Srila Prabhupada has been extremely merciful in granting us a Spiritual Master such as You. How can we ever thank You for accepting such a position.

Our dear Srila Gurudeva, on this most auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja, we would like to wish You a glorious day. May the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna, Who is so merciful to His closest devotees, that He has shared His very own appearance day with You, grant You all HIS love and blessings.

Oh dear Gurudeva, Lord Sri Krishna loves You, Srila Prabhupada loves You, Caitanya Mahaprabhu loves You and we love You.

Hare Krishna.

JAI BHAKTI CAITANYA SWAMI MAHARAJA KI JAI.

Your most insignificant and lowly servants
Paramisvara Das and Paramisvari Devi Dasi

Dearest Guru Maharaja

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

I was reflecting on how significantly my life has changed since I first met you, Maharaja.

The first qualities that struck me about you were your humility and compassion. I recall how you once offered to share your prasada with a group of us who had not made meal arrangements when we went on Parikrama to Yavat. Like this, there have been so many gestures of kindness over the years, the most significant for me, being my initiation.

Maharaja, you have taught me to face my anarthas and by so doing how one can become so much stronger. You have also shown me appreciation of the wonderful qualities of devotees.

Through your instructions, I have been able to remain steadier in my devotional service. So often I am seeing the hand of the Lord in my life in both joyful and difficult times and I know the reason for this is your selfless mercy.

Right now, I am finding it difficult to express the gratitude that I feel in my heart.

So, I am praying today that I remain fixed on these instructions so that I may desire nothing else.

Your servant
Prema Sakti devi dasi

Dear most merciful Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble and respectful obesciences. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

On this most glorious auspicious of Your Vyasa Puja, I humbly submit to Guru Maharaja, my utmost thanks for giving me so much mercy to serve Guru Maharaja. Please come for longer to Malaysia and Singapore, as I miss Guru Maharaj's association very much.

Krsna gave me guru and guru has given me Krsna but I am so unfortunate that I am still unable to understand how to be a worthy devotee for Guru Maharaja.

Please bless me that I may continue and improve my service to Radharani and Krsna and to Guru Maharaja. This will be the perfection of my life.

Your most unworthy servant

Radhe Syama Devi Dasi

Hare Krishna!

Dear Guru Maharaja, please accept my bows.

All glories to Shrila Prabhupada!

Nice day for us comes nearer, day your Vyasa-puja, and I express the gratitude and admiration to you for your transcendental activity in the world. I try to visit your sites, and I read your diaries of travel. You so stay in Russia much, and even in its most remote regions, type of our city in which I live, and other very insignificant cities about which I never and did not hear, where is devotees simply small handful much. It is mercy of you! Thanks!

When you come to us on region, I am very happy that I can see and hear to you, to perform any kinds of service in a current of all this time, and also is close communicate and serve with other your disciples, who have a experience in service to you. All of them such different and on the surprising, everyone wishes to satisfy you. Only thanks to your mercy, we will receive favor of Krishna. And at times our service to you, in particular mine, happens more often on children's ridiculous, from my immaturity in devoted service. That I hear all from your lips, during lecture, I want that cleared my consciousness and also the correct understanding of what should be a life vaishnava came. Your Krishna - katha gives the chance to see the world of Vrindavana gradually.

You it is unconditional - patita pavana, because accept such madmen, as I, in the disciples, and very patiently waits, when we will grow up + when I grow up, I will ripen and I will yield fruits, a kind of full, sincere, disinterested absorption in consciousness of Krishna.

Dear Guru Maharaja, let your sermon in the world will be always successful. Let people from you always receive the eternal blessing - happiness of devoted service to the Lord to Krishna. Thanks for your kindness and care.

Hare Krishna.

Raseshvari d.d.

My dearest Srila Gurudeva

Please accept my most humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Your Holiness on this glorious occasion of your Vyasa Puja.

Oh my dear spiritual father, my thoughts are immersed in you today. Your kind words, wonderful teachings, countless blessings and deep concerns for my well being are deeply etched in my heart.

"The spiritual master is by nature benevolent, but his sustained association, like that of the Lord, can only be had by steadfast devotional service over many years, or even lifetimes. Such association is not cheap and must never be taken for granted." Quote from His Holiness Indradyumna Swami's Offering to Srila Prabhupada in 2004.

I had taken your sanga for granted, which you had so generously bestowed upon me year after year, as you had for the past eight years. Your transcendental company, which is so greatly sought after by all who comes in contact with you. This year bereft of your merciful association, besides experiencing intense separation, I hanker for your association. While hankering for your association, I also yearn for more service. Only by performing seva, will I gain merit with you to make advancement and be firm and steadfast in bhakti. Just like a father, nothing pleases you more than seeing your children making advancement in Krsna consciousness. And I do want to please you so, so very much.

Never a day goes by without me reflecting on your instructions – instead of being a liability, be an asset and follow Dhruva Maharaja's footsteps. But I cannot accomplish this alone, I need your prayers, prayers from a highly elevated soul like yourself, Srila Gurudeva.

Srila Prabhupada says:

"If you are in danger, you ask your friends to help you. This is prayer. So our prayer is ... 'My dear Lord Krsna, I am your eternal servant. Somehow or other, I am now fallen in this ocean. Please pick me up and fix me again at the dust of Your lotus feet.' ... Prayer is needed because we are in danger ... [That] we are in this material condition of life means we are in danger. Therefore we should pray." [Lecture, Durban City Hall, October 7, 1975]

Please pray for me, pray that I may cleanse my impure heart from all anarthas and awaken my pure devotion to you. My prayer is that in this lifetime and beyond, I may remain fully engaged in service to guru and Gauranga. I pray that I always meditate on your lotus feet, determined to follow your footsteps and execute your instructions faithfully thereby becoming less of a liability and more of an asset.

Your eternally indebted daughter

Seva Kunja devi dasi

Dear Srila Gurudeva

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you, Srila Gurudeva on this most auspicious day of your appearance.

I sit here typing... thinking of words that I will use to praise you, thinking of words that would best portray my gratitude. Again I realize that I'm nowhere near qualified to do so but my heart assimilates feelings of gratitude so I wish to offer this humble attempt to you.

Srila Gurudeva I think of you & the love that you have for your spiritual master. I think of you & the unalloyed devotion you have for him. I think of you & how you follow his instructions day in & day out. I think of you & how merciful you are to everyone...even me, your most fallen soul.

I say soul & not servant because I reflect on the past year & I can only see how I failed to be your servant, still after all this, after all my incompetence you showered me with so much love, you covered me with a thick blanket of protection & you offered me shelter at your lotus feet. Shelter that I, seemingly refused at times in an attempt to be on my own beat. To be & go on my own beat where I would run into Maya, run into Maya & she would beat me to a pulp... & just like a dog with it's tail between it's legs I would run back seeking the shelter of your lotus feet. Shelter that you would once again freely avail to me, shelter always accompanied with loving words of comfort, shelter leaving me with new found strength. Strength given by you but not used for helping you in Srila Prabhupada's mission, just exposing myself as a rascal. You give me instructions & equip me with the necessary to follow them out.... Still all I gave back was half hearted attempts ... only displaying my insincere traits.

How can I show gratitude, what to speak of repay someone who is giving me so much, someone who has taken so much away, someone who has linked me to the parampara. Dearest Srila Gurudeva, I know that it is only by your love that I can face each day. I admit I do forget sometimes but I do realize that I'm most fortunate that you have accepted me as your disciple.

My head hangs low with guilt & my heart heavy with shame. I have failed you as a disciple. I don't want to utter pretty promises or even emanate eloquent phrases. This year I want to offer you my heart & put it in everything I do as an offering to you.

It is said that if you serve someone you inherit their qualities. So today I pray that I can serve you with all my heart so that I too can inherit the unalloyed devotion that you have for your spiritual master. Gurudeva, Krishna is yours and you can give Him to me.

Please continue to bless & guide me so that I can remain at the shelter of your lotus feet.

Aspiring more than ever before to be your servant,
Sita Carana devi dasi

Hare KrishnaGuru Maharaja

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

It is cusom to glorify one's spiritual master, especially on his Sri Vyasa-puja day. But I am finding it difficult. Guru Maharaja, i do not know how to glorigy you. All vocabulary seem to fail in front of your complete transcendental personality. You are a perfect devotee and perfect disciple of Srila Prabhupada and a perfect spiritual master. Therefore, Guru Maharaja, for a soul like me who is totally in the mode of passion and ignorance, it is impossible to glorify you. Guru Maharaja, it is totally beyond my capacity to glorify you. Therefore, I can just quote Srila Rupa Goswami's prayer to his spiritual master, Lord Caitanya, to convey my feelings for you.

“O Gurudev, having fallen helplessly into the illusion of this world, I see no other means of deliverance but you. You are the only recourse for the helpless. I accept the shelter of your lotus feet as essential. I have no knowledge, no background of pious activities, nor any history of strict devotional service. But you are full of compassion and kindness. Therefore, although I am certainly destitute, I solicit your causeless mercy. The powerful urges of speech, mind, anger, tongue, belly and genitals have banded together to cast me adrift on the sea of this material world, thus causing me great anxiety and trouble. After great endeavour to subdue these material demands, I have completely given up all hope. O Lord of the destitute, I call upon your holy name, for now you are my only shelter.”

Your fallen servant
Sita Thakurani devi dasi

Dearest Guru Maharaja

Please accept my most respectful obeisances. All glories unto Your Divine Grace on this most auspicious occasion of your Vyasa Puja. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Please accept this simple offering from your most insignificant and unworthy servant.

Life can be a rollercoaster of trials and tribulations
Extremely difficult to deal with in the darkness of ignorance
Struggling all the way every single day
Everything an obstacle, a difficulty a challenge

Or life can be a rollercoaster of learning experiences
With the torchlight of knowledge and the presence of great souls
Understanding and surrender being the order of the day
For peace and success every single day

To mode of goodness I have to transcend
Without the mercy of great souls
The hardships will never end

Follow the instructions of Guru Maharaja
As strict as possible as the process is quite hard
Even the slightest deviation
Will inevitably lead to fall down and ruination
Recovery from which is so rare
Especially when Gurudev's not there

Offenses offenses Guru Maharaj what to do?
Try not to! we are constantly hearing from You
Committing offences equals punishment
Irrespective of spiritual credit or advancement
Spiritual life will stagnate
As Krishna does not at all tolerate
Oh Guru Maharaja the things that occur
Especially when You are not there

Reading is as important as chanting
We must get into a daily routine
Stay always fixed on the goal
We are not the ones in control
Preach preach preach
Every step of the way
Pray Pray Pray
Every single day

Guru Maharaja is our only shelter
The shade of His Lotus Feet
So cooling and sweet
We can run but we can't hide
Guru Maharaja now has us in His sight
Gurudev is the model of perfection
My hero, My saviour, Krishna's perfect creation
Sent You to us to save us from ruination.

My dearest Gurudev
This most unworthy and fallen soul is crying out
Please, please please
Keep me always in the shade of Your beautiful lotus feet.

Striving to be Your servant eternally

Your most fallen daughter
Syamarani devi dasi

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

My dearest Srila Gurudev

This Vyasa Puja offering was written at your previous Vyasa Puja and was completed after reading your offering to Srila Prabhupada!

At your Vyasa Puja in New Juganath Puri, Phoenix, South Africa everyone had turned around to see a slide show of you, which was put together just for your pleasure, my god brother, Lokanath was singing in the background, the lights were being turned down and I turned around to look at you.

I was taken aback by what I saw, I saw you change from sitting in a lotus position to having your right knee up, your foot flat on the vyasasan, your right hand resting across your right knee which is nothing unusual because many devotees sit like this but what struck me was that you looked exactly like Prabhupada! You reminded me of the way Srila Prabhupada would often sit and I realized you were so much like your Spiritual master not just in words or deeds but also in posture! I reached into my bag to get the camera to capture the moment but before I could, you changed your posture, I was disappointed.

This year for Srila Prabhupada's Vyasa Puja offering you stated you wanted to be known as a Prabhupada man!

I was a young when Prabhupada came to South Africa, Prabhupada had already left the planet when my parents were introduced to Krishna Consciousness but when I saw you that night I saw Srila Prabhupada in you. I had met him in you Srila Gurudev.

Maharaja you are a Prabhupada man and on this most auspicious occasion I pray that you bless me that one day I will be known as a BCS man!

Your obedient servant
Tamal Krishna das

My dear lord and master,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to you and your unrivalled service to ŚrīlaPrabhupada!

Śrīla Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura sings:

dīna-hīna jata chilo, hari-nāme uddhārilo,
tāra śākṣī jagāi mādhai

Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda were so kind that they delivered all the lowly and wretched people, and Śrīla Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura says the evidence of this is that they delivered Jagāi and Mādhai, who seemed impossible cases, so bad that even the devotees did not think it was possible to help them. Ultimately, even Lord Caitanya was not prepared to deliver Jagāi and Mādhai, but when Lord Nityānanda appealed to Him, the Lord agreed, and He accepted them as His associates.

Dear master I'm lower than Jagāi and Mādhai but you decided to accept me as your disciple. How does one describe such inconceivable compassion? Such empowerment can only be directly from the Lord himself.

Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī writes:

Without being empowered by the direct potency of Lord Kṛṣṇa to fulfill His desire and without being specifically favored by the Lord, no human being can become the spiritual master of the whole world. He certainly cannot succeed by mental concoction, which is not meant for devotees or religious people. Only an empowered personality can distribute the holy name of the Lord and enjoin all fallen souls to worship Kṛṣṇa. By distributing the holy name of the Lord, he cleanses the hearts of the most fallen people; therefore he extinguishes the blazing fire of the material world. Not only that, he broadcasts the shining brightness of Kṛṣṇa's effulgence throughout the world. Such an ācārya, or spiritual master, should be considered nondifferent from Kṛṣṇa—that is, he should be considered the incarnation of Lord Kṛṣṇa's potency. Such a personality is kṛṣṇāliṅgita-vigraha—that is, he is always embraced by the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa. Such a person is above the considerations of the varṇāśrama institution. He is the guru, or spiritual master, for the entire world, a devotee on the topmost platform, the mahā-bhāgavata stage, and a paramahaṁsa-ṭhākura, a spiritual form only fit to be addressed as paramahaṁsa or ṭhākura.

That is you. A perfect representative of Srila Prabhupada. You are a real friend, master and a perfect guide. In this world, there is no other friend than one who shows one the path out of the forest of illusion in this material world. Please continue to shatter my illusion and give me shelter at your lotus feet.

On this sacred day I, the fallen soul, am remembering you and your beloved Srila Prabhupada. Please continue showering your unique mercy.

Your humble servant,
Tirtharaj das

Hare Krishna

Dearest Guru Maharaja

Please accept our most humble obeisance's at the dust of you lotus feet.
All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari
All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Nataraja
All glories to Srila Prabhupada
All glories to your Divine Grace

On this most auspicious day of Guru Maharaja's Vyasa puja, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for accepting such fallen souls like us as your disciples. We feel totally unqualified in our attempt to glorify Your Divine Grace, being such an exalted devotee.

Everybody is always so attracted by Guru Maharaja's love, humility and devotion to Srila Prabhupada and Krsna. We pray that Srimati Radha Rani and Lord Krsna always bestow their blessings upon Gurudev to be able to continue with all Your wonderful preaching all around the world, thus saving so many fallen conditioned souls like ourselves.

We are very grateful for Your most precious time and Your guidance in our spiritual life. Gurudev, without Your mercy we are unable to make any progress. You are always so tolerant of us even though we are so fallen and cannot even render any valuable service in assisting Gurudev's preaching activities. You always give us your wonderful association and continue to care about our welfare and all our family members as well.

Thank you for taking us out of this dense material darkness and bringing us closer to the Lotus feet of Krsna. Maharaja has very expertly taught us to always look at everything as Krsna's mercy. We beg that we always remain at the shelter of Guru Maharaja's lotus feet.

Please forgive us for any offences which we may have committed.

His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja ki Jai.

Your servants
Upananda das
Radha Nama devi dasi

Hare Krishna Maharaja

Vancha kalpa tarubyhas cha kripa sindhubhya eva cha patita **naam** pavanebhyo vaisnava bhyo namo namaha

Please accept my humble obeisances at Your Lotus feet.

All Glories to Srila Prabhupada

All Glories to Their Lordships Sri Sri Jagganath, Baladeva and Subdra Maharani!

Vyasa puja 2009 ki Jai Maharaja!

Please accept my best wishes on your Vyasa puja. May Lord Krishna continue to shower you with His mercy.

Thank you for initiating us on Radhastami Sunday, 7 September 2008 at Sri Sri Radha Radhanath in Chatsworth. We pray that we can be good disciples to you in reciprocation. The initiation ceremony day was so extra special that from mangal arati at New Jagganath Puri in Phoenix, the initiation ceremony at SSRR and evening programme again at NJP was so glorious and blissful. I felt like I was in a different world. Your vyasa puja 2008 was also celebrated like that when we were celebrating from SSRR to NJP with you.

Through Your mercy we were immediately given service in the deity kitchen by His Grace Prabhanu Prabhu to cook breakfast for Their Lordships. That was magical, being and working closely with the brahmanas in the deity kitchen. Rasarati and Madhumungal taught us the procedures of serving Their Lordships with utmost dedication.

Maharaja, by accepting us under your divine shelter, your ever-loving care and guidance has changed our lives. You also instructed us as older devotees to help newer devotees - we are trying.

Reading your diary 'Travelling in the service of Srila Prabhupada' shows us your daily intense programme in fulfilling Srila Prabhupada's mission. Your sadhna continues relentlessly, be it an injured leg that you have to drag behind you or even after a long flight and arriving in the early hours of the morning, you make sure you satisfy the devotees who waits to seek your mercy. You tirelessly travel, preach, produce videos, write, give guidance, and we pray that we can someday in this life try to achieve even a little in your mission to spread Krishna consciousness throughout the world.

Please forgive us for any offenses that we may have caused you.
His Holiness Bhakti Chaitanya Swami Maharaja ki Jai!

Your servants of the servants....
Vaisnava das and Syamalata Devi Dasi

Om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana salakaya
Caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri guruve namah

Namah om Visnu-padaya Krsna-presthaya bhutale
Srimate Bhakti Caitanya Svamin iti namine

Namah om Visnu-padaya Krsna-presthaya Bhutale
Srimate Bhaktivedanta-swami iti namine

Namaste sarasvate deva gaura-vani pracarine
Nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascaty-a-des-a-tarine

All glories to Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja
All glories to your Vyasa puja celebration
All glories to Srila Prabhupada

Dear Guru Maharaja, HARE KRSNA,

Please accept our most humble and respectable obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. On this very auspicious celebration day of your appearance, we would like to thank you hundreds of time for bestowing upon us your continuous mercy which keep us attached and engaged in the service of Sri Sri RADHAGOLKANAND and His devotees.

Dear Guru Deva, you are our savior. Who can measure your Greatness? You are dignified and scholarly versed. You put aside all comforts of material life and started preaching Krsna Consciousness. You have been perfect in delivering the message of Krsna—the Absolute and His Abode. From you we heard so much pastimes and from your website we learn many principles, which keep the taste (ruci) in chanting the holy names of the Lord daily and regularly.

Today's Vyasa puja sounds munificent, to a degree less, because we still remember your last Vyasa puja in your physical presence among us in Mauritius. Enthusiasm, devotion, determination and complete engagement were the main attributes so that the event would be most enthusiastically wondrous. However, our first participation kept us alert and we showed fearful respect, but witnessed the ecstatic atmosphere. Your lecture delivery about the glorious places of Sri Giri Govardhan and again your mercy inspired us to step over to our first visit to those places and other Lord Krsna's dhamas. Things heard became a reality. Then we could understand Lord Krsna telling "you are trying to enjoy in this material world, but you cannot. We are eternal. You cannot get eternal life here. Come with Me."

Guru Maharaj, your connection to us spiritually surcharged our living condition in a sadacara manner. This was the instruction of Srila Prabhupada in Mauriitius in 1975. He wanted everyone to be in such condition. We were fortunate enough to be trained by the Bhaktivedanta College of Education and Culture and got initiated by you to chant the Hare Krsna Maha Mantra. Now, on this very particular day, we try to remember your words in your last mail reply—wanting us to propagate the message of Lord Caitanya in the namahattas and local communities so that persons of good character may emerge and Lord Krsna will be happy.

Admittedly, you are much aware of our spiritual situation and certain notified shortcomings. However, as Krsna never leaves His devotees, he does uplift them when the time comes. Consequently, we would like to thank you for your sincerity, loyalty and humbleness for having accepted to be the Co-GBC representative of our country to uplift our spiritual determination. We are gladdened and empowered. Many unwatered Bhakti lata bhij will surely sprout with your potency and blessings.

Dear Guru Deva, on this particular occasion, we pray that Lord Sri Krsna showers His sublime mercy upon you, keeping the International Society for Krsna Consciousness movement flourishing, and giving us a place at the shelter of your lotus feet as peaceful and devoted servants of the servants.

HARIBOL

His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja ki jay
His Divine Grace A.C.Bhaktivadanta Swami Srila Prabhupada ki Jay
From your sincere, lowly and eternal servants
Dasa dasa anu dasa

Vrajaraj dasa
Vrajarani devi dasi
Vivek and Riddhi.

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances, all glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your Vyasapuja day.

Your dedication to Srila Prabhupada's mission and your purity of purpose are a constant inspiration to me, to give off my best to that mission, to be as sincere and caring to other devotees as you yourself evince to those in your care.

Some seven years ago when I returned from the work I was doing in Vrindavan I remember feeling so 'cultured out', but not recognising what was the matter with me spiritually and in lots of other ways too.

I returned to the Catholic church, felt unable to go to the temple, or to chant, however! I kept on writing to you. You helped me so much during those months, explaining to me that you believed I was experiencing cultural shock.

I can't forget that mercy you showed to me; that even though I was quite out of it really, you expressed faith in my ability to do well in devotional life. And always encouraged me so cheerfully.

Every time when your Vyasapuja day comes around, Guru Maharaja, I seem to say the same thing - that I am so grateful for that mercy which you show to me always. The gratitude I feel for that goes deep, and even though I always express it, it never seems to get said. Even though I was going through that difficulty and to outward appearance had left the movement, internally I felt my link with Guru and Krsna was strong and unchanged.

Thankyou for all your input and help in those days and in these days too. And for all your encouragement.

Your humble servant,

Vrajeswari

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances in dust of Your lotus feet.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

All glories to the day of Your Vyasa-puja!

Guru Maharaja, let me express delight about Your qualities, thanks to which faith and strength appear in people. It helps them to advance in devotional service. And it happens only by Your mercy.

Sometimes, under influence of material energy some things are forgotten, we stop to appreciate important things, think that our situation is matter-of-course. But thanks to You, Your instructions, we awake, and wish to move forward appears.

On this day let me ask you for the benediction, that Your instructions always were the most valuable and most important thing in my life. Thank You for patience and care.

Your disciple,
Yugala Kisori devi dasi

My Dearest and most loving Srila Gurudev

Please accept my most humble and respectful obeisances.

Please Gurudev, forgive me for all my offenses that I may have caused to Your Grace and all the pure vaisnava's.

I am Your most unworthy and useless daughter, not deserving of any forgiveness. I beg You Gurudev, at the dust of Your Lotus Feet, please be merciful unto me.

Your Grace have saved me from this miserable material world by accepting me as Your daughter, yet I have not shown enough gratitude and love which a father truly deserves. Please forgive me.

Gurudev, You have rescued me through the most difficult times in my life, picking up from all the pain and suffering in which I was drowning in, where at times I felt death was the only way out. You have showed me so much of love and understanding, which has helped me see beyond my pain. How will I ever repay Your Grace? In all that I do and plan to do, it will never be enough.

My dearest Srila Gurudev, on this most auspicious day I want to thank Srimate Radharani, for blessing , by her mercy, You have come into my life and saved me from this material suffering, every morning as I open my eyes, I thank Sri Radhe for giving me Your Grace. It is Your Grace that helps me survive each day.

Begging to always remain
Your insignificant daughter
Aditi devi dasi

Hare Krishna Dearest Gurudev

Please accept my most humble and respectful obeisance's at your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to You Guru Maharaja, on this most auspicious day of Your divine appearance in this material world!

Gurudev, I certainly don't qualify to glorify You, but only with Your mercy I will make an attempt, please forgive me for not doing justice to Your glorification.

Gurudev, I don't know how to start, only because there is so much to say. But what comes to my mind now is the inconceivable compassion and mercy that You are always showering upon all the devotees in all the different countries. You remind me so much of our beloved Srila Prabhupada, You are always traveling all over the world without any rest, just to make sure that the most precious message of Lord Caitanya's is spread in every town and village.

By watching Your dvd of the various festivals in Russia, it is clear that You have so many disciples all over the world, but yet You constantly give us all Your divine association like a loving father does to His children. Thank you very much Gurudev, for always mercifully giving us Your exalted association with ecstatic kirtan and intriguing pastimes of Lord Krsna.

When I miss Vrndavan, all I have to do is watch Your amazing DVD's and that makes me feel like I am in Vrndavan. And this is possible only because of Your mercy, Gurudev. You made it possible for us to appreciate the holy Dham even if we are not physically there. Thank You very much for this Gurudev.

Gurudev, Jagannath and I are extremely grateful that You have given us Your blessings to go to Sri Dham Mayapur. I pray that with Your blessings I will be able to carry out my services in Mayapur to please Guru and Lord Gauranga!

Gurudev, I cannot find the right words to thank You enough for taking me under Your shelter, I am most certainly forever indebted to you. My whole life has changed ever since You accepted me as Your disciple. I am begging You please Gurudev, to please show me the way back Home, because I am so lost in this material world and without Your guidance I will never find my way Home. Please forgive me for my offenses Gurudev.

Gurudev, I am begging You please, to keep me engaged in Your loving service at Your lotus feet forever. Please keep this ignorant fool running behind You calling for Krishna, until she finds her way back home to Krishna!

All glories to You Dearest Gurudev!

Your unworthy daughter
Ananga Mohini devi dasi

Hare Krsna, Guru Maharaja.

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to You on this, the most auspicious occasion of Your 58th Vyasapuja.

Recently, news has reached me here in Sridham Mayapur, about the ill health of H.H. Partha Sarathi das Goswami Maharaja. I have been praying intensely for him, and thinking very deeply about how much he has done in assisting me in my Krsna consciousness, and how he has touched the lives of countless other devotees around the world. This has magnified my appreciation for him astronomically. Over the last few weeks, I have had a chance to observe H.H. Jayapataka Swami Maharaja very closely. Although severely incapacitated after a very serious stroke, he has maintained his relentless preaching spirit. No doubt, he is an empowered general in Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's army.

These are just two examples of glorious Godbrothers of Yours, who are risking everything – bodily comfort, their health and their very lives - to assist Srila Prabhupada spread Krsna consciousness all over the world. I have observed this quality of selflessness in You also, Guru Maharaj. It has prompted within my heart a meditation: “Isn't it odd how we take devotees for granted until they are ill, dying or far away from us?”

It was 8 years ago that I wrote my first letter to You. At the time, You were seriously ill with bronchitis in a hospital in Singapore. The temple authorities at Sri Sri Radha-Radhanath asked us all to pray for You. Although I hadn't formally taken shelter of Your lotus feet at that time, I remember that I started to cry, thinking of how wonderful my short association with You had been. Your reply to my letter was short but very personal, “My dear Bhakta Yougasen. Thank you for your prayers. The prayers of all the devotees really have helped. I have seen that you are a sincere devotee, trying hard to be Krsna conscious. I pray that Krsna may bless you. Your ever well-wisher, Bhakti Caitanya Swami.”

When You returned to Durban, I was privileged and honoured to drive You to Your first program. You had lost so much weight, and Your voice was so feeble, that many devotees began weeping. Still, You soldiered on and presented a wonderful class. At one point, You even made a joke about a Toyota Tazz, which was the type of car I owned, and which I had brought You to the program in! Everybody laughed. You looked at me with Your characteristic big smile, and a twinkle in Your eye. I didn't mind being the butt of Your jokes - this is a special *rasa* we share.

Currently, this time that I am spending in Sridham Mayapur has given me ample opportunity to reflect on my role as Your personal assistant for the last 2 years. It has been my singular privilege and honour to have served You in this capacity, Guru Maharaja. This service has allowed me to have a glimpse into the life of a pure devotee.

During all my time with You, You have always been fully engaged in devotional service. There is not even one second that I could refer to when You were not either chanting, giving

class, counseling devotees, working on Your various projects or assisting with the management of the Society. As You often (jokingly) quip, “There’s no rest for the wicked!” The longest trip I have ever accompanied You on was to India via Mauritius in 2005. The total traveling time until we reached Juhu Temple in Mumbai was over 26 hours! I distinctly remember how You chanted japa for practically that entire time. I am in absolute awe at how much You are fixed in Your constant chanting of the Holy Name.

On one day, during Your stay in Mauritius in 2005, You did four programs in one day, the last three being literally back-to-back and on opposite sides of the island. The classes that You give are of such a refined quality that many devotees, including several of Your Godbrothers have commented on how scholarly and astute You are. Whenever H.H. Indradyumna Swami visits Durban, he makes sure that I give him whatever recordings I have made. Yet at the same time You are able to present Krsna consciousness in a simple way for the time, place and circumstance. Your talks at the Kwa-Mashu Nama Hatta, at schools and universities, and at several programs involving new people testify to this. You also know exactly how and when to use humour, making Your classes even more relishable.

You are very sensitive when counseling people in difficult times. Recently, when You visited Heyjyothi’s sister in hospital, You displayed this considerate aspect of Your nature so clearly. Her 5-year old son had been bludgeoned to death by intruders and she had survived the attack, but was obviously depressed. Like a loving father, You read some parts of Bhagavad-gita and offered reassuring words to console her.

You have refined the process of DVD-production to an art. Your most recent project has been the DVD production of the 2009 Navadvipa Mandal Parikrama. I was privileged to watch You work tirelessly on that project. Indeed, You told one devotee that You were working on it 12 hours a day!

Guru Maharaja, Your personality and character are such that You automatically attract everyone that meets You. You are charming yet reserved. You are simple yet expert. You are humble yet dignified. You are tolerant yet moderate. I have also noted that You genuinely care about the spiritual life of each and every person that You meet, and this is especially true for Your disciples. Looking at the type of gentleman You are, I can say without hesitation, “You are a Prabhupada’s man.”

All of this brings me back to my meditation: “Isn’t it odd how we take devotees for granted until they are ill, dying or far away from us?”

I am foolish and I am bereft of any ability or talent. If there is any good in me, it is only due to Your causeless mercy and compassion on a fallen disciple. I fervently pray to You that, by Your mercy, I may cultivate “an attitude of gratitude” so that I may some day value Your association for the priceless treasure that it is.

Your insignificant servant,
Caitanya Carana dasa

Dear Guru Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaurahari. All glories to You dear gurudeva.

Dear Guru Maharaja, thank you for your published journal entitled *Travelling in the Service of Srila Prabhupada*. When the book came out, I got a copy for ourselves and began reading it each evening. It is so nectarean to read and learn how you travel from place to place giving your mercy to all the fallen souls and engaging the devotees in Lord Krsna's service. I had placed post it stickers at different parts of the book which I really enjoyed. From time to time, I revisit those sections and also read these parts to the other family members.

I reflected on the prayer:

mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-krpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī-guruṁ dīna-tāraṇam

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.

Earlier this year, I had the personal realisation as to how true this statement is. Since last October Radhakund dd has been experiencing difficulty in swallowing solid prasadam. Despite this challenging situation she was busy developing Srimati Tulasi devi's garden. I realised that this could only be possible with Srila Gurudeva's mercy.

Thank you, Guru Maharaja for continuing to shower your mercy upon us.

Your indebted servant,
Damodar das

My Dearest Srila Gurudev

All Glories To Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your Divine Grace on this most auspicious day of your vyasa puja.

I stand before you not knowing what to say that could adequately glorify you and your spotless character. As I reflect over the past year I see happy and sad memories, but the common factor in every memory of significance is that you are there, guiding me through every step. You are always expert in dealing with every situation, so caring and so very humble that you would still ask: "what do you think we should do? How should we do this?, Is this ok with you?" Clearly, our worthless opinions are not needed. Merely by a look in a certain direction or a facial expression we would understand what you want done but your character is such that you make everyone feel needed and loved. It is this love that has captivated my heart.

The highlight of this year by far must be you giving me my beloved Giriraj. By your special mercy you personally chose Him and brought him for me and even allow us to worship your own Govardhana sila. I am always indebted for those special exchanges that we share.

Spending more time in Durban than anywhere else in the world, Radha Radhanatha is your home. We have the good fortune of being in your direct association and service very often and with it you have freely showered your mercy upon us. Please always keep us in your association and engage us in your service.

I find myself constantly taking on a new project for your pleasure, seemingly too big for me to handle and beyond my capabilities but you constantly guide me and it always blossoms into a beautiful festival that exceeds all of my expectations. Last year, your vyasa puja celebrations was my special project. We had so many nice gifts to offer you to show our love and appreciation. Unfortunately this year our gifts are of a smaller scale but still it is actually our love that we are offering to you and begging you to accept.

Gurudev, today is no different from all the other days in the sense that I am still asking for your blessings and mercy but today I also say thank you for your constant love.

You asked that we all pray for you to remain in good health to carry out your service to Srila Prabhupada so this is my prayer today.

Please bless me to be as devoted to you as you are to Srila Prabhupada.

Your fallen son,
Devadeva das

Nama Om Visnupadaya Krsna Prestaya Bhutale Srimate Bhakti Caitanya Swami iti namine
Nama Om Visnupadaya Krsna Prestaya Bhulate Srimate Bhaktivedanta Swami iti namine
Namaste Saraswate Deve Gauravani pracarine, nirvesesa sunyavadi pascatya desatarine.

Dearest Gurudeva

Thank you for tolerating me, and your experiences this world. We know from your book and experiences that out of duty you listen to what we say, or accept what we offer, even at times when it is difficult for you or even when it is torture to you. Example, usually on this vyasapuja day, I am sorry that we subject you to so much boga Gurudeva. This practice appears impersonal, in the sense that we appear to be trying to feed a machine, and not a person. I think in your humility you do not get offended to these things as well, otherwise none of us here would have remained with whatever degree of Krsna consciousness that we have.

So from watching you behave like this we can see that you have seemingly unlimited degree of tolerance, humility, surrender and mercy. You tolerate the things offered to you, even when the quality is not up to standard. You humbly accept things as if coming from Krsna, so you take it as His mercy. You are surrendered so much that almost always you accept out of Duty and mercy. You are so merciful that you don't take offence to any of our false ego behaviour. So please bless me Gurudeva that I may get some of your qualities of tolerance, humility, surrender, duty and mercy.

Another thing I thank you for, is for demonstrating how our sadhana, and in particular chanting japa, is our first and most important service and activity. You especially like to chant as early as possible in the mornings.

So I thank you for pulling me, pushing me and motivating me towards Srila Prabhupad & Krsna. Everything you do with me is to get me closer to Krsna.

Anyway I can never really thank you enough for all the things you do for me Gurudeva, however by your mercy and blessings I may be able to do some service as repayment of your mercy.

Please keep me in your service Gurudeva.

Your fallen Servant
Gauranga Das

Dear Gurudeva

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

All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to you Gurudeva on this most auspicious occasion of your vyasapuja.

Each year at this time I sit to reflect and compose my offering to you. But one page and one day alone seem inadequate to express my love and appreciation to you; it would be more appropriate if I can offer my life to you.

Each year I come to appreciate more the gifts you have given me. The most invaluable one of them all is your mercy. I would be lost and broken without this wonderful treasure. Another one of your many gifts is the appreciation you have for Srila Prabhupada and his teachings. You are world renowned for your insightful classes and unique rendering of various transcendental pastimes. It is clear that you dive deep into the teachings of Srila Prabhupada.

In Srila Prabhupada's Lilamrita we see Srila Prabhupada's complete surrender to Guru and Krsna. His determination lasted throughout his life – determination to fulfil his Guru's instruction. Gurudeva, we see this determination in you. Your tireless preaching activities are testament to your determination of spreading Srila Prabhupada's mission. I pray that I will develop that determination to fulfil the instructions that you have given me.

Srila Prabhupada wanted to extend the purifying shelter of Mayapur and Vrndavana to all his followers. Gurudeva you so mercifully help Srila Prabhupada by producing your DVD's which inspire many to visit the holy dhamas. You further extend yourself during your parikramas by revealing the secrets that you have uncovered.

In Krsna book we read that it is very difficult for one to surrender fully to Krsna without being purified by devotional service. Gurudeva without your mercy I would not be able to perform any devotional service at all. I pray that by following your instructions I will increase my surrender to you.

In Sri Isopanisad, Srila Prabhupada states that sacrifice means denying the interest of the senses. One has to learn this art by employing the senses in the service of the Lord during one's lifetime. Gurudeva, you sacrifice everything in the service of Srila Prabhupada. I pray that I will learn this art of sacrifice from you.

In Teachings of Lord Caitanya, the Lord asks Ramananda Raya, "What is considered the most painful existence?" He answers that separation from a pure devotee constitutes the most painful existence. Gurudeva not having your association as much as we used to is painful for me. I try to remember that the best way to please you is to follow your instructions. I pray that my faith and surrender deepens so that I can learn to serve you as you so expertly serve Srila Prabhupada.

HH Tamal Krsna Goswami writes at the end of his diary; “Srila Prabhupada lives with those who live to fulfil his desires. We take shelter beneath the lotus feet of our beloved Guru Maharaja, whom we eternally serve.” Gurudeva, Srila Prabhupada lives within you and I pray that I will eternally serve your lotus feet.

Gurudeva in your book you mention that HH Bhakti Vaibhava Maharaja said “In the relationship between Guru and disciple there is mercy and burden. The disciple gets the mercy and the Guru gets the burden!” You then state “The Guru has to absorb karma from the disciple, which is sometimes quite difficult, but if the disciple is particularly good then he or she is an asset to the Guru.” Gurudeva, you pay a high price for distributing your mercy and I pray that I will not remain a burden and will turn into an asset. You are so merciful that you even give us the formula on how to do this.

“So this is a type of formula for success in Krsna consciousness: enthusiasm, confidence in Krsna, and patience, combined of course with nice maintenance of our Krsna conscious standards, good association and following Srila Prabhupada and the previous acaryas”

Gurudeva, my final prayer on this auspicious day is that this formula is engraved in my mind and absorbed in my heart.

Your eternally grateful daughter.
Gita Govinda devi dasi.

Dear Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances, all glories to Srila Prabhupada, all glories to your divine grace on his most auspicious day of your Vyasa Puja.

May the blessings of Lord Krsna be bestowed on you always.

May the mood of Traveling in Srila Prabhupada's service bring you joy and strength.

Thank you for the very nice books and CD's, its drops of nectar and lessons we can learn from.

I enjoy it very much and I especially learnt a lot from it.

Thank you for always inspiring me to do more.

May the mercy of Srila Prabhupada be with you always. He is our Parijata tree of protection.

Hare Krsna

Your humble servant Gokul Esvari Devi Dasi

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my prostrated obeisance's at your lotus feet on this auspicious day. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to all the followers of Srila Prabhupada. All glories to the followers of the followers of Srila Prabhupada.

It is indeed a rare opportunity to achieve the human form of life. Even rarer still is the opportunity to become connected to a bona fide disciplic succession. We have so much to be indebted for and so much of that indebtedness has sprouted from your causeless mercy.

Amongst the ornaments that decorate your spiritual stature, the jewel of unfaltering service to guru and Krishna shines through with ever-increasing brightness. Today we would like to reflect on that mood and service of a perfect disciple with the express hope of following your example of service to Guru and Krishna. Srila Prabhupada performed a delicate spiritual transplant of vaisnava heritage in the heart of the capitalistic world. He carefully nurtured the foundational phases of his movement and left its safekeeping in the hands of his capable disciples. Social commentators have concurred that ISKCON as a society has surpassed the average institutional life expectancy. The rich theology and practice is preserved for future generations. The primary reason for this endurance is that the teachings have delivered what it promises and that it has produced living examples of perfection.

The tradition has also produced a number of advanced pure hearted personalities that bears testimony to the bold declarations recorded in the timeless Vedas. There is no stronger evidence for theological proclamations than the living representative of such traditions.

Guru maharaja, You are a such a perfected person. You are a steadfast and loyal follower. You are a devoted and compassionate father and an ideal example of exemplary determination. Your commitment, sacrifice and dedication to preserve the sanctity of Iskcon and your constant travel to massage the limbs of the institution of Srila Prabhupada are also a testimony to your resolute dedication to Srila Prabhupada.

Your willingness to extend yourself in spite of personal inconvenience and in the face of so many obstacles is the hallmark of your service.

Guru maharaja, today we pray for the sincerity of heart to imbibe your mood of service to guru and Krishna. This is the essence of spiritual perfection and we beg for a drop of that essence. This is the blessing of the guru parampara – the spiritual master teaches his disciples to love Radha and Krishna and the disciple begins this journey by loving and serving the bonafide guru.

Guru maharaja, we remain greatly indebted, beg for your continuous guidance, and care as we traverse through the rugged terrains of material life.

Your stumbling servants
Govardhana das and Mathura Mandala

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

Dear Guru Maharaja, as always, when Your great appearance day comes, I feel myself very confused because I feel incapable to glorify You in deserving way.

Every year You give more deeper understanding of how the spiritual master is important for us and who is spiritual master.

In the scripture it is said that full understanding of who is spiritual master cannot be reached in the caused condition. Only some approach. But even this approached representation amazes the disciple. As approaching You, I start to see great qualities of Your person more and more. You make a lot of service, but service is a consequence of qualities. Srila Prabhupada said that the devotee combines bravery of the British soldier and heart of Bengal mother. And if before You showed qualities of Bengal mother now when You have arrived to our city, You have shown qualities of the British soldier. Once parent softness, and once fatherly rigidity is necessary for disciples. Devotee can be gentle as a rose, but sometimes – redoubtable as a lightning.

It was very interesting to see a new side of Your person. It was interesting to see, how You can do of persons of no character betrayed, ready to protect spiritual wealth and belief. Basically we had a representation about the spiritual master that is the person who wipes children's noses with big handkerchief. But this time You have shown other part of vision of the guru. You have shown us what sometimes we are inclined to forget about. You have shown that there is a war and that the guru is not Santa Klaus with a bag of gifts. You have shown that the guru is a commander. What Srila Prabhupada was. What Krishna proves when He says Arjuna that if you will not battle, you will simply shived, and such death will not cause of respect.

And if show love through tenderness to children, to soldiers love shows that it do not allow admitting weakness because of which they can worthlessly be lost. And I wish very much to battle to such commander who will not allow me to be lost worthlessly. And still I hope that sometime You will allow me to battle near to Yourselves.

Your disciple
Govinda Charana das

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.

Thank you very much Guru Maharaja, for allowing us the opportunity of celebrating Your Vyasa Puja here today. Your kindness, causeless mercy, patience, intelligence, dedication to Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON, energy, enthusiasm, exhausting and extremely austere travels, care for each and every devotee, Your hard work, energetic kirtans, tolerance, chanting, enlivening and lifetime cherishable parikramas all know no bounds and have no limits in everything You do. I am eternally indebted to Your Divine Grace for all the care and encouragement and association You give to my family and I, as well as for allowing me to be Your disciple.

I wish that every devotee has the opportunity of going on parikramas with Guru Maharaja in Vrndavan Dhama. When we went with Guru Maharaja in Kartik of 1998, it was so personal, small groups, only a couple of taxis on Govardhan parikrama. Now in Kartik 2008, ten years later, we had the great fortune of going with Guru Maharaja again but this time with 2 buses full of devotees each day and some days, a few vehicles had to be arranged as well. The organization of each of the days' parikramas was amazing. The size of the groups did not change Your Divine Grace's individual care and attention in any way, it felt even more personal and special. The way that Maharaja churns the nectar and pastimes is literally out of this world. An experience to be remembered and sought after for an entire lifetime.

I cannot understand how Guru Maharaja can listen to a narration in Vrajbhasi, listen to it being translated into Hindi/English, repeat it in English, listen to it being translated into Russian, offer corrections for the translations and not necessarily in the same order nor was it only one thing happening at one time, often two of these happening simultaneously, this would be mentally exhausting and impossible for anyone. I enjoyed the Badrinath japa retreat, the Surya Kund temple visit, but the highlight for me was the full day parikrama to Kamyavan.

Whoever thinks that devotional life or trips or parikramas have to be serious in nature and austere, think again. In one day, we were able to go mountain climbing, rock sliding, swimming and have loads of fun in the kind and caring association of You, Guru Maharaja, and all the wonderful devotees who were there. All the devotees very eager to grab every moment of Your association and listen to every word You say. You so patiently allow so many devotees around You all the time. You deal with all the local people even, so patiently, respectfully and politely. It is amazing how Guru Maharaja keeps adapting to each situation.

We went to a few temples of special significance in the morning, the small mountain climb to Vyomasura's cave and its pastimes were so special. Guru Maharaja, when You explain the pastimes and significance at these places, it is so extremely special, it is like we are really experiencing it. You encouraged us all to slide down a rock where Lord Krishna and the cowherd boys would go sliding and we could then take bath in Vrndakund. This was a day loaded with nectar and Guru Maharaja's mercy.

I pray and i beg on this auspicious occasion of Sri Vyasa Puja that Guru Maharaja will allow me shelter in the dust of Your Divine Lotus Feet birth after birth.

Your most insignificant daughter
Kaishori devi dasi

Dear Bhakti Caitanya Swami,

Please accept my humble obeisances prostrated at your lotus feet. All glories to ISKCON Founder Acarya His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada. All glories to you on this auspicious day of your appearance.

I have recently immersed myself in HH Radhanatha Swami's autobiography. As I flip through the pages, I realize the greatness of this personality is and how blessed we are to have him in our society, keeping the full effects of kali at bay. What was very inspiring in his life was the divine miracles Krsna always awarded him. Even though I cannot compare myself, even atomically, to Radhanatha Swami, I read the book trying to identify the little miracles in my life; the miracles which keep me striving for the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha Damodar. Throughout my life I can sit back and honestly say that Krsna has always taken care of me in some form or the other. If I flip back a few chapters of my life, a very prominent miracle always surfaces as the theme of the pages, and that is Your Holiness.

Every step of the way, you shower your mercy on an undeserving, struggling beggar. Thank you for always encouraging me in my feeble attempts to serve your mission. My services are often filled with arrogance, self adoration and selfishness, however you very kindly purify these attempts and assist me in offering it to my spiritual master.

It is becoming more and more evident that your association is a rare jewel. I can see the world negotiating for your sanga. I am just grateful and touched that amongst all your pressing duties, you still find the time to encourage me.

Maharaja, on this auspicious day of your appearance I humbly offer my heartfelt thanks. I offer, at your lotus feet, all my humble attempts at service and thank you for transforming them, and transforming my heart. Thank you for being a miracle and a very loving uncle. Thank you for keeping the full effects of Kali, in my heart and the world, at bay.

Your insignificant servant,

With all my love,
Kartik das

My dearest Guru Maharaja,

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

Another year has passed and the most glorious occasion to glorify you has once again arrived. I stand before you amongst my advanced godfamily and marvel at all their love for you. I too would love to love you as much as they do with as much sincerity. I am most fallen and my love is always contaminated. My only desire is to develop my relationship with you to such an extent that you feel free to ask of me anything you desire and my prayer is that I am always able to fulfill your desires.

I am still amazed at how you so selflessly sacrificed everything for this fallen soul to take me back to Godhead. Even though being in your direct association for many years, I am dumbfounded by your overwhelming causeless mercy and your love for your disciples and even towards me.

You have so freely taken me under your shelter and have directed every important aspect in my life. Please also direct me with your expert nature to develop some prema bhakti. You have given us Giriraj, for whom we will forever be indebted to you. By your mercy we have started worshiping the Lord in a way which I certainly never dreamed to be possible for this lowly fallen soul. Yet by your mercy even I am allowed to serve Giriraj and Varaha and now Nrsingadeva. This has undoubtedly been facilitated by your mercy. My Krishna consciousness has sprouted only after coming in contact with you. Previously I was in a rut, but you have lifted me out and shown me a world of devotional service which I never dreamt of being able to do. I know that with your mercy nothing is insurmountable.

Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakur Maharaja has pointed out that the original cause of offending the Lord and falling down from ones position is ones not learning how to worship a bonafide spiritual master. Please gurudeva teach me how to properly serve you. I am always so unconcious in serving you and have casually approached my service to you in many respects. In my attempts to develop a loving, fearless relationship with you, I am afraid that in this end I may have offended you on numerous occasions unknowingly. Please forgive me for all my shortcomings.

The spiritual master is most merciful on his appearance day. Thus I come to you begging for some of this mercy. My prayer is that you give me more mercy so that I may be able to do more devotional service with enthusiasm and serve you and Srila Prabhupada in a way that you both will be pleased. May you always keep me at your divine lotus feet.

Happy appearance day Guru Maharaja. I pray that you always have good health and that the Lord fulfills your every desire.

Your eternal most fallen daughter,
Karunamayi devi dasi

My Dearest Guru Maharaja...

Please accept my wishes on this special day in your life... for me it is often difficult to but pen to paper and write an offering to you. To be honest sometimes i find it easier to say nothing and show the love that i have for you through my actions. As usual i thought that this year i would escape and not write a proper offering to you but surprise... something changed my mind. i was reading your recent diary entry. You asked us to pray for you so that Krsna may always give you the strength to travel so that you may continue with your preaching...that really struck me and prompted me to write this offering to you....

Maharaja... my offering to you on this day of your special appearance is an insignificant prayer to Krsna everyday to take care of you and keep you so that you may continue with preaching endeavours. i also pray that Krsna keeps you in the best of health and gives me the understanding to assist you in anyway that i may be able to, however, small it may be. i also pray that Krsna decreases whatever difficulties or hardships that you may have to endeavour by giving them to me so that you may continue with all that you have to with no difficulty... Finally i pray to Krsna not to allow me to disappoint you and hurt you in any way possible...

It is often said love is shown not through the number of words spoken but rather through ones actions. i hope that my actions show you how much i love you.

Your daughter

Krsna Prema

Nama om Vishnu padaya Krishna presthaya bhuta-tale
Srimate Bhakti Caitanya Swamin iti namine

My dear Guru Maharaja!

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

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

All glories to Lord Caitanya's sankirtana movement!

Please allow me to congratulate you on the occasion of your appearance day and to thank you again and again for having come to this world to save me and many others from the meaningless existence that we used to have. After coming in contact with Lord Krishna's devotees and getting their mercy one understands that the purpose of life is to give up one's false ego and become Krishna conscious. For us, usual conditioned souls, Lord Krishna is very close and very far at the same time. He is situated within our heart as Paramatma, so there is nobody closer than Him. But since we forgot our eternal relationship with Him and have never met Him face to face in this life, He seems to be very far as well. So the merciful Lord manifests as the Deity and as the spiritual master so that we could understand the personal nature of the Absolute Truth. Lord Krishna comes as Srila Gurudeva to train us in loving devotional service to Him. We can't become Krishna conscious without becoming Guru conscious. We should always act remembering whether our actions are pleasing to the spiritual master or not. We should search for any opportunity to serve him and his servants. In this way we can develop Guru bhakti and with Guru's blessings develop Krishna consciousness. The spiritual master is such an amazing personality. He is love, mercy and Krishna consciousness personified. Is there anybody better to give my life to?

Dear Guru Maharaja! I am praying to you please allow me to be always conscious of your instructions and to follow them without fail. You are the best person I have ever met. Please continue to guide me back to Krishna and remain my Gurudeva eternally. Please make me a tiny instrument in your mission of serving Srila Prabhupada. I am begging forgiveness for all my mistakes and offences. Thank you again and again for your causeless mercy, love and care. I am indebted to you eternally.

Your foolish servant and daughter,
Lila Vrindavana dd

Dear Guru Maharaja

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to your beloved spiritual master Srila Prabhupada. All glories to your divine service at his lotus feet.

Your life is a shining beacon of love and affection for Srila Prabhupada and the devotees of ISKCON.

Your single-minded determination to chant Hare Krsna gives us a glimpse of your deep devotion to the holy name.

Your tireless preaching in this material world is proof of your unwavering enthusiasm to serve your beloved Lord and master Srila Prabhupada.

To me, as for so many others you are the perfect example of a completely devoted follower of Srila Prabhupada.

As I struggle to increase my Krishna consciousness I pray to follow in your footsteps.

I hope to be successful at arranging harinaams in Johannesburg this year by making an effort worthy of being offered to Srila Prabhupada by you.

Your humble servant eternally

Lokanath das

Dear Guru Maharaja

Please accept our humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to your divine grace on this auspicious day of your vyasa puja.

Guru Maharaja, every year we celebrate birthdays, identify with the body and consider it a great sense of enjoyment. We let our selves fly for the moment ,soaring to total illusion, and, like this, time is flying by.

What do we have to show for the years that raced by?

Children..a house..some money.

What have we gained or learnt ?

Hardly anything..

Suddenly, looking back, like flipping through the pages of book...time flew, the boat has passed, and now, we are desperately waving our hands in the air!!

Wait for me ..wait for me we shout!!

Thats where we are Guru Maharaja..

Please accepny our apology for our weak hearted attemps to surrender and dive into some service. It is very difficult, we do have a cold and unloving heart.. at least three times a day we try to fix our minds on you and hope that our chanting will melt the ice, thus be more enthusiastic when you are around. We see your exchanges with other devotees and feel very envious that we are not able to share the same relationship with you.

Today, we pray and hope that you will glance favourably towards us, so that we can untangle our selves from the web of illusion, and one day become your worthy disciples and serve Srila Prabhupada with honour.

Thank you for living as we do not know how to live.

Thank you for loving as we do not know how to love.

Thank you for giving as we do not know how to give.

Guru Maharaja, as a sincere son of Srila Prabhupada, you in all goodness and sincerity have set the bar too high... and, we are grappling to reach ..

We hope that with our chanting and meagre service, we will one day, be able to sail effortlessly over this now unreachable bar!!

May Lord Krishna always protect you and keep you in good health so that you can continue your tireless preaching and save more fallen souls.

Srila Prabhupada is and will always be very pleased with you...

With your estastic kirtans, you make everyone sing and dance.

When you gracefully extend your arms in glorification of the Supreme Lord, the whole atmosphere becomes charged with transcendence.

In this way, you are always spreading the glories of Srila Prabhupada and Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

Our prayer is to become convinced the way you are convinced and to become faithful to you the way you are to Srila Prabhupada - your spiritual master.

Aspiring to be your servants

Mukunda dasa and Lalithakund devi dasi

Dear 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. All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari. All glories to the assembled devotees.

This is indeed a very glorious event in the life of a disciple. It is a rare opportunity firstly to get a human body and it is even rarer to be associated with a pure devotee who can take one back to Godhead. Guru Maharaja has been so merciful to me to have accepted an unworthy person like me to be his disciple, for this I am indebted to You eternally.

I have visited the Holy Dhamas through Your causeless mercy and blessings and since 1998. It was only in 2008 that I got the most nectar. My experience was that I felt that You had brought the 10th canto of the Srimad Bhagavatam to life. I had read about the pastime where Lord Brahma had stolen the cowherd boys and the cows of Krsna but to be in that very spot and hear the lilas pouring out from your lotus lips was really amazing.

We were travelling in a big party sometimes two buses filled with devotees and Your care for each devotees comfort and welfare was exemplary. When we were doing the Govardhan parikrama, after a short while, Your Divine Grace Noticed that one devotee was missing and Guru Maharaja, You showed so much of concern and You were pacified only when it was cleared up that she had left the Parikrama party and was safe. I very much appreciated how You personally encouraged Yoginee and I when we were troubled with our aching legs and very sore feet, to go on because just a short distance was left to finish.

The Japa workshop was very beneficial to me and I thoroughly enjoyed them. My chanting japa has improved drastically since then. This was the best parikrama I had in my entire life and I am praying on this auspicious day that I have many more parikramas in the association of Your Divine Grace. Although I am undeserving, please always continue to encourage and guide me in the perfect path of Krsna consciousness.

Thank You for encouraging me in my services and ignoring my so many faults I make while performing them.

I feel very fortunate and sheltered in Your association and in Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON. Please bless me so that I may remain eternally in the Shelter of Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON. Please give me the wisdom so that I can perform my service to ISKCON to the satisfaction of Your Divine Grace and Srila Prabhupada.

Eternally Indebted to Your Divine Grace. Hare Krsna.

Srila Bhakti Caitanya Swami Maharaja ki JAI!!!!

Your unworthy son
Namacarya das

Please accept my most humble obeisances.
All Glories to Sri Guru and Sri Gauranga!
All Glories to Srila Prabhupada!
All Glories to Srila Gurudeva!

My dearest Bhakti Caitanya Swami Srila Gurudeva,

At the end of the first Sunday feast I attended, one Prabhuji announced that they needed some volunteers to come and cut some vegetables for the Food For Life program the following Saturday. I thought that it sounded quite nice and the following Saturday morning I reported for duty bright and early. Mayapur Chandra Prabhu was already there and he gave me some vegetables to cut. Whilst we were happily doing our service, we listened to a tape recording of one of your lectures. I enjoyed it very much as you presented the philosophy so expertly and clearly. I asked him who the person was that was speaking and he told me that it was your good self. After that I practically came to the temple every day and particularly looked forward to cutting vegetables for FFL as I would have that opportunity to hear you speak about Sri Krishna. It was very inspiring to listen to you preach and it was by your mercy that I became attracted to serve the Vaisnavas and sweet Krishna.

One morning I went into the devotee kitchen for the first time and there I saw the altar where the devotees offered their bogha. There were pictures of everybodys Gurudevas and I looked at the photos very carefully. One of the Gurus stood out in particular (actually I thought that he looked a bit like Santa, you know, kind and softhearted) and I told the Mataji that was with me: " He is my Guru " Needless to say this surprised her quite a bit as it is a very unconventional way to choose a Guru. But for me it was not strange as I was not choosing you, by your great mercy you have always been my Gurudev and it was just a matter of finding you again after such a long time. (Later on I found out that the person whose lectures I loved so much and the person I recognised as my Guru was the same person. Well I was just so happy and more certain that this was Krishna's divine arrangement)

I am very grateful for all the guidance you have given me throughout the years. You have always inspired me to be a better devotee and to serve Krsna and the devotees more and more carefully. You are very brave and will even risk your personal safety to preach Lord Caitanya's message. When I read about your pastimes on Facebook I become amazed at how you are willing to sacrifice all comforts to bring Krishna Consciousness to everyone.

Actually I got a confession to make. When I found out that you visit South Africa quite frequently I thought to myself: " Yesss! I will always be able to see my Gurudev easily! " And I felt a little bit proud of this. Ha! Ha! Ha! Little did I know what Krishna had planned for me.....

But you are so merciful that even if I cannot personally see you, I can associate with you in so many other ways like on Face book, through your amazing seminars and lectures that you make available through your tape ministry and through your DVDs.

It is a special mercy to have someone like you as a Gurudeva.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for having accepted me as a disciple.

I thank Krishna for allowing you to continue your travels and preaching and for maintaining your health.

I pray to Lord Nrsihma that He always protect you, wherever your service may take you.

Aspiring to serve you

Nayana Manjari dd

Nama om visnu padaya Krishna prestaya bhū tale srimate Bhakti Caitanya Swami iti namine
Nama om visnu padaya Krishna prestaya bhū tale srimate Bhaktivedanta Swami iti namine

My most loving Srila Gurudev,

Please allow me to offer my most humble and sincere obeisances in the dust of Your Lotus Feet.

I have a debt that will take me many life times to repay, I am not so certain how many though.

I am certain that there are several in fact all disciples here and throughout the society that are more deserving of Your mercy, they all have so much more to offer Your Grace, honesty, purity, proper vaisnava behaviour, proper brahmana qualities and the list goes on, as for me I have none of the above, just the desire to be part of this family, stealing the shade of Your mercy.

Gurudev, I really am not deserving of anything therefore today I do not request any mercy, my only plea is that I can always remain in the service of Sri Gauranga's mission, I don't have any good qualities though, I am really no better than Jagai and Madhai, therefore I beg that Your Grace will always remain kind and loving and never give up on this fallen beggar.

Sprawled, on the dirt and filth
Of material enjoyment,
Struggling to get by each day,
I come begging,
my days spent wondering,
wondering whether today will be better.

The wild beast
Lust, Greed, hatred and anger,
Eagerly await to tie me down.
Where
O where do I turn,
They will offer this miserly beggar
Shelter, yes like a coward I surrender,
Smiles, cheers and even encouragement
Binds this beggar.
But wait this is all so temporary.

I am certain that there is more to life.
Like a little lamb seeking for shelter,
From the lions of material existence,

This lowly fallen beggar,
Stretches out his filthy hands,

**Please SIR
Can You HELP.**

Is it too much to ask for,
Just the opportunity for some shelter,
As a beggar I can't demand,
I have to settle for what ever I get,

Therefore SIR
Take me
I beg of You
Take me as Your Slave
For there is nothing that I can offer
Except help with Your Mission

Please SIR
Allow me to offer You
My mind – to ensure that my thoughts are pure
My body – to assist Your Mission
My soul - its Yours Sir ,Yours For Keep

Please SIR
I ask of no remuneration,
Just Your shelter.

Your most insignificant BEGGAR/s
Nityananda Prana Das
Aditi Devi Dasi
Tulsi Das
Akincana Krsna Das

All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaurasundara.....All glories to Srila Prabhupada....All glories to Your Divine Grace.....

'OM AJNANA-TIMIRANDHASYA JNANANJANA-SALAKAYA, CAKSUR UNMILITAM YENA TASMAI SRI-GURAVE NAMA'

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.

“

Our Dearest Gurudeva

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Sri Sri Nitai-Gaurasundara. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Your Divine Grace. Please forgive us fallen servants for all offences caused.

How can we fallen souls find the perfect words to glorify a perfect representative of The Lord? Being tormented by the pangs of material nature, it is only the “guiding torchlight”, the mercy of Your Divine Grace, that is saving us from drowning in this material world of nescience. Being so fallen, we find it so difficult to find the appropriate words to express our gratitude; and glorify Your Divine Grace on this auspicious day.

His Holiness Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja states:

“How can we get the mercy of Bhagavan? It is said,: Guru-kripa hi kevalam - **guru's mercy is everything**. The bona fide guru, spiritual master, sad-guru, is a gaura-priya-jana - a very dear devotee of Gauranga. He is mukunda-prestha, an intimate, confidential associate of Bhagavan Mukunda. This is guru-tattva. This is the only way to please Krishna.

yasya prasada bhagavad-prasado

yasyaprasadan na gatih kuto 'pi

If the guru is displeased, then everything is finished. No one can protect you. You have no place to go. Even Lord Hari or Krishna can not protect you. So, guru should be pleased. That is guru-kripa hi kevalam. The mercy of guru is so powerful.

mukum karoti vacalam pangum langhayate giram

yat-kripa tam aham vande sri-gurum dina-tarinam

By the mercy of guru, even a dumb man can become the greatest orator, and even a lame man can cross mountains.

If someone is fortunate, and pleases guru through service - guru-susrusaya - he receives such spiritual power. This is spiritual power, spiritual strength, the strength of Balarama. “Bala” means strong. Balabhadra Balaram is very strong. He has great spiritual strength. Guru is a manifestation of Balaram, Nityananda Rama. That is guru-tattva. Without the mercy of guru, no one can get such strength, and no one can make any advancement on the spiritual path, Bhakti-patha. “

Gurudeva, Your Divine Grace is a perfect example of a “gaura-priya-jana”, a “mukunda-prestha”. By Your example we are always reminded of how important preaching is. Preaching must be “the way of our lives.”

Gurudeva, thanks for everything. Guru kripa hi kevalam - guru’s mercy is everything.

Thank You Gurudeva for always inspiring the children, being tolerant, guiding and encouraging them in their Krishna Consciousness.

On this very auspicious day we humbly beg Your Divine Grace, to please let a drop of that mercy, the shakti of Balarama, the spiritual strength, be showered upon us so that we could make some spiritual progress someday. We humbly beg Your Divine Grace to always be merciful upon us fallen souls, so that someday we could please Your Divine Grace. Without the mercy, we are useless.

Your most fallen servants.

Prabhupada Priya dasa and Lila Mohini devi dasi.

Hare Krsna,

All Glories to Gauranga
All Glories to Guru
All Glories to Srila Prabhupada
All Glories to My Gurudev Bhakti Caitanya Swami,

My Dear Gurudev, please accept my most humble obeisances and deep respects at Your Holy Feet. This offering comes to you from Your Most humble daughter and eternal servant Prana Priya Devi Dasi, on the occasion of the anniversary appearance day of Your Revered Self.

On this very special day I, with all my heart, hope and wish for you a day of peace and joy, which you truly deserve. Being our diksa guru, you are directly linking us, your disciples to the greatest of all jagat gurus, Srila Prabhupada.

Dear Guru Maharaja, I am thankful to you for many reasons. First of all I thank you for being my spiritual father, thus giving me the hope that one day I will go with you to the spiritual world. I thank you for allowing me to speak with you in confidence so many times. Thank you for giving me so many opportunities for serving your good self. I am sorry that I was not able to serve you in preparing any of your meals for the year. This due to my failing health, however I have expressed my desire to Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Radhananth and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to resume my service at the book table as recommended by Yourself a few years ago.

Thank you so much for making available for us so many DVDs about the holy Land, Sri Vrndavan Dhama. Thank You also for your recently published diary, Volume 1 describing your travels in Srila Prabhupadas service. Having read this book, I am much enlightened on what serving Srila Prabhupada really means. Thank you for leading joyful kirtans on various occasions. Listening to your lectures and Cd's has brought me much enlightenment also. Being with me in spirit You must know many other reasons that I am so deeply thankful to you for.

Once again I thank you very very much for all that you are to me.

In gratitude to Srila Prabhupada, for giving me such a wonderful spiritual father as you. I promise to always serve ISKCON faithfully.

Happy birthday my Dear Guru Dev, From Your loving daughter and eternal servant

Prana Priya Devi Dasi

Dear Guru Maharaja

I bow down to the beautiful lotus feet of my spiritual master, by whose causeless mercy I have obtained the supreme holy name, the divine mantra, the service of the son of Śacī-mātā, the association of Śrīla Svarūpa Dāmodara, Rūpa Gosvāmī, and his older brother Sanātana Gosvāmī, the supreme abode of Mathurā, the blissful abode of Vṛndāvana, the divine Rādhā-kuṇḍa and Govardhana Hill, and the desire within my heart for the loving service of Śrī Rādhikā and Mādhava in Vṛndāvana. (verse from Pancaratra Pradīpa)

Guru Maharaja, on this auspicious day of your Vyasa puja, please accept my humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to Sri Sri Nitai Gaurahari.

During the initiation ceremony at the Radha Radha Natha temple in April this year H H Indradyumna Maharaja spoke about the magnitude of the mercy of the spiritual master. He said that the spiritual master needs to come back again and again until the disciple is ready to go back to Godhead. He then concluded that as disciples we should strongly endeavour to go back to Godhead at the end of this lifetime so that we do not make our spiritual master come back.

Guru Maharaja, I remain deeply indebted and thankful to you for accepting me as your disciple and for undertaking to take me back home. I am extremely grateful for your continuous loving guidance to progress on the spiritual path. Srila Prabhupada had remarked on numerous occasions that this material world is like a prison house, and that we are constantly trying to make ourselves comfortable and happy in this prison house. However, this is like a C-class prisoner trying to become an A-class prisoner. Instead we should strive to get out of this prison house altogether and go back home to Kṛṣṇa.

Guru Maharaja, you constantly remind me of this fact. Over the past few years, as my health continues to become more and more challenging, you would tell me that the challenges are an impetus to get out of this material world, and go back home to the spiritual world. You lovingly remind me that the lord is always our well wisher.

Guru Maharaja, you often tell me and write to me that you are praying to Srimati Radharani and Kṛṣṇa for me. Guru Maharaja, how can I express the power of your praying? I know that it is only by your causeless and compassionate mercy and prayers that I can have the strength to tolerate.

I remain deeply thankful to you for this and for your continuous encouragement for me to rise above the circumstances and perform whatever devotional service that I can.

Srila Prabhupada had once said that the disciple always remains indebted to his spiritual master, and that he can never repay his debt to the spiritual master.

Guru Maharaja, even though I cannot repay my debt to you, I pray that I can always remain enthusiastic in faithfully serving Srila Prabhupada's mission, so that I do not make Guru Maharaja repeatedly come back to this material world to deliver me.

I remain your ever indebted daughter,
Radhakunda devi dasi

Dear Guru Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obsciences.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

All Glories to Your service to Srila Prabhupada!

All glories to Guru Maharaja on this auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja!

This entire material world is ablaze with the desire for sense gratification, it consumes all intelligence, leaving one in constant anxiety. In such a distressful environment, having the shelter of Srila Gurudev has been like taking shelter of an oasis of Krishna Consciousness, free from the burning sands of material desire. For this we are eternally grateful. Dear Gurudev, please engage us constantly in Your service, please allow us to assist You in Your service to Srila Prabhupada and the previous Acharya's. We are not qualified to serve, but by Your mercy we can be moulded, to be of some value to Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON. Please chastise us when we boastfully run and encourage us when can barely walk. This way we will be able to sincerely serve Srila Gurudev and properly honour You.

Thank You for everything.

Your aspiring servants,

Saksi Gopala das and Dina Tarine devi dasi

My Dearest father

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

Srila Prabhodananda Sarasvati says in the Sri Caitanya-candramrita, text 50 "Because the wonderful Lord never came before my eyes, and because I never tasted the nectar of service to His lotus feet, I simply pray to attain the jubilant festival of the association of those great souls now decorating this world whose hearts are fixed at Lord Caitanya's lotus feet."

Gurudev, YOU are one of those great souls that Srila Prabhodananda Sarasvati describes in this verse and it is very clear that your heart is fixed at Lord Caitanya's lotus feet. As you tirelessly preach the glories of the Lord in all parts of the world, we are most fortunate here in South Africa to have your invaluable association. I pray to always be able to experience the "jubilant festival of your association"

It is said that the mercy of the spiritual master flows freely on the auspicious day of Vyasa Puja. My selfish prayer on this most auspicious day is that you will always continue to bestow your mercy on this most fallen soul and I pray that you will always keep me in your favour.

Thank you for all that you have done for me. My love and appreciation for you grows deeper and stronger every day. Most of all, thank you for having so much faith in me – I feel that I am unworthy and undeserving of your mercy. I consider myself very fortunate to have you as my spiritual master and father.

I love you from the bottom of my heart.

Your most fallen daughter
Vraja Renu devi dasi

Dear Gurudev

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of Your Divine Lotus Feet. All Glories to Your Divine Grace on this auspicious day of Your Vyasapuja. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada.

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

Gurudev, on this auspicious day of your Vyasapuja, we are here again to beg-
We are humbly begging You to please always give us your guidance and shelter to advance in Krishna consciousness.

We have been reading Gurudev's book, Gurudev is so dedicated to Srila Prabhupada and spreading Krsna Consciousness all over the world. So tirelessly preaching. We pray that we can have that same dedication to always follow Gurudev instructions in the service of Srila Prabhupada.

The spiritual master is always engaged in the temple worship of Sri Sri Radha and Krsna. He also engages his disciples in such worship. They dress the Deities in beautiful clothes and ornaments, clean their temple, and perform other similar worship of the Lord. I offer my respectful obeisance's unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

Gurudev, thank you for so mercifully allowing us to worship Sri Sri Radha Govinda and Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari.

On this auspicious day of Your Vyasa Puja, we beg to always remain your eternal servants. Please continue to guide and chastise us. We beg to always remain at Your Lotus Feet and that of Srila Prabhupada.

Begging for more mercy Always

Your eternal servants

Vrndavan dasa Takhur dasa and Caitanya Lila dasi