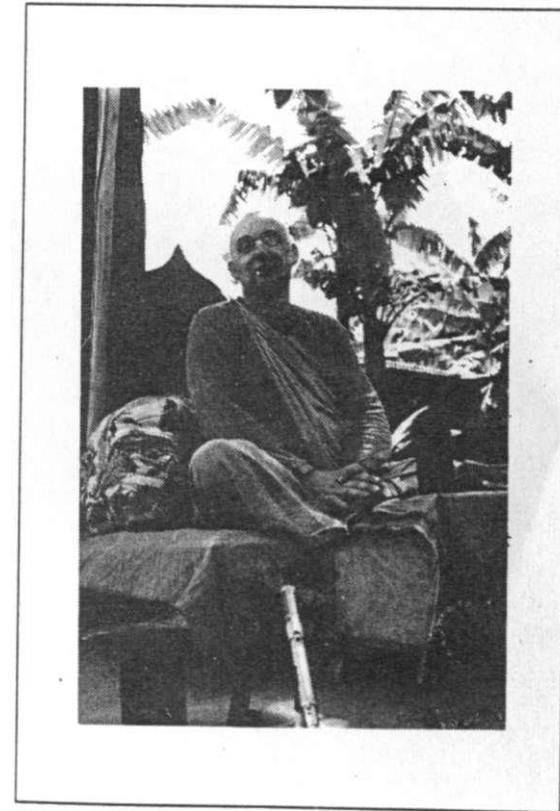


THE MOST BLESSED EVENT

# SRI VYASA-PUJA



**NOVEMBER 20, 1990**

"\*" Appearance Day of our Beloved Spiritual Master

**His Divine Grace Srila Suhotra Swami- Maharaja**

## *Introduction*



Srila SuhotraSwami appeared in this world on December 11th 1950, in Massachusetts, America. He joined the Hare Krishna movement in 1972, prior to his 22nd birthday.

He was personally initiated by Srila Prabhupada the following year and in 1981, took to the renounced order of life, sannyasa.

Regarding how he came to join ISKCON, his Divine Grace has written as follows:

*I'd been chanting Hare Krishna on and off for perhaps four years before joining, though I hadn't received the mantra from a very bona fide source (I first heard it from a record of the beatnik poet Allen Ginsberg, who'd associated with Srila Prabhupada in New York). I developed interest with Krishna consciousness first through chanting, then through some friends who became devotees, and through my own despair with material life (I'd been a college student, did very well in school, but saw no sense in it all). I was living in the Detroit area and visited the temple once, just before*

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*deciding to join. I picked up BTG there and noticed it was printed in Boston. I was born in Massachusetts but left that state when I was one year old, and I had a sort of nostalgic desire to see the place where I'd come into this world; I thought it would be nice to do that and join the Boston temple at the same time. It was by Krishna's arrangement that I got a free 500-mile ride from Detroit to Boston within a few days of getting this idea. This convinced me that "it was meant to be." The Boston temple at the time I joined was a haven of good association; Satsvarupa dasa (then a householder) was the Temple President, Hridayananda Prabhu the temple commander, and Jayadvaita Prabhu was working with the BBT there. And there were many other wonderful devotees. I was initiated in June of 1973 by Srila Prabhupada personally. I had some exchanges with His Divine Grace during this time that were (for me) very confidential and revealing. I met and spoke with His Divine Grace on perhaps three other occasions later on....*

During his brahmachari life, Srila Gurudev was actively involved with the Radha-Damodara Travelling Sankirtan Party for about two years, and in 1976 he joined the Library Party and preached in universities in America. After this he went to India.

On returning from India, Srila Suhotra Swami went to Europe to continue preaching in the universities and distributing sets of books. From 1980 to 1987 he was a leading preacher in West Germany, and since then he has travelled all over the world.

At the moment, his main preaching areas are Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia.

## The Meaning of Vyasa-Puja

Sri Vyasa-puja is the most important day for a disciple to offer homage and honor to his spiritual master—the representative of God. The guru has mercifully appeared to rescue the fallen conditioned souls who are rotting in this material world and have no other chance if he does not give them the opportunity to get some understanding of Krsna. There are so many famous religions, philosophies, ideas, "isms", etc. which have lots of followers and are proclaiming to give the answer to the problems of life or an understanding of the Absolute Truth. But since they are not connected to Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and since all of them are filled with the four defects of the conditioned living entities, mistakes and illusions, and desire for mind and sense gratification, there is practically no chance for living beings to come to any correct conclusion on the subject of the Absolute. As stated by Lord Krsna in Bhagavad Gita [4.2], "evam parampara praptam" — Absolute Truth can be understood through parampara system, the chain of disciplic succession coming down from Lord Krsna, and it can be received from the pure devotee of the Lord — "jnaniṅas tattva darsinaḥ" — because he has seen the truth. Otherwise, there will always be misunderstandings and speculations going on. To prevent this, Lord Krsna and Lord Balaram accepted a spiritual master. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Sri Nityananda also accepted spiritual masters. We can follow their examples and be successful in life. If we do not take advantage of these good examples and do not contact the disciplic succession coming down from Lord Sri Krsna, there is no chance. There is no use speculating on the subject matter of the Absolute Truth. Srila Prabhupada says in the purport of Srimad Bhagavatam [2.1.10]: "For advancement of material knowledge there is a need for personal ability and researching aptitude, but in the case of spiritual knowledge all progress depends more or less on the mercy of the spiritual master. The guru must be satisfied with the disciple and only then is knowledge automatically manifest before the student of spiritual science". As stated in Svetasvatara Upanisad [6.23]:

*yasya deve para bhaktir yatha deve tatha gurau  
tasyaite kathita hy arthah prakasante mahatmanah*

"Only unto those great souls who simultaneously have implicit faith in both the Lord and the spiritual master are all the imports of Vedic knowledge automatically revealed."

The bona fide spiritual master coming in the parampara is the one who has been authorized to speak from the seat first occupied by Srila Vyasadeva, for he is the one who is not adding, subtracting, concocting or changing anything received from his spiritual master. By thus expertly delivering the exact same message, adjusting it for the time, place and circumstances, he frees the disciple from the cycle of samsara and takes him home, back to Godhead.



Our beloved Guru Maharaja, His Holiness Srila Suhotra Swami, is the most expert in delivering spiritual knowledge, teaching the real gaura-vani and explaining all the details of the practice and understanding of the science of bhakti yoga through his deep realizations. He is kindly becoming the via medium for his disciples, who are trying to appreciate and glorify his holy position at this auspicious ceremony of Vyasa-puja.

May he always be glorious and permit us to remain at the shelter of his lotus feet and give us sufficient intelligence to understand his guidance, which he delivers by his ecstatic lectures to help us to visualize the Lord in His instructions. May Lord Krsna out of His causeless mercy help us to meditate and understand the mission of our dear lord and master, His Holiness Srila Suhotra Maharaja and worship him according to his position.

*yasya sadsad bhagavati  
jnana-dipa prade gurau  
martyasad-dhiih strutam lasya  
sarvam kunjara-saucavat*

"The spiritual master should be considered to be directly the Supreme Lord because he gives transcendental knowledge for enlightenment. Consequently, for one who maintains the material conception that the spiritual master is an ordinary human being everything is frustrated. His enlightenment and his Vedic studies and knowledge are like the bathing of an elephant." Srimad Bhagavatam [7.15.26]

On this auspicious day, we should remember what he has done for us. It is not possible to repay the debt — guru daksina — that one has to his spiritual master but also impossible not to try. One has to go on continuously trying to repay the debt to the spiritual master that one has accrued due to accepting his shelter.

As it is not possible to glorify the Lord completely, it is also impossible to glorify the glories of His pure devotees. Even Lord Sesa with His millions of hoods is not able to come to the end of the glories of Sri Krsna and His pure devotees. I trust that this Vyasa-puja day ceremony is a source of inspiration for those who are lovingly serving him, always meditating on his lotus feet, and in their hearts calling loudly:

Jaya Srila Suhotra Maharaja!

*Bhagavat-Dharma dasa*

## *Deliverance from a Dark Universe*

*In the beginning of time, on a lotus of gold,  
Brahma, creator, did the darkness behold.  
But hearing the Lord, he reflected within.  
And received knowledge sublime, the destroyer of sin.*

*Brahma then spoke, four Vedas to teach,  
The form of the cosmos now within easy reach.  
A universe new-born, full of hope and quite pure,  
Did displace the darkness, as if it would ever endure.*

*In those days of yore, magnificence prevailed,  
Vedic truth the foundation that all beings hailed.  
But now the world's filled with error; what is truth we must guess—  
It seems that men who are evil are the ones who know best.*

*Over a hundred trillion years have past since day one;  
The second half of Brahma's life span has already begun.  
In this very moment of his time, which is an age to us,  
Darkness has returned, like a blinding cloud of dust.*

*For Brahma is the father of wicked beings too,  
Like Irreligion and Falsity, from whom descended a brood.  
One rules us now; his name is Kali, or Quarrel.*

*Souls we are, eternal, but spun life after life  
Around the wheel of samsara, in torment and strife.  
Human birth is the one chance by which to get free,  
But human life's just like hell in the Age of Kali.*

*Maddened with lust, seeking relief in the sewer  
Of nasty sense pleasures till we feel death's sharp skewer.  
Which lifts us squirming, dripping the filth of our sins,  
And drops us in the abyss to wear furs, feathers, and fins.*

*Yet those who are learned worship this age,  
In which the Lord has appeared, our cruel fate to assuage  
By giving His name, both the end and the means  
Of knowing Krsna's within us as our dearest friend.*

*But I was born far from India, and had not Prabhupada come  
To the brutal Western world and this movement begun,  
How would I, who was dumb, have ever spoken the name?  
How see and walk, since I was blind and lame?*

How wondrous this miracle: to be delivered by you  
 From ignorance profound, and to have brought in my view  
 My spiritual home, where all souls belong,  
 Far beyond this aging universe, where everything's gone wrong.

You are the pure servant of Kṛṣṇa, and you never fear  
 To preach boldly forth, for He's your charioteer.  
 You mix with the fallen, but your motive is pure:  
 To give them Mahāprabhu-kṛpā, their offenses you endure.

O most perfect of sages, you teach sambandha-jñāna,  
 Reversing the tide of a civilization so damned,  
 By technology gone mad. But now we can use it for God,  
 To print books and expand preaching and expose the whole fraud.

This revolution you've inspired has only just begun;  
 We're only seeing the first rays of the mighty Kṛṣṇa sun,  
 Which will rise streaming glory, giving us sight,  
 To get free of the confusion of Kali's dark night.

To fully know your greatness is beyond my small brain.  
 If I could just look in my heart, it all would be so plain:  
 Beyond the anarthas, the residue of sin,  
 Where the pure soul shines forever, never separate from Him.

For your greatness is the reality, so simple and true,  
 Of the soul's eternal bond to Sri Kṛṣṇa, the youth  
 Who so loves His devotee who can do naught else but serve,  
 That He gives him all help as only the pure soul deserves.

You've come to us, Prabhupāda, just to prove that He's there,  
 Within all of our hearts. And the test is quite fair:  
 In this dark age of Kali, let us preach as you've shown,  
 That Kṛṣṇa will help us, and in the end take us home.

Your servant,  
**Suhotra Swami**

## Vyasa-Puja Homages from Australia

MELBOURNE

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*noma om visnu-padaya kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhū-tale  
 srimate suhotra svamin iti namine*

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace Suhotra Swami, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet."

Dear Guru Maharaja,

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

You have appeared in this world to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness and deliver the fallen conditioned souls. I am most fallen and unworthy, but still you accepted me as your disciple—such is the mercy of the spiritual master. On this auspicious day, I humbly beg that you help me surrender fully unto your lotus feet, and let me serve you always.

Your aspiring servant,

**Vijaya-devi dasi**

PERTH

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*om ajnana-timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya  
 caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah  
 nama om visnu-padaya kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhū-tale  
 srimate suhotra svamin iti namine*

Dear Srila Gurudeva,

It is said in the revealed scriptures that a spiritual master is to be honored as much as the Supreme Lord because he is the most confidential servitor of the Lord — saksad-dharitvena samasta-sastrair uktas tatha bhavyata eva sadbhih — and on such days as the spiritual master's appearance day, vyasa-puja, his disciples would come together and with great awe and reverence, and with great jubilation, glorify the exalted position of the spiritual master.

Unfortunately, Srila Gurudeva, due to my dull-headedness, I cannot properly honour your position nor glorify your transcendental attributes and activities. What more can I say — my mind is full of the cobwebs of lust, anger and greed, and my heart is as hard and cold as a solid iceberg! To glorify someone who is as exalted as yourself is just beyond this most-covered-over living entity!

You are brahma nistham, that is, you have given up the mundane activities of this material world and dedicated your life to working for Krishna. Therefore, you are able to save the materially afflicted conditioned souls from the repeated cycle of birth and death. You are following the footsteps of the great acaryas in our line for you are vigorously preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva.

Dear Srila Gurudeva, I thank you for accepting this most fallen fool as your disciple. I am eternally indebted to you for saving my human birth in this life time and giving me a breath of fresh air to breathe. What is the use of having a human birth if it is only to engage in animalistic activities of eating, sleeping, mating, and defending?

Dear Srila Gurudeva, your humility, your jovial smile, and your dedication to Lord Caitanya's sankirtan movement have attracted many conditioned souls and convinced them about Krsna. You are one without a second and I sincerely hope that one day I can fully surrender my words, body, and mind to your desires and actively help you serve in the front line in the battle against maya.

So, on this very auspicious day of your vyasa-puja, I humbly offer my respectful obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet and beg you to please keep this most fallen fool in a corner of your lotus feet

Desiring to eternally serve your mission,

Your very insignificant disciple,

*Daya-Dharma den dasi*

## *Vyasa-Puja Homages from Eastern and Northern Europe*

DENMARK

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My Dearest Guru Maharaja,

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

*noma om visnu-padaya krsna presthaya bhu-tale  
srimate suhotra svamin iti nomine  
on ajnana-timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya  
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah*

Although it is most difficult to write a Vyasa-puja offering, at the same time it is most pleasing to absorb my mind and intelligence in your pure Krsna conscious activities. I am so proud of being your disciple. When I see how you are working so hard and selflessly to save this world from the greatest danger just out of compassion and love, and when I get a chance to hear someone talking about the time you were travelling all over the world with the Library Party and pouring out unlimited mercy on all the fallen conditioned souls, then I can go on listening forever. I become so inspired to see that you are still going here and there, showing everyone the way out of maya's grip, back to Krsna's grace.

Indeed, you are such a magnanimous personality that you have even taken up the job of training up such a useless rascal like me, simply to deliver me from the wretched whirlpool of conditioned life, and now by your grace and kindness, I am engaged in Lord Caitanya's most glorious sankirtan movement.

It is inconceivable to me, how I can repay my debt to you for all that you have done and still are doing for me. I am so happy that you have accepted me as your disciple despite all of my **many** disqualifications. I only pray to you that you will always engage me in your glorious service so that I can one day become like you are, without material desires, and develop a spark of your divine qualities of full surrender to Krsna.

Your small and limited servant begging for your mercy,

*Varadraja dasa*

## FINLAND

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Dearest Suhotra Maharaja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet

On this very day, there was a poem just about to come to glorify you, but then I remembered the story you once told us about an ass who died while reciting.

He was constantly contemplating the goods of the garden of his master - how to sneak in and enjoy. He was well aware the farmers would kill him if they saw him eating there. So he decided to dress as a tiger and just arrogantly walk in. He was clever enough to realize that a tiger would be very much respected with fear by the owners of the fields, and thus left alone. But after all, asses are not very intelligent nor are they great poets. So, when the evening came with the moon and the stars, he suddenly became very poetic. He wanted to hear about the glories of himself. Unfortunately, as soon as the first bellow came out of his mouth, the farmers immediately knew who "the tiger" actually was. So this poem killed him.

What better poetry than torrents of stones could a cramped heart release? Instead, I humbly ask you to forgive me for the insincerity of these words and all the false motives in approaching you.

How much could I tell you about the burden of debt and the true appreciation I have for you, since I always show so very little love and devotion through service to you? Who would believe a blind man telling about the beauties of a view?

My dearest Maharaja, if this heart was not so well tied and the door closed by ignorance, I would allow you to enter in. Yet I pray, please kindly engage this rebellious, indolent person eternally in helping you to spread the message of Lord Caitanyadeva. In spite of the envy and the pride, let me always carry the books of Srila Prabhupada for you to be distributed. In that way, your mercy will be seen everywhere.

Your servant,

*Vairagya-Laxmi devi dasi*

## GERMANY

*om ajnana-timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya  
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah  
noma om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale  
srimate suhotra svamin iti namine*

My dear Srila Gurudeva,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances at the divine dust of your lotus feet. All glories to you and His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

As time goes by, I start to more and more appreciate your greatness by trying to understand your burning desire to spread Krsna consciousness. You are full of all good qualities and by seeing you, my eyes achieve perfection. By hearing the divine words emanating from your lotus mouth, my ears come to their perfection.

You have kindly appeared in this material world and with your gigantic transcendental intelligence, convinced my complicated mind and saved me from the cycle of birth and death. For this, I am always indebted to you.

Once you have written that my letters are a gate of happiness for you. But if it is so, it is all due to your mercy that I can write anything nice for your pleasure. How can I get any credit for that? Your mercy is all I am made of!

When I was in Mayapur in the beginning of this year, I could feel how you were delivering transcendental knowledge to me. Not only that, but also the required intelligence to understand it, so that I could learn something so others may think I am intelligent — but I know how foolish and stupid I am and that I have no chance without you! When I stand in the street trying to distribute Srila Prabhupada's books, I can realize how the books are being distributed only out of your mercy and that I have no power to do it otherwise. Anytime I try to do it on my own, it doesn't work, then I know it is time to go back to the van, pay my obeisances before your picture and remember how everything can only happen out of your unlimited mercy and not otherwise.

Once on the street, I offered a maha large book to a person and he was trying to satisfy me with 2 marks, so I remembered how this is somehow like your maha large mercy towards me and my small service in return for that. Of course, I know it is not enough whatever I do for you, but I really wish to do better.

You are always so merciful and you have given me such a wonderful

service so that I could get some realizations. All these realizations also come from you. I hope someday my ass-like mind will stop its' poetry so that I can hear you, who are always residing in my heart. When Lord Krsna appeared in this material world, He is not touched by maya, in the same way, you are never touched by my stool-like mentality, although always guiding me from within and residing in my heart. My only happiness is to think of you and my only hope is that somehow or other I could be engaged in your loving devotional service life after life and be very happy being a dog at your door, waiting for a grasp of mercy. Because you are the ocean of mercy, when I think of it, I see that anything wonderful I have in my life is all because of you. Srila Prabhupada's books, association of devotees, residing in the temple or sankirtan van, Hare Krsna maha mantra, prasadam, and worship of the Deities, and the most ecstatic service of preaching and distributing Srila Prabhupada's books and so on are all there for me because of your mercy and that's what I need.

I thank you very much for all that you have done and are doing for me and I ask for your blessings to continue and improve my Krsna conscious activities.

Always praying to Lord Nrsimhadeva for your health, I remain

Your useless servant,

*Bhagavat-Dharma dasa*

## NORWAY

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*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya  
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah  
nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale  
srimate suhotra svamin iti namine*

Dear Suhotra Swami Maharaja,

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

I want to thank you for your greatest kindness for residing on this hellish planet to guide lost souls like me.

By letting me help you in serving your own spiritual master, I am assured to return back home, back to Godhead.

Please don't ever let me deviate from this path.

Your lowest servant,

*Bhakta Jarle*

## POLAND

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Dear Spiritual Master,

Please accept my respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet

*om ajnana-timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya  
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah  
nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale  
srimate suhotra svamin iti namine*

On this joyful day of your appearance, I want to make an offering to you, my guru. My desire is to see not only your disciples deriving pleasure from this Vyasa-puja, but you, Guru, first of all.

To write these few sentences of gratitude for your causeless mercy and help is very difficult for me. I would not like this offering to be sentimental — I want it to be sincere and realistic.

You travel to many places and countries in order to awaken Krsna consciousness in people. Regardless of any material obstacles, you are continually engaged in Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu's mission.

You had to suffer so many discomforts during your last stay in Poland. You were so merciful however, that despite this, you gave so many lectures.

What is still so much alive in my memory, dear spiritual master, is the way in which you recited verses and gave lectures. You were speaking and reciting mantras so powerfully and convincingly. But in my devotional service, I can only derive such a tiny particle of your power and knowledge. And I make inefficient endeavours again and again through this so as to please you, Guru.

You, however, pull us behind you and preach by your personal examples as well as by your instructions how to serve Krsna better and better, more and more. You tolerate so many of our mistakes and offenses.

I would like my service to be a source of joy for you. I know that it is going to be very difficult for me to please you, Guru, even to a little degree. I would like—some time in the future—to learn to know and understand your position. I would be able then, to write an offering for your Vyasa-puja with complete sincerity and devotion.

Please accept my humble obeisances.

Your eternal servant,

*Bhaktin Agata*

*om ajnana-timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya  
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah  
nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale  
srimate suhotra svamin iti nomine*

Finally, after so many years of searching, I could find shelter at the lotus feet of a bona fide spiritual master.

I want to thank you once again, Goswami Maharaja, for letting me receive the mercy of being your disciple — a disciple in the school of returning back to Godhead. I have a great desire to make the devotional service which I perform for your satisfaction, the most perfect, so that I can achieve the Lord's mercy that would strengthen my determination and devotion in my service to you. I would like to express—by this service—my gratitude to you Maharaja, for kindly taking me under your care. I can understand that without help from the bona fide spiritual master, I am not able to make any spiritual progress and it is only the mercy of the pure soul that can protect me from deviating from the path shown by Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu, that leads us straight to Godhead.

Your humble servant,

***Bhakta Bogdan***



POLAND

Dear Suhotra Swami Maharaja,

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

*om ajnana-timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya  
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah  
nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale  
srimate suhotra svamin iti nomine*

On this special day, I would like to pay my respects to your personality.

I am very happy that you have accepted me as your disciple in spite of my attitude — full of maya.

Once I was told by a devotee named Vairocani das that every-one should have his master, his guru. One should not be like a homeless dog that is being chased away wherever he goes and all the time has to run away, even if it is a big dog. A dog that is possessed by a master — even being a tiny dog—does not have to run away with his tail between the legs. Such a dog feels safe because he feels protected.

Since your visit to Poland and acceptance of my person, I have felt just like this dog who has found his master. For this reason, I am very thankful to you, my Guru Maharaja. My desire is to serve you and fulfill all of your instructions as best as I can. Hare Krsna!

Your humble servant,

***Bhakta Darek***

All glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga!

All glories to Srila prabhupada and Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu's sankirtan movement!

Dear Spiritual master, my eternal father and guide,

Please accept my humble obeisances prostrated in the dust of your lotus feet again and again as many times as there are living entities manifested and unmanifested. All glories! All glories unto you, the perfect servitor of Om Visnupada Paramahansa Parivrajakacarya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and most dear grandson of Bhaktisiddhanta.

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya  
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri gurave namah  
noma om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhuta-tale  
srimate suhotra-svamin ili namine*

Vyasa-puja is the most auspicious event, for it commemorates the appearance day of Your Divine Grace. You are a confidential associate of the Supreme Lord Sri Krsna and out of your causeless mercy, you have descended in this material world to remind us fallen souls about our lost relationship with Krsna. We foolish living entities, trying to be independent of Krsna and to enjoy separately from Him, were actually suffering and rotting in this material world, which is *asavtata* (temporary) and *duhkhalayam* (miserable). In this way, we were charmed by the flute of *mayā* and dancing to her tune in 8,400,000 kinds of bodies. Who knows how long the living entities have been conditioned in material life? We are all *nitya-bandhu* and there does not seem to be any way out of *samsara*.

But there is hope. You have come, dear Gosani, to lead us out of this. Let me hang onto your lotus feet and surrender to your expert guidance to cross over this ocean which is very difficult to cross; but for one who has taken shelter at your lotus feet, this ocean seems no more than water contained in the hoofprint of a calf. I bow down to you and beg for the shelter of your lotus feet. Only you can relieve the suffering conditions of the bewildered fallen souls because you are capable of giving the whole world shelter under your lotus feet, being the mercy incarnation of the Lord. Srila Narottama dasa Thakura has said, "chatiya vaisnava-seva nistara payechc keba — without serving a bona fide spiritual master, an ideal Vaisnava, who can be delivered from the clutches of *mayā*?" A Vaisnava is an ocean of mercy — *vancha-kalpa-tarubhyas ca krpasindhuhya eva ca*. He is also *para duhkhi* — he is suffering when he sees others suffer. Therefore, O Vaisnava Thakura, although you are fully satisfied by your service to your Guru Maharaja, you are feeling pain and are unhappy to see that all the fallen souls are living without proper knowledge of what is their actual position in relation to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Sri Krsna.

O Learned one, your intelligence is as brilliant as millions of suns and moons rising simultaneously. You know the spiritual science perfectly well and you are the most exalted of all the Vedas. *Acarya brahmano murtih* — You have descended to give spiritual knowledge for the benefit of all human society. You may be standing on two legs but you can do wonderful things because you are doing what Krsna wants you to do. You are not an ordinary man and you are not here to meddle with material affairs.

*guru krsna-rupa hara sastrena pramane  
guru-rupe krsna krpa karena bhakta-gane*

"According to the deliberate opinion of all revealed scriptures the spiritual master is non-different from Krsna. Lord Krsna in the form of the spiritual master delivers his devotees."

*acaryam mam vijaniyan navamanyeta karhicit  
na nartya-buddhyasuyeta sarva-devamayo guru*

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

Therefore you are to be honored as much as the Lord, being the most confidential servitor of the Lord.

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

O most exalted master of all mystic powers, you know the plan of Krsna and you can manifest His potency at will to serve Him. The whole world is suffering due to the demoniac forces that are controlling society. We may seem insignificant compared to the forces of Kali-yuga, but just as the Pandavas conquered the large army of Duryodhana by surrendering to your instructions (which are non-different from Krsna's) and dropping bombs on the laps of the unfortunate conditioned souls in the form of transcendental literatures and records, we will bring Kali-yuga to a halt and thus establish a golden age. Thousands of fortunate souls are receiving the mercy of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu due to your immense compassion to deliver them. We are all products of Kali-yuga, but by your causeless mercy, we have been converted into dancing Vaisnavas. Your mercy and potency is inconceivable. The future seems bright and victorious under your leadership. You are the big gun. Please use me as your bullets in this war against *mayā*.

My dear lord and master, I come to you looking for some broken glass but you have given me the most valuable gem — devotional service. How can I ever repay this debt? Anyone who thinks that he can repay his debt to the spiritual master is described as a vinoda-patram, a joker. A joker's activities simply arouse laughter and a person who thinks he can fully repay his spiritual master becomes a laughing stock because it is not possible to repay such a debt. Therefore, I am eternally indebted to you in service. To be a servant of the representative of the Supreme Lord is not an ordinary thing. You are pure spirit, so how can a contaminated soul, who is merged in material consciousness and endowed with all bad qualities like me render any significant service unto the lotus feet of Your Divine Grace? I would feel myself most honored and fortunate if I can remain as a dog at your door waiting patiently and eating whatever scrap of food is thrown at me, eagerly awaiting your command.

Please accept my service. I will not disturb you in anyway and I will protect you from any inconveniences. And, if I do disturb you in anyway, O Guru Maharaja, please beat me on the head with your shoes. I shall not do it again!

I am so low and devoid of any strength and intelligence. I am just an unfortunate soul drifting around aimlessly around this cold, hard world, struggling for existence. O Jagat Guru! The shade of your lotus feet is my only shelter and abode and it is your mercy that is sustaining my whole existence. I fall down at your lotus feet and beg for your mercy upon this most fallen and wretched soul. Please cast your merciful glance over me. I am supposed to make an offering unto you, but instead I have come to your door begging for a drop of prasada. I have no possessions. Whatever I have, my body, mind and words, I offer in service unto your lotus feet.

Dear Gosani, you are atmarama— self satisfied. Although you are so, please, out of your causeless mercy, allow this unworthy servant to render some service unto your lotus feet. Please make me a puppet in your hand and engage me properly in devotional service. Whatever progress I have made and whatever I will be able to perform in the future is all due to your causeless mercy and potency.

With all humility, I bow down to your lotus feet and beg to remain eternally at your lotus feet. All glories to you!

Your useless dog,  
*Bhaktin Jola*

*om ajnana timirandhasya jnananjana-salakaya  
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri-gurave namah  
noma om visnu-padaya krsna presthaya bhu-tale  
srimate suhotra-svamin iti namine*

All glories to Sri Caitany Mahaprabhu's sankirtan movement!

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

All glories to His Divine Grace Suhotra Goswami Maharaja!

It is a miracle that there exist a person to answer all important questions and a person to surrender to and put any faith in.

Who is that person? This is our beloved spiritual master. But because of our limited perception, we cannot say anything more. Unfortunately, due to our material attachments and our offensive behaviour, most of your exalted qualities remain hidden.

However, on this day, which is the most blessed event, Sri Vyasa-puja, the appearance day of our beloved spiritual master, through your mercy, acting for our eternal spiritual benefit, you give us possibility to realize a drop of your divine qualities. Therefore, we beg you to allow us, at least the attempt to glorify these transcendental qualities.

We know that by understanding your glories, we can surrender our whole life to you. But like always, we understand nothing. How can we properly appreciate that fact? You have located your life in the dust of the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord and Srila Prabhupada. It is unimaginable for fools like us to understand and appreciate your position and attitude in engaging pure devotional service for Lord Krsna and Srila Prabhupada, by bringing the conditioned souls out of material existence and reviving their knowledge and love for Krsna. Who can understand that you are acting exactly according to Srila Prabhupada's desire and instructions, and in this way, you are acting for the benefit of the whole world.

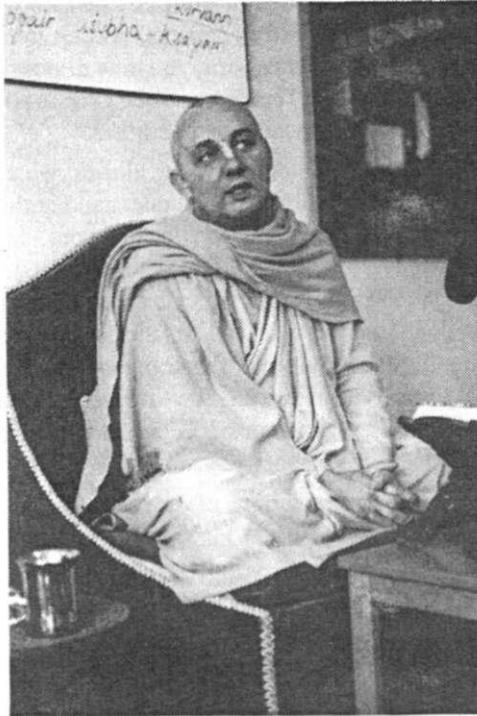
Guru Maharaja, your example of surrendering your whole life to Srila Prabhupada's lotus feet and his mission is an unattainable example for us to follow, and only you, if you want, can teach that to us. Your preaching is like flash and thunder, which dissipates and disperses the silence and stillness of the cloudy and miserable sky of material existence, and which reminds the conditioned souls about their eternal relationship with Krsna.

You are our most beloved master, father, doctor and leader. Therefore, we ask you not to reject your humble sons' request to teach us to serve the dust of your lotus feet.

You have conquered our hearts and souls to wake us up from a long lethargy and to engage us in devotional service to the Supreme Lord. For this reason, we feel a great gratitude to you.

We wish our life would be a shadow of the brightness of your devotional service to Srila Prabhupada.

Your most fallen servants,  
**Bhakta Pnemek and Piotr**



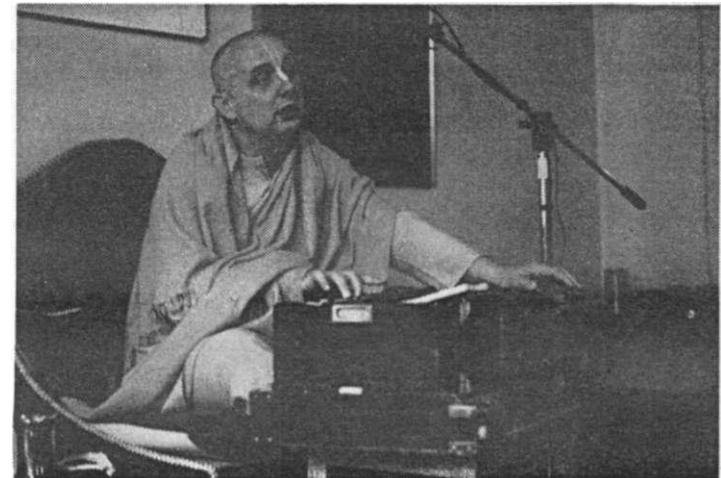
**Sri Gurv-Astaka**  
**by Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakur**

*samsara-davanala-lidha-loka  
tranaya Icarunya-ghanaghanatvam  
praptasya kalyana-gunanarvasya  
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

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

*mahaprabhoh kirtana-nrtya-gita  
vaditra-madyan-manaso rasena  
romanca-kampasru-taranga-bhajo  
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

Chanting the holy name, dancing in ecstasy, singing, and playing musical instruments, the spiritual master is always gladdened by the sankirtan movement of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Because he is relishing the mellows of pure devotion within his mind, sometimes his hair stands on end, he feels quivering in his body, and tears flow from his eyes like waves. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.



*sri-vigraharadhana-nitya-nana-  
srngara-tan-mandira-marjanadau  
yuktasya bhaktams ca niyunjato 'pi  
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

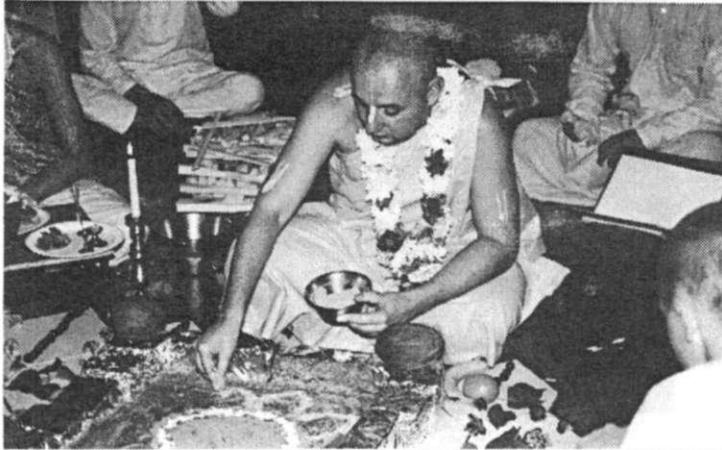
The spiritual master is always engaged in the temple worship of Sri Sri Radha and Krsna. He also engages his disciples in • ich worship. They dress the Deities in beautiful clothes and ornaments, clean Their temple, and perform other similar worship of the Lord. I offer my respectful obeisances unto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

*catur-vidha-sri-bhagavat-prasada-  
svadv-anna-trptan hari-bhakta-sanghan  
krtvaiva trptim bhajatah sadaiva  
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

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

*sri-radhika-rnadhavayor apara-  
madhurya-liia-guna-rupa-namnam  
prati-ksanasvadana-lolupasya  
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

The spiritual master is always eager to hear and chant about the unlimited conjugal pastimes of Radhika and Madhava, and Their qualities, names, and forms. The spiritual master aspires to relish these at every moment. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.



*nikunja-yuno rati-keli-siddhyai  
ya yalibhir yuktir apeksaniya  
tatrati-daksyad ati-vallabhasya  
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

The spiritual master is very dear, because he is expert in assisting the gopis, who at different times make different tasteful arrangements for the perfection of Radha and Krsna's conjugal loving affairs within the groves of Vrndavana. I offer my most humble obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

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

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

*yasya prasadam bhagavat-prasado  
yasyaprasadan na gatih kuto 'pi  
dhyayan stuvams tasya yasas tri-sandhyam  
vande guroh sri-caranaravindam*

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

