

The Most Blessed Event
ŚRĪ VYĀSA PŪJĀ

December 15, 1993 - The Appearance Day of Our Beloved Spiritual Master



His Divine Grace Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī Śrīmad

Suhotra Śwami

who is opening us the gate back to Godhead

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā
December 15, 1993

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The Appearance Day of Our Beloved Spiritual Master

His Divine Grace Om Viṣṇupāda
Paramahansa Parivrājakācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrī Śrīmad

Śrīla Suhotra Swami

Initiating Spiritual Master in the
International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness



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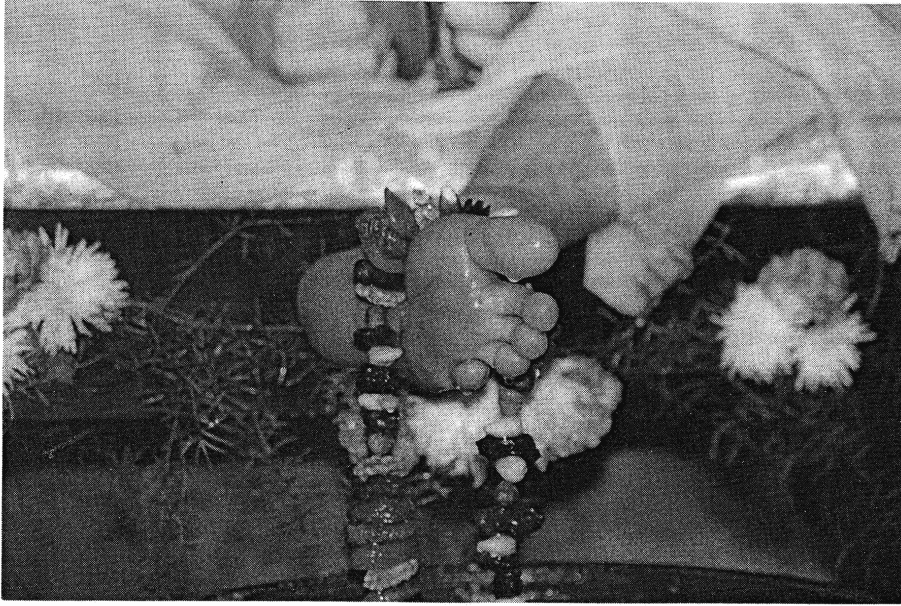
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for their help in compiling this book:

Caitanya-priya devī dāsī, Gaurangī devī dāsī,
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*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine*

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

*namas te guru-haṁsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

“I offer my respectful obeisances unto you who are the *simha-guru* and the one who takes away the influence of Kali-yuga by delivering wonderful lectures on the scientific teachings of Śrīla Prabhupāda.”



Introduction

Everything He Does Is Favorable For Devotional Service

Sometimes we see devotees whose idea of being serious in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is nothing short of grim. He or she may wear a face that looks as if life in Kṛṣṇa consciousness means going through the day sucking on a lemon. Such glum persons would benefit by associating with Suhotra Swami, for he is just the opposite. He is a living example of the line from the Ninth Chapter of the *Bhagavad-gītā* where Kṛṣṇa says that this process is, among other things, joyfully performed.

Some years ago in Hawaii, Śrīla Prabhupāda saw that one devotee had, for three days or so, a morose face. Śrīla Prabhupāda, who liked to see his devotees happy, asked him, "Why are you looking so morose?"

"I am not morose, Śrīla Prabhupāda," the devotee said. "You preached in class the other day about being grave, so I am just trying to be grave."

Śrīla Prabhupāda made a face. "This is not grave. Grave means you are thinking of Kṛṣṇa always."

What Śrīla Prabhupāda meant is that outwardly a devotee may appear to be so many things—blissful, sad, angry, even materially attached—but the most significant thing is that inwardly he is fixed in consciousness of Kṛṣṇa. That is what it means to be grave, to be sober in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I can think of no god brother to whom this definition of gravity is more apt than to Suhotra Swami. I know of two prominent sides to him—his extreme gravity when discussing topics about Kṛṣṇa and his incomparable sense of humor, best described as zany; but it never diminishes his gravity.

Suhotra Swami does not fit into any stereotype of what you may think a devotee is all about. The *śāstras* say a Vaiṣṇava may be *vaidiki* or *laukiki*: He may appear to act strictly according to Vedic standards, or he may be a non-conformist. It does not matter, because *harisevanukūliṇa*, everything he does is favorable for serving Lord Hari. This is significant. It is important for aspiring devotees to see examples of both the *laukiki* and the *vaidiki*. Such experience broadens the mind, for it is indeed difficult to free ourselves from our materially conditioned ideas. It is even difficult, despite the many statements in the *śāstras* cautioning us against seeing a Vaiṣṇava as an ordinary person, to free ourselves from our conditioned conception of saintly life.

A brief association with Suhotra Swami will open one's mind in this regard. It will force us to look beyond the external aspect and cause us to look deeper when it comes to appreciating the transcendental qualities of a Vaiṣṇava. In this way, one develops his transcendental vision. Suhotra Swami's disciples must count themselves as very fortunate to come under the care of such a transcendental personage.

To be around Suhotra Swami means to experience the stress-free Vaikuntha atmosphere; which, although relaxed, is focused on Kṛṣṇa and His service. Whoever gets a chance to live in such an atmosphere is fortunate, because it means they are associating with an extraordinary Vaiṣṇava. Suhotra Swami is an able guide in this regard because I have seen that he carries this atmosphere with him at all times. Hence all souls who take shelter of him are fortunate indeed. By avoiding offenses at his lotus feet they are assured all success in spiritual life.

This Vyāsa-pūjā book gives the fortunate ones the opportunity to express their appreciation for him. May they all gain in purity by such glorification and appreciation and may they never stray from his shelter. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Om Tat Sat

Kundali dāsa
Kṛṣṇa-Balarāma Mandir
Vṛndavan,
24th. September, 1993

The Meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā

Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā is the appearance day of the spiritual master. This day is the opportunity to present whatever progress and service we have made before the spiritual master and express our love and gratefulness to him, since his appearance has changed our lives completely.

By the mercy of both Kṛṣṇa and the spiritual master one who is very fortunate receives the seed of the creeper of devotional service. Kṛṣṇa is situated in everyone's heart and if one desires the Lord's mercy, the Lord immediately gives him an opportunity to meet a bonafide spiritual master. Such a person is helped from within by Kṛṣṇa and from without by the spiritual master. Both are prepared to help the sincere living being to become free from this material bondage. The material world is a place of confinement for the living entities who are by nature pleasure seeking. They actually want to be free from the confinement of this material world, but not knowing the process of liberation, they are bound to transmigrate from one species of life to another and from one planet to another. When by good fortune one comes in contact with a pure devotee and hears from him patiently, one begins to follow the path of devotional service. The secret of advancement in spiritual life is to satisfy such a pure devotee because he has the power to give everyone Kṛṣṇa. Actually it is impossible to approach Kṛṣṇa and receive His mercy directly. One must approach Kṛṣṇa through His dear servants. Śrīla Prabhupāda gave this nice example. It is impossible to please a very rich person, he has everything. One must give him something very precious but even then he may not be impressed. So if a rich man is difficult to please - what to speak of the Supreme Personality of Godhead? It is practically impossible to please Kṛṣṇa. So it may be very difficult to please a rich man but is very easy to please his little son - just by one gulabjamun you can please him. And when the son becomes pleased then the father naturally becomes favorable to you.

The devotees are very dear to Kṛṣṇa. And although it is very difficult to please Kṛṣṇa it is very easy to please His devotees. If we sincerely try to make spiritual advancement the devotees will bless us by telling us about Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa very much appreciates our endeavor to satisfy the spiritual master. Whatever we offer to our *guru*, Kṛṣṇa accepts it. Śrīla Prabhupāda explains in one letter: "It is something like electricity, if one is in touch with the spiritual master, then in this way an offering is automatically transferred to Kṛṣṇa. Just as the mercy of Kṛṣṇa is coming down through the disciplic succession, so the service of the devotee is offered up to Kṛṣṇa through the disciplic succession." The spiritual master is so merciful. He takes unimportant and useless persons and transforms them into useful and important. He gives us a mission, and if we accept it as our mission in life we'll be able to get out of material entanglement. That is the only way to properly use this human form of life and make the best use of a bad bargain. We should engage our body, mind and intelligence in the mission of the Lord and utilize them for Kṛṣṇa's purpose. We can do this best by constantly remembering the instructions of the spiritual master and trying to accomplish it. Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura says in his commentary on Bhagavad-gītā (Second Chapter, forty-first verse): "I desire only to follow the instructions of my spiritual master. I accept nothing else as my life's work, even in dreams. Whether I am happy or distressed, whether the material world remains or is destroyed, I do not care. There is no loss for me. I simply must carry out the orders of my spiritual master. Fixedness upon his orders is determined intelligence in devotional service, and only by being fixed in his orders is such determined intelligence possible."

The spiritual master is so eager to give us Kṛṣṇa, but we must place ourselves in a proper position in order to receive that mercy. This position is rendering pure devotional service eternally. Then he will be pleased and the full moon of his mercy will rise in our hearts. We should always remember that we are incapable of doing anything without this mercy. In one lecture Śrīla Prabhupāda says: "That is the meaning of this Vyāsa-pūjā ceremony. We should always pray: *yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo*: only by the grace of the spiritual master can we achieve the grace or mercy of Kṛṣṇa. This is the meaning of the Vyāsa-pūjā - offering obeisances by the *paramparā* system."

On this most auspicious day of Vyāsa-pūjā, we should take the opportunity to glorify our beloved spiritual master His Divine Grace Śrīla Suhotra Swami and pray for his help. Let us never forget that we are only his instruments. Let us allow him to flood our hearts with the nectar of *kṛṣṇa katha* which he so mercifully delivers to us in the form of wonderful lectures. Let us attentively hear them and purify our hearts. Let us prove our love to him through steady service. Somehow or other, we have to never stop serving our Guru Mahārāja. He is our loving father and he will always accept us in spite of our disqualifications.

We have to show him that we are his. And this we can do by never giving up devotional service.

Mahendra dāsa



Guru Maharaja's homage to



Srila Prabhupada

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine*

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

*namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-ḍeṣa-tāriṇe*

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

Dear Śrīla Prabhupāda,

Falling again and again like a stick at your lotus feet, I humbly beg another chance to render some insignificant menial service to Your Divine Grace. I am low. I am ignorant. I am offense personified. Gnashing my teeth and pounding my forehead in the dust sanctified by your holy footprints, I contemplate my inveterate sinfulness. All hopes of liberation fly away in the ten directions. My only hope is your tender compassion for fallen souls such as me. In a lecture, you made the following remarks about this wonderful quality of a pure devotee:

That is the attitude of devotee ... "My dear Lord, You have kindly come to deliver the fallen souls. Please fulfill Your mission. Take away all the souls, conditioned souls of the universe. Don't leave them, not a single. Please take them away. And if You think that they are not eligible or some of them are not eligible, then please transfer their sinful reaction upon me. I shall go on suffering. But You take away all of them." Just see the attitude of a devotee. "You take them all."

These words so beautifully express an attribute that is seen in no one except that personage who is untainted by fear, pride and envy, who is liberated by dint of his very unconcern for liberation, who lives only to love and serve Kṛṣṇa and His parts and parcels. How mind-bogglingly fortunate to have been born on this planet during the span of your pastimes here! That I saw you, heard you and served you personally is a benison that, for me to even begin to value in proportion to its worth, will require me to take countless more births in this material world—for I am sorry to admit that in this life I am too gross and clumsy to receive what you have given without stumbling. I pray only that each of those births be opportunities to render more and more service to Your Divine Grace.

Alas, even in this attempt to express my unworthiness, my stubborn vanity is revealed! "I'm so fallen that I'll have to take countless more births." If it is your desire that the fallen souls be delivered, then who am I to say I'll remain for countless births? May I never forget the lesson in genuine submissiveness before the spiritual master that Your Divine Grace taught me the day after you initiated me into the chanting of the holy names. I was among some hundred and twenty devotees who had come to the airport to see you off to New York. We sat on the floor chanting *japa* before you as you gracefully adorned a seat in the departure lounge. Suddenly, you looked right at me and said, "Oh, you are chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa very nicely!" Mortified, my eyes dropped to the floor and I thought (not said, but only thought), "No, Śrīla Prabhupāda, I am not chanting nicely." Beaming like the sun, you lifted your finger skyward like a flag of victory and corrected my inward negativity: "Yes!"

Yes. What is the use of my counting up my next births? There is nothing but service to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. What is the use of wondering where my *karma* may take me in my next life? There is nothing but service to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. What is even the use of counting up my blessings? There is nothing but service to you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. To hell with my nagging self-centeredness! It is that service to Your Divine Grace alone that can make "a dumb man speak, a lame man cross the mountains, and a blind man see the stars."

Thank you, Śrīla Prabhupāda. May I be able to say to you these four words one day and really understand their meaning.

Your servant,

Suhotra Swami

Offerings from



Australia

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

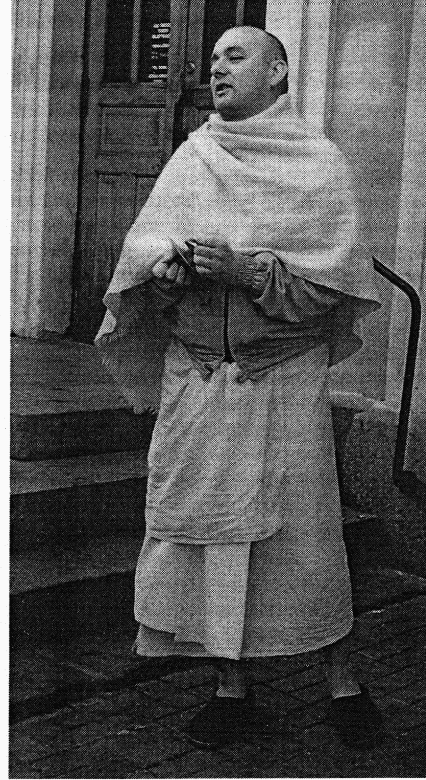
Dear Guru Mahārāja,
Please accept my humble obeisances.

*janmaīśvarya-śrūta-śrībhir
edhamāna-madaḥ pumān
naivārhaty abhidātuṃ vai
tvām akiñcana gocaram*

My Lord, Your Lordship can easily be approached, but only by those who are materially exhausted. One who is on the path of (material) progress, trying to improve himself with respectable parentage, great opulence, high education and bodily beauty, cannot approach you with sincere feeling."

This is a prayer by Queen Kunti to Lord Kṛṣṇa. Thus in a similar way, O rare soul, you come into this material world to deliver the materially conditioned living entities from the clutches of Māyā-devī. Preaching the glories of Lord Caitanya endlessly, you travel far and wide, performing austerities and undergoing great difficulties. Your only motive is not for fame and wealth but to endlessly spread the holy names in every town and village. Selfless in your dedication to Śrīla Prabhupāda's movement, you are like a knight in shining armour. Your compassion knows no bound, colour or creed and you are never affected by this world of names and contaminations. Guru Mahārāja, on this very auspicious day of your Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā, I sincerely pray for the strength that you causelessly emanate to the conditioned souls, and to always remain a little speck at your lotus feet.

Your insignificant disciple and servant,



*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñanāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmlītaṃ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ
nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja,
Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

This year while attempting to write a Vyāsa-pūjā offering to you, I thought about last year's Vyāsa-pūjā book, trying to gain some inspiration. Thinking about the wonderful homages written by my

godbrothers and godsisters, I realize that I have a long way to go before I can even hope to glorify you as nicely. As I have no great realizations, all I can do is simply repeat the words Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Thakur has written in "Ohe Vaiṣṇava Thakur".

"O venerable Vaiṣṇava, O ocean of mercy, be merciful unto your servant. Give me the shade of your lotus feet and purify me. I hold on to your lotus feet. Teach me to control my six passions; rectify my six faults; bestow upon me the six qualities and offer unto me the six kinds of association. I do not find the strength to carry on alone the saṅkīrtan of the holy

name of Hari. Please bless me by giving me just one drop of faith with which to obtain the great treasure of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa is yours; you have the power to give Him to me. I am simply running behind you shouting, "Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa!""

Guru Mahārāja, on this auspicious day of your appearance, I beg that you please accept this offering, and that you shower your blessings upon me.

Your fallen servant,

Vijaya-dasi

To my dearest spiritual father and guide,
Śrīla Suhotra Mahārāja,

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

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-śoāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

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

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto you who are the sīṁha-guru and the one who takes away the influence of Kali-yuga by delivering wonderful lectures on the scientific teachings of Śrīla Prabhupāda."

How fortunate I am to be able to celebrate this most blessed and auspicious event of your appearance! All glories to you!

This day is especially meant for glorifying the one who is a bonafide representative of Śrīla Vyāsadeva. You qualify, of this there is no doubt. How? Because you deliver the same messages, passed down through the *parampara*, that Śrīla

Vyāsadeva, the Personality of Godhead, gave. This is one significance of Vyāsa-pūjā.

In all of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books, there are many verses describing the wonderful qualities of a pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa. Actually they are describing the same qualities that you possess.

*naikātmātām me sprhayanti kecin
mat-pāda-sevābhiratā mad-itāh
ye 'nyonyato bhāgavatāḥ prasajya
sabhājayante mama pauraṣāṇi*

(Bhag.3.25.34)

"A pure devotee who is attached to the activities of devotional service and who always engages in the service of My lotus feet, never desires to become one with Me. Such a devotee, who is unflinchingly engaged, always glorifies My pastimes and activities."

*tasmād guruṁ prapadyeta
jijñāsuḥ śreya uttamam
śābde pare ca niṣṇātām
brahmaṇy upaśamāśrayam*

(Bhag.11.3.21)

"Any person who seriously desires to achieve real happiness must seek out a bonafide spiritual master and take shelter of him by initiation. The qualifications of this spiritual master is that he must have realized the conclusions of the scrip-

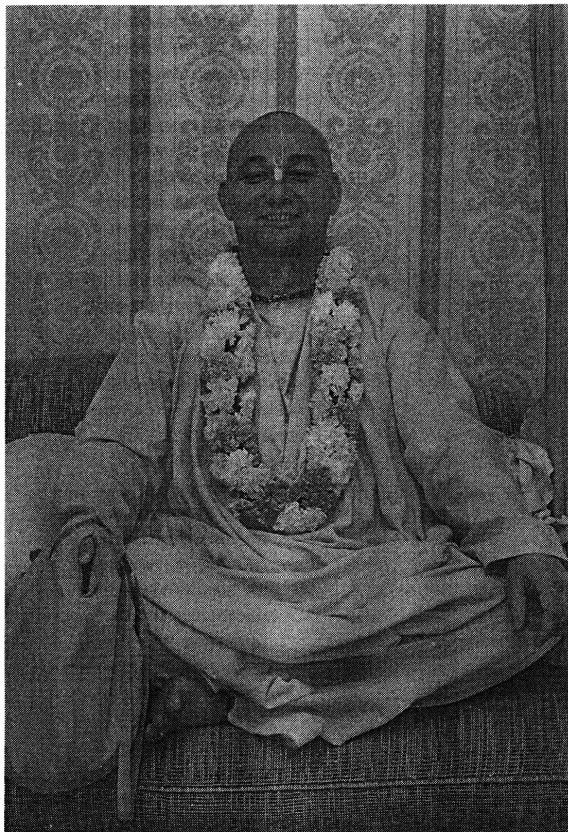
tures by deliberation and is able to convince others of these conclusions. Such great personalities, who have taken shelter of the Supreme Godhead, leaving aside all material considerations, are to be understood as bonafide spiritual masters."

Across the world, you are strongly preaching the message of Lord Caitanya, passed on to you

by Śrīla Prabhupāda. In all circumstances, you valiantly preach to the masses, doing expertly what Śrīla Prabhupāda asked of you. As a result, you are convincing many fallen souls to give up their sinful activities, making them realise that the goal is to serve Kṛṣṇa, not their senses. We can see that Kṛṣṇa has surely empowered you to speak on his behalf, this is why your lectures are so potent and inspiring. Everyone enjoys and appreciates your lectures. Sometimes you are sober and at other times extremely humorous (in fact HH Tamal Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja told me

that you have the BEST sense of humor!). However, no matter what the presentation, the point is never lost on those who sincerely listen.

You are MERCY PERSONIFIED. I didn't fully realize the extent of your compassionate and caring nature until I met you in Melbourne this year. It is by your grace alone that you have skilfully



engaged me in such a nice service. Here I was thinking that I knew what would be best for me, but you had other ideas. You were right, THANK YOU! At one stage I was even thinking that maybe what I was doing wasn't really for me, then I received a letter from you encouraging me and wishing me to be confident that I had all of

everything - mercy, protection etc. This quickly made me realize how the mind is constantly flickering, in only a few words you dispelled all uncertainty. Again you were reminding me that rendering service to the spiritual master is the best way to please Lord Kṛṣṇa.

I especially admire your kindness and concern for those who have taken or wish to take shelter of your soft lotus feet. I have read of great personalities who would give up everything in order to free the conditioned souls from this material world, I am so fortunate to be able to have the association, protection and serve such an exalted personality such as yourself. I am eternally indebted to you.

My wish is to always try and follow your exemplary example, carry out your instructions and attentively listen to your lectures and amazing realizations, for this is what gives the strength and sustenance to maintain steady devotional service.

To write this homage has had to be one of the hardest things I have done as there is no real pos-

sibility of sufficiently glorifying the savior of us all. I wish to devote everything unto you, however insignificant it may be. In a few words which contain all I am trying to say - I love everything about you Guru Mahārāja.

Begging to always remain your servant,

Loa

Appreciation

Dear Śrīla Suhotra Mahārāja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and your Divine Grace.

Another year has passed, and it is becoming apparent that while relentless time is eating away at the duration of this life, the relationship with a Vaiṣṇava is in no way limited by the time factor - even a moment's association expands into eternity. Actually, this was the first realization I received from you by listening to the tape of a lecture you gave in Melbourne just before the first time you came to Perth. I was so enlivened by your explanation that I immediately developed an intense desire to enter into that unbreakable relationship without wasting any further time. I approached you for some service, and was overwhelmed by your generous response.

Since then the desire to be of some service to you is increasing, because more and more I find that I am actually completely unfit to serve you, and all my attempts to do so seem to run into some impediment. Nevertheless I do not feel at all discouraged. Rather the desire is simply growing, and I am sure that sooner or later the time will be right for me to offer something that will be pleasing to you! (I hope it is sooner than later, but anyway...) Just as time is no barrier, similarly physical distance cannot block the inspiration that is transmitted from a pure devotee to the fallen souls in need of shelter. I cannot at all express how fortunate I feel to be the recipient of your causeless mercy, but on this wonderful occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā I would like to humbly express my deep gratitude to you for your great compassion on this fallen soul. Please always give me a place in the dust at your lotus feet, and please help me to become fit to offer you some service in devotion.

Your fallen servant,

Suci Rani dasi

Offerings from



Belgium

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my prostrated obeisances again and again at your lotus feet, which are the only shelter for this fallen and doleful fool. On this most auspicious day which marks your appearance in this world we are especially obliged to consider our good fortune to have been given shelter and service under the protective wing of those lotus feet. We are also obliged to consider how we can try to repay the eternal debt that is incurred when one becomes the recipient of such exceptional mercy.

When we consider the rare opportunity of obtaining a human birth, it becomes increasingly difficult to comprehend our good fortune. We can only conclude that undeserving as we are, and without any qualification whatsoever, you have bestowed your uncommon mercy on this most sinful and insignificant wretch. Thus we can see no end to our good fortune and we have great faith that having obtained this shelter, we will one day be able to cross over this ocean of material distress although at present we are floundering in an ocean of unlimited *anarthas* because of miserly weakness.

We pray on this day that you will continue to be patient with us and instruct us so that we may make further progress in devotional service. We pray that one day we may be able to perfectly follow in your lotus footsteps and thus become a front line preacher on behalf of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the disciplic succession. We have to admit that at the present we are lost in the deep cimmerian well of family life, and are struggling like the proverbial spark that has been separated from the inferno.

Under the circumstances the only hope for us is Śrīla Prabhupāda's Christmas marathon during which we will have the opportunity to try and engage this conditioned soul and others in the nectar of book distribution. We pray to you on this day for the strength and determination to make this endeavour successful, and to understand the real meaning of Vyāsa-pūjā. Please forgive my unlimited offences at your divine lotus feet and help me to overcome those obstacles in devotional service which prevent one from feeling actual compassion for the fallen souls.

We beg to remain your servant under all circumstances and hope that one day we will be able to render you some considerable service with the concomitant humility and modesty that is the hallmark of a devotee.

Your aspiring servant,

Madhu Parohit das

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

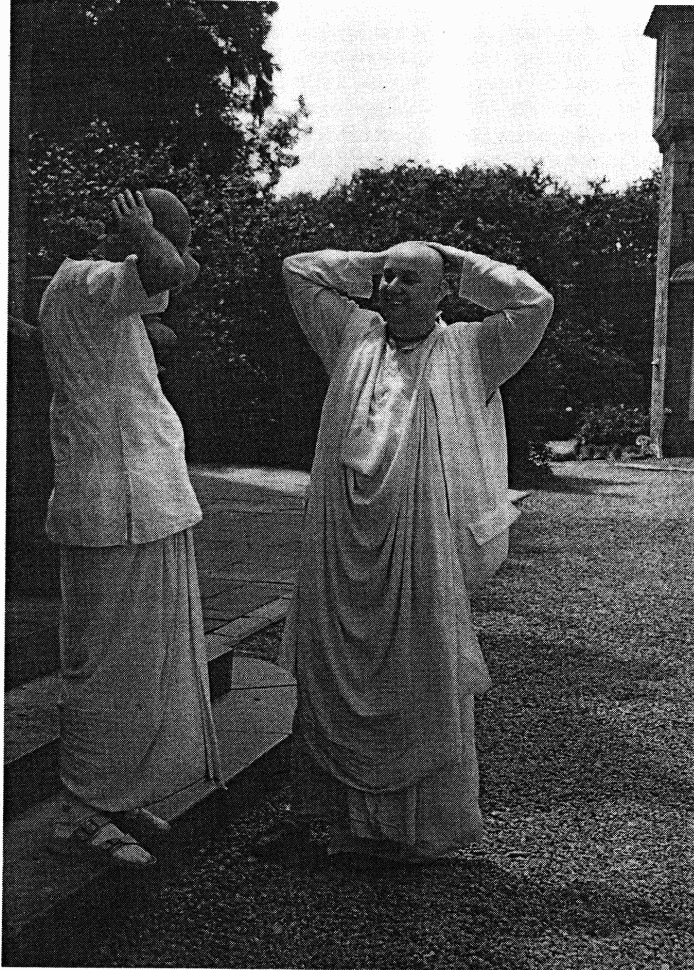
Please accept my respectful obeisances.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

On this auspicious Vyāsa-puja day I would like to thank you, Guru Mahārāja, and request you that I can remain in the association of devotees. I can also understand that you are my friend.

It is true that our desires are most important in life. They can lead us into hellish conditions of life or to the topmost knowledge - spiritual knowledge. But even in my desires I am not independent. My desires and enthusiasm for spiritual life grow when I know what should be done, when I try fulfil my duties, and finally when I know - there is a person who is interested in what I should do.

Because of your engaging me by your instructions in the spiritual life, I can understand their importance. All my enthusiasm, power, and peace of mind come from them. That can only mean that I am completely dependant on these instructions in becoming more serious in God consciousness - Kṛṣṇa consciousness.



Please, let me always know what my duty is.

Your servant,

Mirahankāra dāsa

Offerings from



Bulgaria

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Suhotra Swami,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet.

Now I am searching for your merciful glance from your photo and I sit with a saffron sock from your lotus feet on my head, hoping in this way to receive intelligence to express my gratitude with appropriate words - because everything comes from you.

As mother Ganges is worshiped by the water of the Ganges, because there is not water as auspicious, so all auspiciousness for us comes from you and everything in our life in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is connected with you. This relationship becomes deeper and ever expanding. The only thing I have to learn is how to always find this connection and to link myself with you, by serving you without faults, overcoming my pride and selfishness and surrendering to you.

Now I can not offer you a great number of distributed books for I have lost my previous inspiration, but I ask you to accept even the little service I am performing and to allow me to remain still longer on book distribution.

What I realize is due to my association with you and I thank you for the *darśanas* with you which have enlivened me after feeling down. Everything that somehow touches you is so enchanting and satisfying - even only the desire to feel always dependent on you.

You tied me to yourself with a rope to pull me towards Kṛṣṇa, but I am so stupid that I sometimes try to untie it, because this transcendental rope causes pain to my material senses. I am like the ignorant, who run from the oasis in order to search for water in the desert, following mirages. And even after committing such offenses you still do not let me escape.

Dear lotus-eyed Gurudeva, you are like a young white elephant, one of the faithful followers of Śrīla Prabhupāda, who lavishly pour over us yours and Śrīla Prabhupāda's compassion.

When you spoke to me several days ago, I realized that the name "Adhika-dayā" (great mercy) you gave to me, is factually your own name. Then you told me that I am in need of much mercy, much mercy, much mercy and you threw it in the form of dried apricots and when I asked you how to receive it, you simply threw me more fruits. Then I understood that this mercy constantly springs from you and that it is already given to me and I must learn to catch it - as I caught the fruits - and I must learn to distribute it to others.

Forgive me that I didn't distribute the apricots to others and alone ate all of them. Now I meditate on how to learn to give what I take from you and in this way to lick the honey from your lotus feet.

Your servant,

Śrīmanu - dātā dācī

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

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

Thank you that although I am so useless, still you engage me in devotional service. I am very grateful that you give me the mercy to continue with my service.

I remember when for the first time I read Bhagavad-gītā, I thought that I would never have the chance to find a bona fide spiritual master as it is described there. Bulgaria is a small country completely isolated from the outside world and nothing can penetrate it. That is why I was extremely surprised to hear that in this country covered by ignorance, a bona fide spiritual master would come. I thought this was impossible. But nothing is impossible for you who has all the blessings of the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

This country is so tamasic but you have unlimited power to remove this ignorance. In our endeavor to help your preaching mission in Bulgaria we are like the residents of Vṛndavāna who wanted to help Kṛṣṇa with their sticks to maintain lifting Govardhāna Hill. Actually Kṛṣṇa alone was holding the hill and the residents of Vṛndavāna were just touching the hill with their sticks. In the same way you alone are doing all the preaching here.

Dear Guru Mahārāja thank you for accepting our service which is so unqualified and unskilled like the first steps of a little child. The only blessing I am begging from you is to become a better servant at your lotus feet.

Trying to be a servant of your servants,

Ангамеѝа gebū gācū

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-śvāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyābhūta pravacanena vai*

Dear Father,

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

The thick coverings of passion and ignorance which envelop me do not allow me to thoroughly express myself. But praying for your mercy I will try to render you some service on this auspicious day.

It is enjoined in the *śāstras* that when approaching Kṛṣṇa or His pure devotees one must first glorify them. I feel myself quite incompetent to describe your glories. For the glories of one who has surrendered his whole existence to Kṛṣṇa are boundless. Merely the fact that you have descended to this madhouse-like world just to reclaim us back to Kṛṣṇa shows your magnitude. By your desire alone we who were punks, hippies, bums, drunkards and the lowest of all, began to chant and dance before the deities. Just by seeing you serving Kṛṣṇa in ecstatic devotion, all become eager to follow your example.

It is very difficult for me to form any sentence and that's because I'm totally engrossed in the impersonal conception. As a matter of fact the only time I wrote you a letter was when you had Vyāsa-pūjā. This proves to be my fault, for the disciple must keep in contact with his spiritual master.

My dear Guru Mahārāja, please let me apologize for my negligence. I promise to write to you more frequently in future.

When I read the homages of my godbrothers and godsisters I get envious, because from their offerings pour out the mood of personal reciprocation with you. Whereas when I try to write to you, it seems that I have nothing to tell you. Therefore, dear Gurudeva, please deliver me from my deep-rooted impersonalism, for it prevents me from relishing my personal relationship with you and Kṛṣṇa.

Guru Mahārāja, I want to thank you for your careful protection, for your merciful guidance, for your wonderful lectures and for all that you give me. My only desire is that you always keep me under your merciful protection.

"My only wish is to have my consciousness purified by the words emanating from his (that of the guru) lotus mouth. Attachment to his lotus feet is the perfection that fulfills all desires."

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

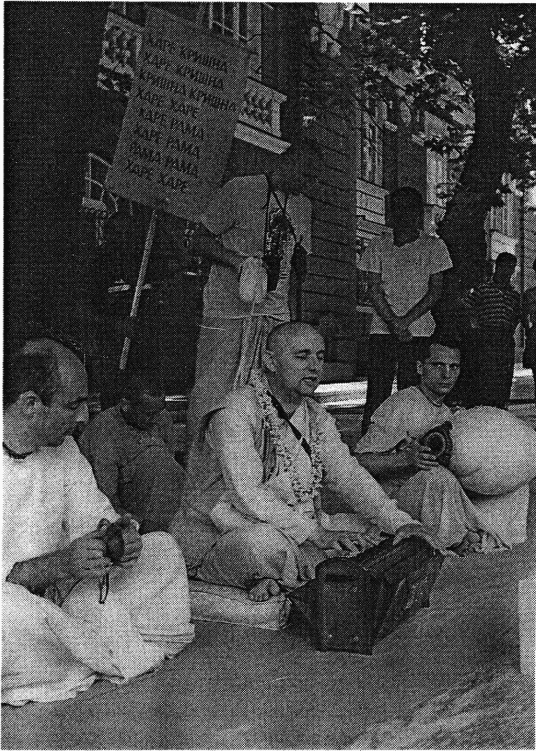
(song by Narottama dāsa Thakur)

By these two wonderful verses I want to both glorify you and pray for your mercy.

Always endeavoring to please you,

Бхаратаत्ता दासा

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-śvāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*



The day of Vyāsa-pūjā is meant for offering service to the spiritual master. Of course, the other days are also for offering service but Vyāsa-pūjā is special day for the disciple because on this day they can receive big blessings of the spiritual master. At this day the spiritual master is especially merciful and accepts service whatever it can be.

Dear Guru Mahārāja, whatever service I remember was in the past. Now my service is passive and miserable. That's why the only thing what I can do in the moment is to offer my humble obeisances once again and again in the dust of your lotus feet. This is my dandavat-service. I discover with a great pity that in the material life I work with a big simplicity compared to the fearful and unsteady service in Kṛṣṇa-consciousness. In my material activities I'm somehow more determined but in Kṛṣṇa consciousness I'm afraid of making an offence. It seems I'm extremely foolish and impure because I can't even realize your causeless mercy and the importance to serve you. You want to introduce your followers into a world of beauty, real blissfulness and happiness and very very much love. I'm a real impersonalist, rascal and egoist. Exactly like impersonalists try to describe the Absolute, rejecting fully everything as material, I try to describe and praise your

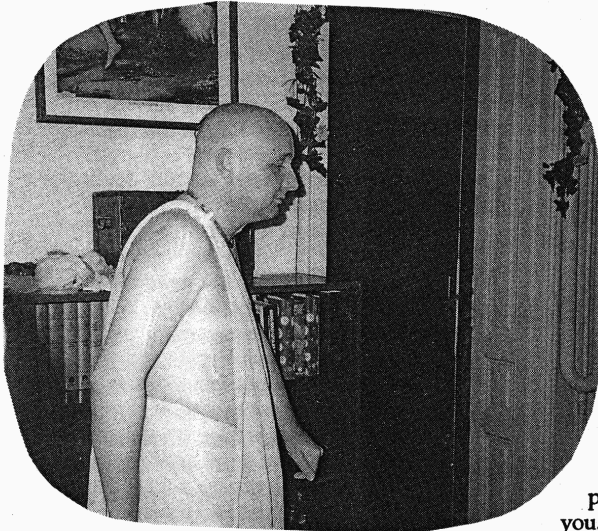
wonderful qualities but when I want to write to you, I remember my bad qualities.

But when it's clear that you accept followers eben rascals like me, this is great. Like in the śāstras sometimes the majesty of Kṛṣṇa is described indirectly through describing the majesty and power of this enemies which He defeats. So I hope that I can discover some qualities of your majesty but everything

will be one and the same because by negating one can't realise the positive qualities like the impersonalists will never reach the transcendental blissful face of the Supreme by negating.

My dear Guru Mahārāja, I pray for your mercy to realise the importance and majesty of your mission. In one lecture you said that if the disciples learn from the spiritual master only this that the name of the Supreme Personality of Godhead begin with a syllable. He can never repay to Him. If the disciple wants to repay for this, there will be nor sufficient money nor mountains of gold or whole planets or even thousand material universes. The only what one can offer for His causeless mercy is his fully surrendered service forever. I think I understood that whatever one makes one has to serve. How much better is to serve to a person and idea what is human. In the basic, my motivation to act in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is to get free of the sufferings and troubles in this world. To reach peace. And not service from love. With other words my motivation is not pure. And at the end my fallible soul can't accept the mercy what you give me and that's why I feel always unrepaired unto you.

I'm afraid to hurt you by such behaviour. But because I know that the pure Vaiṣṇavas are vanca-kalpa, merciful in this auspicious day, I touch your lotus feet and humbly pray to forgive me all my offenses. Please Guru Mahārāja, give me your blessings to realise and understand your mercy for me so that I have enthusiasm to serve you, because this service is everything what I can do in my spiritual life and the enthusiasm is the key of the success in the service. Please be merciful to me and accept my fallible service.



Godasa

Бха́ра-аха́ри А́са

My dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please kindly accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!
All glories to Your Divine Grace!

It's so wonderful that you are here! I can't imagine how I should live without you. I've always tried to love different persons - mother, grandmother, aunt, girlfriends and boyfriends - but I had never been fully satisfied. There was always something lacking and something to disappoint me. And now I am so happy that I have you. You are unlimitedly merciful for you have

come into the material world which is full of miseries and ignorance and you are giving Kṛṣṇa. I simply can't realize the happiness I am endowed with. This is immense causeless mercy.

You are so wonderful, Kṛṣṇa is so wonderful, the process of devotional service to Kṛṣṇa is so wonderful. I am so foolish and these words are so weak to express my feelings.

How I wish to be always near to you, to look at you, to listen to the nectar that pours from your lotus mouth.

You bring with you the mood of Vṛndāvana and simply give us Kṛṣṇa and awaken us from the deep dream of conditioned life. Thousands and thousands of obeisances unto your lotus feet.

Your eternal servant,

Тштāмаһи геви даси

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Śrīla Suhotra Swami,

At this time of the year one begins to ask himself: "Have I done enough for the mission of my spiritual master? Have I been really sincere for receiving his benediction? Am I really worthy of your trust in me, and for the great efforts you are making for my spiritual advancement?"

On this day every one of us is writing our realizations, but what is their value without you and your causeless mercy?

I was simply a *grhamedī* in the dark well of householder life. But due to your kindness and compassion I began to understand that this world is not a place for sense gratification. There is another world in which our Father is patiently waiting for us - our Father who is our greatest friend, our benefactor, our master, the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa. I understood as well that the most natural thing we have to do is simply to serve Him with love and devotion, and without any motivation.

I remember the wonderful *kīrtan* you lead on the 27th of the September during the installation of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitai. As if for fun you grabbed my hands and turned me as swiftly as the wind among the devotees. I have never felt greater bliss and happiness. I will remember that moment all my life. I was so joyful and I hoped it wouldn't end.

I would like to express my gratefulness for the sincere care you are taking of each and every one of us. You are answering very carefully and with deep understanding all of our questions and doubts. When on Gaura Purnima this year I asked how I could improve my service, you answered me in the following way:

"Gopati, have you seen how the apple tree is giving his fruits? Read very carefully Śrīla Prabhupāda's books and distribute them as naturally as the apple tree is giving his fruits."

You always give us strength, dear Suhotra Swami, and won't let us get discouraged or depressed. In one of your lectures about *saṅkīrtan* you said:

"There is no reason for depression, you are like the special army of the Lord. Is the special army always winning over the enemy? The special army is also sometimes vanquished. But You are some hundred devotees against billions of other people and you have to be very happy that you have been chosen by the Supreme Lord to be His servants and to render Him devotional service."

That is why when I am in difficulty in this incessant battle with the exterior energy I think about your advice and instructions with gratitude and reverence. They give me firm faith to fulfil your instructions. We, your disciples always chant one wonderful prayer:

"Our spiritual master is the ocean of mercy, the friend of the poor, and the lord and master of the devotees. O master! Be merciful unto me. Give me the shade of your lotus feet. Your fame is spread all over the three worlds."

All glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gauranga! All glories to Śrīla Suhotra Mahārāja!

Гораму дѣца

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmilitam yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please, accept my humble and most respectful obeisances. On this auspicious day of your appearance, please allow me to express my infinite admiration and gratefulness.

All glories to everything you do for spreading Lord Caitanya's mission!

You travel tirelessly in the dark places of Eastern Europe especially Bulgaria - carrying hope, happiness and high morality.

All glories to your inexhaustible energy !

You are interested in the essence of existence, you possess incredible erudition and sagacity, yet although we are narrow-minded, pitiable and dull people, you spend your time trying to give us the alphabet of spiritual realization. This is great!

All glories to your smile!

All glories to your intent glance!

All glories to your patience and tolerance!

Glories to your voice which greets us with Hare Kṛṣṇa! On this bright day I wish I could give you some pleasure although I can only chant again and again "All glories!" Forgive me if this is too boring.

Guru means "heavy" and that is all we need; without your heaviness we are like balloons being carried by the wind of *māyā*. Guru Mahārāja, you are the source of all knowledge. In the faithlessness, the ignorance and the falseness around us you offer the only chance, the safe way to really serve God; but I am so unfortunate, choked up with low qualities and bad habits that I cannot use this opportunity.

Let me have patience, steadiness and determination to serve you and associate with you. I humbly pray for your blessings. Obviously these words are completely impotent to reveal my deep reverence.

Your insignificant servant,

Ушбапешбапа аба

Dear Śrīla Suhotra Swami,

Happy birthday, please accept my humble obeisances and gratefulness for the protection you are giving me.

When we are on *saṅkīrtan* I feel the most enthusiastic after hearing your wonderful lectures, *kīrtans* and *bhajans*. During last Prabhupāda marathon the devotees mercifully included in a box with the books, a tape with the songs you'd composed for the marathon. I remember how we were listening to that tape then all day long while on *saṅkīrtan* we were chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa with one of these melodies. This really cleanses the heart of all materialism and gives one strength to present the books to the people. Your lectures weep the impurities from the mind and give enthusiasm in the morning. During the Prabhupāda marathon, for three weeks we were far away from the temple, coming back only on Saturdays, so our only shelter was your lectures and Śrīla Prabhupāda's books. We were listening to your lectures before taking rest at night and this gave us strength to wake up early in the morning and to go on distributing Prabhupāda's books. But that which gives more enthusiasm than anything else is your personal presence here.

Please accept my humble obeisances again,

Karabuhika gāca

Dear Suhotra Mahārāja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

I'm such a rascal that I'm even unable to write you a Vyāsa-pūjā offering and I'm writing the latest extension. I'm certainly afraid to write this offering because on the occasion of Vyāsa-pūjā one has to write some of his realisations about spiritual life and glorify his spiritual master and all these things will immediately reveal my extremely fallen position. But I am completely certain that you know everything about me better than myself. That's why I would like only to thank you for showing me the purpose of human life saving me from the devoid of sense materialistic life. It is only through you that I slowly start

Dear Śrīla Suhotra Swami,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to the day when you, Guru Mahārāja, appeared to save the fallen conditioned souls and to fulfil the desire of Śrīla Prabhupāda, Lord Caitanya and Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Guru is one. Kṛṣṇa wants us to surrender to Him by surrendering ourselves to *guru*. Only by your mercy, Guru Mahārāja, will I one day go back to Kṛṣṇa. I am afraid that I am not using this divine opportunity. So I am humbly praying to receive your instructions and benedictions so that I will be able to endure everything which I deserve, without falling down or deviating from the authoritative way.

Guru Mahārāja, you know my heart is full of *anarthas*, fear, anger, greed and weakness. Please, by your mercy let all these contaminations burn in the fire of *saṅkīrtan* - by going out and distributing hundreds of books.

I would like once more to express my gratefulness for becoming your disciple despite my lack of qualifications and the offenses I commit. You are saving the fallen conditioned souls knowing well that we are all servants of Kṛṣṇa. That is why you help even the most fallen. Thank you Guru Mahārāja that I can associate with the devotees. I see how my godbrothers advance and become more serious. They become perfect in their devotional service and they distribute more and more of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books - "all this is due to your mercy," they say, knowing this truth from the *sāstras*. Kṛṣṇa fulfils the desire of His pure devotees. Your lectures are pure nectar. They give me strength and enthusiasm to read Śrīla Prabhupāda's books and to distribute them. They are a powerful weapon against *māyā*. Hearing them I feel great bliss and satisfaction. All the devotees also become enthusiastic and well versed in the Vaiṣṇava philosophy by hearing these lectures.

Without your mercy, Guru Mahārāja, I am unable to do anything good. Chanting, reading, *saṅkīrtan*, enthusiasm, intelligence, all qualities come by your blessings and sometimes I feel I am unable to do even the most simple thing. Without your help it is impossible for me to remain fixed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness under the onslaughts of *māyā*. And the greatest boon is that I have the possibility to go out on *saṅkīrtan*. I am praying to have this chance for many many years. Performing *saṅkīrtan* among the *karmīs* is the most mystical and wonderful event, but I can develop a taste for it only by your mercy. On *saṅkīrtan* the mind is only a hindrance, but day after day people take Śrīla Prabhupāda's books and I don't even know how all this is happening. Without your mercy Guru Mahārāja, I wouldn't be able to finish my rounds what to speak of distributing even one book. With this letter Guru Mahārāja, I am praising your mercy and I am praying to you to benedict me with your instructions because I really need them. You are revealing before us this wonderful Kṛṣṇa philosophy. You are giving me the qualities to take part in the *saṅkīrtan* mission, intelligence to read, enthusiasm without which nothing is possible. Please, Guru Mahārāja, come often, give more lectures, give us your benedictions to push the mission of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and strength to preach everywhere.

His Divine Grace Śrīla Suhotra Swami Mahārāja, *kī jaya !*

Always praying for the shelter of your lotus feet,

Your useless servant,



All Glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All Glories to Śrīla Suhotra Swami!

My Dearest Spiritual Master!

Please allow me to offer my respectful obeisances unto you.

On this most auspicious event, your merciful appearance in this material world, I am trying to express in words, the inexpressible. Again and again I remember our first meeting and its wonderful influence upon me. I changed my life only because of you, inspired by your exalted qualifications, words and actions. By your purity, unflinching faith in Kṛṣṇa, unfading enthusiasm and amazing simplicity and cordi-

so mercifully gave me many times. Only through such a meditation can I become purified and really serve you.

My dear spiritual master, Māyā persistently tests our resolution and sincerity and sends us mishaps. In these hard times you're my only hope. I'm thankful for these tests because I can thus more quickly realize my dependence upon you and your spiritual prowess.

On this wonderful occasion I want to thank you for giving me the chance to serve you in spite of my disqualifications. That's the only use of my life.

Dear master, please bless me always, life after life to serve at your miraculous lotus feet. I pray that they become my only shelter. Please, Guru Mahārāja, give me strength to serve you without deviating, because your satisfaction is the highest perfection achievable. That's impossible without your help.

All glories to the mission of the *saṅkīrtan* movement!

All glories to your preaching!

Your eternal servant,

Махадхаба-чапына gg

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-sikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace and Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I wish I could glorify you on this great Vyāsa-pūjā day. It is difficult for me to write this homage. I have no realization because I have never served you properly. You pour so much mercy upon me, but I misuse it.

Therefore I cannot advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I cannot hear the Holy Name. I continue to commit offenses to the Lord and His devotees. I cannot understand even a drop of your glories because my mind is always engaged in praising myself. I wish I could be more humble.

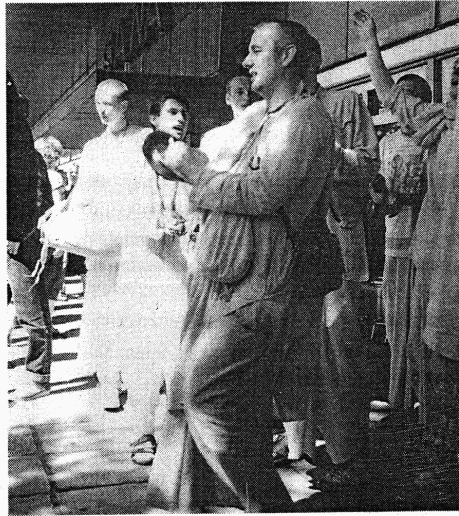
Guru Mahārāja, whatever I say, I know - you are not impressed by words. You want me to give you years devoted to the service of Kṛṣṇa.

I want to thank you for your help, mercy and shelter you are giving me. Please, let me continue to serve you even when I am in heavy *māyā*. Give me this desire and determination to never deviate from your lotus feet and undergo whatever troubles for the sake of your mission. You told me: "Go on with devotional service no matter what happens!"

Please, help me to go on.

Your servant,

Махендра дао



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhūva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda !

O, dearest representative of Vyāsadeva. You appear in this material world to give us Śrīla Prabhupāda's mercy in the form of pure love of God and to engage the fallen conditioned souls in devotional service through your selfless mission of *śiṃha guru*. This day above all is a day of weighing up what I have done during this year for your satisfaction. Maybe only on this day I actually understand my worthlessness, how foolish and lazy I am. Like a completely useless instrument in your hands I only cause you pain. Nevertheless you always pour your mercy on me but I cannot repay by helping at least to some slight extent your mission in this country. You have said that the spiritual master is known by his disciples. I am really your disgrace. And if somehow I still render some small and insignificant service it is due only to your benediction. Dear Guru Mahārāja I always pray for your health. Let you always disperse your shining mercy by which - as it is said in the *śāstras* - "a dumb man can speak, a lame man can cross the mountains, and a blind man can see the stars."

I feel so insignificant. Please, give me the shade of your lotus feet.

Your eternal servant,

Магхјудана даса

Dear Suhotra Swami!

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Three years ago I was like a crow looking for the smelliest piece of happiness on the rubbish hill. But by the mercy of the *saṅkīrtan* devotees I bought one book, Śrī Īṣopaniṣad, and the next day I attended one program of ISKCON's in Plovdiv. That was my first meeting with the pure devotees of Kṛṣṇa - Śrīla Suhotra Swami and Bhaktivaibhava Swami. At that time I did not understand anything of the Hare Kṛṣṇa philosophy, but by the end I had tasted prasadam and felt the friendly atmosphere among the devotees. The next day I attended the program in the temple and by your causeless mercy I learned that I was not my body which is full of smelly substances (stool).

The next meeting with you was on Janmaṣṭami in Assenovgrad, when I learned to chant sixteen rounds of *japa*. One year later in Varna I asked you how can I satisfy my spiritual master and you explained that I'm a *dandavat bhakta*. A few days later in Sofia you explained that for lazy and crazy people there is no place in the Hare Kṛṣṇa temples. And you deliberately put the emphasis on the *dandavat bhaktas*. After that, you pointed out that for such false pretenders it is better to go to their mothers. You know how I felt at the time of that lecture, but the next morning I was satisfied chanting:

Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare | Hare Rāma Hare Rāma Rāma Rāma Hare Hare.

A few days later I arrived in Timisoara together with Purnaprajña. Here I learned a little tolerance and still I am learning more and more. Thank you, my dear Gurudeva. Now I know that you are an ocean of mercy. You are exactly like a desire tree because you fulfil my desires. But I have more desires. Please force me to advance. Please force me to surrender more and more. I'm already too tired to be the same rascal.

Today is your appearance day. A day to ask for a benediction, if you like. Please grant to me remembrance of Kṛṣṇa forever. Make me like your dog.

Your servant,

Митрацума даса

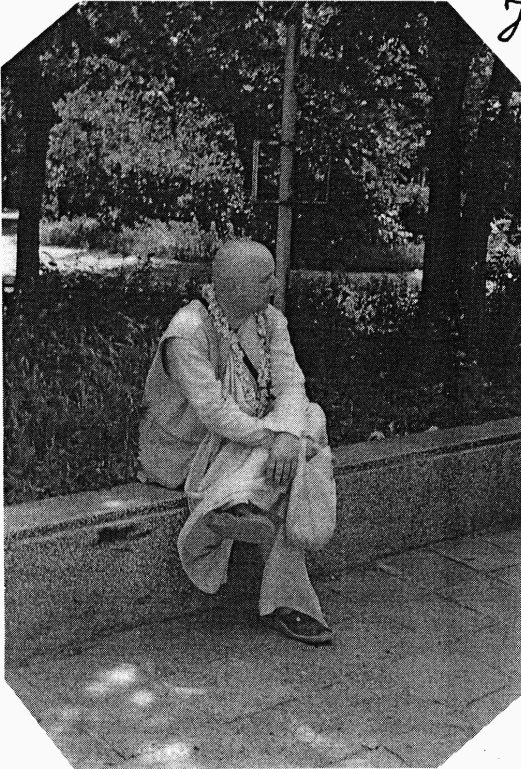
Dear Suhotra Mahārāja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances I am able to offer you. In fact I don't have the necessary humility for being able to offer you obeisances suitable for you. I am very disturbed because of this and I am ashamed that I even dare to write you this letter.

But you are the most humble and patient person I've ever known and because of this I've the desire to offer you obeisances again and again. Guru Mahārāja, bless me with humility and tolerance. Otherwise how can I achieve Kṛṣṇa's mercy? Now my most humble position is just to admit my lack of humility and that I'm so puffed up that I'll burst because of too much false ego. In proof of that is my daily life with the devotees. How can I serve you worthily? The disciple is unable to do even one ten thousandth of what the spiritual master is doing for the disciple. I'm only serving my idea of you, in other words I'm serving myself because the idea of things depends on the desires in the heart. The desires come up with such a velocity that I am even unable to stop them or to give them a permission. The cause may be some little insignificant thing but before coming to my senses I'm shouting: "Kṛṣṇa! Please, Kṛṣṇa, help me!" Then I regret and start praying: "Guru Mahārāja, give me the intelligence to stop up my desires!" or "Please Kṛṣṇa, fulfill only my spiritual desires!"

Guru Mahārāja, my biggest desire is to become your real loving devotee. Please, clean up all the rotten things in my heart and occupy fully my consciousness. Do with me whatever you like. I would really to be in your lotus feet. I would like to develop the taste of devotional service. I have so many desires of accomplishing different activities in Kṛṣṇa consciousness but there is certainly some motivation behind every one of them although I am not aware of this. It can't be otherwise, for years I've been working for the result of my activities. Teach me devotion, Guru Mahārāja, even by force drag my false ego down in your lotus feet and smash it.

Remaining forever lowest down before you, the most secure position from which one cannot fall down,



Курьёзъапаті Вураси

Dear Suhotra Swami,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-haiṁsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta-pravacanena vai*

Please, accept my most respectful obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet.

Already for two years you have poured your causeless mercy upon me without my deserving even a drop of it. I serve you so little and so imperfectly. I desire at least on the occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā to put together some nice words in order to thank you for all your care, but I am unable to do even this. Nevertheless I want to express my deep gratefulness for still giving me the shelter of your lotus feet, not considering my constant mistakes and offenses. They are so numerous that only your magnanimity and generosity can neutralize them.

Your exemplary humility, tolerance and compassion to me, all your disciples and all the fallen conditioned souls make me feel ashamed to pray for the mercy to become purified, and to

serve you without offenses and more devotion. Your mercy towards me is so intense, that I feel constantly within my heart that mercy is the only thing that still makes me to hold on to Kṛṣṇa consciousness and gives me inspiration and power at every moment.

Please, bless me! Give me a chance to serve you to your satisfaction and thus respond to the mercy at least a little bit.

Please, bless me by distributing the books of His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda through me for many more years.

Please, bless me by distributing your unlimited mercy to the other living entities and connecting them to Kṛṣṇa, through me.

Please, help me to remain on the path of Kṛṣṇa consciousness until the end of my life and to go back home, back to Godhead.

Your servant,

Нанду-рани देवि-гаси

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Suhotra Mahārāja!

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanera*

In this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā I want again and again to express my gratefulness for your causeless mercy to this fallen soul.

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

This verse speaks about the most significant aspects of the relation between the disciple and the spiritual master - remembering and glorifying. This remembering and glorifying is a result of the causeless mercy of the spiritual master. By remembering and glorifying, the disciple can take shelter of the lotus feet of the spiritual master. It is a great happiness that after many, many long years in this material world I've met you, Śrīla Suhotra Mahārāja. At the same time I am a wretch because so often I forget that basic point that the spiritual master has to be always remembered and glorified. This is why I ask you Guru Mahārāja, please give me your benediction never to forget you and your instructions.

It is said that the most important thing in one's life is the spiritual master because he can give the most valuable gift - love of God.

All glories to you, Śrīla Suhotra Mahārāja. You, who have fully dedicated your life to spreading the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and Śrīla Prabhupāda!

All glories to you, who give very nice lectures and inspire all devotees in their service. In the scriptures it is stated that the spiritual master must be honoured as much as the Supreme Lord Himself because he is the most confidential servant of Kṛṣṇa. Therefore dear Guru Mahārāja, I again offer my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet.

Your insignificant servant,

Прадुумна гас

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-sikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please allow me on this mostly dearest day for me to write some words for you. Please forgive me that they will be a few, but it's very difficult for me to say all my thankfulness unto you through words.

I try to do it through fulfilling your instructions how much I could understand them.

First I want to thank you for your causeless mercy what you presented me by accepting me as your disciple. Your desire is to connect us with the Gaudiya-vaiṣṇava-samparadaya and the mercy of Lord Caitanya. Despite of this I don't understand what for a causeless present is this, I pray for your mercy to realise it and at least to surrender myself into you lotus feet. I want to become an instrument in your hands by fulfilling your instructions.

I thank you, dear Suhotra Swami Mahārāja, that you allowed me to try one drop from the happiness what one receives in Kṛṣṇa consciousness and devotional service.

I pray every day to Kṛṣṇa never to lose this taste but I know without your mercy and blessings everything will spoil. I very much thank you for everything what you made for me.

I offer my obeisances unto you who possesses all wonderful qualities.

Trying to serve you

Prānamukhā gauri gauri

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my humble obeisances on this wonderful day, on which you have appeared in this material world in order to liberate the fallen conditioned souls. All glories to Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitai! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to you!

Many times I contemplate how to obtain your mercy. And day after day, engaged in the transcendental service of your mission, I am convinced that your mercy is not only causeless, but also limitless, as is all that comes from the spiritual world.

You pulled me out from the swamp, in which I had fallen due to my *karma*. You caringly gave me intelligence with the words emanating from your lotus mouth.

Although I am still fully neophyte, absorbed in material desires, with false pride, lust and anger, you sink me in the great nectarean ocean of *saṅkīrtan*, but due to my insincerity and unbalance I stay on the surface of this ocean under the influence of the temporary storms and calms. Only you can pull me into the depths of this transcendental ocean and inject my heart with *kṛpā-śakti*, equilibrium, conviction and determination.

Guru Mahārāja, I repeat every day the wonderful prayers:

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-sikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

in which you are called *simha guru*, lion guru, and I pray unto your lotus feet to manifest this wonderful form in the cave of my heart where there are hidden many elephants of material desires, *anarthas*, bad habits and *aparādhās*.

Please Guru Mahārāja, help me to develop compassion for the fallen souls - compassion that will not give me peace even in my dreams - and to make me day after day go out in the streets with great enthusiasm to distribute Śrīla Prabhupāda's books. I know that this is the only thing that can satisfy you. Please

Guru Mahārāja, let me be an instrument in your hands. Give me strength to serve your transcendental mission. Bless me with the desire to serve you selflessly day after day, life after life till I clean all my heart and transform it into one wonderful diamond that I will present to you on your Vyāsa-pūjā.

Thank you for everything!

Your eternal servant,

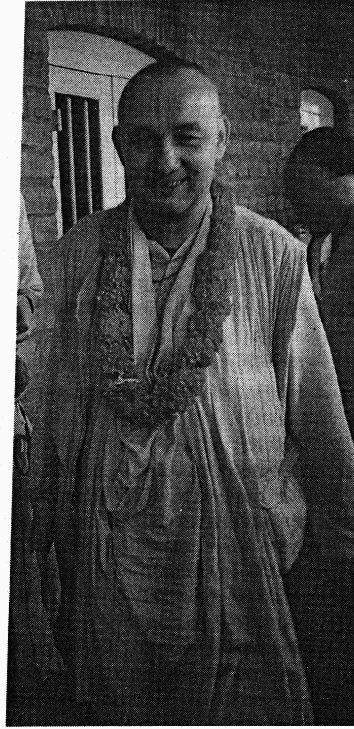
Рызурāвaтapa гac

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhūta pravacanena vai*

Dear Śrīla Suhotra Swami,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to You !

You are the ocean of mercy, the friend of the poor, and the Lord and master of the devotees. You are very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa and you are always absorbed in the nectar of transcendental bliss. By the mercy of the spiritual master the disciple develops qualities for serving Kṛṣṇa. I don't do this perfectly but due to your mercy I still have a chance to render service to Their Lordships Śrī Śrī Gaura-Nitai with my godbrothers. I am a very neophyte and it is very difficult for me to manage with my service. Therefore I am praying to you, please, help me to always remember your lotus feet. I am asking for your benediction in all my activities because without your protection they won't be successful. Please, accept once again my most humble obeisances, dear Guru Mahārāja.



Your servant,

Caлaрapмaнa гac

Dear Śrīla Suhotra Mahārāja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances.

On your appearance day we shall offer worship to your feet. On your appearance day we shall offer worship to your instructions. On your appearance day we shall offer worship to your form. On this day we shall chant with folded hands:

Jaya Gurudeva
Jaya Gurudeva
Jaya Gurudeva!

Your servant,

Вaвaсyннy гac

Dear Suhotra Mahārāja,

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

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

The real duty of the living entity is to serve Kṛṣṇa. It is said in the *śāstras* that one can attain this only through the transparent medium of the spiritual master.

The secret of success in Kṛṣṇa consciousness is pleasing the spiritual master. I know that distribution of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books pleases you the most. Therefore I beg you for a drop of mercy that I will be able to distribute more and more of these books. People can be saved from their hellish condition by Śrīla Prabhupāda's books.

The only chance for the living entity is to meet a bona fide spiritual master and try to please him by serving him. It is said in Bhagavad-gītā 4.34: *tad viddhi praṇipātena paripraśnena sevayā*. One receives the blessing of Kṛṣṇa by the mercy of the spiritual master and without that mercy no one can advance. Therefore I must always remember you and praise you.

Dear Guru Mahārāja, again and again I offer my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet.

Your servant,

Шмхāny dāca

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my humble obeisances on this auspicious day. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to you, who save the fallen souls from the ocean of suffering and show them the path towards eternal happiness.

Only by your mercy can I find words to glorify you. I know that the greatest glory is service to the spiritual master and the *saṅkīrtan* mission. Your life is perfect example of this. You are a real servant of Śrīla Prabhupāda and Śrī Caitanya. You express the perfection of the Vedic philosophy and deliver wonderful lectures that fill my heart with transcendental knowledge. What I have searched life after life now I can receive so easily only by hearing the nectar that emanates from your lotus mouth. Although I am so stupid, you are always eager to give me knowledge.

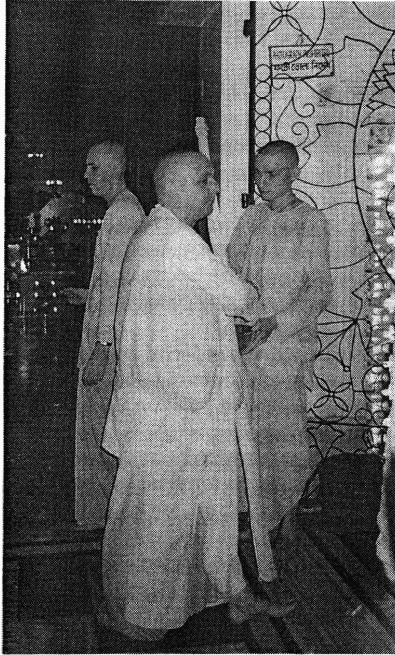
Dear Guru Mahārāja only by your causeless mercy can I taste the nectar of *saṅkīrtan* and take part in this transcendental distribution of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books. I understand that this is the supreme satisfaction. This nectar cannot be compared with anything else. This process increases more and more and never stops. That is why I beg you to give me strength to go on with my service and to remain in Kṛṣṇa consciousness till the end of this life. I want to plug up the opening in my heart so that your transcendental instructions never escape.

O, Guru Mahārāja, you are so dear to Kṛṣṇa, because you are filled with love for Him and you distribute this love to everybody without asking anything in return. You are so humble and simultaneously, with the strength of a lion, you defeat the inferior conceptions of the materialists and you destroy their lusty desires. I desire your big club to smash my false ego and pride, in order to become your small and insignificant servant.

I offer my obeisances again and again unto your lotus feet and I beg you to remain in service to them for ever.

Your eternal servant,

Ваницева деви даси



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Suhotra Mahārāja,

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

Guru Mahārāja on this special occasion I have a nice possibility to glorify you, and from my insignificant position to thank you for your incredible mercy giving me a chance to do something valuable in this life - to serve Your Divine Grace. It is impossible to say something that can describe your real greatness. You are a real professor in spiritual science and at the same time from your exalted position you generously pour down your benedictions upon such a rascal like me. You are so great and mysterious in your ecstatic devotion to Kṛṣṇa that I cannot perceive your real genius. I know that the disciple will glorify his spiritual master only by his sincere devotion. My greatest desire is to spread your glories by helping you in your service to Lord Caitanya. At the same time you are so powerful by the mercy of Lord Kṛṣṇa that you can overflow every place with nectarean love of Kṛṣṇa. You mercifully give me a part of this most valuable gift - service unto the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa's devotees. So please accept my humble service unto your lotus feet.

Thank you Guru Mahārāja!

Your humble servant,

Васумана гаса

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Suhotra Mahārāja,

Today is Janmaṣṭamī and I am writing my humble glorification of you for your Vyāsa-pūjā. I am so glad that these two dear, holy days have coincided in some way. You are our eternal father, friend and the connection to Kṛṣṇa. I can never repay my debt to you or completely honour our relationship. Seeing how you are enlivened by constantly expanding your service, I am stunned. How great you are - despite being worshipped by your disciples - you remain humble. That is because you have the most wonderful service - to be spiritual master.

I want to say - I love you, I love Kṛṣṇa and I want to say this till it becomes true. Teach me, dear spiritual master, how to receive more and more mercy, teach me the art how to believe, teach me the art how Kṛṣṇa may act through me. Thanks to Kṛṣṇa I could meet you and I can always be with you; it doesn't matter if you are here or far away. Thanks to you I have the possibility to associate with the happiest and the most perfect persons in this world - the devotees.

One atom from the mud who wants to be your servant,

Бхн. Антоция

Dear Spiritual Master,

On this most auspicious day for all your disciples - the day of your appearance - I want to express my great joy that I had the inconceivable fortune to meet such a kind and exalted personality as you. In śāstras it is said that such an opportunity is very very rare. But even in such an unhappy country as Bulgaria by the mercy of Śrī guru-parampara I can enjoy your merciful association that is such a great stimulus for development of our Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

In an lecture you told that to associate with a spiritual master in fact means to serve the spiritual master - to his physical form, vapuh - and to his instructions, vani. And even if the service of vapuh is not always possible, you explained that even more important from this is to serve vani, by taking him in our hearts and following him. In this way guru may be satisfied. That is why I beg one day to satisfy you in this way.

Dear Gurudeva, on this most happy day I would like to glorify you with wonderful songs and prayers, but unfortunately I have no ability for this, because my heart is too much contaminated. Indeed it will be awfully stupid and funny to try to connect what it can be from the miserable position in which I am. Everything is left already by the previous ācāryas.

And as a man before washing in the Holy Ganges, offers to her Ganges' own water, because there is nothing better than that, in the same way on this auspicious day, I offer you these prayers, left by the ācāryas.

Gurudeva!

*kṛpa-bindu dīyā koro 'ei dāse,
tṛnāpekṣhā ati hina
sakala-sahane, bolo dīya koro:
nija-mane sprhāina
sakale sammān, korite śakati
deho 'nātha! yathā yathā
tābe to 'gaibo, harinama-sukhe,
aparādha ha 'be hata
kabe heno kṛpa lobhiyā e jana
kṛtārtha hoibe nātha!
sakti buddhi-hin, āmi ati dīn
koro 'more atma-satha
yogyata-vicāra, kichu nāhi pāi
tomāra karunā sāra
karunā nā hoibe, kāṇḍiyā kāṇḍiyā
prāṇa na rakhibo āra*

Dear spiritual master, I am very thankful that despite my deep ignorance by your mercy I began at least a little to understand that our obligation is to serve Kṛṣṇa.

I hope one day to be in such a capacity to offer some insignificant service unto your lotus feet.

With hope one day to have the ability to serve you,

Xpucino

Dear Suhotra Swami,

I am very grateful to God and you that receiving His benediction you accepted in devotional service Kaumudi devī dāsī, my wife. I'm glad that due to your spiritual guidance in the Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness and service to you and the other devotees she found a way to perfect herself in the future - kaivalya pantha.

I have deep faith that time is coming for the whole humanity to acquire a religious awareness and on the basis of a more spiritual tolerance between all religions all over the world to give resistance to the worst thing for everybody - the rebelling atheism, a disastrous nescience which condemns the human life to failure and to no purpose. Hare Kṛṣṇa

Dimitar

All glories to Śrī Śrī Guru and Gauranga!

My dear Suhotra Swami,

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

You know that you are very very dear to us. It is difficult to say what the heart is feeling now while writing this letter. What would we do, what could we hope for, if your merciful sight didn't glance upon us.

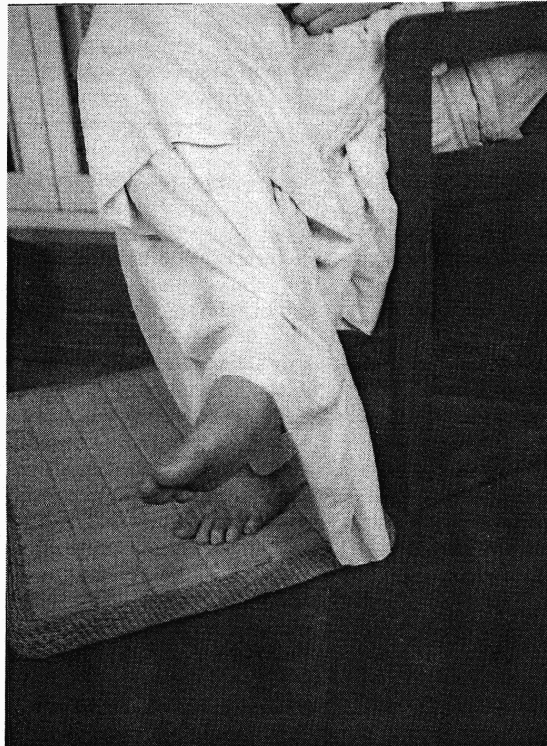
We are happy when you are here - your blissful words are killing illusion in our hearts and filling our ears with nectar - *kṛṣṇa-kātha*. And when you are not here, the memory of your love for Kṛṣṇa, is the source of inspiration for us and makes us want to serve you even better.

All our bad qualities will remain until we serve your lotus feet and you bestow upon us our real fortune - the bliss of your association. Thank you.

Let your lotus feet always light the right way before us, so that we may reach the unreachable Kṛṣṇa!

Your servant forever,

Божактвич Станислав



Dear Suhotra Mahārāja,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

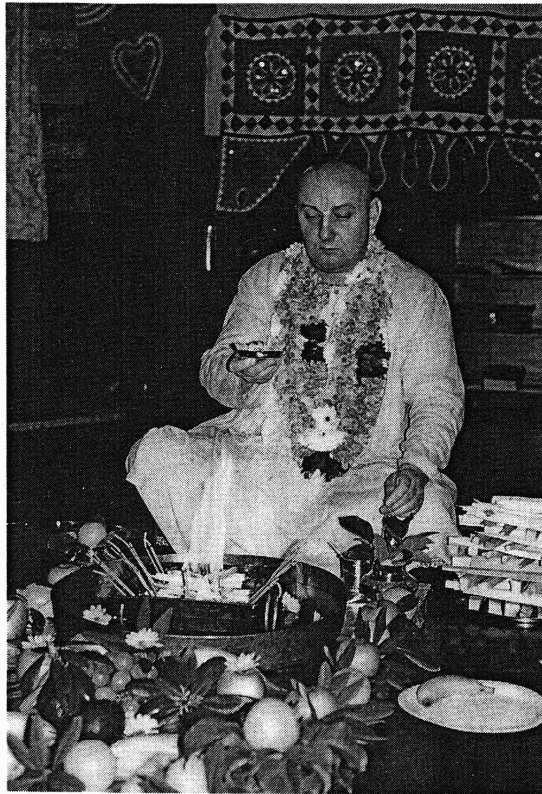
I thank you very much that you mercifully distribute the Kṛṣṇa conscious movement in Bulgaria. I offer my respect unto your lotus feet because you serve to Radha and Kṛṣṇa and despite of this that I'm very fallen, you presented me devotional service and accepted me as your disciple.

Before to see you the devotees said me that you are very merciful to the conditioned souls and when I saw you for a first time and heard your transcendental words how you described the pastimes of Śrī Kṛṣṇa I began to realise this. You are always concerned about my spiritual advancement and inspire me in devotional service. I could understand how to serve Kṛṣṇa. You allowed me to visit the temple although I thought that everything is completely lost. I thank you very much that you have been so merciful to me to improve my service to Kṛṣṇa. I was very happy that I could come to hear one of your lectures when you were in Bulgaria.

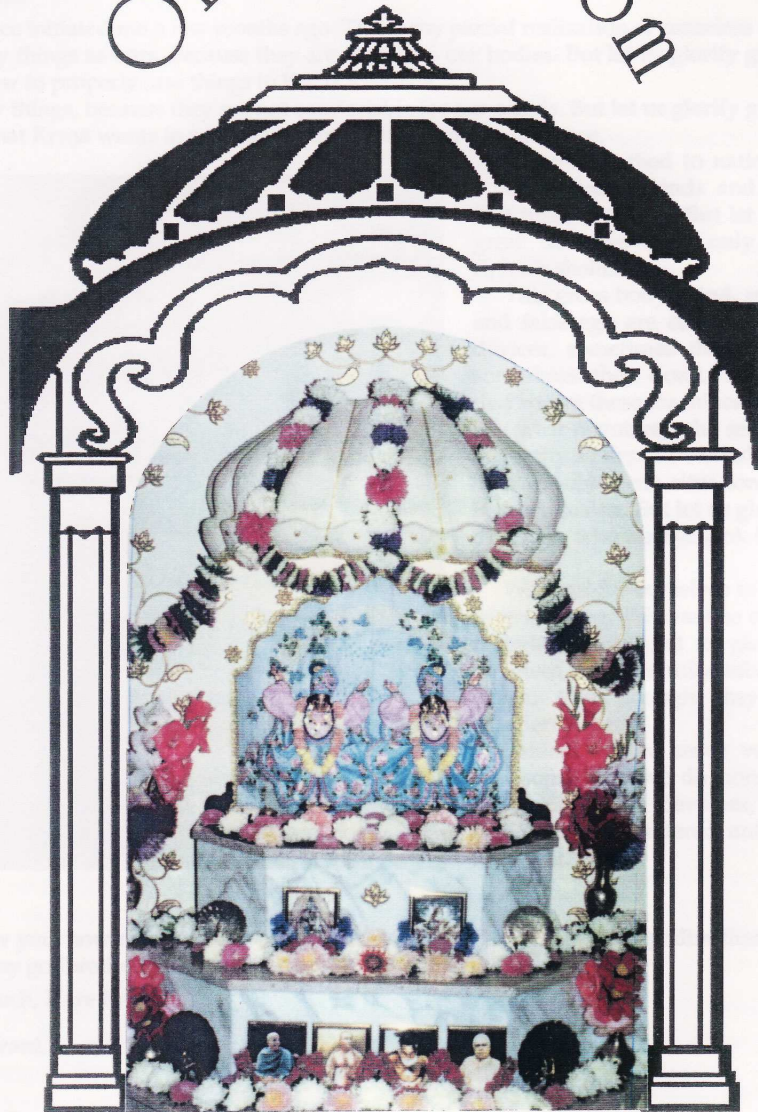
You are an ocean of mercy and I pray always to serve unto your lotus feet, because only by your causeless mercy I can advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Everything what I attained in devotional service I owe only to you and to your causeless mercy to me.

Бхк. Василева



Offerings from



Czech Republic

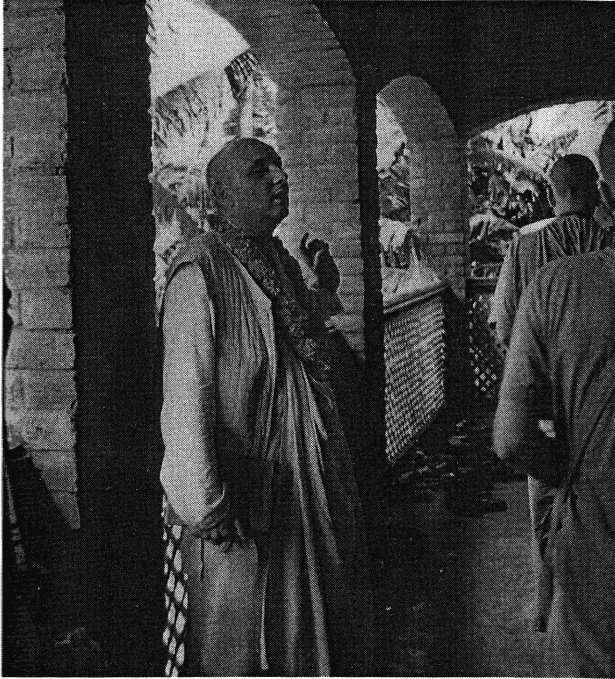
*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Your divine grace initiated me a few months ago. This is my partial realization of causeless mercy.

We accept many things as ours, because they are related to our bodies. But let us glorify great devotees, who know how to properly use things in Kṛṣṇa's service.

We refuse many things, because they are not comfortable for our minds. But let us glorify great devotees, who know what Kṛṣṇa wants in a particular time, place and circumstance.



We are attached to nation, family, wife, children, friends and we think that there is shelter. But let us glorify great devotees who only look for Kṛṣṇa's shelter.

This gross body, mind, intelligence and false ego are completely useless devices, sometimes they work well, sometimes they don't. Yet we think that we are these machines. Let us glorify great devotees, who see every living entity as Kṛṣṇa's eternal servitor.

In troublesome situations we take help of illusion. But let us glorify great devotees, who always look for help in Kṛṣṇa.

We consider ourselves to be master of everything. We want to control the material nature. Let us glorify great devotees, who are fully submissive to Kṛṣṇa, even though they perform wonderful feats.

Sometimes we serve very nicely and sometimes we do nonsense. Let us glorify great devotees, who are completely surrendered unto Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet.

How can I know you, how can I serve you, my Guru Mahārāja, but through my godbrothers. I pray, I may never forget my godbrothers, my spiritual master, let me never forget Kṛṣṇa.

Thank you very much, Hare Kṛṣṇa

Your incapable servant,

kāśya dāsa

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear Guru Mahārāja,
Please accept my most humble
obeisances in the dust of your
lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla
Prabhupāda!

You have come into this
material world filled with suffer-
ing with the only desire to
save all the fallen souls from
material existence. You
spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness
in the countries of Eastern Eu-
rope and so I can see you of-
ten and listen to your won-
derful lectures.

Dear Guru Mahārāja, I
cannot ever realize how pow-
erful you are. I would like to
be able to satisfy you with my
little service and support
your mission of distributing
Śrīla Prabhupāda's books.

I know that all this de-
pends on your mercy and I
beg you to give me your
mercy. I pray to Kṛṣṇa to
strengthen our relationship.
Without your mercy and your
blessings there is no hope for
me.

Your insignificant servant,

Kuśa dāsa

Dear Gurudeva,
Please accept my most humble obeisances.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

*tasya tvam tamaso 'ndhasya
duṣpārasyaḍya pāragam
sac-cakṣur janmanām ante
labdham me tvad-anugrahāt*

(SB 3.25.8)

"Your Lordship is my only means of
getting out of this darkest region of
ignorance because You are my
transcendental eye, which, by
Your mercy only, I have at-
tained after many, many
births."

My dear well-wisher. I
want to glorify Your Grace on
this auspicious day of your ap-
pearance by the meaning of
this wonderful *śloka*. I would
also like to tell you that my life
has meaning, since I began to
understand that your lotus feet
are the only place where I am
safe. I feel shy to glorify you in
very flowery way, having not
realized its actual meaning.

I simply want to get shelter
in the shade of your lotus feet
and offer to you all my little
endeavor in this movement.

Mostly dear Guruji, you are
helping my fallen self to cross
over the difficult moments on
this path. This I can never for-
get as I will try to go on and on
in this endeavor of delivering

the fallen souls. Thank you for the strength.

Your servant,

Govindamātha dāsa

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear Guru Mahārāja!

I offer my most humble obeisances in the dust
of your lotus feet. All glories to you!

You are the most merciful servant of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and therefore I am very happy that you allowed me to massage your lotus feet. Thank you very much!



It was the day before my initiation. Above the bed was a picture of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa decorating a cow. I was trying to think how by this massaging of your lotus feet I served Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa .

You are a pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa and this makes you a great personality. It is very attractive for all of us to listen and to see your devotion and trust in the message of *bhāgavata-dharma* which you receive from the previous *ācaryas*.

Whenever I can concentrate on your lectures it is as if seeing the universal form of the Lord. Unfortunately I am not so often on this level of consciousness and I'm missing all the nectar flowing from your mouth. I am often disap-

pointed with myself , because of not having a strong desire to hear from you.

Your visits to Prague and astonishment of the devotees by your lectures - all this I feel very auspicious and inspiring for performing *saṅkīrtan yajña*.

Please come again to visit our Nitay Navadvipacandra Mandir!

Your eternal servant,

Susāṅga Jāta dāsa

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya
jñānāñjana-salākayā
cakṣur unmlitam yena
tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Only by your causeless mercy have you descended to this material world to deliver all fallen souls by your purifying presence and preaching the glories of Lord Hari.

When I see that you are continuing in the mission of your spiritual master with such enthusiasm and purity, I am very inspired and desire to follow you in the shade of your lotus feet.

Only your causeless mercy can save me from the ocean of nescience, only you can show me pure devotional service and teach me how to try to serve Kṛṣṇa with love and devotion.

My only desire is to get the mercy to serve your lotus feet.

Your fallen servant,

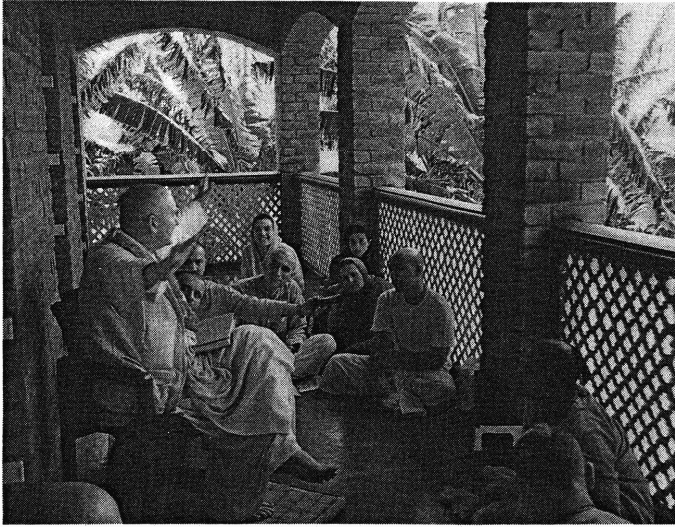
bhaktin Jana

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-sikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my humble obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories to the *saṅkīrtan* mission of Lord Caitanya! All glories to His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda and all glories to you!

Once you told the story about one very learned and respected man and his son. Although the son had many difficulties and was slow, the father nevertheless tried by all means to teach and help him. The father loved his son very much and he hoped against hope that one day something in his son's mind would change and he would begin to understand things properly. You said that although we are very slow in our spiritual advancement, Kṛṣṇa, as our Supreme Spiritual Father, loves us and has the hope that one day we'll begin to understand things properly.



You have come here as a representative of Kṛṣṇa in order to help Him teach us, and we all - your disciples - are like your children. Indeed you are an ocean of tolerance, because in spite of all our mistakes and offenses you still continue to lead us so that we can one day come to the realization of Kṛṣṇa.

I'm one of your most slow and hardly progressing children and on this day of your appearance I would like to thank you. Although you see all the dirt in my heart, you still continue to guide me. Actually your trust in me gives me strength to somehow or other go on. I have no trust in myself and if it was not for

you, perhaps I would have given up. Even though I'm so slow in my progress, I know that I must somehow show you that I grasp a little and that your endeavors are not in vain and this is the way I serve you.

You exactly execute Kṛṣṇa's plan here and I beg at your lotus feet to become capable of taking part in your mission. Therefore, dear Guru Mahārāja, please bless me that I can sincerely serve your lotus feet life after life with the qualities required for that.

Hopefully your servant,

Bhaktin Julia

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-haṁsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-sikṣa-vidyādbhūta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Being unable to glorify you enough (for your glory is unlimited and for me invisible), please don't reject this tiny attempt.

Thank you, Guru Mahārāja, for your cuaseless mercy you have bestowed upon me.

Please stay always within my mind, so I can become purified and realize these words of Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Thakura:

*ohe!
vaiṣṇava ṭhakura, doyāra sāgara,
e dāse korunā kori',
diyā pada-chāyā, sodho he āmāya,
tomāra caraṇa dhori
chaya bega domi', chaya doṣa sodhi',
chaya guṇa deho dāse
chaya sat-saṅga, deho he āmāre,
boshechi sangera āse
ekāki āmāra, nāhi pāya bāla
hari-nāma-saṅkīrtane
tumi kṛpā kori', śraddhā-bindu diyā,
deho kṛṣṇa-nāma-dhane
kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dite pāro
tomāra śakati āche
āmi to kāṅgāla, 'kṛṣṇa' 'kṛṣṇa' boli',
dhāi tava pāche pāche*

"O Vaiṣṇava Ṭhakura, O ocean of mercy, be merciful to me, your servant, and purify me by the shade of your lotus feet. Your lotus feet I humbly hold.

Controlling my six urges and purifying me of the six faults, please give to your servant the six good qualities. Oh, give me the six kinds of holy association. I have sat down here in the hope of having your company.

Alone, I find no strength to chant the holy name of Lord Hari. I beg you, therefore, please be merciful, and with a particle of faith, give me the great treasure of the holy name of Kṛṣṇa.

Kṛṣṇa is yours. You are able to give Him to me, for such is your power. I am indeed wretched and simply run after you, crying, 'Kṛṣṇa! Kṛṣṇa!' "

Trying to serve you

Bhaktin Katka

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-sikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Suhotra Swami Maharaja,

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

All glories to Srila Prabhupada !

On the occasion of your Vyasa-puja I want to thank you very much you accepted such fallen soul like me. What would I do without you ? I would be lost.

I am very grateful to you for your guidance. Let me stay your eternal servant, please.

Your servant,

Shakta Nilan

Dear Suhotra Swami, dear Guru Mahārāja,

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

I want just to try to write some small thing to remember the most auspicious day in the whole year, the day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

I know so little, I know actually only one thing: I want to serve you and under your instructions I want to be somehow engaged in this mission of Śrīla Prabhupāda.

And on that day of the celebration of your Vyāsa-pūjā I want to be on the street and try to distribute books as much as possible for you.

In the end of this letter I want to use your pranati, because it exactly describes what I want to say:

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine*

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

*namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-sikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

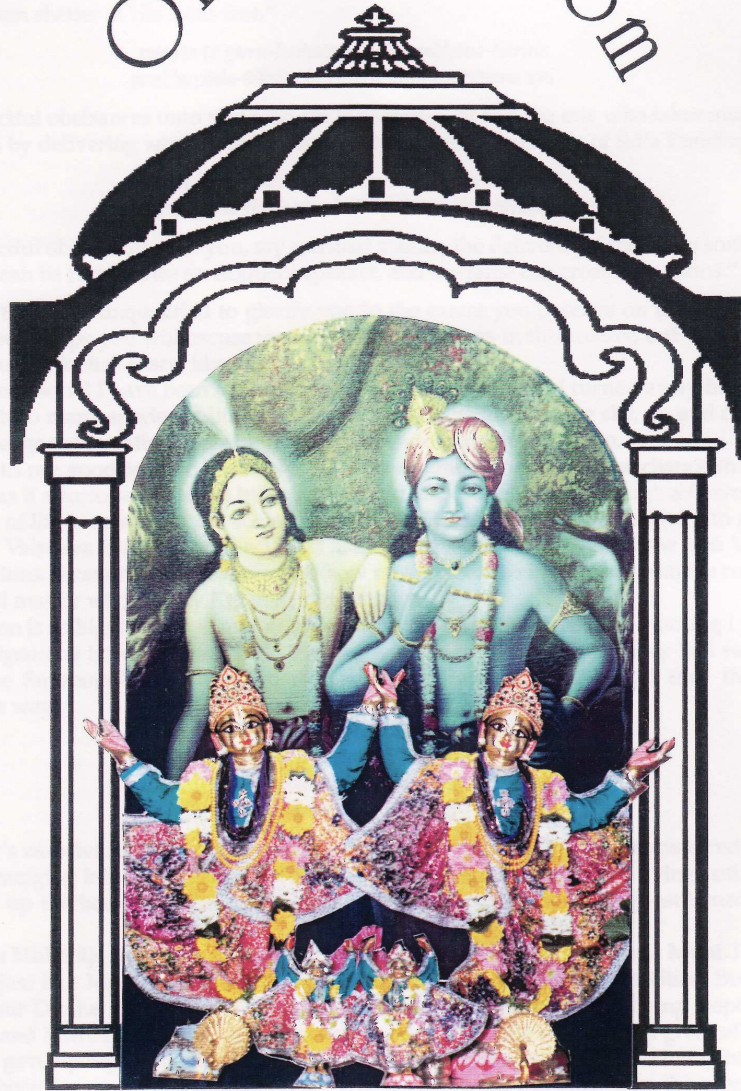
I offer my respectful obeisances unto you who are the simha-guru and the one who takes away the influence of Kali-yuga by delivering wonderful lectures on the scientific teachings of Śrīla Prabhupāda.

By giving me knowledge, you are saving me and by your mercy maybe I will become one with your wish.

Your servant

Bl. Zdenek

Offerings from



Denmark

My dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! And, all glories to the whole *guru-paramparā*!

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine*

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

*namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto you who are the *simha-guru* and the one who takes away the influence of Kali-yuga by delivering wonderful lectures on the scientific teachings of Śrīla Prabhupāda."

*mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vande śrī gururṁ dina tāraṇam*

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto you, my spiritual master, the deliverer of the fallen souls, by whose mercy the dumb can be turned into an eloquent speaker, and the lame can cross mountains."

I must admit that I am unqualified to glorify you to the extent you deserve on this most auspicious Vyāsa-pūjā day, but I hope you will excuse me for my shortcomings in this matter, out of your unlimited compassion for such a foolish rascal like me.

Since time immemorial I have been very unfortunate. In my ignorance I turned away from Kṛṣṇa and had to go through so many species of life - in the water, on the ground, in the sky, up and down, repeatedly I have been engaged in eating, sleeping, mating, defending again and again.

At one point to my good fortune I was blessed with a human form of life, a chance that is as very rarely achieved, as if a tortoise in the sea by chance should stick his head up through a flower garland. If this human form of life is so very rarely achieved, what then to speak of the opportunity to get the association of a pure Vaiṣṇava like you, who acts just like a touchstone turning everyone into Vaiṣṇavas by your saintly qualities. It cannot at all be estimated how rare it is for the *jīva* soul to come in contact with a bonafide spiritual master who is truly Kṛṣṇa's representative.

This association is so highly praised and glorified in all the scriptures. Just this morning I was reading in the *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* how the Pracetās in the lake were offering the prayers they had received from Lord Śiva, to the Supreme Lord. The Lord then revealed Himself to them and they then glorified *sādhusaṅga* in this way:

*tulayāma lavenāpi
na svargaṁ nāpunar-bhavam
bhagavat-saṅgi-saṅgasya
martyānāṁ kim utāṣiṣaḥ*

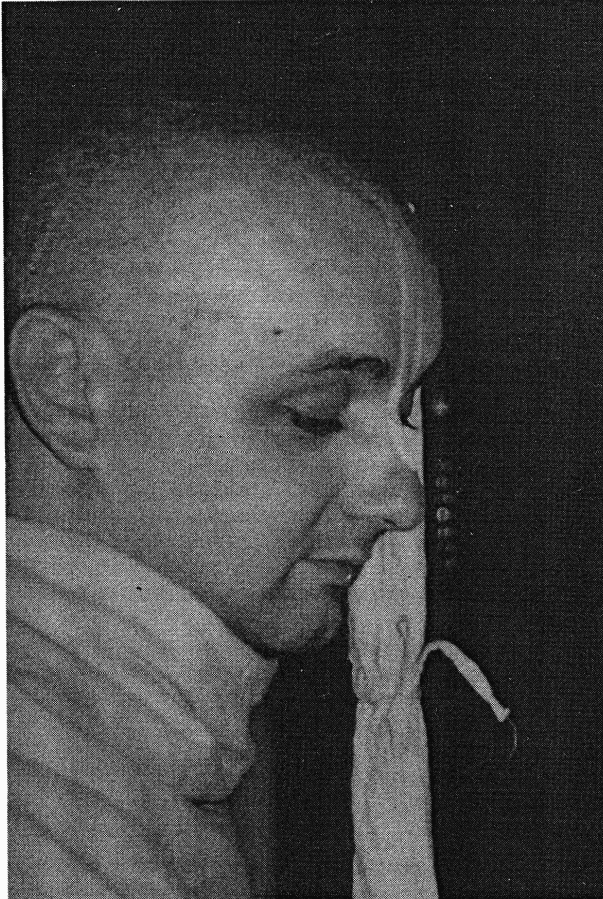
"Even a moment's association with a pure devotee cannot be compared to being transferred to heavenly planets or even merging into the Brahman effulgence in complete liberation. For living entities who are destined to give up the body and die, association with pure devotees is the highest benediction." (SB 4.30.34)

My dear Guru Mahārāja, you have come to me just like a manifestation of Nārada Munī. I was a sinful lowly character just like Mrgari, the hunter, engaged in all kinds of horrible activities. But due to the association of Your Divine Grace, I also wanted to become like the Vaiṣṇavas. Being inspired by your saintly behavior and hearing from you the real conclusions of the Vedic scriptures, I gradually forgot my material desires, gave up my sinful life style and stopped fearing and envying other living beings.

If it had not been for your causeless mercy by which you swept me away into the ocean of love of Godhead and forceably caused me to drawn by putting your lotus feet upon my head, saying chant "Hare Kṛṣṇa!" give up your nonsense!, become a devotee! Where would I not have been now, how many more billions of years should I not have continue to suffer in Māyā's tight grip? I am simply shaking all over in fear of this most powerful illusory energy and repeatedly I pray unto you that you will continue to keep

your lotus feet upon my head so that I can remain deeply submerged in the cooling ocean Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. Please let me always stay under the protection of your divine lotus feet!

For the past few months you have been so very kind to me by allowing me to travel with you as your servant, and I feel that by this act you have been more kind to me than I actually have deserved. But you are an unlimited ocean of mercy and is definitely not a miser in bestowing it upon everyone.



It has been a very ecstatic experience to me to be by your side all the time, for instance being able to see you together with Trivikrama Mahārāja joking and playing together like two transcendental cowherd boys, who have directly descended from Goloka Vṛndavana, or to see you making kirtan so heavy and ecstatic that the walls shake, the devotees sweat like monsoon clouds, and loose their voices from shouting the holy name of the Lord at the top of their lungs.

Everywhere you go it is fascinating to see the devotees' eagerness to hear you speak the conclusions of the śāstras, expertedly spiced with nectarean stories, full of scholarly expertise and with a humor that is not of this world, everybody becomes completely spellbound and only wants to continuously drink by a?? reception the nectar stream flowing from your divine lotus mouth.

Once in a while there are also more intimate moments, when we were driving back from a Namahatta program in Gdynia, and you spoke with Pracarānanda Prabhu. You told that you once had found a tape with a devotee who had taped his conversation with Georges Harrison, and you very humorously imitated how they suddenly started to laugh from smoking marihuana and how the same devotee had tried to imitate a muslim prayer by chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa maha

mantra instead. This was for me a very funny and relishable moment.

My dear Guru Maharaja, I must admit that I have become very addicted to your personal service, and on this most auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā day, I will throw myself at your divine lotus feet, try to the best of my ability to surrender more unto you. I will take the opportunity to pray unto you to please help me to overcome my obstacles and become more fixed in service unto you.

I am also begging you to please excuse me for my many foolish mistakes, after all I am only a conditioned soul full of faults. I can only hope that you will continue to shower your mercy upon this most wretched rascal, for that nectar is my very life and soul.

Your servant,

Offerings from



Finland

om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānāñjana-salākayā
cakṣur unmlītaṁ yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ
nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at Your lotus feet. All glories to you and Śrīla Prabhupāda.



It is amazing how true every word is in this first *śloka*. By Your Divine Grace's mercy my eyes have, in such a short time, opened to see more about the real nature of this world. This is a real miracle and shows what kind of personality I have met. The example of the turtle which comes to the surface of the sea and puts his head through the hole of a piece of wood seems to be an understatement in this case. In this world many of us are searching for someone who we can trust. But it is impossible. To find someone who can lead you back to Godhead, what causeless mercy I have received.

It is said that a devotee must be more tolerant than a tree. But to be a spiritual master to a devotee like me, one must be something much more. There must of course be a challenge, it

is said, but to have such a conditioned disciple as me, it is maybe like trying to train that turtle to become a winner of an running competition. How mercifully you have trained me so that I can even use my conditionings in Kṛṣṇa's service.

In one of Your Divine Graces wonderful lectures you said something like that in the beginning of the *bhakti-yoga* practice it is like trying to wash a piece of coal. It only becomes darker. I have just realized a little bit how dirty I am. But that coal can also become a diamond when it is under pressure.

I hope that I can stay in the fire of book distribution and by your mercy pass over these obstacles Māyā is putting in our rocky way back to Kṛṣṇa.

Your humble servant,

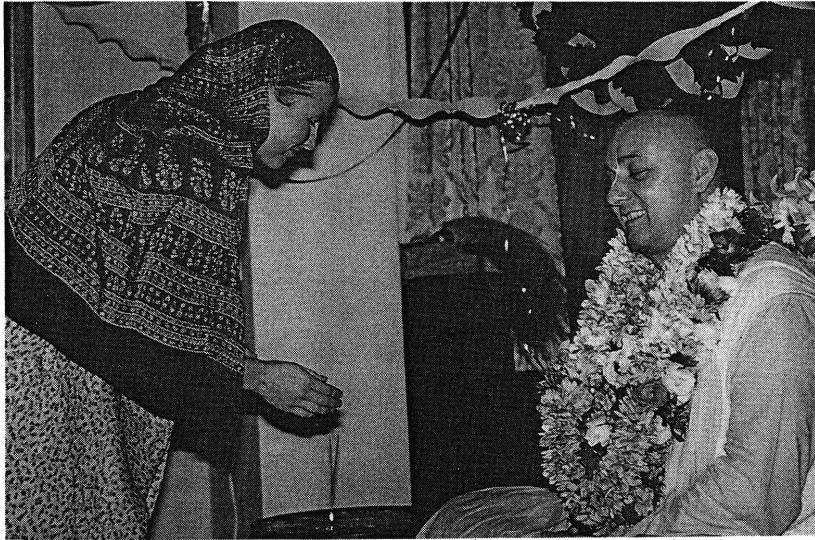
Tatpravada das

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to you! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Lord Caitanya instructed that anyone who knows the science of Kṛṣṇa can become a spiritual master. You have accepted this service to please Him and Śrīla Prabhupāda. Although it is a thankless task, you are carrying it out very expertly.



This year I had to think over my relationship with you. Is it proper, or just mundane adoration? Or even worse is it just bodily attachment aimed at selfish sense enjoyment? Is it gradually becoming more intense, real and sincere, or am I silently drawing away from your association? Why was it that I committed myself to your service at the first place? What actually is your mercy? Do I still stubbornly maintain the misconception that I can go on without your shelter? Where am I going? What do I want? What do you want?

These questions, and many others, didn't just appear out of mental paranoia - there was a direct need to clear them out. You expressed your dissatisfaction. It must've been Kṛṣṇa's transcendental sense of humor, because in this regard I had made every possible mistake! Anyway, He kindly gave me a chance to improve my understanding.

Once you explained to me that women, as a less-intelligent class, have at least two big obstacles on their devotional path: Accepting the material "second-class" status, and "the *sahajīya*" tendency. By nature's design we are materially sentimental "to create a trap of false *bhakti* to ensnare men", in your words. "Thus women are more quickly moved to tears and joy; they are natural actresses, because their faces so easily register different emotional states. But this is all *māyā*", you said, "these sentimental mundane feminine emotions have no place in Kṛṣṇa consciousness." Another time you warned us not to play any female tricks with you.

These are weighty statements, which we should consider very carefully. In 1991 you also wrote to me: "...it is not befitting a spiritual master to shower praises upon his disciple - rather he should always keep

a strong hand on them. And, after all, you are a woman and I am a *sannyāsi*, so too fond words have to be avoided for that reason also."

Most of us are coming from very unfortunate and low backgrounds, having been roughly trained up by the hundreds of thousands of ruthless births and deaths in the repeated wheel of *samsāra*. All our previous experiences of relating with others were based only on lust and mutual agitation. Coming in contact with a pure devotee of the Lord was something we never expected. Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu's mercy just fell upon us in the middle of the endless night-mare of material life. The soul thickly covered we didn't know any other way to greet you.

I have often heard others say: "Suhotra Swami is so liberal with his disciples", which is an undeniable fact, but we should not take that for granted. Especially as *matājis*, we should question ourselves if we are up to standard; maybe we are too fallen to follow strict etiquette ourselves, and therefore you are just mercifully tolerating our foolishness while waiting for us to "grow up". We cannot go on forever treating you like a heroic "daddy" or a brave "pet" that saved us from great danger.

Your life and relationship with Śrīla Prabhupāda, as far as we can externally try to look at it, is the best example in this respect. You mentioned that you met him only a few times, and from this we can understand that spiritual knowledge is not like "an intense electrical shock" from the master to a disciple but is gained by ardent hearing. The spiritual master must be satisfied with the disciple - then everything will be automatically manifested. "How to please God's representative?" asked an Indian gentleman once from Śrīla Prabhupāda, who answered: "You just have to carry out his orders. That's all." To prevent us from any further concoctions of how to attain His mercy, Kṛṣṇa gives a very practical process in Bhagavad-gītā (4.34):

*taḍ viddhi pranīpātena paripraśnena sevayā
upadekṣyanti te jñānam jñāninas tattva-darśinaḥ*

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

Kṛṣṇa's mercy is very inconceivable. Śrīla Prabhupāda writes that He wants us back in Godhead more than we could ever desire. You have appeared to help him and in order to be successful you sometimes have to make "sharp cuttings" - "Compromise and flattery have no effect where strong words are required". However bitter it may be, we should welcome such medicine with confidence that it is for our betterment. We should be bold enough to recognize our impediments and humbly search for the proper cure. The recent "unfortunate events" in Helsinki confirmed that it is better to be always very honest and open with oneself, other Vaiṣṇavas and the spiritual master, even though it may ruin our "reputation". I am praying to Kṛṣṇa to give me strength to know you correctly. You revealed what a rascal I am, and I was afraid to lose the shelter of your lotus feet. Without the help and real well-wishing friendship of other devotees and you, there is no reason to live. Alone we are too weak and lost, no matter how hard we try. The traveling *saṅkīrtan* party gives the highest protection; therefore it is the greatest blessing you have given to me. In that association it is very easy to understand that we are nothing but Kṛṣṇa's insignificant servants aspiring to become His devotees. Your constant presence and guidance makes everything so real. Thank you very much.

Your humble servant,

Uairūpy - Lakṣmī d. d.

My dear Spiritual Master,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your divine lotus feet. All glories to you and to Śrīla Prabhupāda on this auspicious day of your appearance!

*mūkaṁ karoti vācālaṁ
paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam ahaṁ vandē
śrī-guruṁ dīna tāraṇam*

By the mercy of the spiritual master a dumb man can recite great poetry. I am certainly dumb and foolish but you are certainly not. You give nectarean lectures on the scientific teachings of Śrīla Prabhupāda day after day, giving deeper insight into Vaiṣṇava philosophy. Therefore,

by your causeless mercy, even I can speak about Kṛṣṇa - something that even when done in a simple and not very expert way, by far outclasses any kind of mundane poetry.

By the mercy of the spiritual master a lame man can cross mountains. I am completely lame and invalid, but you, Your Divine Grace, you are the *śiṅha-guru*, the axe, ever full of enthusiasm for spreading the *saṅkīrtan* mission of Lord Gaurāṅga. Thus, by your causeless mercy, I have been allowed to practise *bhakti-yoga* and to do *saṅkīrtan*, something materialists consider much more difficult than crossing mountains. Even so, I have no reason to be proud of myself, for what little strength I have, Your Divine Grace supplies.

I offer my respectful obeisances unto You, Śrīla Gurudeva! Like the useless beggar, I am begging you to please continue giving me your mercy, just like a cloud doesn't discriminate between the fertile ground and useless rocks. I am a useless rock, very weak, but gradually I am starting to realize that you possess all that is needed.

Your useless servant,

blakṣṭa (N.D.S.)

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin itī nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Śrīla Suhotra Mahārāja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

I met you for the first time at the end of 1990 in Helsinki. I was immediately impressed by your singing with pure love to Lord Kṛṣṇa, and by your lectures. When I saw you the third time in November 1992, I knew that you were my spiritual master.

Dear Guru Mahārāja, all glories to you, you have so kindly answered my questions and letters and given advice. You are the real representative of the Supreme Lord and you can save one from the ignorance of the material world by transcendental knowledge, as Kṛṣṇa describes in Bhagavad-gītā.

On Vyāsa-pūjā day I want to be on *saṅkīrtan* with the devotees as it is your desire. I hope that I can please you by doing so.

I pray for your mercy to further advance in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, thank you for your mercy upon me thus far.

All glories to you and to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

Your insignificant servant,

Blakṣṭa (N.D.S.)

Offerings from



Germany

chāgarala dharma dāsa

Obeisances unto you, O most important person
Our real father and the most dear one.
My foremost desire, having your eternal *darśan*
When, O when will I be able to always associate with you?

Material world is there,
Māyā is there.

I can see these things, they are there.
When, O when will I be able to use everything in your service?

I can feel myself residing here,
Living in the kingdom of *Māyā*, place of suffering and tears,
Thinking myself safe here.

When, O when will I be able to see things as they are?

Fortunately you appeared to save us all,
To teach us the source of all,
Like in my case, one who is stupid and dull.
When, O when will I be able to hear you?

Anyone who sees your spiritual complexion
And by following you compassionate instruction,
He comes out of material contamination.
When, O when will I be able to properly follow you?

You give me courage,
You're giving fully fledged pure knowledge
And to the cutting edge.
When, O when do I appreciate it really?

Kṛṣṇa shines forth in your preaching.
When you speak about Him, He is there in your teaching,
I'm simply out reaching.

When, O when will I be able to achieve *Kṛṣṇa*?

As we get older our material qualities fade away.
Still I know that there is a way,

Make the best use of a bad bargain today.
When, O when will I be able to understand the only real goal, service to *guru*?

"The line of service is drawn by you"
It is pulled by you.

I'm simply hanging, trying to run after you.
When, O when will I be able to actually assist you?

The instruction of all scriptures,
Teachings of *Śrīla Prabhupāda*, the greatest of all preachers
To the sincere devoted seekers -
When, O when will I be able to get the right understanding?

Some day by your mercy
You'll give me all ability,
If I qualify myself for the mercy.
But in your association I learned at least one thing,

There is no more doubt about it:

There is a spiritual world,
There is *Kṛṣṇa*!

Otherwise where are YOU coming from?

All glories unto you!!!

Your useless and unable servant,
waiting at your door to get some grasps of mercy,

Bhāgavata dharma dāsa

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hārīṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear Guru Mahārāja,

On this most auspicious day of your appearance, please accept my most humble obeisances at your glorious lotus feet, which are the abode of pure devotional service. All glories to His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda.



Out of your causeless mercy you have allowed me, this unqualified fool, to travel with you for a few months and render some close service to you. Please forgive my lack of surrender and slowness. Only by your mercy my madness is gradually decreasing. Please forgive all my offenses I have committed to you due to my inexperience in associating so closely with Your Divine Grace. All glories to your unique mercy. Only by your mercy am I getting the good association of your godbrothers and other advanced devotees. Now I can understand some of the value of *sādhusaṅga*. If you hadn't given me the shelter of your lotus feet and if you hadn't taken such personal care of me, what would have been my fate?

Dear Gurudeva, I feel very proud when I hear how well you are executing your duties as a GBC, how you are soft like a rose and heavy like a thunderbolt and how expert you are in inspiring the devotees in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The proof of this is that I just heard that your responsibilities have recently increased. I simply desire that I may become as quickly as possible fixed up in Kṛṣṇa consciousness so that I can start some useful service for you and eventually go to Iceland to preach, and let you work through me. I pray that I may be eternally en-

gaged in your service and that I may use the valuable time I have left in this body in the most useful way. Always praying for your unlimited mercy,

Your useless servant,

Gaura Bhagavān dāsa

Dear Śrīla Gurudeva,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and the guru-paramparā. All glories to you!

I took this offering as an opportunity to reflect on my realizations. As you may know, I don't have so many realizations, I'm a neophyte in spiritual life, and I'm causing you so much trouble. SORRY!

One of the few things however I realized is that I really have faith in you. You are the most wonderful person I've ever met. You are a perfect spiritual master, because your characteristics are perfect.

I only want to mention a few (20) of your qualities, hidden in this crossword puzzle. Of course, in reality your perfect characteristics are unlimited and not hidden like here. It's obvious for everybody.

You see, still I'm your crazy Miss Spacy. I hope in future I will turn out in a well-behaved devotee, who doesn't cause you shame.

Your eternal servant

Jurita del

C	R	T	P	G	N	I	V	I	G	R	O	F	S	T
O	R	T	T	R	U	T	H	F	U	L	P	A	R	P
M	A	G	N	A	N	I	M	O	U	S	R	I	P	K
P	U	R	E	V	R	T	P	S	R	T	P	R	T	Y
A	R	T	P	E	P	R	H	A	P	P	Y	R	P	R
S	E	L	F	-	C	O	N	T	R	O	L	L	E	D
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I	H	U	M	E	R	O	U	S	X	Y	T	B	R	N
O	T	R	P	T	R	L	U	F	I	C	R	E	M	E
N	R	T	P	R	G	E	N	I	U	S	O	R	P	I
A	P	G	E	N	T	L	E	E	R	T	N	A	R	T
T	R	E	P	X	E	T	R	D	R	T	G	L	T	A
E	R	T	P	S	T	E	A	D	F	A	S	T	S	P

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my humble obeisances!

On this auspicious day - your Vyāsa-pūjā - I have the opportunity to thank you for your causeless mercy to me. You saved me from materialistic way of life and engaged me in devotional service despite of my offensive mentality.

I can always see how you are concerned about my spiritual advancement and want me to become Kṛṣṇa conscious. By your darśanas I can see your divine vision upon this mundane material world and you give me the understanding how to be detached. Being a neophyte devotee I have many difficulties and material attachments, but I hope that one day I'll become qualified to render service to you and to please you so that you kindly engage me in your mission.

I'm very proud that you are my spiritual master because everyone likes your ecstatic kīrtanas and your scholarship in Vaiṣṇava philosophy.

Your servant

Bhu Emi'ora

Dear Simha-guru,

Please accept my most humble obeisances unto your lotus feet, which are like a bunker for the spiritual guerilla on *māyā*'s battle field.

Only unto your lotus feet you get complete protection and the way back to Godhead with you as eternal spiritual father is no longer a problem.

With your gorgeous lectures you have opened my eyes with hammer and chisel and I could see that Kṛṣṇa Consciousness is the light and goal of the life.

*om ajñāna-timirāndhṣya jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmūlitam yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

Only by your mercy a rascal like me, who has lived like Jagai in the material world, finds a place unto your lotus feet.

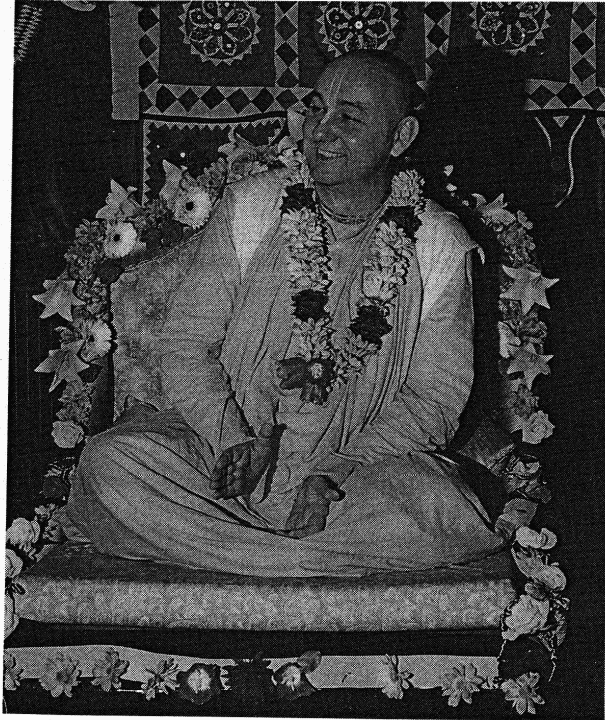
*ugro 'py anugra evāyam, sva-bhaktānām nṛ-keśari
keśarīva sva-potānām, anyeṣām ugra vikramaḥ*

Like Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva you are merciful and meek to the conditioned souls in this world and without compromise for the speculating mind.

I hope I will satisfy you with my service that you can preach even stronger in Lord Kṛṣṇa's service to sweep away *māyā*.

Your small, eternal unimportant servant

Bh. Marcus



Offerings from



Hungary

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja!

I bow down to your lotus feet. Please accept my humble obeisances! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

My realization about you is that whenever I see you, you are always very busy in the service of Kṛṣṇa and in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness. I think this is a good example for all of us, how somebody can be completely engaged in devotional service. Your personality is absolute. You perfectly know everybody without any material contact and you give perfect answers to each question. In every case you show what a helpful well-wisher you are towards every living entity. Your whole personality with every motion is very captivating. This defeats everything and everybody.

Even though I don't understand this attraction for you Guru Mahārāja, you dovetail it in devotional service, and transform this conditioned soul into a devotee of Kṛṣṇa

What can I write about you, Guru Mahārāja? I'm so small, just a very tiny disciple here in Hungary and actually I don't know too much about you. But I know that you are my eternal spiritual master and although you are far away still you are very close to me. I know definitely and feel that you never leave me alone and you always give me appropriate help when I need it. How all this happens I have no idea. This is a great mystery, it is your wonderful magic. You are here all the time, I can feel your presence, you always take care of me personally. This is a great benediction that you bestow upon me in an unlimited way both personally and through letters or lectures. I can always hear you encouraging me to carry on. I try to follow your instructions although I have not too much faith and I don't really know what will be the result of it.

Gurudeva, thank you that you are so kind to me all the time although I am not worthy of your mercy. I have to say thank you again and again for accepting me as your disciple and giving me the chance to try to serve you. I could keep on with thousands and thousands of thanks but even that would not be sufficient to list how many things I can thank you for.

When you look at me, I'm sure you can see everything. You simply see through me with your glance. When this happens I am ashamed, because I know that I am dirty and you can see this. Still, step by step you make me a servant of Kṛṣṇa. To bow down in front of your lotus feet is the most perfect situation and to hear you is so wonderful. You are singing Kṛṣṇa's names with such deep love and devotion that everyone's heart melts.

I am also forced to give myself to your deep devotion towards Kṛṣṇa, because it is above everything, defeats everything and everyone. You defeated me immediately and now I depend on your mercy. I am forced to act according to your desires and I do this with pleasure. You give me something which is much more valuable than anything I have ever been given - the service to Lord Kṛṣṇa, and maybe some time in the future you will bless me with a small drop of your devotion to Kṛṣṇa.

*kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dite pāro
tomāra śakati āche
āmi to' kāṅgāla, kṛṣṇa' kṛṣṇa boli',
dhāi tava pāche pāche*

"Kṛṣṇa is yours. Only you are able to give Him to me, for such is your power. I am indeed wretched and simply run after you crying "Kṛṣṇa! Kṛṣṇa!"

Please make me your eternal servant, let me be able to satisfy you. Please give your blessings unto me, enable me to follow purely your instructions to become steady in my service. I am begging you for the mercy to never forget Kṛṣṇa or you even for a moment, dear Guru Mahārāja!

Always praying to you to become your real servant and disciple, I remain

Your insignificant devotee,

Vaidanteshan devī dāsi

Dear Suhotra Swami Mahārāja,
Let me offer my respectful obeisances to your lotus feet!

Unfortunately until now I haven't had so many chances to meet you, but those few occasions were enough to receive inspiration from you. I will try to write what it means to me to meet you. When I first met you, I was only a visitor, interested in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, but it seemed to me as if you were bringing the spiritual world with you. Your face radiating eternal happiness, captured me immediately. At that time I was really happy and care-free and it seemed as if I never had problems.

The devotees always gave me great pleasure and now your appearance inspired me not to ever leave them. After a little while, by Kṛṣṇa's and your grace, it was possible to move to the temple. By that time I had a lot of problems, mainly from my mind, but when I remembered you I desired to taste that kind of never-ending love for God that you enjoy. You brought me here and you are keeping me here. How can one attempt liberation from the material world without your causeless grace? We doubt this is possible for those stupid and fallen souls like me. I have no other possibility than accepting the grace you give the living entities who are under material conditions, and to surrender to your lotus feet forever. Because of my distress I am unable to do this. But I have only one qualification, though unjustified I received your grace. This qualification is the following: I am very, very fallen. In this position there is only one chance for

me, to take shelter in the shade of your lotus feet and to be dependent on you forever.

If I can realize this, my life will become perfect eternally, but without this my whole life is useless. So please grant me your grace on this fortunate day, because as it is written in the Śrī Śrī Guru-aṣṭaka:

*yasya prasādād
bhagavat-prasādo
yasyāprasādān na
gatih kuto 'pi*

By your grace one can get the blessings of Kṛṣṇa. Without your grace one cannot make any advancement.

So please, fulfill this wish of your most fallen servant, so that he can sing Lord Kṛṣṇa's praises forever.

*Hare Kṛṣṇa
Hare Kṛṣṇa
Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa
Hare Hare
Hare Rāma
Hare Rāma
Rāma Rāma
Hare Hare*

Your worthless servant,

Chakta Antal

Dear Suhotra Mahārāja,
I offer my respectful obeisances to your lotus feet! All glories to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupada!

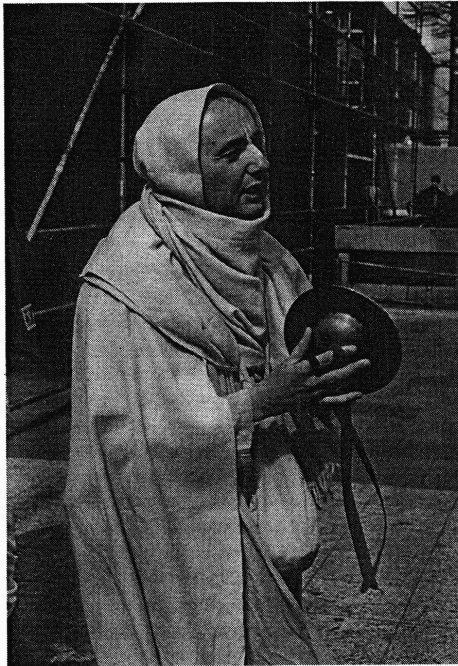
Please allow me to try to express in this offering my love and respect I feel for you. Unfortunately, with my limited sight, I am unable to estimate a fragment of the grace you bestow upon the fallen miserable conditioned souls.

Oh, spiritual master, disciple of Śrīla Prabhupāda! You have the ability and power to deliver Śrīla Prabhupāda's message, without changing it, and in this way help to fulfill his mission. All glories to you!

As it is said in the *śāstra*:

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

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



As Śrīla Prabhupāda explains in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*: "When a parrot nips into a sweet fruit, it turns sweeter." Just like hearing your kind

words, the stories about Śrī Kṛṣṇa turn sweeter even to my covered mind.

There is no such relationship as the connection between the spiritual master and the disciple. It is said that this is one of the three subjects which are impossible to understand in the material world. This is a beautiful eternal relationship, like a friendship.

Dear Mahārāja, you gracefully accept disciples from a lot of countries of the world, taking the risk to bring them back to Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

If I can serve with all my heart your lotus feet, I will be totally pleased. So let that day be blessed when you appeared on this earth planet.

Your insignificant servant,

bhakta Gyalor

Dear Suhotra Mahārāja,

Please accept my respectful obeisances! All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda!

I am very ignorant in spiritual matters, but still I would like to write a few words to you to express all that has happened to me since I met you. Please forgive my imperfections.

Although we have only met twice, my life has changed in such a wonderful way, without my desiring it.

I am miserable, because you, dear Mahārāja, brought the mercy of Śrīla Prabhupāda both times, but because I am so dirty, I wasn't able to accept it. I cannot even understand that to even such a low person like me, who doesn't even desire the service of Kṛṣṇa, you bring *bhakti* straight to his heart, although you can see the dirtiness of that heart. In this way I can see that only such wonderful personalities like you can release mankind from their material bonds. One can only experience such a thing in Kṛṣṇa consciousness - nowhere else.

If I can understand it, I hope I shall be able to surrender to your great will with which you want to give Kṛṣṇa consciousness to everyone. This understanding must be very easy through your instructions, since I was given very deep answers to my trivial questions. I could understand them even with my weak intelligence, and I can always get strength from them. This is the strength which

is able to keep me alive by giving meaning to my life.

I can see the same strength in your disciples and although I haven't been able to associate with them, their enthusiasm, purity and devotion have gained my admiration towards them and toward you. And somehow, by some causeless mercy, I have begun to feel a desire to get purified by serving them in some way.

Dear Mahārāja, I would like to thank you for that wonder which you have done to me and everybody. I know that I shall never be able to say thank you enough, nor be grateful enough, but I would like to do it forever. Thank you!

Your servant,

bhakta Gengely

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja!

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

I would like to thank for your generosity in giving me the chance to get out of this material world. I'm still full of attachments, but I believe that you will take them away, because only you, Gurudeva, can liberate this fallen and unlucky rascal.

I'm unlucky because of my conditioning, but otherwise extremely lucky, because I could meet you.

I really would like to become your servant surrendering everything I have to you. Truly, everything I have is yours.

Your insignificant servant

Martina Seabella

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja!

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

I would like to thank you for your causeless mercy upon me in giving me the chance to become your disciple. I would also like to utilize this great mercy in the proper way. I would like to serve you again and again through drop of your mercy with increasing enthusiasm.

Following the examples of your disciples I would also like to take shelter at your wonderful lotus feet and to place all my life into your hands.

You are so causelessly merciful, because you are engaging me in devotional service.

Dear Gurudeva! Without you everything is so empty and hopeless, but your unlimited power gives me the chance to advance more in spiritual life.

Please give a little intelligence to this foolish entity to be able to understand your orders and have the ability to follow them nicely.

Dear Guru Mahārāja, please help me to get rid of my doubts. You are possessing unlimited Vedic knowledge and not only have you reached transcendental self realization, but as a great devotee of the Lord, you are like the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself.

I have no other shelter but you. To serve you is perfect happiness and to live without you is hell.

I would like to be your disciple. So I am begging you to take me as your eternal servant and excuse all my offenses which I'm trying to avoid.

With eternal faith and respect, I remain

Your servant,

bhaktin Lita

Offering from



India

Dear Suhotra Swami,

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

This year when the Government of India sent me back to Bulgaria whole time there was only one question in my mind: "What is the reason that they send me back?"

One day I was sitting in my room and trying to answer this question when one idea came into my mind. I began to listen to your lectures and at the end I found the answer. The answer was "The cause of all our suffering is arranged by Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself and only the spiritual master's mercy we can escape them."

Then in my mind one verse appeared. The verse was:

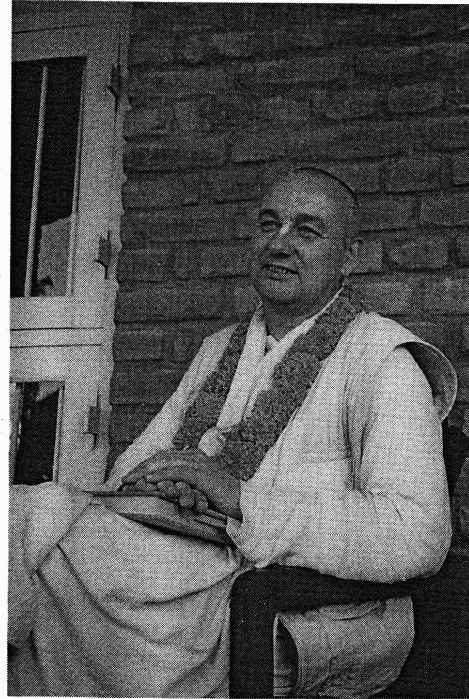
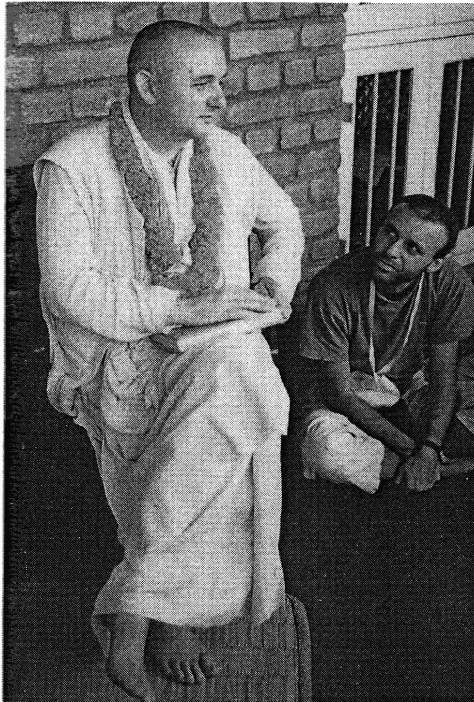
*yasya prasādād bhagavat prasādo
yasyā prasādān na gatih kuto 'pi
dhyāyan stuvāns tasya yaśas tri-sandhyam
vande guroh śrī-caraṇāvindam*

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

Therefore please I beg you again and again to give me your MERCY.

Your eternal servant

bhakta IUSIVANU



Offerings from



New Zealand

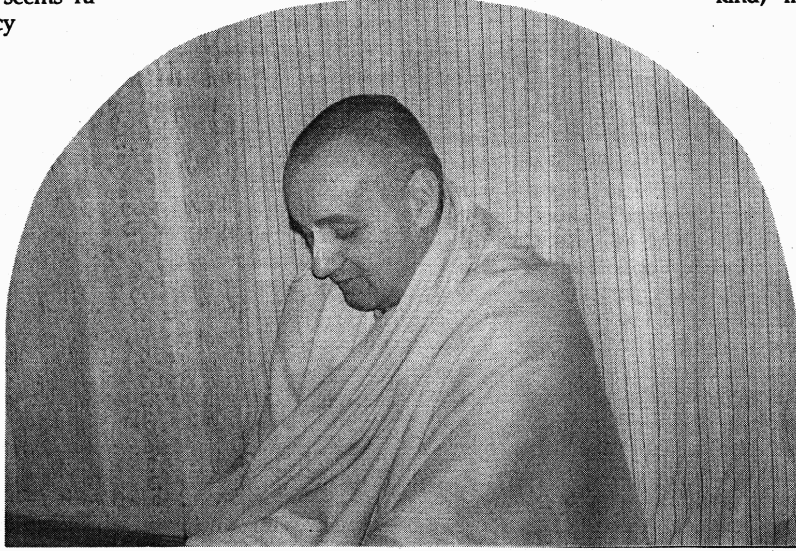
Dear Guru Mahārāja,

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-śvāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

This year I feel increasingly shy to express my feelings towards you. My attempt to glorify you, a special servant of Kṛṣṇa, seems futile - fancy words are

slowly realising that I simply have to have more faith in you and that I'm being childish and I expect you to spoil me as a mundane father spoils a mundane child. I often thought that a *guru-disciple* relationship is something mystical and special with exchanges of deep and confidential letters, but then I remembered how you told us once that your relationship with Śrīla Prabhupāda wasn't of that kind, in fact you had never even been



running through my mind. But who am I, trying to express anyway? You know where I'm at. Maybe the best for me is to concentrate on simply being honest. It's not just that I feel short of words to glorify you, but I increasingly feel that the best way to do this is through steady devotional service. Even this tiny realization has come by your mercy, especially early this year, when we decided to leave Europe. Māyā had covered me over - I was sick, often depressed and hadn't performed my devotional service with enthusiasm. Although you told me, and with my intelligence I also knew, that all my problems were in my mind, I couldn't help it and left. Your displeasure was new to me and felt almost unbearable. Ever since then I'm meditating on how to regain my lost spot in your heart, or I should rather say at your lotus feet. I wanted to write you letters many times about my complaints, disappointments "... Oh, Mahārāja, it wasn't just my fault, you shouldn't be only upset with me..." But I'm

part of the usual morning walk crew and still your relation with Prabhupāda (although I wouldn't like to speculate about it) is something much more deep and unique than those who had so much personal association with him but are not performing devotional service anymore.

This makes me realise that I'm looking for broken pieces of glasses, something mundane and unless I change my attitude I will not be able to understand and appreciate the superiority of pure transcendental pleasing devotional service onto the lotus feet of the spiritual master.

I hope Mahārāja that this offering will not displease you. Having seen you so often over the last year makes me really feel the difference, now I'll be lucky to get your personal association and service once a year. But all that will hopefully purify me and increase my desire to serve you more in separation.

All this is impossible without your merciful blessings. Please bless me that I can serve, chant,

read and associate with understanding their real meaning and value.

I'm begging to remain your eternal servant. Your not even worthy to look at daughter,

Ayācāhī D.D.

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances in the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to Your Divine Grace.

From the first time I saw you and heard your blissful *kīrtan*, your stories, your laugh, I was struck by your spiritual potency. You are the most ecstatic personality that I have ever met. On your last visit here I had the great opportunity to serve you, but unfortunately I was clumsy and incompetent. You were so merciful, kind and tolerant of your new and very neophyte disciple. When I felt of my lowest, you told the story of how Kṛṣṇa was accidentally offered banana skins instead of bananas, but because of the devotion in which they were offered Kṛṣṇa accepted them. Although I can't claim to have any devotion I hope in the same way you may mercifully accept my humble offerings. You are showing us the perfect example of what real devotion to the spiritual master is. You are travelling all over the earth performing unlimited austerities in the service of your Guru Mahārāja. Your desire is one with the desire of Śrīla Prabhupāda in spreading this Kṛṣṇa conscious movement, bringing light into the conditioned souls lives. On this auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā your first priority is to see Śrīla Prabhupāda's books distributed. To honour your Vyāsa-pūjā you have encouraged your disciples to distribute books, showing how a true Vaiṣṇava is only happy when he sees others free from suffering. You have encouraged and inspired me to do book distribution, only by pleasing you will I come to know you better. Please bestow your mercy upon this very fallen soul. All glories to you, Guru Mahārāja.

Your eternal servant,

Kanyakumari devi dasi

Dear Śrīla Suhotra Swami,

Please accept our most humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace. All glories to your auspicious appearance in this world to deliver us from the clutches of *māyā* and give us a higher taste.

Guru Mahārāja, your transcendental qualities and activities are unlimited - how can we hope to put them down on paper? Yet, on this wonderful, happy day we will try to reveal our sincere dedication that you have inspired in us.

You are clearly empowered and we are completely satisfied that you are the ideal spiritual master. We are overwhelmed at your infinite compassion and mercy when we make mistakes. We are so puffed up yet you show us boundless tolerance. Your spiritual potency, your vision, your shining effulgence is such that even though you are physically not with us here in New Zealand, we nevertheless feel your presence in our lives. We listen to your tapes over and over again and over and over again we obtain nectarean words of wisdom. We give thanks everyday to Your Holiness for giving us shelter and inexhaustible patience to teach us the way back to Godhead.

We dare on this auspicious day to crave for a boon. Please bless us all to never lose sight of your lotus feet. You are our strength and our shield and our hearts are filled with trust and joy. You are our light and by following you we shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.

Your most humble and devoted servants,

*Padmasambhava Das
Baktin Sao-Peng Ho
Hanuman Das
Kṛṣṇa Das
Vamana Das*

Offerings from



Norway

Dear Guru Mahārāja!

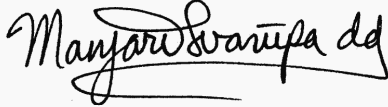
Please accept my most humble obeisances in the dust of your divine lotus feet! All glories to you on this most auspicious day!

On this special day I would like to thank you so much for all your continuous mercy towards me. Whenever I'm lucky to see you, my desire to render service unto you increases more and more. Every time I listen to your *kīrtans* I become very ecstatic, because your pure love to Lord Kṛṣṇa is fully complete. You are always so merciful and kind towards all the conditioned souls, who are helplessly drowning in the deep, dark ocean of Kali-yuga. Being a young teenager my mind is very strong, but I try my very best, always, to engage my mind in service unto you who are so loving to Śrīla Prabhupāda. By mercifully accepting me as your disciple you have saved me. Thank you again and again for your causeless mercy! Your perfect lectures show your great intelligence and devotion. They make me realize how little I actually know. You are the most expert and pure. Wherever you go there is no winter, only summer. You are just like the sun, which is so strong, you make your surroundings like blooming flowers.

This Śrīla Prabhupāda marathon will be the first time I distribute books, please give me your blessings!

Please, dear Guru Mahārāja, let me always remember you!!
All glories to you!

Your eternal servant,



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-haṁsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at the dust of your lotus feet. All glories to His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to His Divine Grace Śrīla Suhotra Swami on this all auspicious day of your Vyāsa-pūjā.

As I was reading through the last years Vyāsa-pūjā book, I came to realize how many wonderful things there are happening in the countries where you are preaching. Without a doubt, wherever you travel, everyone becomes enlightened and inspired by your perfect example as a truly bonafide representative of Śrī Hari.

By observing the crazy material society with its awful ways, ever bound by reactions of *karma*, I clearly see the need for this Kṛṣṇa consciousness society. Also when I discover the mess of my own attachments and deep rooted *anarthas* in my heart, I know that Kṛṣṇa consciousness, by your mercy, is the proper solution.

Therefore I can not actually find myself worthy of having been saved by such a great Vaiṣṇava spiritual master as you, who gave me the jewel gift of the holy name. I know that this gift cannot be paid back, since it is eternal and transcendental.

The only thing I can do is to devote myself to your service and try to become more purified under the cooling shelter of your lotus feet.

Your unworthy, aspiring servant,



Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda and all glories unto you.

I remember one of the first times I went to the temple. I heard there would be a Swami there. But because of my being unintelligent I could not understand your wonderful glories and I did not understand why the devotees were praising you like this. But now, some years later, due to associating with the devotees and reading Śrīla Prabhupāda's books, I understand that you are most worshipable.

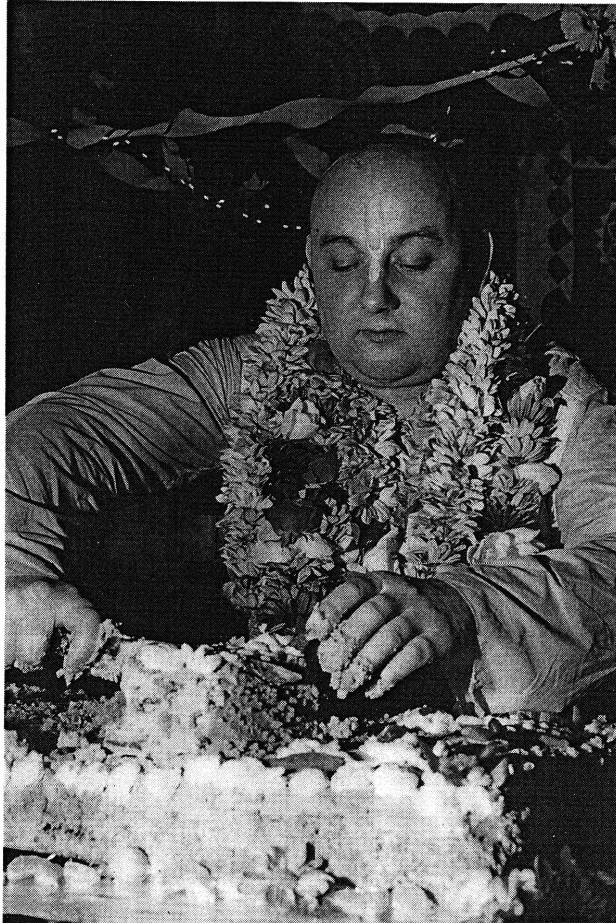
You have taken the mission of Caitanya Mahāprabhu to heart and you are a strict follower of the six Gosvāmīs. You possess only good qualities and you are able to drive away even the thickest cover of ignorance which is dominant in this dark age of Kali. The conditioned souls are always eager to make arrangements for their own personal sense enjoyment and in this category I myself fit perfectly. But by your causeless mercy even the most fallen and ignorant rascal can take up the path of *bhakti-yoga* and return home, back to Godhead.

This is only possible by serving the spiritual master and INDEED you are a true spiritual master, a *guru*.

Again and again I pay my humble obeisances and my deepest respects unto your divine lotus feet.

Hopefully your servant,

Bhakta Ollie



Offerings from



Poland

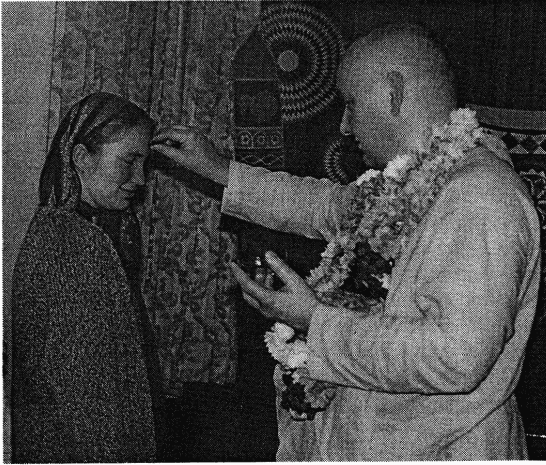
All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to Śrīla Suhotra Swami!

My dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

When I'm again trying to write my Vyāsa-pūjā offering for you all my intelligence runs away and I can't write even one single sentence which would fully express my spirit this day. Please accept my vast gratitude to you as you freed me and hundreds of other souls from hellish conditions of the material world. Our previous activities were like the activities of the blind in the darkness of illusion and oblivion. We were in deep ignorance, entrapped by material pleasure. It was you who put the lamp of knowledge into this darkness and lit our hearts and minds. This is the lamp which you received from Śrīla



Prabhupāda and which had been lit by Kṛṣṇa. The wick of this lamp is *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* and *Bhagavad-gītā*, and the fuel into which it is plunged is the nectar of Kṛṣṇa's words. The flames are the instructions of Kṛṣṇa's *astras* - *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* and *Bhagavad-gītā*, and also the instructions of the previous *ācaryas*.

How can I show you my gratitude for what you have done for me and all the mercy which you have constantly bestowed upon me? You are like a swelling ocean of mercy which pours its waves on sun-dried beaches. Please, give this mercy to all the fallen souls and allow me, your menial servant, to become a good working tool in your hands. I know that this request may be too bold, but I hope that through my endeavors and strong desire I will one

day become empowered to be your tool, spreading your mercy and your preaching to all the living entities. I know that this is the only goal and meaning of my life. Anything else has no meaning. I can't address my thoughts in more beautiful words, but please accept this offering along with those written on the *saṅkīrtan* score lists.

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

Your eternal servant,

Atma-Maya devi dasi

My dear spiritual master,
Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja, it is very difficult for me to write a Vyāsa-pūjā offering. This is a test of my surrender to your lotus feet and my understanding of your position. For such a person as myself, who is limited by her dull mind, four faults and material desires, it is very difficult to express my gratitude. You are like an attentive father who with great love takes care of his children and always protects them from all kinds of danger. Who always tells them not to touch or play with a knife, and we, just like children with our own ideas of realization of the world, often forget about your instructions and do what we shouldn't do. Then when we suffer very, very much we realize that you were right. Actually, all the activities outside Kṛṣṇa consciousness end with suffering as it's not possible to enjoy in this material world in separation from Kṛṣṇa. Therefore our only goal is serving Kṛṣṇa through serving you, all the Vaiṣṇavas and other living entities by propagating the *saṅkīrtan* movement of Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya wherever it is possible. Guru Mahārāja, once you told me that you would be pleased with me if other Vaiṣṇavas are pleased. This is very difficult as it means giving up our own sense gratification in order to please other devotees. These things don't go well together but we are such rascals that we want to enjoy Kṛṣṇa consciousness, not sharing it with others. Therefore I'm very grateful to you, Guru Mahārāja, as you bestowed the greatest benediction upon me, - devotional service to the devotees of the Lord. Sometimes it seems to be like poison as we have to give up our misconceptions, which is very painful, but then it becomes like nectar. You, Guru Mahārāja, are our intelligence due to which we can constantly go on the path of devotional service without any deviation. The credit is to be given to you if I manage to somehow please the devotees now or in the future. You are just like a general of a great army who dispatches his soldiers to fight *māyā* on different fronts. When these soldiers succeed it's to your credit as without your guidance they would be completely useless. Therefore your glories should be praised throughout the three worlds. Understanding the mission of one's *guru* and making it one with one's heart is the key of success in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Then if we render any kind of devotional service we always see it in this perspective and feel safe. You are the captain of this boat crossing the ocean of material existence, the Vedas are the fair winds and this boat aims at eternity, knowledge and bliss - Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Thank you, Guru Mahārāja, for engaging me in devotional service and I'm begging for more in order to be able to praise your glories.

Your insignificant servant,

Bhakti Ajyuta-priyā devī dāsi

Dear Guru Mahārāja,
Please accept my respectful obeisances.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. I offer my respectful obeisances at your lotus feet. You are like a burning torch of *bhakti* which elucidates the darkness of the material world. You came to this material world in order to show to the conditioned souls the way of going back to Godhead. You show the way to the Supreme Lord. A flowery stream of words as sweet as nectar flows from your lotus mouth. Your words are like powerful thunderclaps, which wake up the sleeping souls in the darkest regions of *māyā*. You

have appeared as a rising sun which shows the real face of the world. You are expert in destroying the different demoniac concepts of the atheistic scientists. You show the treasure of the transcendental pastimes of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa in the eternal land of Vṛājā. You give the example of serving the transcendental couple with love and devotion, therefore I accept your shelter. You use all your energy in the service of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. With great determination and enthusiasm you extend the mission of Lord Caitanya, preaching in many countries. You chant the holy name of the Lord in a wonderful way, dancing in ecstasy and playing on musical instruments. Your music wakes up the most fallen souls and introduces them into the ecstatic trance of love of Godhead. By your mercy fallen



souls like me can render devotional service to Kṛṣṇa and the whole *paramparā* and feel great happiness. Without your mercy I would still be engrossed in animalistic sense gratification thinking it to be proper. You are very merciful and kind to waken me to spiritual life. Therefore I want to serve you and pay you my obeisances.

Your servant,

Durgata Candras dasa

My dear Guru Mahārāja!

Please mercifully accept my respectful obeisances.

Guru Mahārāja, I would like to thank you very much for agreeing to be my spiritual master. I know that there is a huge difference between what the disciple should be and what I am, so I don't think that I can call myself your disciple. I have no qualifications or intelligence to glorify you. I know that I have received extraordinary mercy in meeting you - my luck can be compared to the tortoise swimming in the ocean, which upon emerging from the water sticks his head through a hole in a board floating on the surface. Unless you had mercifully appeared in this world and unless you had given me the opportunity to meet you, my life would be lost. Guru Mahārāja, you are my Lord birth after birth - however I wouldn't like to take birth and die all the time, but return in this life to the spiritual world. Since I am not able to imitate you, who are here for the benefit of fallen entities and for you there is no difference where you are, since constantly you have direct contact with Kṛṣṇa. By taking shelter of the dust of your lotus feet one can get free from material existence, which burns like fire. Thank you, Guru Mahārāja, that presently you spend so much time in Poland. It turns this place into Vaikuṅṭha. You are giving so much of your association, although for all of us it is always too little.

Your servant,

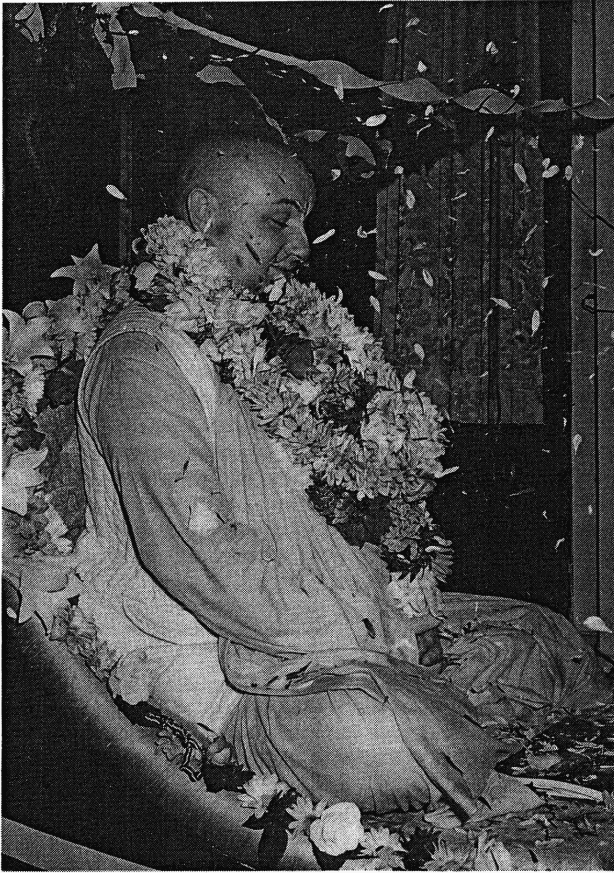
Jśāmphiri-serrā dā

My dearest spiritual father,
Please accept my respectful obeisances.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All glories to His Divine Grace Śrīla Suhotra Mahārāja.

Before I first met you, Guru Mahārāja, your name and glories were known to me, and were covered by the nimbus of greatness and fame, almost a legend. From the senior Vaiṣṇavas I came to know that you used to come to Poland before, preaching the mission of Lord Caitanya in the difficult times of the



prevailing communistic ideology and philosophy. The lectures you had given at that time were covered by mystery and the cassettes could be given only to the chosen. Already at that time Polish devotees would respect you for your honesty and all your good qualities and would glorify your personality.

Staying in such an atmosphere created by the devotees I developed the desire to meet you and get your association. I could realize this desire in June 1988 in Śantipur. You came there just for a moment in order to give a lecture and perform a fire sacrifice. But then, asked by devotees, you agreed to give a three day seminar in a little tourist village situated in picturesque forests about 50 kilometers from Warsaw. It was very difficult to get there, but those who got there did not regret it. The seminar was held in a wooden, well decorated cottage of a Chilean diplomat. You stayed on the second floor with your servant. During your lectures I had the mercy to always sit in the first row, so that I could study and see you with no problems. The lectures you gave there were beyond my capacity. Even now, after such a long time I can hear them vibrating in my ears and I can describe them with only one word - genius. I had always been attached to the scientific and learned presentation of the mission of

Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu, so the words which I heard from your lotus mouth conquered my heart.

Unfortunately you were there only for a few days and I wanted to get your association, so I went to Heidelberg in the fall of that year. At that time I was not fully convinced to accept your shelter as my spiritual master, but with patience and faith I was waiting for the proper direction from Kṛṣṇa, which would confirm to me the proper choice.

It is said that the spiritual master can be known by the activities of his disciples who fully dedicate their lives to serving him. Such a person has been Bhāgavata-dharma Prabhu (at that time Bh. Babak), whom I met a month after my arrival. His behavior, way of preaching, book distribution, care of other

devotees, was so inspiring that I could not help asking him about his name. "What is your name?" "Bh. Babak"- I heard the answer. "Can you tell me a few words about the person who gives you such knowledge and inspiration in spiritual life, about your guru? He must be extraordinary, almost a genius, being able to change everyone's heart" - I asked the question, not knowing who Bh. Babak's guru was. "It is wonderful what you are saying about my spiritual master, even though you do not know him. Personally I have no qualifications - all I am comes from him. His genius and glories are chanted in the three worlds. The power of his preaching has no equal in the whole creation. He receives his intelligence from Śrīla Prabhupāda. His *kīrtans* make the hearts of the most stubborn materialists melt, and his voice is like the stroke of the thunderbolt. "All right", I interrupted impatiently. "I know all that, but you have not told me who the person is." "It must be obvious", Bh. Babak seemed to be a bit upset, "Who else can be such a person if not His Divine Grace Om̐ Viṣṇupāda Paramahansa Parivrājākācārya Aṣṭottara-śata Śrīla Suhotra Mahārāja. " "Jaya", I shouted in ecstasy, "How could I have been such a fool that I did not discover in your description the person who is also the most dear to me. Until now I was not fully convinced, but having heard your presentation I have no more doubts. I want to serve the lotus feet of Suhotra Mahārāja all my life. "

From that moment everything started. By the mercy of devotees I could attain your protection and shelter, for which I will be grateful to you till the end of my days. I realize that I am not the best disciple - my difficult character is the obstacle in full surrender at your lotus feet. I know, Guru Mahārāja, that I keep giving you so many problems which come from the artificial understanding of the meaning of the association of devotees and the whole philosophy of Lord Caitanya. I am bound by my own ideas of good and evil, happiness and distress, love and hatred, in other words all those dualisms which come from the material concept of life. Śrīla Prabhupāda, in the purport to Bhagavad-gītā 7.14, says that one who is tied is not able to untie himself - he has to find help from outside. Guru Mahārāja, you are such help and shelter for me - a fool and nonsense who fell into his own trap and now is begging for help. You are so merciful that you have never told me "no", you have never rejected me, even though I deserved it. You are a genius and an extraordinary intellectualist, who knows perfectly how to deal with me, inspiring me and chastising at the same time. I am very grateful, Guru Mahārāja, for all you have done for me and for everything you will do. I realize that I have no closer person in this world and I know it will be like this for ever.

In one of your last lectures you revealed the meaning of the word *utsaha* - enthusiasm. The prefix - *ut* - refers to *uttama*, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa, which means that the enthusiastic person is always with Kṛṣṇa. You, Guru Mahārāja, are just such a person. Everywhere you go, you preach the glories of the Lord and your enthusiasm in preaching should be followed by everyone. Guru Mahārāja, you are always an expeditious example, and only by your mercy can I do anything I do. All glories to you.

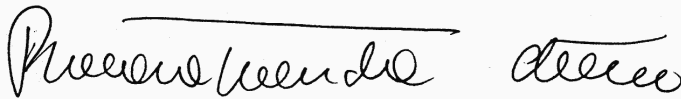
The *Srīmad Bhāgavatam* (11.3.21) says,

*tasmād guruṁ prapadyeta
jijñāsuḥ śreya uttamam
śābde pare ca niṣṇātam
brahmaṇy upaśamāśrayam*

"One who wants the ultimate benefit in his life must surrender to a *guru*. The *guru* must be well versed in the Vedic literature and know its conclusions. And not only must he be well versed in the scripture, but in his life he must have adopted the path of Vedic principles, without deviating in any way. He must be finished with all hankerings for wealth, women, and prestige, and he must be fully situated in spiritual life, completely surrendered to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa. One should try to find such a personality and accept him as one's spiritual master." (A Second Chance)

I am very fortunate, Guru Mahārāja, because I have found in you such a personality.

Your servant,



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja!

How fortunate I am that I have met Your Divine Grace and you accepted me as your disciple. This good fortune is confirmed again and again every minute and second. Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura wrote that as we cannot separate a soul from a body in the conditioned state of existence, in the same way a disciple cannot separate the instructions of his spiritual master from his life. I must take your words very deeply into my heart and gradually dedicate my whole life to fulfill your instructions. Perhaps it will take some time, but I promise to do it. Śrīla Narottama das Ṭhākura sings: *guru-mukha-padma-vākya, cittete koriyā aikya, ān nā koriho mane āśā* : "Make the teachings from the lotus mouth of the spiritual master one with your heart, and do not desire anything else." I know that despite all my disqualifications and faults, just by having strong faith in you and following your example, I can become fully engaged in the *saṅkīrtan* mission, moving from place to place, preaching the glories of the holy name and making myself one with your teachings. I pray to you, please, mould my life in such a way that I will be simply engaged in "*gurur hitam*" - thinking of benefitting only you, my spiritual master. I pray to you, please give me strength and understanding so I can become "*dasaven nico*", a humble and submissive menial servant so I will be able to attain genuine love for you, my *guru*. Without these things I can not even control my senses, what to speak of developing unflinching and unadulterated love for Kṛṣṇa.

Guru Mahārāja, you know that I am a low class person, a complete fool, but despite this, sometimes my godbrothers and other devotees show me respect simply out of the nature of my service and almost constant association with you. Then, I feel very proud. "Yes", says my mind, "you are very special for your *guru* has chosen nobody else but you for this service." But when sometimes I come to my senses, I can see the real nature of my rascal mind which always distorts everything and accepts only things pleasurable for my false ego. But the truth is always somewhere else. The fact is, and it is confirmed by Śrīla Prabhupāda, that personal service to *guru* is meant for less intelligent disciples. I am simply unable to execute the preaching mission of my spiritual master. Only by your mercy and compassion for fools like myself you allow me to have your divine association. Otherwise, I would probably be under the full control of my mind and lower modes of material nature, unable to do any kind of practical devotional service and doing all kinds of nonsense in the name of spiritual life. From this perspective I do not deserve even a merciful glance from my godbrothers.

How much love and compassion you must have for us, your disciples, that each and every one of us can feel your presence and protection, even if you are thousands of kilometers away from us. By your unlimited spiritual intelligence, you arrange for our benefit various transcendental adventures, which make us more attached to devotional service and to the holy name of the Lord. I am going to mention only a few out of many spiritual adventures which you have organized for us. First of all, your wonderful seminar in Radhadesh on *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* and *Vedānta*. Personally for me it was a historical event during which you "turned on" my brain and enlightened me in Vaiṣṇava philosophy. By your mercy *dibya-jñān* sprouted in my heart. Like Śrīla Prabhupāda said, that the words of the spiritual master, can penetrate into the heart of the suffering person and inject transcendental knowledge, which alone can extinguish the fire of material existence. In my case it worked. I was able to feel the potency and the power of your transcendental message. After that, there were two ecstatic *harināma* festivals in Belgium and in Norway. Due to your mercy, for a few weeks we were able to associate with your godbrother Bhakti-Ṭṅga Govinda Mahārāja, who was for us like a transparent medium by which we were able to see and appreciate you, Guru Mahārāja and get the higher taste for chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *māha mantra*. The impressions from these festivals will remain forever in my mind. I feel very much grateful to you for engaging me in this devotional service.

I know very well that I am not able to pay off the debt which I have contracted. You have saved me from the miseries of material existence by giving me a possibility to serve the Supreme Lord. But the transcendental paradox is that the only a chance to try to repay this debt is to contract even more debt by engaging myself more and more in devotional service to Kṛṣṇa, which you arrange for us. This fact

makes the whole thing even more tasty and the relationship between spiritual master and disciple becomes more intimate and profound. Thank you for all of that.

Sometimes, when you chastise me I feel great pain, but you bring me closer to Kṛṣṇa. In my childhood my father was also punishing me and I was feeling great pain, but that punishment and suffering was just making me a bigger materialistic rascal.

*janama janama sabe pitā mātā pāya
kṛṣṇa guru nahi mile baja hari ei*

“Everyone always gets a mother and father; but if one gets the benedictions of Kṛṣṇa and *guru*, he can conquer the material energy and return back to Godhead by serving the Lord.” I know I am a fool, and a fool must be punished to correct him. Your chastisement is my great fortune and your benediction bestowed upon me out of your love for me. Dear Guru Mahārāja! You know that I am full of deficiencies, but I wait for the moment when I will be sincerely able to say that which Arjuna told Kṛṣṇa:

*naṣṭo mohaḥ smṛtir labdhā
tvat prasādān mayācyuta
sthito 'smi gata-sandehaḥ
karisyē vacanam tava*

“My dear Kṛṣṇa, O infallible one, my illusion is now gone. I have regained my memory by Your mercy. I am now firm and free from doubt and am prepared to act according to Your instructions.” (BG 18.73)

Your turtle-like servant,

Purnapajña dās

My dear Guru Mahārāja!

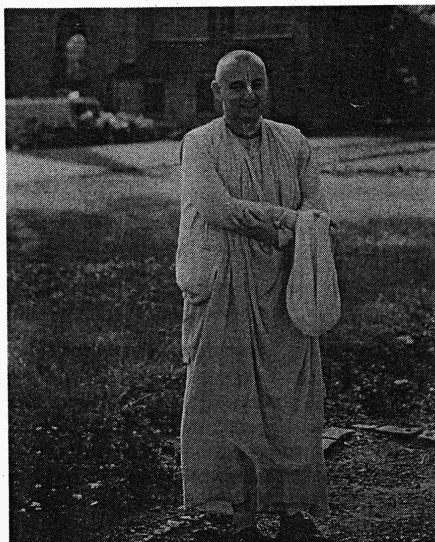
Please accept my humble obeisances!

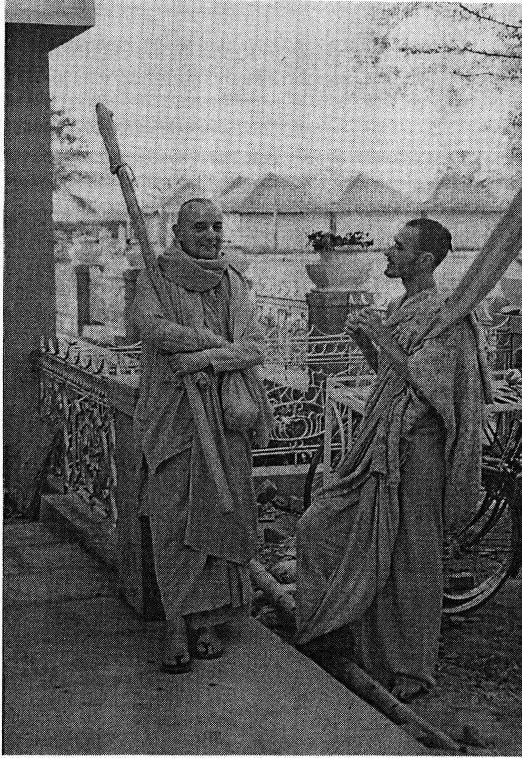
*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin iti nūmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhūta pravacanena vai*

My desire is to serve your special personality without material motives and sacrifice everything for your mission of preaching in this country. I want to increase even more my efforts and determination in to striving for attaining your mercy, without which I can't make any spiritual progress. I am just beginning to understand how necessary the spiritual master is for understanding Kṛṣṇa. By your causeless mercy I can more seriously and attentively approach this extraordinary process. Thanks to your extraordinary presentation of knowledge from Śrīla Prabhupāda's books I can approach Kṛṣṇa and His spiritual nature. I am immediately forgetting my material desires and my heart is getting purified, as soon as I am absorbed in meditation of your lotus feet. I would like to be engaged life after life in the *saṅkīrtan* mission of Lord Caitanya - having your blessings. I am praying at your lotus feet to become always surrendered to Kṛṣṇa and Śrīla Prabhupāda's book distribution mission.

Your humble servant,

bh. Marcin





Dear Guru Mahārāja,

Please accept my respectful obeisances. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-sikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

You are showing me the way with the torch light of knowledge in order to get me out of the deep darkness of ignorance. You are like a fire in the depth of the forest whose eyes are shining behind every tree. The rising sun lightens the world, but only for a short time - you are like many such suns because when you laugh you can destroy the darkness and this light will always stay the same. When the nectar of your words comes from your lotus mouth the Vaikuṅṭha atmosphere at once appears. Everyone wants to drink at least a few drops of those words, because there is the Supreme Lord in them. You, who are the most confidential servant of the Lord, have the millions of his blessings. So I bow down at your lotus feet, because only you can give me the mercy.

Your servant,

bh. Mavein

Dear Guru Mahārāja!

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

*om ajñāna-timirāndhasya jñānārjana-salākayā
cakṣur unmlitam yena tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ*

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-sikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

I am just a beginner and I perceive this process of *bhakti-yoga* to be very difficult. Without your causeless mercy it will be impossible for me to make any advancement in spiritual life. Therefore I want to serve you.

I know I do not deserve to become your disciple but I am humbly begging you to give me shelter at your lotus feet.

Dear Guru Mahārāja, kindly engage me as your student and train me to give up all other desires and simply engage in devotional service for Kṛṣṇa. I pray that I will get strength to serve you and Kṛṣṇa forever.

Your humble servant,

bhaktin Paulina

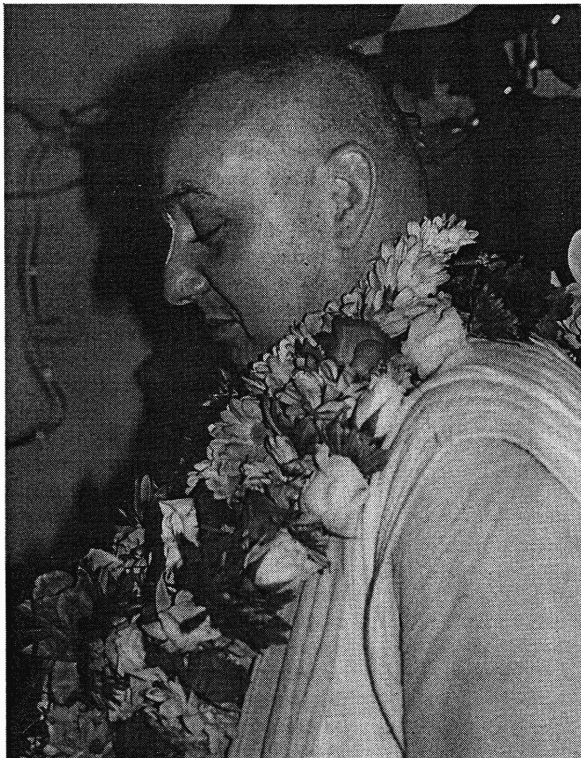
All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to Śrīla Suhotra Swami!

Our dear Guru Mahārāja!

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

On this most blissful day - the day on which you appeared so kindly, we would like to express to your wonderful person our deep thanks. Through our whole life we wanted to develop the mood of surrender.

In the beginning we didn't call it in this way, but we felt such a need to accept a guide - a person who would be able to give peace and fulfillment of the eternal desire of the living entity. And you were, Gurudeva, the sage, father, master, who took us under his protection, although we were condemned to degrade in this miserable age. To be able to help such conditioned persons in uplifting them to Kṛṣṇa consciousness requires great qualifications, learning in psychology and understanding the circumstances to show somebody at the right moment what will help him in spiritual progress. Guru Mahārāja! Although such distance is dividing us you enable us to feel from our hearts the instructions that you give, which proves your great mercy which you bestow upon your disciples. We will be eternally devoted and indebted to you for this mercy. You always see the best solutions and you are able to foresee the spiritual progress of your disciples. You maintain an attitude which inspires us to make more and more effort to attain devotional service and at the same time you show the standard of the first class enlightened, self realized person. Gurudeva! We pray to be able to do something that will please you since it would be our greatest happiness.



Our desire is to grow up to the stage when we will be helpful in fulfilling your transcendental mission you are completely devoted to. Dear spiritual master - it is so difficult to understand the magnificence emanating from you, and although we cannot understand our relationship with you, there is something that attracts us so much and increases our desire to approach your lotus feet. We had an opportunity to relish your transcendental association during this year but when will we be able to appreciate it fully? Nevertheless we have great faith and surety that by accepting shelter and support at your lotus feet, we can cross the ocean of birth and death. We have not enough intelligence to describe your glories, nor are we worthy to speak of them, but at the same time speaking about your glories is like nectar-giving life and purifies us of all defects.

Your worthless servants,

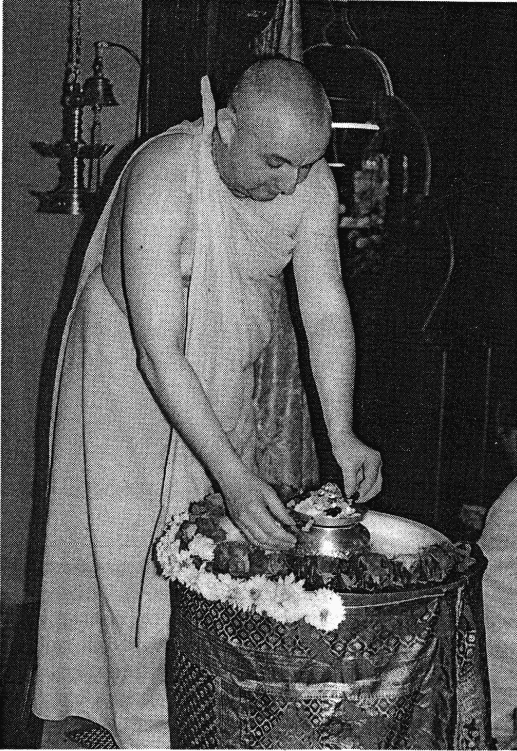
Marta i Tadeusz

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-svāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-haṁsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja!

Please accept my humble obeisances at your lotus feet. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda! All glories to you!

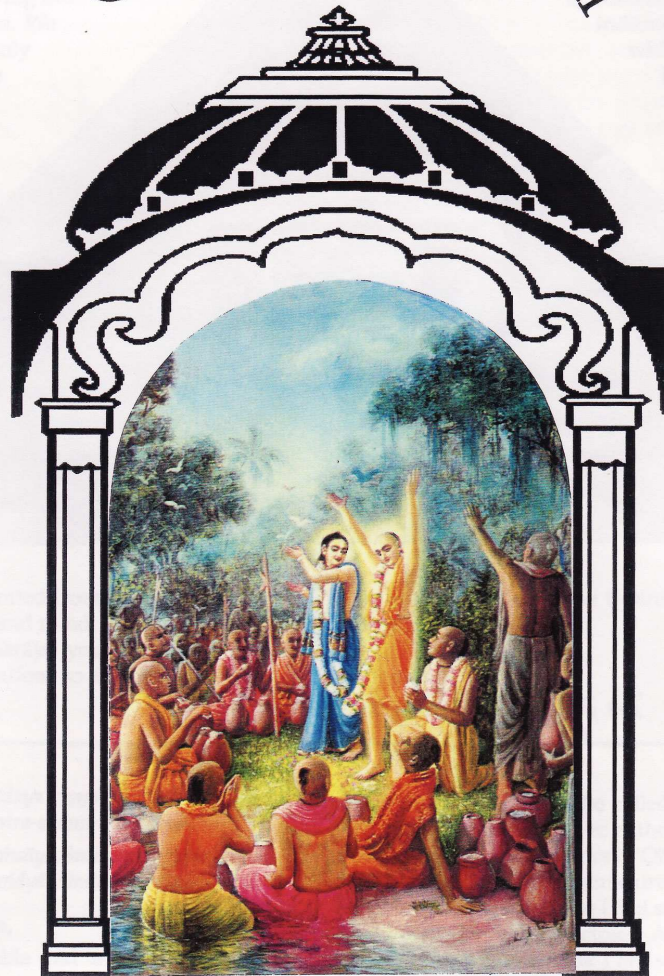
Guru Mahārāja, by your causeless mercy you are here with us giving us your wonderful association. Due to your unlimited mercy you have appeared in this world for the benefit of the conditioned souls. You engage everyone in devotional service, skilfully inspiring us with your lectures, your presence or glances from your lotus-like eyes. By your kindness you accepted me as your disciple, although I am completely useless. Please give me your blessings, Guru Mahārāja, that I will be able to take your mercy which you bestow upon all your disciples, in order to fully engage myself in service to your lotus feet. Please give me intelligence, by which I can help you spread the mission of your spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda. Thank you also for this Vyāsa-pūjā day, on which you are with us, allowing us to make spiritual progress by serving your lotus feet. Śrīla Suhotra Swami Mahārāja *ki-jaya!*



Your humble and insignificant servant,

Gh. Lomek

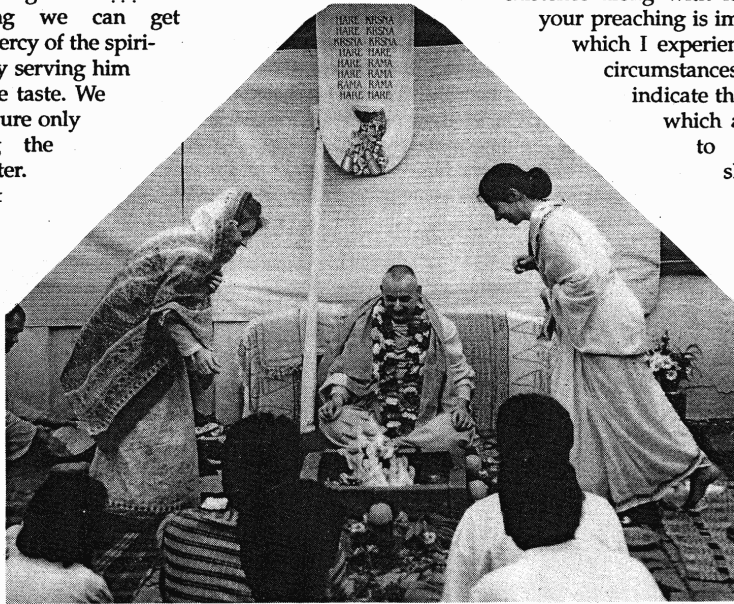
Offerings from



Romania

My dear Guru Mahārāja,
Please accept my most humble obeisances unto your lotus feet.

In one of your lectures you said that unless our consciousness is connected with Kṛṣṇa, we can not taste happiness. Therefore there is the process of purely chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa. This pure chanting we can get through the mercy of the spiritual master. By serving him we can get the taste. We can gain pleasure only from serving the spiritual master. When we get that higher taste we
i m -
me



taste of serving you. Through your association I am blessed with the desire for serving you, and by this service I feel that association more strongly.

So, you made a miracle possible for my conditioned state: to understand your existence and my existence along with it. I see how your preaching is imbued in that which I experience and how circumstances evolve to indicate the only path - which always leads to you. This shows the only desire o n e should have

diately become liberated from the confinement of the material senses and mind.

Dear Guru Mahārāja, you gave your divine and beloved association, so that I could get the

- to become one with the desire of the spiritual master.

Your eternal servant,

Kṛṣṇa - ragīni devī dātī

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrīmate suhoṭra-svāmin iti nāmine*

*namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

I offer all my humble and my respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet, my dear spiritual master. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda!

You once said that the most important thing you appreciate in devotional service is the number of years dedicated. I thought then how insignificant I was with some few months of activity,

which indulgently could be called devotional service. Now, the months have gathered and totalled a year. A year, I can count only ONE YEAR since I have been initiated, but I am extremely happy, not because of me, but because I feel so fortunate to be counted among your disciples. And looking into last years Vyāsa-pūjā book I am seeing how wonderful your disciples are, how much they love you and how many things they have done to serve you. They are real disciples, well-known in all ISKCON.

All this time I have felt myself overwhelmed by your love and mercy, and by your special care. I have no merits, practically I know nothing and I

can't even rise to a minimum temple standard, and still you have shown me unbelievable affection. I know that inside your heart is enough love for all your disciples, but I feel like all your love has overflowed upon me. You gave me everything, with your causeless mercy, and I know I can never could repay you for all that you have done for me. But at least I can promise you that I will strive harder and harder to please you by following your instructions. Without your special mercy I can't do anything and it would be unforgivable of me to waste all that mercy. Oh, I would like so much to make you sure of my determination, so that you can rely on me and find me here in the same place the next year and the next year

and the next year... stronger and stronger. I pray that you help me to become a real disciple.

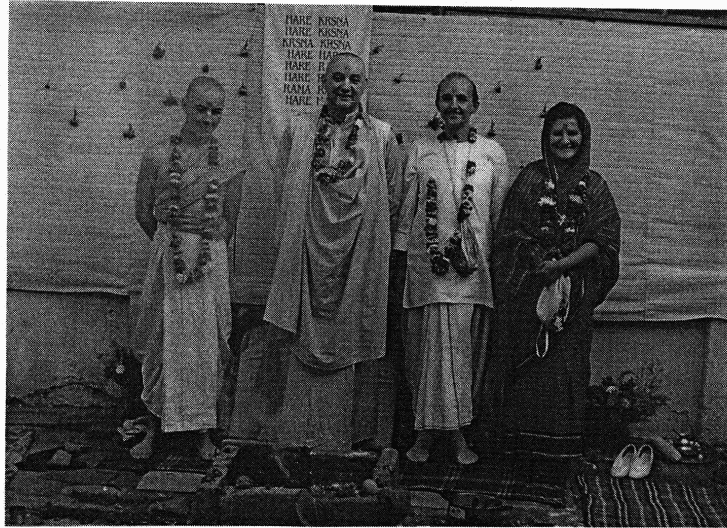
Gurudev!

kṛpā-bindu diyā, koro'ei dāse tṛṇāpekḥā ati hīna sakala sahanē, bala diyā koro', nija-māne sprhā-hīna

And if you can't find anything here in Romania, except all kinds of 'viruses,' I can assure you of one thing, "We all love you very much."

Your eternal servant,

Murari Krishna Das



*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-soāmin iti nāmine
namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

My dear Guru Mahārāja,

I offer all my humble and respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet. All glories to Your Divine Grace! All glories to His Divine Grace Śrīla Prabhupāda!

One day on *sankīrtan* someone told me "Madam, because you are talking so nicely about these books I will buy them..." It was the first time in my life I felt joy that is beyond the body.

Then I knew what it means to be an intermediary, an instrument, to overcome vain glory and stupid self-content in order to serve the spiritual master.

In this short life full of despair where we can lose everything, each moment being insecure and ephemeral, the only thing that remains is the amazing feeling of certainty by being near to you.

In this life everything is taken - youth, family, joys of a second followed by a fall into an abyss, but the only thing which remains is the joy of waiting for you two or three times in a year, to recharge our batteries and to survive with the hope that we'll be helped to become a better servant than yesterday.

My dear Guru Mahārāja, if you weren't here I don't think there would be anybody with enough power to snatch us from this existence in which we are too entangled. But Kṛṣṇa has His plans, and I pray always that He should take me by force if it wouldn't be possible otherwise. But how sweet is that force of the strongest.

All I wish is to have the power to serve you by serving those who are more advanced and better than I and who can please you. This responsibility keeps me all the time on my feet, in some sort of sweet anxiety.

Dear Guru Mahārāja,

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

This year I had the opportunity of feeling what the material body means. I understood how painfully Māyā can work through the body, irritating the senses. I had planned a lot for the last months. I wished I had carried my plans out in order to satisfy you. But my body became a hindrance, a burden which I couldn't carry any longer. Thank you, Mahārāja, because you helped me to get over this difficult time. I would not have been able to be strong without your help. I know that every-

In this miserable life *kala* takes us everything from us for our own good. I am happy because of this extraordinary chance of taking shelter of your lotus feet, before the crunch comes, and I am glad to have witnessed the hours since you stepped into this country.

HARE KṚṢṆA !

Syamala dan

thing which is done without Kṛṣṇa means illusion. Guru Mahārāja, help me to understand more, teach me how to serve you better. What would have been my life without you, Mahārāja? How would Kali-yuga would be tolerable without saintly persons like you, Mahārāja? You retain the power of giving life, your lotus feet are the certain refuge which can save our souls.

I do my best to deserve to be your eternal servant,

Tad-adhipra dan

Dear Śrīla Suhotra Swami,

Please accept my most humble obeisances.

*nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭāya bhū-tale
śrimate suhotra-śvāmin iti nāmine*

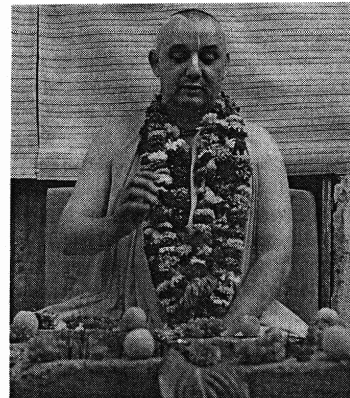
*namas te guru-hamsāya, kali-prabhāva-hāriṇe
prabhupāda-śikṣa-vidyādbhuta pravacanena vai*

Always I have felt an attraction for Indian philosophy and spirit. Since early January 1993 when I was acquainted with the philosophy contained in the Vedas, I realized that this is my real faith, that I have always felt, but was not aware of it. Through the lectures and books of ISKCON, I succeeded, step by step, to penetrate into the subtleties of Vedic philosophy and theosophy. But obtaining Vedic wisdom demanded so much study and so much time! And I needed a spiritual master who could guide me on the quickest path for approaching the Supreme. Your spiritual effulgence touched me along with your *kīrtan* and discourse on Vedic philosophy. Suddenly, I had been overcome by a great joy and a great peaceful mood. Then I realized it would be no mistake

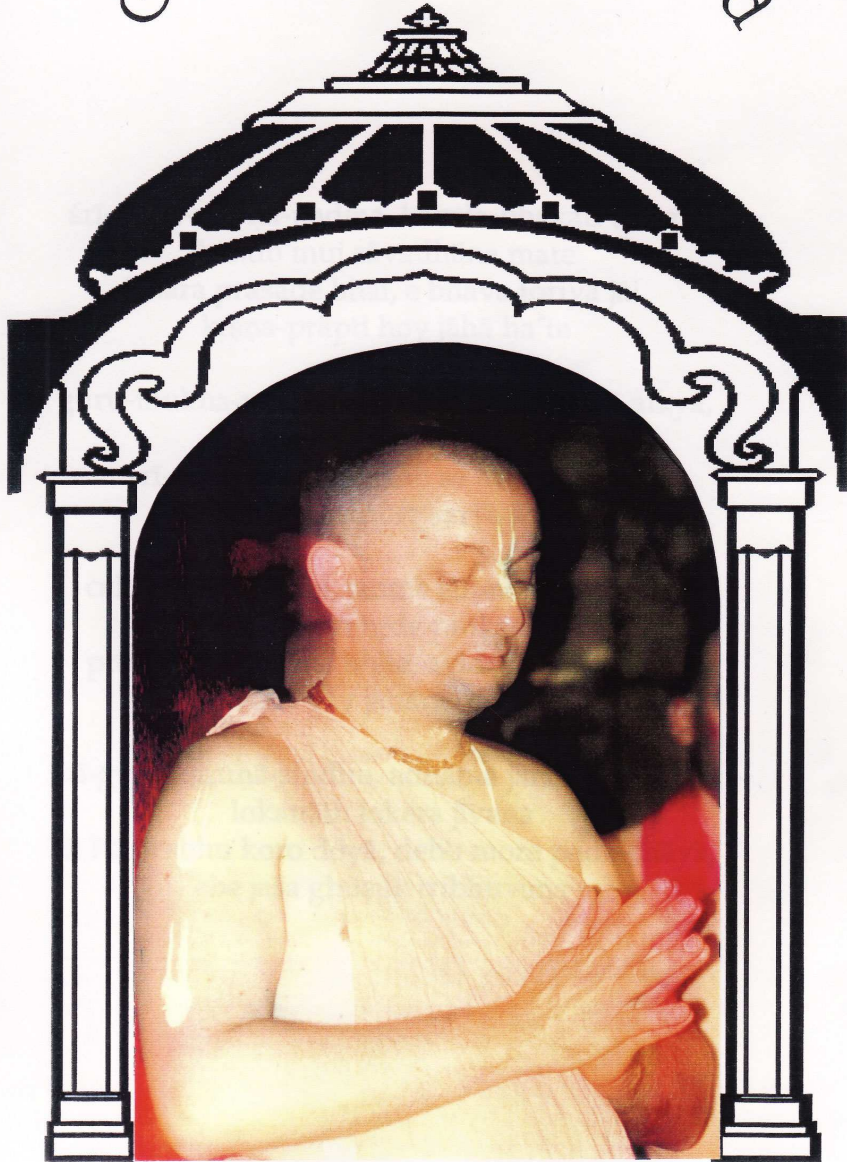
begging you to accept me as your disciple and that I could quickly grasp Kṛṣṇa consciousness. With the opportunity of your birthday, I wish to you much health and happiness. I wish at the same time that ISKCON will become the greatest and strongest Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement and have the largest number of devotees.

Hare Kṛṣṇa,

Jon



Sri Guru-vandana



śrī-guru-caraṇa-padma, kevala-bhakati-sadma
bando mui sāvadhāna mate
jāhāra prasāde bhāi, e bhava toriyā jāi,
kṛṣṇa-prāpti hoy jāhā ha 'te

guru-mukha-padma-vākya, cittete koriyā aikya,
ār nā koriho mane āśā
śrī-guru-caraṇe rati, ei se uttama-gati,
je prasāde pūre sarva āśā

cakhu-dān dilo jei, janme janme prabhu sei,
divya-jñān hṛde prokāśito
prema-bhakti jāhā hoite, avidyā vināśa jāte,
vede gāy jāhāra carito

śrī-guru karuṇā-sindhu, adhama janāra bandhu,
lokanāth lokera jīvana
hā hā prabhu koro doyā, deho more pade-chāyā,
ebe jaśa ghuṣuk tribhuvana



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

My only wish is to have my consciousness purified by the words emanating from his lotus mouth. Attachment to his lotus feet is the perfection that fulfills all desires.

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

Our spiritual master is the ocean of mercy, the friend of the poor, and the lord and master of the devotees. O master! Be merciful unto me. Give me the shade of your lotus feet. Your fame is spread all over the three worlds.

Guide to Photographs

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37	1992	Copenhagen	89	1992	Timisoara
38	1993	Mayapur	91	1992	NJNK
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Dates and places are not known for many of the photos of Śrīla Suhotra Swami in this book. If you are able to supply any of the missing information please contact Satya Press, Suśīlā dd, P.O. Box 10.17.26, 69038 Heidelberg, Germany, Tel. +49-6221-165101

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