

# Spiritual Connections

A newsletter for the disciples and well-wishers of  
His Divine Grace Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaja  
*nama om viṣṇu pādāya kṛṣṇa preṣṭhāya bhū-tale*  
*śrimate bhakti cāru svāmin iti nāmine*



Vol.2

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## Guru-maharaja's Personal Message

### *"Distribute Books and Please Srila Prabhupada"*

Just as Christmas is the most important time of the year for Christians, Srila Prabhupada's book marathon is the most important time for us Prabhupadanugas, the followers of Srila Prabhupada. Why? Because it gives us a most wonderful opportunity to distribute a lot of Srila Prabhupada's books. His Divine Grace himself made it clear to all of us that distribution of his books gives him the greatest pleasure.

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu sent Srila Prabhupada, His dearmost devotee, to fulfil His prediction that Kṛṣṇa consciousness would spread in every town and village all over the world. Srila Prabhupada structured ISKCON to preach the teachings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and accomplish that mission in the most efficient and effective way - distribution of his books.

**This is the sole objective of Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON - distribution of Prabhupada's books and fulfillment of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's prediction.**

Srila Prabhupada is present in his vani and his vani is his books. When you distribute a book to someone, you are giving them Srila Prabhupada, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's dearmost devotee, and because of this they will undoubtedly receive Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's causeless mercy. Therefore, Srila Prabhupada's books and their distribution are the basis of Prabhupada's preaching mission and the fulfillment of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's prediction.

We are in a war against maya. Srila Prabhupada's books are our spiritual weapons and the book distributors are the frontline soldiers distributing these spiritual weapons to everyone and saving them from maya's control. Wherever maya is attacking, the book distributors, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's soldiers, distribute the spiritual weapons of Srila Prabhupada's books to save the suffering conditioned souls.

Srila Prabhupada's books are the most sophisticated weapon in our war against maya. As Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's soldiers, it is your duty to become expert in using these weapons and distribute as many as you possibly can. Therefore, **STUDY SRILA PRABHUPADA'S BOOKS, UNDERSTAND THEM, PREACH FROM THEM AND DISTRIBUTE THEM!**

I always wanted to be a book distributor but somehow I never got the chance. Soon after joining I became Srila Prabhupada's secretary and served him until he left this planet. I then became the sankirtana party leader for Mayapur in 1978/79. Mayapur was leading the world in book distribution at that time. This was the only chance I had to distribute Srila Prabhupada's books directly.

It is said that children are the extension of the father's desire. Therefore, I wish my desire to distribute Srila Prabhupada's books be fulfilled through my disciples, my spiritual children. All of my disciples should take up this extremely important mission and distribute as many books as they possibly can. Those who cannot distribute directly, can help in other services so that other devotees can go out and distribute books.

**DISTRIBUTE A LOT OF BOOKS, SAVE ALL THE SUFFERING SOULS AND PLEASE YOUR ETERNAL GRANDFATHER, HIS DIVINE GRACE A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA.**

Your ever well wisher,

**GURU-MAHARAJA SPEAKS ON:**  
**DISTRIBUTING SRILA PRABHUPADA'S BOOKS**  
*- quotes from letters to disciples*

**"So many thousands of people have been saved just by receiving one of Srila Prabhupada's books. But so many people are still suffering because they have not yet received this mercy. Therefore, please continue to give Prabhupada's books to as many people as you can and inspire other devotees to also take up this preaching mission".**

**Unite and distribute Prabhupada's books**

Let us unite with all sincerity and distribute as many books as possible. Talk about Srila Prabhupada's books, hear about these books, think about these books, dream about these books and **DISTRIBUTE THESE BOOKS**. Then our lives will become perfect and this material nature will become transformed into the spiritual sky.

**Conditioned souls need these books**

These books are the priceless gift of Srila Prabhupada coming directly from the spiritual sky. Therefore, please distribute as many books as you can and try to deliver all the fallen conditioned souls around you. Although they are completely unaware of it, they need your mercy more than anything else to become free from their miserable material existence. Please shower the mercy of Srila Prabhupada's books upon them as abundantly as you can.

**To preach Krsna consciousness - distribute books**

I hope by Krsna's mercy we will be able to please Srila Prabhupada by distributing a lot of his books. We must always remember that our main purpose is to preach Krsna consciousness and the best way to preach Krsna consciousness is to distribute Srila Prabhupada's books.

**Give Prabhupada - give a book**

I am happy to know how nicely you did in Srila Prabhupada's marathon. Always consider book distribution to be the most important service. When you give someone a book, you also give them Srila Prabhupada. And when Prabhupada speaks, they are bound to become devotees.

**Conquer the world with Prabhupada's books**

Srila Prabhupada, according to his spiritual master's instruction and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's prediction, spread Krsna consciousness all over the world. Now we have to further his mission by preaching Krsna consciousness to everyone. And the best way to preach is by giving people Srila Prabhupada's books. Even if they don't read the books now, if they just receive one then some day they will read it and receive Srila Prabhupada's transcendental mercy. Let these books go out and conquer the whole world for Krsna. Let the whole world become Krsna conscious!

**These books are Krsna**

These books are non-different from Krsna. Just as Krsna is omnipotent, these books are also omnipotent. If we just sincerely desire to distribute these books and deliver the fallen souls, then these books will go out on their own and conquer the hearts of the conditioned souls.

**These books are Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's love**

Distributing Srila Prabhupada's books is the most important service in ISKCON because through distributing Srila Prabhupada's books you are in fact distributing the love and mercy Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu feels for the suffering conditioned souls of Kali yuga. This book distribution is also the essence of Caitanya Mahaprabhu's sankirtana movement - going out and asking people to please take the mercy of Krsna's holy name.

**Books are the basis**

Srila Prabhupada, with his spiritual intelligence and vision, made this most wonderful arrangement of distributing the greatest mercy of the spiritual world - distributing his books. He wanted us to take up this book distribution as our most important business. As more books go out, more people will become attracted to Krsna consciousness, more devotees will be made, and more temples will become manifest. In this way we can see how these books are the basis of establishing Krsna consciousness throughout the whole world.

**End suffering through book distribution**

You asked how you can surrender more to book distribution. Realize the value of Srila Prabhupada's books and the benefit they have for the suffering conditioned souls. They are suffering because they have forgotten Krsna. These books will remind them of their eternal loving relationship with Krsna and if they develop this relationship, they will automatically be elevated to the platform of transcendental joy.

**If you care - distribute books**

We care for the suffering conditioned souls. Therefore we want to give them these books because as they read Prabhupada's books, they will become free from their miserable material existence. Therefore, distribute Srila Prabhupada's books as an expression of your compassion for all the suffering souls.

**Prabhupada's books are the only hope**

Thank you very much for all of your sincere efforts in going out on full-time book distribution. This service of distributing Srila Prabhupada's books is so important because without receiving the causeless mercy of Lord Caitanya's sankirtana movement, there is no hope for all the people who are suffering unlimitedly under the cruel hands of material nature. Please give this most wonderful mercy to as many suffering souls as you can.

**Just depend on Krsna**

While distributing books, just depend upon Srila Prabhupada and Krsna. On some days Krsna will send many nice people and on other days He may not but still your business is to shower His mercy on everyone. Never forget that you are not distributing books for name and fame, but simply to please Srila Prabhupada and Krsna.

**Prabhupada's books give the spiritual sky**

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu came to this material universe to distribute the most precious gift of the spiritual world, Goloka Vrndavana. That gift was distributed throughout the whole world by Srila Prabhupada in the form of his books. Therefore, to distribute these books is undoubtedly the greatest act of benevolence and the highest form of mercy.

**These books make devotees**

Srila Prabhupada gave us over 80 books for distributing the mercy of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in the most effective way. We have seen in our own lives how powerful his books are. Whoever has contact with these books sooner or later becomes Krsna conscious. Just consider how you became a devotee. Wasn't it by his books? All of your realizations and spiritual transformation have come from reading Srila Prabhupada's books. Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu brought the most precious gift of Krsna prema to this material universe but it was Prabhupada who actually gave that to the whole world through his books.

**Prabhupada's books are spiritual time bombs**

These books are so powerful that even if someone just touches them he will receive spiritual benefit. As Harikesa Maharaja puts it, "they are like time bombs" - in time they will explode and the whole material nature will be spiritualized. Even if someone does not read the books but simply keeps them in his house, his house will become purified and one day he will read them and become a devotee. Therefore, even if we do not see an immediate effect, there is no doubt these books will spiritualize the whole world in due course of time.

**Please Srila Prabhupada - distribute books!**

Distributing Srila Prabhupada's books is the main business of ISKCON because Srila Prabhupada personally said it is the best way to please him. All we need to do is sincerely try our best to convince people to accept these books and pray to Lord Nityananda, the original sankirtana devotee, to inspire them to accept His causeless mercy.

**In the last issue of Spiritual Connections, Guru-maharaja described how he joined ISKCON at Mayapur and began rendering devotional service with the devotees. Now he continues to describe the other services he was doing and how he first met Srila Prabhupada.**

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While I was buying building materials for the Long Building, I also began printing some of Srila Prabhupada's writings. I discovered a number of old articles written by Srila Prabhupada from 1945 to 1956 that had been published by the Gaudiya Math. I collected these articles from the Devananda Gaudiya Math and began printing them into a book. (This book has now been printed in English under the title "Renunciation Through Wisdom".) I also started printing the first Bengali "Back to Godhead".

In the meantime, Prabhupada returned to India. I went to Bhavananda Maharaja and told him I wanted to go to Bombay and see

Prabhupada.  
Bhavananda  
Maharaja told  
me that  
Prabhupada was

**"We would distribute thousands of books everyday and Prabhupada was very happy".**

quite sick and no one was able to see him. He said, "Why go to Bombay? It is better to wait for Prabhupada to come to Mayapur and you can see him then". I liked the idea of rendering service in separation and decided to wait for Prabhupada to come to Mayapur. I was also very busy at that time as there was so much for me to do.

We then received the news that Prabhupada was going to Kumbha mela in Allahabad. It was a Purna Kumbha which takes place only once in every 144 years. The devotees decided to go and we rented a bus. I was one of approximately fifty devotees who went from Mayapur to Allahabad.

We arrived in the afternoon. Millions of people attended this Kumbha mela and there were thousands and thousands of tents pitched around the confluence of the Ganga and Jamuna rivers. A large area had been reserved for our ISKCON tents. There was a big tent for Srila Prabhupada and it was covered by a wall made of corrugated tin sheets. Someone was guarding the door to Prabhupada's tent and no one was allowed to go into his quarters.

I was told Prabhupada would give darshan that night and so I decided to wait. I would see Prabhupada that evening and I was just roaming around waiting for Prabhupada's darshan. Bhavananda Maharaja had brought a big basketful of vegetables from Mayapur to give to Prabhupada and when he saw me he said, "Come, let's go and see Prabhupada". I immediately jumped up at this proposal and we ran to Prabhupada's tent.

Bhavananda Maharaja walked right in and I offered obeisances from the doorway. When I stood up I saw Prabhupada was sitting behind his desk and he was looking at me. Ramesvara Maharaja was Srila Prabhupada's secretary and he told me Prabhupada was taking prasada so I should not go in. I offered obeisances again and with folded hands walked out.

That evening Prabhupada gave darshan. I was a little late in arriving and the whole tent was packed. There were at least two thousand people plus many devotees. It was so crowded there was practically no room to go in. Somehow or other I squeezed myself in. I was half standing, half sitting and leaning against the tent wall.

For a long time I could not hear what Prabhupada was saying. The only thing I could only hear was my heart beating very heavily. Just seeing Prabhupada was such a wonderful experience, especially after waiting so long.

When I finally came back to my senses I noticed different people were asking Prabhupada questions. Prabhupada appeared like Bhishma in the battlefield. In the battle at Kuruksetra, soldiers were

shooting arrows  
at Bhishma and  
he was defeat-  
ing them very  
easily. In the

same way I was seeing

how these people were shooting arrows at Prabhupada in the form of their questions and Prabhupada was simply waving those arrows aside by his wonderful answers.

I remember a remarkable encounter in this darshan. One Indian, a middle-aged businessman, asked Prabhupada in a challenging way why he was building new temples when there are so many old temples. Why was Prabhupada not repairing the old temples instead of building new ones. Prabhupada did not answer the question directly but asked the man who the lady was sitting next to him.

The man said, "She is my wife". Prabhupada then asked him, "Why did you get married?". The man became completely flabbergasted, he could not say anything. Prabhupada told him, "putrathē kṛiyate bhārya - one accepts a wife in order to produce children. But why produce your own children if there are already so many loitering in the street?".

Prabhupada then made the point, "The way you want to have your own child, born of your own wife, the same way devotees want to build their own temples and offer them to Kṛṣṇa." Everyone understood Prabhupada's point and started laughing.

Another incident I remember was one Bengali sadhu of 25 or 26 years of age. He belonged to a group who are interested in social work. They claim to be a religious group but all they do is public welfare. He asked Prabhupada what he was doing for the sake of people. Although he

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Every morning when Guru-maharaja is in Mayapura, he meets with all of his disciples to chant japa together. This japa session begins with Guru-maharaja leading everyone in singing one of his favourite bhajans. Below is one of those bhajans. (Please save this page as a song-sheet).

## Radhastikam

1

kumkumakta kancanabja garvahari gaurabha  
pitananci tavja gandha kirti nindi saurabha  
ballavesā sunu sarva banchitartha sadhika  
mahyamatma padapadma dasya-dastu  
Radhika

2

kauravinda-kanti-ndi-citrapatta satika  
kṛṣṇa matta bhṛṅga keli phulla-puspa batika  
kṛṣṇa nitya sangamartha padma bandhu  
Radhika  
mahyamatma padapadma dasya-dastu  
Radhika

3

saukumarya srista pallavali kirti nigrāha  
candra-candanotpalendu sevya sita vigrāha  
svabhimarsa vallabisa kama-tapa badhika  
mahyamatma padapadma dasya-dastu  
Radhika

4

visva-vandya yaubatabhi-vanditapi ya Rama  
rupa-navya-yavnadi sampada na yatsama  
silahardya lilaya ca sa yatosti nadhika  
mahyamatma padapadma dasya-dastu  
Radhika

9

astakena yastanena nanti kṛṣṇa ballabham  
darsanepi sailajadi yosidali durlabham  
kṛṣṇa sanga nanditatma dasya sidhu bhajanam  
mahyamatma padapadma dasya dastu  
Radhika

5

rasalasya gita narma satkalali-pandita  
prema-ramya rupavesa sadgunali mandita  
visva-navya-gopa-yosidalito'pi yadhika  
mahyamatma padapadma dasya-dastu  
Radhika

6

nitya-navya rupa keli kṛṣṇabhava sampada  
kṛṣṇa-raga-bandha-gopa yaubatesu kampada  
kṛṣṇa-rupa vesa keli lagna sat-samadhika  
mahyamatma padapadma dasya-dastu  
Radhika

7

sveda-kampa-kantakasru gadgadadi sancita  
marsa harsa vamatadi bhava bhusanancita  
kṛṣṇa-netra tosi-ratna mandanali dadhika  
mahyamatma padapadma dasya-dastu  
Radhika

8

ya ksanardha kṛṣṇa-viprayoga santatodita  
neka-dainya capaladi bhavavrinda modita  
yatnalabdhā kṛṣṇa sanga nirgatakhiladhika  
mahyamatma padapadma dasya-dastu  
Radhika

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## Translation of Radhastikam

1

I pray that Srimati Radharani offers me the shelter of Her lotus feet. Her complexion defeats the pride of the colour of molten gold with the tinge of kumkuma. She fulfils all the desires of Krsna.

2

The colour of her silk sari make the colour of coral feel ashamed and She is the flower garden where a wild bumblebee called Krsna plays. I pray to Srimati Radharani that She offers me the shelter of Her lotus feet.

3

Her tenderness defeats the tenderness of newly developed leaves and She is the personification of coolness, a combination of sandalwood paste, camphor, lotus and moon. By Her touch She cools down the amorous desires of Krsna. I pray to Srimati Radharani that She offers me the shelter of Her lotus feet.

4

Although Laksmidevi is worshipped by all young damsels all over the world, still she is nowhere near Srimati Radharani in beauty, youthfulness, nature and pastimes. Nowhere in the material or spiritual world is there anyone who is superior in quality to Srimati Radharani. I pray to Srimati Radharani that She offers me the shelter of Her lotus feet.

5

Even persons like Parvati, the wife of Lord Siva, do not get to see Srimati Radharani. Srimati Radharani and Her friends become quickly pleased by one who worships Srimati Radharani through these eight verses and very quickly She offers him devotional service to Krsna. I pray to Srimati Radharani that She offers me the shelter of Her lotus feet.

6

She is very expert in dancing, singing and other such activities. She is decorated with exquisite beauty, dress and wonderful qualities. She is the best of all swans. I pray to Srimati Radharani that She offers me the shelter of Her lotus feet.

7

With Her every blossoming beauty, activities and feelings, She creates joy in the hearts of the gopis who are on Her side and She creates anguish and pain in those who are on the opposite side. I pray to Srimati Radharani that She offers me the shelter of Her lotus feet.

8

She is decorated with eight kinds of ecstatic symptoms; sweating, trembling, tears, choking of Her voice, etc. She is also decorated with anger, joy and negative feelings. She dresses Herself with beautiful ornaments in order to give pleasure to Krsna. I pray to Srimati Radharani that She offers me the shelter of Her lotus feet.

9

She cannot tolerate separation from Krsna even for a fraction of a second. Her anguish is overcome by Her friends who carry messages to unite Her with Krsna. Thus Her anguish turns into ecstasy. I pray to Srimati Radharani that She offers me the shelter of Her lotus feet.

asked the question in Bengali, Prabhupada answered in Hindi. Prabhupada was blasting him. Each time he would say something in Bengali, Prabhupada would answer in Hindi saying, "What is your understanding of helping people? What do you know about helping people? How are you helping people? These people who say they are helping people, in the name of helping people they simply gratify their senses".

Prabhupada was very heavy and at one point the sadhu asked him, "Why are you not answering me in Bengali? Why are you speaking in Hindi?". Prabhupada replied, "Hindi or Bengali does not matter, the question is whether you understand my point", and continued blasting him in Hindi. Prabhupada was replying in Hindi because most of the people there spoke Hindi and Prabhupada wanted to make the point clear for everyone.

While this was going on I couldn't help feeling this man is never going to become a devotee. At the depth of my heart I was thinking, "Why is Prabhupada chastising him so heavily? If Prabhupada spoke to him sweetly he could become a devotee". But then I thought Prabhupada knows best. Whatever he is doing must have a divine purpose and I am not in a position to judge.

To my great amazement I saw that young sadhu in Mayapur a few years later. He did become a devotee, but not until after Prabhupada left the planet. I felt he was very unfortunate. If he had joined earlier, he would have had Prabhupada's association but he missed that opportunity.

Prabhupada continued to give darshan in this way and it was very exciting for me. Just seeing Prabhupada was literally seeing the spiritual sky. Hearing Prabhupada was literally hearing transcendental sound vibration.

Kumbha-mela is a big spiritual event and a lot of important people were there. Many movie stars and big businessmen came to see Prabhupada. Some of them glorified Srila Prabhupada sincerely, some came to see him out of curiosity and others came to challenge him. However, Srila Prabhupada remained transcendental in all circumstances.

Even though it was very cold in Allahabad, Srila Prabhupada used to have his guru-puja outside. Srila Prabhupada would sit outside his tent and all the devotees used to sing, dance and offer flowers. One morning a devotee was leading a very ecstatic kirtan. The whole atmosphere was vibrant with 250 devotees singing in total ecstasy. All of a sudden this devotee started to sing, "Bhaja Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare...". Srila Prabhupada became extremely angry and stopped the kirtan.

The kirtan was so ecstatic that everyone was jumping free to four feet high but as soon as Prabhupada shouted, "Stop that!", the kirtan immediately stopped. Prabhupada asked the devotee leading the kirtan, "Where did you learn this 'Bhaja Hare Krsna'? Did you ever hear a singing 'Bhaja Hare Krsna'?"

Prabhupada chastised him for five minutes. Prabhupada was very heavy and told the devotee, "Never add anything to the Hare Krsna maha mantra and never subtract anything from the Hare Krsna maha mantra. Sing the maha mantra just as it is".

Prabhupada also explained, "This is how deviation begins. Someone adds his own concoction and then someone else comes and adds more concoctions to that and it becomes a complete distortion". A few months after this incidence, Srila Prabhupada instructed us to chant "Jaya Sri Krsna Caitanya Prabhu Nityananda". Prior to that we always used to chant "Bhaja Sri Krsna Caitanya Prabhu Nityananda...".

It was very ecstatic at the Kumbha-mela. You could go out and easily distribute a lot of books. There were so many people. Everyone was there for spiritual benefit, therefore distributing books was very easy. We would distribute thousands of books everyday and Prabhupada was very happy.

One morning however, Prabhupada decided to leave Kumbha-mela and go to Calcutta even though he was scheduled to stay in Allahabad for another seven days. His health was not good and it was getting very cold in Allahabad. Even though it was a spiritual festival, some people were playing mundane movie songs through loudspeakers all night.

This was very disturbing for Prabhupada as he could not work at night. Prabhupada's secretary and the GBC's began making the arrangements for Srila Prabhupada to travel to Calcutta. Fortunately I was included in the group of fourteen devotees who would travel with Prabhupada. I felt very happy and maybe also a little puffed up that I had been included in the group travelling with Prabhupada.

The train left at night time so we all boarded and took rest. The next morning I woke up, took my shower and was sitting in my compartment chanting. The whole carriage had been reserved for Prabhupada and my compartment was right next to Prabhupada's. I was chanting when Bhavananda Maharaja came in and said, "Come, I will introduce you to Prabhupada". I froze. I suddenly felt completely unqualified to go before Srila Prabhupada. He was so close - in the next compartment, right nextdoor. I didn't know what to do.

Bhavananda Maharaja understood my mind and seeing me hesitate caught me by the hand, dragged me through the corridor, opened the door to Prabhupada's compartment and pushed me in. I fell flat on the floor offering obeisances. It took me some time to offer obeisances as I was reciting every verse I knew on glorifying the spiritual master.

When I got up I saw Srila Prabhupada looking at me very intently and his face was radiant with an affectionate smile. In the compartment there were two rows of seats facing each other. Srila Prabhupada was sitting on one

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

In our last issue we explained how the Spiritual Connections newsletter came into being through Guru-maharaja's desire to increase his personal communication with all of his disciples. Two other programs have now been implemented along with the newsletter. They have the same purpose as the newsletter - developing stronger relationships between ourselves, our dearest spiritual master and the whole family of Sriila Prabhupada's ISKCON. We would now like to explain these to you:

### 1. Monitor System:

A Monitor has been appointed in each area where Guru-maharaja has disciples. The duties of each Monitor are to:

- receive and distribute Spiritual Connections's newsletter,
- ensure payment of the annual subscription for Spiritual Connections, and
- be the contact person for Guru-maharaja.

Of all these duties, the most prominent will be the newsletter. When the original copy of Spiritual Connections is received by the Monitor, he will xerox and distribute it to everyone who desires a copy. The cost of xeroxing, envelopes and postage etc. is to be paid by those receiving the newsletter. There is no separate charge for each copy of Spiritual Connections as that has already been paid for by all of the devotees in the annual subscription fee.

### 2. Guardian System:

In some areas where there are a number of disciples, the Monitor has an additional duty of Guardian. This is an important responsibility and requires a caring concern for the spiritual well being of all our Godbrothers and God sisters. The Guardian is there to give a helping hand to anyone having difficulties in their spiritual life. It would actually be very pleasing to Guru-maharaja if

his disciples developed this caring mood towards everyone in Sriila Prabhupada's family, Sriila Prabhupada's ISKCON.

In areas where it is feasible, the Guardian can also arrange "get-together" meetings for all Godbrothers and God sisters. The purpose of these meetings is to increase our understanding and appreciation of each other, our dearest spiritual master, all the members of Sriila Prabhupada's family and Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's preaching mission.

We have also begun a data-base computer system in Guru-maharaja's office in Mayapur. It will store basic biographical and spiritual data on all disciples all over the world. A questionnaire is being sent out to all Monitors.

The local Monitor for East Coast USA is Kalindi Devi Dasi. Please contact her if you have any queries about these programs. We would also greatly appreciate any suggestions or recommendations you may have for improving our service to Guru-maharaja and you.

In the past months of organising and implementing these programs, we have received a wonderful response of support and enthusiasm from the Monitors and other devotees. It has been a revealing and joyful experience to receive so many letters expressing such sincere enthusiasm for serving Guru-maharaja. We wish to thank you all very much for sharing your love and dedication to Guru-maharaja in this way and pray that we can somehow or other always remain serving you all in the service of Guru-maharaja.

Always begging for the mercy of the Vaisnavas,  
Your servants,

Chief Editor - Manjari Devi Dasi

Contributing Editor - Syamananda Krsna Dasa

## Pastimes with Sriila Prabhupada

side and on the other side facing Prabhupada was Ramseswara Maharaja, Jayapataka Maharaja and Bhavananda Maharaja. Abhiram Prabhu, the temple president of Calcutta at that time, was sitting on the floor.

Prabhupada motioned to me, "Sit, sit down here". Prabhupada was asking me to sit next to him so I just said, "Prabhupada, I will sit on the floor". But Prabhupada insisted, "No, you can sit here". Prabhupada was insisting so I could not refuse. There was a blanket covering Prabhupada's seat. I rolled up one corner of

the blanket and sat down. Prabhupada began asking me what service I was doing and then he gave me his first instruction. He said, "You translate my books into Bengali". I expressed my inability and asked Prabhupada, "Will I be able to do that?". "Yes", said Prabhupada, "practice makes a man perfect. You just keep trying".

It was very nice speaking to Prabhupada like this. He asked me many other questions but then Hari Sauri Prabhu, Prabhupada's servant, brought in Prabhupada's breakfast and we all left his compartment.

(to be continued in the next issue)

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