Prayers at His Lotus Feet

Namah Om Vishnupaadaya sri gaura-priya murtaye
Srimate Bhakti Ballabha Tirtha Goswami namine //1//

I pay my respectful obeisances unto Om Vishnupad Srila Bhakti Ballabha Tirtha Goswami Maharaj, who is the loving personified of Sri Gaura Sundar. He is completely enlightened by His bhajan-sampada (wealth of Bhajan), whose ornaments are his bhajan and whose senses and speech are under his control.

Maayaavaad vikhandanam guror-vaanyanu kirtanam
Pascadesopadesakam prasanna vadanam sadaa //2//

I bow down unto lotus feet of one who condemns the false-scriptures of mayavad, on the basis of bhakti-siddhanta (the philosophy of pure devotion). You are perfect and prompt in vaisnava-philosophy of pure devotion. You are ever blissful and preaching the great philosophy around the world including western countries.

Suddhaa-bhakti pravaahakam suddhaa-bhakti bhagiratham,
Bhakti-dayita madhava abhinna tanum namaamyaham //3//

Oh bhagirath of pure devotion (one who carries pure devotion)! You are the one who is spreading the Ganges of pure devotion all over the world, and non-different from Srila Bhakti Daiyta Madhava Goswami. You are His (Srila Bhakti Daiyta Madhava Goswami's) expansion. I pay my respectful obeisances unto your lotus feet.

Naam sankirtanaamrita rasaasvaada vidhaayakam,
Krishnaamaanya kripaa murttim acaaryam tam namaamyaham //4//

Just by Hari-naam sankirtan, you generate and preach the taste of nectar of Lord Krishna's unlimited past-times, holy name, form, characteristics, lila-dham. You are deity-form (personification) of Lord Krishna's mercy and the philosophy of this disciplinal succession.. You teach and preach through your behavior. I offer my respects unto you.

Gaur-naama pracaaraardram bhakta sevaanu aakaankshitam,
Satirtha-priti sad-bhaava naumi tirtha mahaashayam //5//

I pay my Humble obeisances unto Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj, whose soft heart has become full of nectar by continuously preaching the sweet nectarian name of Sri Gaur-hari. He - who serves all the vaisnava servants of Gauranga mahaprabhu humbly and glorifies them. Who is dear most to Srila Gurudeva (Srila Bhaktidaiyta Madhava Goswami) and to whom Srila Gurudeva is dear most, and one who is extra-ordinarily loyal and very loving to his god-brothers, I pay my respectful obeisances unto such Srila Bhakti Vallabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj.
Introduction

We humbly submit this offering to the lotus feet of our Most Revered Gurudeva, Sri Srimad Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj on the occasion of His 94th Vyasa Puja, March 25, 2018.

These offerings highlight only a tiny portion of his never-ending glories. When we remember him, we automatically advance towards attaining the highest goal. May we always remain with him by connecting our thoughts, words, and deeds with his divine teachings.

May we always remember this prayer spoken by our dear Gurudeva:

"I should be satisfied by reconciling the nectareous sayings emanating from the Lotus lips of Gurudeva with the thoughts of my mind, nothing more can I expect to get."

It is incomprehensible what an exceptionally rare and precious fortune we have received by associating with our Most Revered Gurudeva.

durlabho manusyo deho dehinam ksana bhangurah
tatrapy durlabham manye vaikuntha priya darsanam
atath atyantikam ksemam prchamo bhagavato anughah
samsaro'smin ksana ardho pi sat-sangah sevadinram
(SB, 11.1.29-30)

"To obtain this temporary miserable body is considered to be very difficult but even more than this is the vision of the pure devotees of the Lord. In this temporary material world, for one to obtain the association of high caliber saints like your good selves, even for a moment is the greatest treasure and source of bliss for ordinary human beings."

Some devotees served Srila Gurudeva intimately for years while others may have "met" him through photos or by reading his teachings. Indeed, His mercy is unlimited and transcends time, place, and circumstance. His Kripa has no limit. Some way or another, he finds that sincere-hearted soul and he saves them.
nayam atma pravacanena labhyo
na medhaya na bahuna srutena
yam evaisa vrnute tena labhyas
tsasyaisa atma vivrnute tanum svam
(Kathopanisad, 1.2.23)

"The Supreme Lord is not attained by reasonings or by vast intelligence, nor even
by much hearing. He is attained only by one whom he Himself chooses. To such a
person He manifests His own form."

Srila Gurudeva's darshan and his association are not possible with the material
senses, it is a transcendental experience that is accessible to anyone. It is an
experience beyond life and death.

In Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu (1.2.234) Sri Rupa Goswami states:

"No one can understand Kṛṣṇa as He is by the blunt material senses. But He
reveals Himself to the devotees, being pleased with them for their transcendental
loving service unto Him."

Everything depends on our faith and surrender. As Srila Gurudeva exemplified with
such supreme beauty in his final pastimes on this earth, the highest form of
association is a highly intimate, internal process between the devotee and the
spiritual master.

On this is our first Vyasa Puja without perceiving our Gurudeva's external form,
may he bless us to have his darshan, appearing within our hearts.
Praying for His Shelter Life After Life

Please accept my koti koti dandavat pranam at your lotus feet, Parampujyapad Sri Srimad Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj Srila Gurudev.

I have no qualification, but for my own purification, please allow me to express my gratitude and attempt to glorify you on this Holy occasion of your Vyasa puja.

It has been so sad to accept that your manifest presence is no longer visible to my material eyes in this lifetime, and that this will be the first Vyasa puja Mahotsav when I will not get darshan of your lotus feet graciously accepting Abhishek from my senior Gurubhai and hear the joyful ululation of my Gurubon.

But at the same, the last months of Viraha have filled me with gratitude that you accepted my unqualified, useless self as an insignificant member of your parivar. You cultivated and inspired all these diligent, qualified, caring Gurubhaibon, and it has been a great source of solace to see them rising to this challenging time, demonstrating the high quality of your teaching, and thereby giving pleasure to the wider assembly of Vaishnavas in our Saraswat Gaudiya Sampradaya.

Being very clear about my own uselessness in these matters, it has given me great pleasure to hear how impressed so many senior Vaishnavas from so many maths have been with how your qualified, dedicated disciples have served you. Your worshipable Gurubhaibon have comforted us with so much affection and Harikatha. Because of this family you have given me shelter in, I will be able to keep trying to follow your instructions for the rest of this birth.

I pray that you bless me with the continued association of this family and many opportunities to serve them. I also pray that I will receive your shelter and darshan life after life. Please forgive my offences and incompetence. Again, with my koti dandavat pranam at your lotus feet,

Your useless servant,
Rupamanjari Devi dasi
El Cerrito, California, USA
Who Could Be More Compassionate?

Who could be more compassionate,
than Supreme Lord Krishna's Grace-incarnate,
Srla Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami you are named.
On Krishna's order in Goalpara Dham you have appeared,
and gradually all over the world Harinam you have spread.
You taught us that for our sufferings others should not be blamed,
and that pure devotional target never should be missed.
Example is better than precept you have showed,
as your Gurudeva's orders always you have followed.
In the midst of Sankirtan, from this world you've departed,
to join again in Nitya-lila with your Most Beloved,
to come with you to Vrindavan strongly you encouraged.
How can your causeless grace ever we forget,
All Glory, All Glory, All Glory to your Lotus feet.

By the merciful encouragement of Srila Gurudev and Vaishnavas,
Madan Gopal Das

Slovenia
All glories to HDG Shrila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Gosvami Maharaja!
All glories to Shri Shri Guru and Gauranga!
All glories to Shri Shri Sita-Rama!

On this most auspicious vyasa-puja appearance day of HDG Most Revered Shrila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Gosvami Maharaja, who is so dear to Lord Krishna, I offer my respectful humble obeisances at his lotus feet, with all the humility I am capable of.

How fortunate I was to be able to meet His Divine Grace Shrila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Gosvami Maharaja. I was utterly overcome by his presence, by his sweet lotus face; he was so kind and magnanimous, full of spiritual power, and was instantly aware that I was in the presence of a pure devotee of Lord Shri Krishna. From that moment, I worship him with all my heart and soul.

When I learned of his absolute devotion and unalloyed service to his revered spiritual master, HDG Shrila Bhakti Dayita Madhava Gosvami Maharaja, I felt such love and reverence for him. Just to see him was to love him, and I miss him and feel such sadness. In fact, the world seems empty without his presence, but as he was often heard to say, “Just follow the instructions of the sadhu and aspire for his grace.” All these instructions are in his books. Everything is there and in the letters he wrote to his thousands of followers and disciples, signed, “Affectionately Yours.”

Beloved Shrila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Gosvami Maharaja, I bow down again and again to your lotus feet and worship you with all the love in my heart. I beg you, out of your mercy, to allow me a small place at your sweet lotus feet, to glorify you. You are in my heart forever, dearest divine most loveable representative of Lord Krishna. You are worshipable by all humanity.

I am your humble and loving servant for all time. I feel so blessed by your kindness and guidance. I miss you so much dearest Shrila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Gosvami Maharaja. You are always present in my heart and I glorify you again and again!

Your humble and loving servant for eternity,
Brahmidevi Dasi
UK
A Mercy Resplendent Jewel

All glories to HDG Shrila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Gosvami Maharaja ki jaya!

All glories to Shri Shri Guru-Gauranga!
All glories to Shri Shri Sita-Rama!

On the occasion of the celebration of the most auspicious appearance day of HDG Most Revered Shrila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Gosvami Maharaja, I humbly offer my repeated obeisances at your holy lotus feet.

Once, when conversing with you, I asked you if you thought that there was some subtle difference between Goloka and Gokula Vrindavana, or if they were absolutely non-different. To this, you replied that Goloka Vrindavana is manifest in the self-effulgent transcendental world—the world of light, but Gokula Vrindavana is manifest in the dark world of maya. Therefore, Gokula is more brilliant, like a shining diamond in a world of darkness.

Similarly, you are a resplendent precious jewel manifesting mercy and compassion toward the fallen souls of the dark material realm, of which I am one. Even though your divine grace appeared here only briefly by worldly calculation, you have illuminated the ten
directions with your transcendental knowledge and personal example of undeviating love for and devotion to your beloved guru, HDG Shrila Bhakti Dayita Madhava Gosvami Maharaja, and Supreme Lord Krishna.

You are the direct representative of the Supreme Lord Himself and you have demonstrated the ideal to strive for. Even though one encounters so many obstacles to come to the platform of spontaneous love of the divine couple, Shri Shri Radha-Krishna, you have most kindly, with great patience, shown the way to overcome all difficulties.

I am forever grateful to you for your divine guidance, association and friendship. It is an incalculable loss to be unable to converse with you, and to be unable to see your smiling face as transcendental words emanate from your lotus lips. I most humbly pray that you might place me as an atom at the service of your lotus feet even though I am most undeserving.

With all love and affection,
Your eternal servants,
Akinchana dasa and Lakshmi dasi
UK
Jai Sri Sri Guru Gauranga!

Dear Gurudev, first I would like to offer my unlimited heartfelt obeisances at your Divine lotus feet and beg your mercy to be able to say a few words on this most holy of all holy days.

When I think of you Gurudev I remember your sunlike effulgence and also the moonlike cooling sensation of being in your presence.

I remember when you would give darshan on your veranda in the mornings while the sun was rising, it was such a beautiful vision and atmosphere, it felt like the sungod himself was coming to have your darshan and that you were the rising sun bathing us all in your rays.

You are more caring than millions of mothers. You take care of each and everyone of us by encouraging us to reach our ultimate goal in such a caring, affectionate and loving manner. You teach us through your kathas, kirtans and the perfect examples you have shown in your day to day activities of worshipping Tulsi devi, worshipping your Gurudev, in your dealings with others according to proper Vaishnava etiquette and so much more.

The Moonlike Sensation of His Presence

Jai Sri Sri Guru Gauranga!
I am not very scholarly or qualified to describe your glories, so for my benefit I will remember your various instructions that have left a very strong imprint on me:

- Always worship Supreme Lord!
- You are never alone, Supreme Lord is always with you in your heart
- By remembering Guru, Vaishnava and Bhagavan all obstacles will be removed
- Chant from the CORE of your heart
- This Kaliyuga is VERY rare! Mahaprabhu has appeared in this Kaliyuga, we should not make late (waste our time)..
- By performing Navadwip Mandal Parikram we can recharge our batteries for a whole year
- By chanting Pancha tattva mantra and Mahamantra attentively we will get everything
- Everything happens by the will of Supreme Lord

Thank you Gurudev for allowing me to remember you, thank you for accepting me as your disciple.

You are my sun and my moon lighting up the way back home and cooling my aching heart with your eternal kindness. I am eternally indebted to you, please grant me the qualifications for serving you, I am yours struggling in this big crazy world..

Revati dasi
France

When the sadhu does not have the company of his beloved Supreme Lord, how can he live? How can he survive? He survives by singing the glories of the Supreme Lord, always hearing about and remembering Him. That is the life and soul of the sadhu.

Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj
Let me offer my unlimited prostrated obeisances unto the lotus feet of my most revered Srila Gurudeva, Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj, who is the embodiment of loving affection towards all devotees of the Lord, who is a holy tirtha travelling the world, and who is now fully immersed in bringing joy to Vrindavanesvari as Her eternal confidant. He Gurudev! I find no words to describe my sorrow. You have blessed me with unlimited showers of affection, and yet I am unable to follow your basic teachings. My heart should melt when uttering your name and when remembering your unlimited glories. Seeing it remaining untouched, I know it to be made of stone.

I was unable to write so far, and am doing so only because I was personally requested. I also could not stay in our Math in Kolkata for long. It is too painful still. Everything reminds me of you. The sound of the temple bell, Srila Paramgurudeva’s padukas, Tulasi Devi, and the tiled floor in the library.

But what is more painful is the emptiness in my heart. During your presence, you daily filled that emptiness with the nectar of your divine association. Due to my fallen nature I was unable to store that nectar in my heart. If I could at least cry. But I can only cry to cry. I am most unfortunate. I cannot properly remember you. And yet I cannot forget you. Even sitting in Vrindavan I cannot forget hearing the particular sound of that temple bell while preparing Tulasi Devi, and how you would then enter the library, decorating its fortunate tiles on the floor with the two lotuses of your holy feet.

**Real Happiness is Separation Grief**

Krishna gives His grace through a Guru, who is grace incarnate. If you wish to see the sun you cannot do so by ignoring the light from the rays of the sun. First the light will come, and through the medium of that light, you will see the sun.

*Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj*
I cannot forget, how once, you were in a very grave mood while worshiping Tulasi Devi, and how thereafter, you walked towards me. You looked straight into my eyes and said with words that entered my heart with the heaviness of thunderbolts and with the sweetness of nectar:

"In this world, the only real happiness is separation grief!"

You turned and walked away. I remained standing there like a pillar, and one part of me is still standing there. With your blessings I shall one day realize your words. I also remember how you told that Jagadish Pandit got the real mercy when he went to Puri. Other devotees came and went, but when he was supposed to go, he cried in great separation. And so Jagannath Himself came with him.

I am not like Jagadish Pandit. Only by your causeless mercy, one day, I too shall cry and cross this deadly desert of emptiness. Please overlook my disqualification and keep on nurturing me out of your causeless mercy.

Unworthy Radhamadhav das
Vrindavan (Switzerland)
Keeping Us in Your Divine Lap

Dear Srila Gurumaharaj,

Please accept my humble and respectful dandavat pranams. All glories to Your divine lotus feet. All glories to the Guru parampara.

Srila Gurudeva, this is the first year where I do not know what to write to You. And it is not that, since You disappeared from this world, I do not feel Your presence with us. On the contrary, it seems that You are showering even more mercy and compassion on us now, seeing how much we need You, orphaned and destitute as we are. You sometimes said that when a child sits on the mother's lap it is always peaceful. It seems that You now keep us all on Your divine lap, deserving or undeserving, out of Your causeless mercy.

Despite all my ignorance, illusion, aversions and faults, the one thing that I always knew for sure, right from the beginning when You granted me Your first darshan and by Your grace only, is that if I always firmly cling to Your divine lotus feet and never let go, I will be rescued. Our fortune to have come under Your shelter is immeasurable. Guruji, please always keep me close to Your lotus feet.

Your insignificant, eternal servant,
Urmila dasi
Udupi (Germany)
All Glory to Sree Guru and Sree Gauranga!
Dear Srila Gurudev, please accept my humble obeisances.

The Day of Your Appearance is a special day. Your Appearance on this earth is a special mercy of the Lord. You have great compassion and mercy to all living beings. Your loving heart is able to bestow true happiness to thousands of living beings and save from maya. You are so compassionate for all fallen souls and you give drink of living water from deep.. sweet.. mellow.. source. My life would be empty and senseless if I did not met You. After meeting with You, I understood that there is true happiness, the source of which is the way of service.

Dear beloved Srila Gurudev, my gratitude is unending for Your care and Love. The most wonderful moments of my life are Your darshans. These eternal happy moments I always keep in the depths of my heart and this gives me the strength to go further. I am very happy that in this countless cycle of births and deaths, all kinds of ways and many gurus, I was fortunate enough to come into contact with You - Satguru, Mahabhagavata.. causeless guru-kripa ..

You gave me the most precious treasure in this life - Your instructions. Your instructions are full of Love. All Your life is continuous Kirtan. When You sing and speak, this is the breath of Life from world of Beautiful Reality.. Breath from our real home.. The hope of obtaining shelter at Your lotus feet is the only hope in my life. You have boundless and bottomless Love to Your Srila Gurudev. I pray for a drop of such love .. Your absence is an loss. No one can replace You. When Your disappearance came, everything has become empty.. But You continue to live in Your disciples, in Your books - in them i again meet You and it is balm for my heart, very inspiring and supporting me.

You often speak about: This precious human birth is only meant for worship of the Supreme Lord trinad api sunichena taror api sahishnuna amanina manadena kirtaniyah sada harih (3 sloka Sri Siksastakam) -Nobody is to be blamed for our afflictions and drawbacks. We reap the fruits of our own actions.
-Call God’s Name from the core of his heart with one-pointed devotion.
-Without sharanagati, there can not be any bhakti
-A sincere soul will never be deceived
-You teach selfless devotion to Lord Sri Krishna. I pray that these instructions always in my life. Without them, all will be in senseless.
Dear beloved Srila Gurudev, grant me service Vaishnavas. You are the ocean of Love and Grace. By Your Grace, impossible becomes possible. I pray that You will continue to give me communication with Your disciples. I pray for a drop of Grace from Your divine lotus Feet.

sri-guru-charana-padma kevala bhakati-sadma

Your Lotus Feet is single treasury of bhakti.. Your Grace for me is everything.

Your aspiring servant,
Dhanistha dasi
Russia
You Sent Your Padukas to Rescue Me

Dear Gurudev,

Please accept my dandavat pranam.

Since you physically left this ocean-like world, its waves and whirlpools grew stronger and carried me away many times but, by your causeless mercy you sent your padukas to our little GOKUL community project to rescue me. Please, although I’m not at the standard of a true disciple, keep being present in my life, and infuse your mood in our GOKUL community project, making it sweet, loving, deep and non sectarian.

I miss you Gurudev.

Uddhava das
France

There is no enviousness in the sadhu – ajata satravah santah. Sadhus have got tranquillity of mind. They are calm and serene. They have got no desire except to fulfil the desire of Sri Krishna. Their duties are enjoined in the scriptures. They are simple hearted and are not crooked.

Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj
A Sprout of Faith in You

Dear Srila Guru Maharaj,

On the most auspicious of all the days - the day of your Appearance, we find the words of your Grace in the Dust of the Divine Feet. So unsuccessful, unable to appreciate the time, God-given time for this human life, I have only Hope. This is Hope - you! Once you came to me, you gave me such thing ... What is this ?! Showing disgusting laziness in the aspiration to spiritual life, I did not deserve the Gift that you brought to me ..

This gift is a sprout of faith in you, in your Divine nature, a desire to listen to your eternal unearthly Hari Katha, pouring genuine joy into the depths of the heart, a sprout of desire to serve your dear Associates and Disciples, saving from the incessant self-deception .. I bow down in the Dust of your Lotus Feet.

Your unworthy disciple,
Advaya Gyan das
Voronezh, Russia
Dear Srila Gurudeva, please accept my unlimited humble obeisances at your lotus feet.

I am writing this for the occasion of your 94th Vyasa-puja, the first one since your disappearance from our mortal vision almost one year ago. I’m missing your association dearly, your beaming smile, your unflinching dedication to the lotus feet of Param-gurudeva Srila Bhakti Dayita Madhava Gosvami Maharaja, your purity, your deep meditative way of performing devotional service, and the power your instructions have to inspire pure Krsna consciousness in my heart. I feel unable to adequately glorify you for all of the service you have done for Lord Caitanya’s mission and for your exemplary life, yet I will do my best to render this service to you as your humble disciple for your pleasure and for my purification.

As your final years in this world commenced, we could all appreciate each aspect of your association more and more. I came to you just before you stopped speaking with us five years ago, and I was blessed to feel the purity and purpose with which you performed every act and interacted with every devotee. Although I did not have the fortune of personally hearing you sing or dance in kirtan, I have heard senior devotees say that it felt like your kirtan was resounding throughout the universe and that you would dance high in
the air even at an advanced age. After you stopped speaking with us externally, I was better able to appreciate this line from Srila Narottama Das Thakur’s “Vaisnava Vijnapti:"

gangara parasa hoile pascate pavan
darsane pavitra koro—ei tomara gun
“After bathing in the waters of the sacred Ganges many times, one becomes purified, but just by the sight of you, the fallen souls are purified. This is your great power.”

Even when you weren’t externally speaking to us, you mercifully stayed in this world to give us your darsana and grant us the opportunity to serve you by singing the bhajans written by the previous acaryas together for your pleasure. Your mere presence inspired us all to loudly chant Krsna’s holy name and deepen our Krsna consciousness.

This is what Lord Caitanya has said about the maha-bhagavata vaisnavas:
yāñhāra darśane mukhe āise kṛṣṇa-nāma
tāñhāre jāniha tumi ‘vaisnava-pradhāna’
“Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu said, “A first-class Vaiṣṇava is he whose very presence makes others chant the holy name of Kṛṣṇa.”

Now that you have disappeared from our vision, I can see how much I lack Krsna consciousness. I have felt my taste for chanting the holy names be covered over since your tirobhava, and I have talked with two of my senior godbrothers who have not faltered like me. One of my Godbrothers reminded me of the simple fact that by being submissive to you and following your instructions he has not felt disconnected from you for a single moment since your disappearance. I realized from this that by neglecting your main instruction to me to perform nagar sankirtan for the sake of other services, sadhana, and conditional duties, I have neglected my connection with you and have become absorbed in external sensual activities. Simply by following your sublime instruction to perform nagar sankirtan, my heart has gradually been soothed and doing so has even helped me to mend my relationships with vaisnavas who I have had conflict with.

This has helped me to realize this statement of the Srimad-Bhagavatam: “O great Supreme Lord, offensive persons whose internal vision has been too affected by external materialistic activities cannot see Your lotus feet, but they are seen by Your pure devotees, whose one and only aim is to transcendently enjoy Your activities.” (3.5.45). Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada explained in his purport to that verse that engaging in external sensual activities kills the internal vision that enables us to realize our own existence as a spirit soul, realize the presence of the supersoul within our heart and s
see his lotus feet, and it even blocks our ability to recognize the pure devotees of Sri Krsna. By living in an insincere way, I became absorbed in pursuits that distracted me from following your instructions and that were against my own best interests.

One of my Godbrothers shared a quote with me from Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhar Maharaja that helped me to better understand what I have been facing after your departure and that is pertinent for all of us after your tirobhava:

“That misfortune (losing the company of Gurudeva) never comes alone. It brings in its retinue many small incidents that are detrimental to our progress... Hindrances for a man of real character, hindrances are like some examination. Their purpose is to promote us. So the sincere student, real student, will pass the examination. Others will fall prey to failure. So misfortune comes to enhance the beauty of the bonafide and to eliminate the ostentatious attempt. So it is a fact that after the disappearance of Gurudeva many undesirable things will come, will happen. A period of sudhi, purification, that will actually take place. And those that are sincere will be victorious. Such movement is almost sure to come, to befall on the followers.”
(Srila B.R. Sridhara Goswami Maharaj [18.8.80+19.8.80])

I'm sorry that I have neglected to strictly perform sadhana and perform nagar sankirtan regularly, I have suffered the great pain of feeling disconnected from you at such a crucial time in my spiritual life, the first year after your tirobhava. These experiences remind me again and again of how pure and perfect this process of Krsna consciousness is, and how perfect of a spiritual master I have been blessed to take shelter of. Even though I keep making these mistakes due to my conditioning, inattentiveness, and complacency in my devotional service, you have kindly woken me up each time to the sublime life of Krsna consciousness that you and all of our acaryas are giving to us. I pray to you to please keep me engaged constantly in your devotional service, I have promised to you at the time of initiation to persist in following the regulative principles of devotional service that you have given me throughout my life, and I have accepted you as my eternal master life after life. I pray that I may always have the remembrance of my eternal relationship with you as your eternal servant in the service of Sri-Sri Radha-Govinda-Mahaprabhu, and that I may always be engaged in your service in that relationship.

In this connection, Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada wrote a beautiful Vyasa-puja offering for Jagad-Guru Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami Thakur Prabhupada in 1936 which, although I certainly don’t feel with the same intensity as Srila Prabhupada, I am offering to you here:
The plain truth so vividly explained in the Gītā, which is the central lesson of the Vedas, is not understood or even suspected by the most powerful scholars of the empiric schools. Herein lies the secret of Śrī Vyāsa-pūjā. When we meditate on the transcendental pastimes of the Absolute Godhead, we are proud to feel that we are His eternal servitors, and we become jubilant and dance with joy. All glory to my divine master, for it is he who has out of his unceasing flow of mercy stirred up within us such a movement of eternal existence. Let us bow down at his lotus feet.... Personally, I have no hope for any direct service for the coming crores of births of the sojourn of my life, but I am confident that some day or other I shall be delivered from this mire of delusion in which I am at present so deeply sunk. Therefore let me with all my earnestness pray at the lotus feet of my divine master to allow me to suffer the lot for which I am destined due to my past misdoings, but to let me have this power of recollection: that I am nothing but a tiny servant of the Almighty Absolute Godhead, realized through the unflinching mercy of my divine master. Let me therefore bow down at his lotus feet with all the humility at my command.

When will that day come when this realization will establish itself unflinchingly in my heart by your infinite grace Srila Gurudeva? I understand my taking initiation to be my vow to you and Kṛṣṇa that I am committed to refining my service to you throughout this lifetime and beyond. I know that you are looking after me, and by following the instructions you have given me, I will be able to receive your guidance and support. Writing this offering for you has given me a new realization about how important it is for me to open my heart to you personally every day. I used to take darsana of you every day at the Kolkata math as you would offer your obeisances and prayers to Srila Param-gurudeva in his bhakan-kutir where he withdrew his pastimes from this mortal world. You told us several times that he is not gone, he is right there with us. This is the position of sad-guru; Srila Prabhupada, in his dedication of his translation of the Srimad-Bhagavatam to Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur, said that the spiritual master lives forever in his instructions and the follower lives with him. You have given me the opportunity to stay connected to you through your instructions, and I promise to do my best to follow them and serve you. Please keep me engaged in your service, protect me from Sri Kṛṣṇa’s maya-sakti, and help me to deepen my love for Sri-Sri Gaura-Nityananda and Sri-Sri Radha-Kṛṣṇa in Vraja-Dhama.

Your humble servant eternally,
Abhimanyu Das.
USA
Dear Maharaja,

How merciful are Sri Gaurahari’s associates to give such an opportunity to the fallen conditioned souls to glorify them, namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani pracarine nirvisesa-sunyavadi pascatya-desa tarine. We heard from our well wishers about gaura-vani, Sri Siksastakam, of which you are the embodiment, and also guru-tattva, certainly you are also the personification of this great principle.

Vairagya-yug bhakti-rasam prayatnair apayayan mam anabhipsum andham krpambudhir yah para-dukha-dukhi sanatanam tam prabhum asrayami (Sri Vilapa-kusumanjali 6, Raghunatha dasa Gosvami)

In the line of Mahaprabhu and the Gosvamis, you are a true representative of their magnanimity, knowledge, kindness, renunciation, beauty, fame, power, thus exhibiting some of Sri Bhagavan’s qualities. Your precious guidance is a boon to go on trying to progress on the bhakti path and to always keep in our heart the desire to attain krsna-prema. Hoping to one day fully appreciate having met you, Gaura premanande, Haribol, always hankering for the service of Sri Guru, Gauranga and the Vaisnavas,

Narayani dasi, France
Dear Gurudev, please accept my innumerable prostrated affectionate pranams at your lotus feet.

The first time you spoke to me, you told me you are not well, that you didn’t know anything, couldn’t do anything, and you forgot so many things. Through your mercy, I knew the opposite was true— you could do anything and you were unlimited. Yet, this was being concealed.

...You appear in two features — externally as the acarya and internally as the Supersoul — to deliver the embodied living being by directing him how to come to You.

SB, 11.29.60

I wondered what kind of sweet trick was being played by you. It seemed you were hiding something really good. It made me very curious. Along with the attraction of supremely adorable features and expressions, you used this curiosity to keep me near you. You took me into your custody.

The living entity wanders into many species of life, but he is fortunate when he once again meets his friend, either in person or through His representative.

CC, Madhya 19.151

I came to you a big zero. I had nothing to renounce and nothing to offer also. I didn’t even have enough eagerness to beg. I was broken hearted and fed up with myself and this
world. I showed absolutely no promise, but you kept me with you out of your extreme compassion.

You saw how poor I was and you handed me a small white bead bag with enough wealth to last eternally. You hesitated a lot before giving me. "Don't lose this." You told me this repeatedly. "Do not lose this!" That wealth goes beyond anything I could hold in my hand. It can never be lost.

Lord Siva said: Devi, there are many gurus who take away the disciples' wealth. But rare is that guru who takes away the disciples' suffering.
Kulāṇava Tantra, 13.108

Despite this causeless good fortune, I sometimes wanted to leave due to selfish desires. But when it came time to actually leave, I simply could not. You actually made my heart hurt so much I had to turn around and run back.

When one has other desires but engages in the Lord's service, Kṛṣṇa forcibly gives one shelter at His lotus feet, one will forget all other desires.
CC, Madhya, 22.40

Only a Vaiṣṇava acarya could bestow supreme auspiciousness upon such a lost soul as me. If you hadn't kept me in your association, my material bondage would have increased and seriously threatened any chance I'd have at leading a dignified life with a true purpose. You rescued me.

O Lord, who resemble the shining sun, You are always ready to fulfil the desire of Your devotee, and therefore You are known as a desire tree (vāñchā-kalpataru). When ācāryas completely take shelter under Your lotus feet in order to cross the fierce ocean of nescience, they leave behind on earth the method by which they cross, and because You are very merciful to Your other devotees, You accept this method to help them.
SB, 10.2.31

Although your darshan is no longer possible with my material eyes, true darshan can never be had with material eyes anyway.

On the first meeting of our Paramgurudeva with Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur, He said, "It is right that one should view the deities, but learn how to view before viewing! See not with eyes of flesh, but with eyes of love."

Have mercy on me and give me your darshan. I can no longer stay physically near you. Now I have to actually stay near you by keeping you at the center of all my thoughts and expressions.

As the Ganges forever flows to the sea without hindrance, let my attraction be constantly drawn unto You, without being diverted to anyone else.
SB, 1.8.42

Forever Your Mahalakshmi dasi
Sri Mayapur Dham (USA)
Without Regard For Position and Status

Many, Many Dandvat Pranam in the Lotus Feet of Srila Gurudeva and Vaishnavas, Hare Krishna!

In my first and the last personal meeting with Srila Gurudeva, his only instruction to me is that, "If you are after God then just have your botheration for God, nothing else—these worldly name and fame, position, and status are not our subjects then."

Srila Gurudev Maharaj Ki Jai, Vaishanv Thakur ki Jai, Jai Jai Gaur Nitai, Hari Bol!

Your ignorant boy
Chetan Sondhi
India
Shining Bright on the Horizon of Gaudiya Vaishnavas

Dear Shri GURUDEV!

On the day of Your divine Appearance I bow humbly to You.

O Gurudev, You have come to this dark world to declare openly and in full voice the pure and exclusive Bhakti in the Line Goudiya-Rupanuga-Narottam-Bhaktivinod-Sarasvati, that this Truth about the causeless and unstoppable Bhakti should shine even brighter in the horizon of the Gaudiya Vaishnavas and help all sincere seekers of the eternal good Path to Absolute Harmony.

Once I was lucky enough to hear how You so deeply, from the bottom of heart pronounce the famous verse from Caitanya Caritamrita 1.3.30:

`caitanya-simhera navadvipe avatar
simha-griva, simha-virya, simhera hunkar
“Thus the lionlike Lord Caitanya has appeared in Navadvipa. He has the shoulders of a lion, the powers of a lion, and the loud voice of a lion.”`

It was to see and hear unforgettable! And it was revealed to me at that moment that You too are generously endowed with this divine lion hunkar. Let this lion’s hunkar Sri Gurudeva always shatters all our ignorance and unwillingness to surrender fully to the Will of Shri Bhagavan!

Let Your unparalleled, unique and deeply penetrating Kirtans – “Nrisimha-kirtan” and “Jay Dao” always sound and permeate all the shells of the universe and eliminate all kinds vighna on this wonderful and at the same time is very narrow (like a razor blade) the Way to a Higher Grace.

Jay Jay Bhakta-Vatsal Shri Nrisimbhadev!!!

May Your Divine universal and full of love nectar instructions always light the Way for Sri Krishna, Reality the Beautiful!

Jay Jay Shri Nityananda-abhinna Prakash SHRI GURUDEV!!!

All glory to the endless flow of Mercy of Sri Goura and Sri Nityananda, which You generously bestowed upon our Sri Goudiya Guru-Varga!!!

Jay Jay Shuddha-Bhakti-Path!

Awaiting Your causeless Mercy

Vishakha dd
Russia, Ufa
The Mahabhagavata knows that everyone is his guru; and that is why he is guru to the whole world.

Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj
Srila Gurudeva is a dearmost associate of Srimati Radhika - and while I am still bewildered by the hypnotic cycle of suffering created by my own ignorance - I hope I can know Him more and more, every day and year that passes by - I hope to hear more deeply His words, and follow more truly His instructions. I hope to someday fully realize my sublime good fortune in being accepted under His transcendental loving shelter. To hear His glories is supremely blissful, and aspiring for His service gives meaning to my existence.

Gurudeva krova se tamara, krova dite pura, tamara sakati acham ami to karmaka, krova, krova, bali, dhai tava piche piche! Krsna

God descends into the cave of the heart of the completely surrendered soul.
ohe!
vaisnaba thákura,
doyāra sāgara,
e dāse korunā kori'
diyā pada-chāyā, śodho he āmāya,
tomāra carana dhori

chaya bega domi’, chaya dosa śodhi’,
chaya guna deho’ dāse
chaya sat-saṅga, deho’ he āmāre,
bosechī saṅgera āše

ekākī āmāra, nāhi pāya bala,
hari-nāma-saṅkīrtane
tumi kṛpā kori’,
śraddhā-bindu diyā,
deho’ kṛṣṇa-nāma-dhane

kṛṣṇa se tomāra, kṛṣṇa dīte pāro,
tomāra şakati āche
āmi to’ kāṅgāla, 'kṛṣṇa' 'kṛṣṇa' boli’,
dhāi tava pāche pāche
The Supreme Lord will descend into our hearts
-- will be revealed in our hearts --
when we actually and sincerely take absolute shelter at His Lotus Feet.
He will reveal Himself to the surrendered soul.
   If we chant with bonafied submission,
we will find that everything is there in the Holy Name --
   Form, Attributes, everything.
   The Name is saccidananda.
   Krsna is saccidananda.
This realization will descend into our hearts.
We might think that we will get Him by our own capacity,
   but He is not subservient to us.
He is Self-effulgent, Self-luminous like the sun.
GURUDEVA

A PERFECT EXAMPLE

THE EPITOME OF HUMILITY
UNWAVERING UNFALTERING STEADFAST
SERVICE ILLUMINATING THE DARKNESS
DISTRIBUTOR OF THE SWEETEST MERCY
PROTECTOR OF TRUTH FRIEND OF THE FALLEN
FULLY ABSORBED HARI KIRTAN
EVER BLISSFUL INTENSELY FOCUSED
BESTOWER OF GRACE SHELTER FOR THE SOULS
SERVANT OF SRIMATI TULASI DEVI
VISION FOR THE BLIND PATHWAY FOR THE LOST
THE HIGHMOST MOOD
BEYOND TIME BEYOND SPACE ABOVE ALL
GIVER OF TRANSCENDENTAL JEWELS
RESIDENT OF MY HEART
DIRECT LINKAGE TO OUR ETERNAL SERVICE
We have lost our money and we have lost our near and dear ones, but again we keep trying to get those things back. If no human being is available, we acquire a dog, a cat, a parrot or whatever, and become attached to that. Again and again we try for the non-eternal because the root cause of our afflictions is not eliminated. This root cause is our misconception of self and the ignorance of thinking that by getting material benefits we will be truly benefitted.
Pūjayapāda Śrīla Gurudev Śrīla Bhakti Ballabh Tīrtha Goswāmī Mahārāj,
Please accept my koṭi daṇḍavat praṇām at your lotus feet. All glories to this most auspicious occasion of your Vyāsa-pūjā!

Gurudev, as this is your first Vyāsa-pūjā after your manifest appearance in this world, it is an occasion to reflect in full on the unfathomable blessing of your having so mercifully come and stayed so long to bring the message of Mahāprabhu to us fallen souls in this world. For my own part, i am a bit saddened by how little i could understand of your glories during your presence here, due to the depth of my egoistic conditioning. However, this feeling pales in comparison to my overwhelming gratitude for your surpassing kindness in extending yourself to penetrate that heavy conditioning and give me shelter, accepting me as your disciple.

Gurudev, yet another miracle among the many quiet miracles you have wrought here in this world is how you continue to make your presence keenly felt in nurturing my spiritual growth and development. That you are living still in sound is not simply a theory, it is an amazing grace that is somehow penetrating from the transcendental realm to the core of my stonelike heart.

Gurudev, as your spiritual vision transcended limits of time and material circumstances, each instruction you personally gave to me was aimed deep at the heart of my journey of spiritual upliftment. Just as an acorn contains within it in seed form the mighty oak tree whose development unfolds over time, so your instructions are potent packages that keep revealing layer after layer for years and years afterwards.

Gurudev, i am particularly remembering that the last time i was graced with your face-to-face darśana, on the last day before i was going to fly out of Kolkata, i begged you for an instruction: Gurudeva, āpanāra sevā āmi ki kare karate pāri? Gurudev, how can i engage in your service? I recall that i asked you three times; as i have also heard from others, you rarely take the position of directly giving instruction. The instructions you finally gave me are perfect beyond imagining: concise to the point of poetry, exactly suited to me personally, on the one hand profoundly natural and on the other hand encompassing challenges that will be more than sufficient to keep stimulating my spiritual growth for the rest of this life.

Gurudev, despite your mercy in revealing yourself at all, i realize that i have not genuinely understood even a small droplet of who you really are. So i pray that purely out of your own limitless affection, you please allow the full import of your life and instructions to keep emerging and spreading to myself and the other souls of this world who are thirsting after that nectar.
Gurudev, on this day of your holy appearance i am praying that you please forgive any offenses i have committed to you, knowingly or unknowingly. Despite my many faults and shortcomings, please continue to correct me, give me your shelter, and engage me in your service.

Begging for your grace,
Your most lowly disciple,

Rukmini Devi dasi
Columbus, Ohio

Sril Gurudev ji ke sri charno me bhav naman

Hey Gurudev, aap samne baiythe hain
Our hame aapki yaad aa rahi hai
Kaisa ye avsar hai ki aap
Nahi bhi hain samne hamare
Per fir bhi aap hi aap hain
Sab oor, man me chit me
Ander bahar uper neeche
Kaisa virah hai, kaisa sayong hai
Lagta hai milan ka, aanand viyog hai
Hamari seemit indriyon se pare ka
Yeha vichitra yog hai
Hey Gurudev! hame aapne
Sri Charno me hi rakhna
Her dam yuhin, hamare
Man mandir me hi, basna.

Sabhi prem bhavon sahit
Dandwat pranam

Pradeep Vaish
Nivedita Vaish