

2012 Vyasapuja Offering to Prahladananda swami

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

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

Dear Guru Maharaja

I remember once commenting after you had mentioned you were coming from a short trip to Las Vegas that ‘It must be difficult to practice Krishna Consciousness in Las Vegas.’ You replied ‘No... it’s a simple process, you just chant Hare Krishna.’ I was dumb struck with this answer and quickly realized that maybe my understanding of Krishna Consciousness (and just how powerful and simple it is) was grossly underestimated. Srila Prabhupada said that our philosophy is so simple you might just miss it, and every time I’ve served you I’ve been reminded of this. The mind likes to complicate things. That seems to be its entire purpose in this material existence. However, you always remind me that our process is simple and practical and if we actually try and follow Srila Prabhupada’s teaching we will steadily see our Krishna consciousness increase and our attachment to this material world decrease.

Our vision of Krishna Consciousness can often be romantic, mystical, and something conveyed in stolen glances and magical moments. We can sometimes treat it as an “arm chair philosophy”. You continuously remind me that Krishna consciousness is a practical process and that we should do something practical to develop our spiritual life. It really is simple for the simple, and complex for the complicated. We have to practically apply the philosophy to understand its true meaning.

Srila Prabhupada writes in nectar of devotion:

A person who acts exactly according to the tenets of scripture is called śāstra-cakṣus. Śāstra-cakṣus means one who sees through the eyes of the authorized scriptures. Actually, any man of knowledge and experience should see everything through these books.

Your unyielding adherence to following the instructions of Srila Prabhupada, and your emphasis that everything we need to become Krishna conscious is in Prabhupada’s books, is an example for any serious devotee. I pray for your mercy so that I can become a serious sadhaka, who practically applies the teachings of Srila Prabhupada while preaching the glories of Krishna consciousness and distributing Prabhupada’s books. You once said to me that Prabhupada’s

books are the basis for our spiritual life. Please help me to understand this, as I try to serve you in whatever capacity I can to help you push on the movement of your spiritual master.

Your aspiring servant
Ben