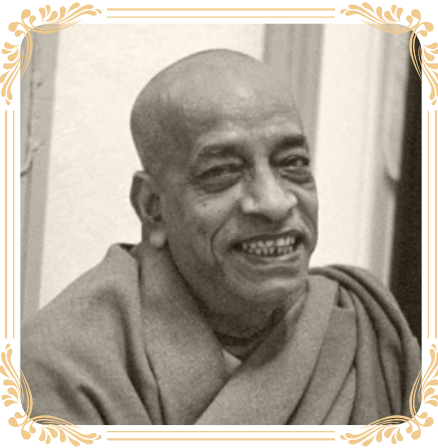


then gravely said to the devotees, “Krishna is so kind that He has come to us like this.”

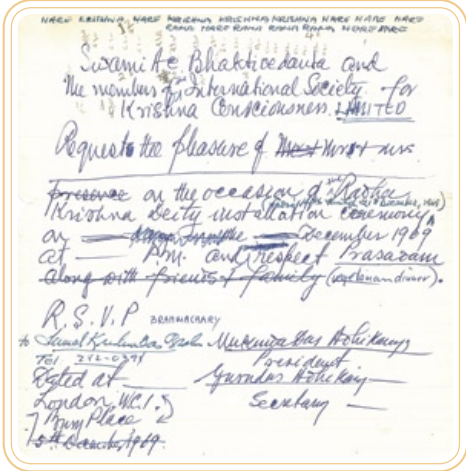
I knew that Srila Prabhupada had gone in the van to the Hindu Centre, but I had been disappointed in my aspirations for large marble Deities so often before that I hardly dared hope They would ever come. I really had no idea it would happen in such an unprecedented way. It was truly the Krishna Magic at work. I was in Prabhupada’s room looking down, and the van pulled up. Srila Prabhupada was still living in his Baker Street apartment, as his rooms in Bury Place were not quite ready. As I watched, the back doors of the van opened, and Mukunda and Shyamasundara come out, their arms full. Srila Prabhupada directed them to carefully bring the Deities up the stairs to his room and then gently set Them down.



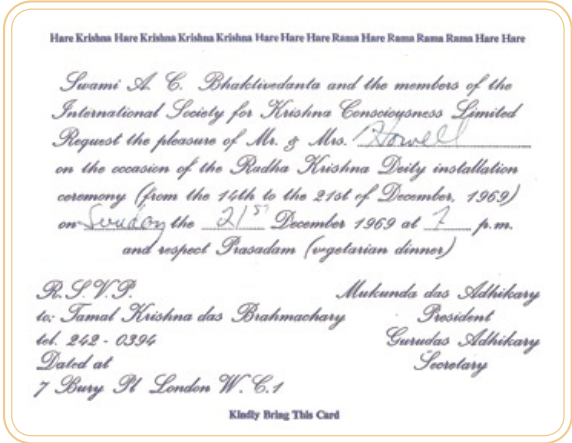
I will never forget my own shock, surprise and joy. My mouth was literally open in awe, and I felt faint. Then Srila Prabhupada looked at me with a joyous, mysterious smile, and said: “Your marble Radha and Krishna have come. Put Them in the back corner and cover Them with cloth.” With tears of joy pouring down my face, I looked at these magnificent Deities—all that I could ever have wished for—and was overwhelmed at Their beauty; then I covered Them. Prabhupada continued, “Krishna has played a great trick on Mr. Goyal.” As he spoke, his eyes were smiling, his mouth was smiling—his entire body was jubilant. “This Krishna wanted to come here all along.”

Of course, part of the “trick” involved the fact that in transport from India, Srimati Radharani’s hand had broken, and so there was some question as to whether She would be suitable for installing. For Srila Prabhupada, this was a non-issue, as he felt that once repaired, She would be installed and fully present, so there was no disparity. But to some Hindus, the fact of the breaking made Her imperfect and therefore “uninstallable.” Srila Prabhupada’s vision was quite the opposite, and he saw these Deities as the quintessence of beauty. All in all it was a wonderful trick. Srila Prabhupada gave the analogy of the Lord in His form of Damodar tricking Mother Yasoda by defeating her every effort to tie Him up by making the rope always too short. So here he felt that Krishna had wanted all along to come to our temple, and therefore created this “trick” to come.

Srila Prabhupada said to me, “One can never understand how Krishna acts, but all the time He was planning to come and stay in this temple.



Srila Prabhupada's handwritten draft, with Yamuna's calligraphy formulas



The final installation invitation

Krishna has come in this form because of your prayers, but He waited until now to increase your desire for Him.” He then reminded me that he had written to me that Krishna would come in His own time. He said that sincerity always attracts the attention of Krishna, and if you pray with sincerity for something service-related, Krishna will answer your prayers.

Srila Prabhupada then instructed me to make Their dresses, jewelry and crowns for the installation. He instructed Shyamasundara to complete an altar for Them, and he came every single day to see the progress on the construction and the Deity service. Although he gave me the service of decorating the Deities, I had never done this before, so he helped me at every step. He said, “Krishna’s favorite color is a golden saffron color.” So he had me bring back several colors of silk—from yellow to orange to saffron. And he personally selected two colors of contrasting silks with both gold and silver borders. Giving me the most rudimentary instructions on designing for Krishna, he simply said, “You just copy what is there in the pictures—the Brijbasi prints.” He explained that Krishna should wear a *dhoti*, shirt and shawl. Radha should wear a pleated Brijbasi-style skirt, *choli* (short blouse) and *chuni* (veil). We bought stones and buckram and made crowns the exact sizes of the ones already carved on Them. We also made necklaces, bracelets and ankle bells on the same principle. I asked him how many

