



Home Deity Worship Course

Letters to Govinda dāsī



ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry

Letters to Govinda dāsī

- **70-04** "I am so very glad to learn that Srimati Tulasī-devī has favored you so much. If you can actually grow this Tulasī plant and I am sure you will do it, then you must know it for certain that your devotion for Kṛṣṇa is testified. I was very much anxious to introduce this worship of Tulasī amongst our Society members, but it has not become successful until now, therefore, when I hear that you have got this opportunity, my pleasure does not have any bounds. Please take care of the Tulasī plants in the following way. This is the best season for growing Tulasī plants. From the 15th April to June 15th is the best season for growing this plant. Now I understand that the seedlings are coming out, so the whole spot if possible may be covered by some net because the seedling stage creepers being very delicate are sometimes eaten up by the sparrows, so we have to give a little protection from attack of the sparrows.

All the devotees should pour water at least once in the morning before taking prasāda. The watering should not be very much large in quantity, but it should be poured just to keep the ground soft and moist. Sunlight also should be allowed. When the creepers are grown at least seven inches high, then you can take them out from the planting soil and transplant them in a row in a different place. Then go on watering and they will grow like anything. I think this plant cannot grow in cold countries, but if the plants are dispatched from your place and if the devotees take care of the plant with a little care in a flower pot, then it may grow.

Tulasī leaf is very, very dear to Viṣṇu. All Viṣṇu-tattva Deities require profusely Tulasī leaves. Lord Viṣṇu likes garlands of Tulasī leaves. Tulasī leaves mixed with sandalwood pulp and placed on the lotus feet of the Lord is the topmost worship. But we must be very careful that Tulasī leaves cannot be placed on the feet of anyone else except Lord Viṣṇu and His different forms. Tulasī leaves cannot be placed even on the lotus feet of Rādhārāṇī or on the lotus feet of the spiritual master. It is entirely reserved for being placed on the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa. We can



place, however, Tulasī leaves in the hands of Rādhārāṇī for being placed on the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa, as you have seen on the Govinda album.

I am giving herewith three mantras for Tulasī devi as follows:

*vṛndāyai tulasī-devyai priyāyai keśavasya ca
viṣṇu-bhakti-prade devī satya vatyai namo namaḥ*

This is offering obeisances, bowing down (pancāṅga praṇām). And when collecting leaves from the plant, the following mantras should be chanted:

*tulasī amṛta-janmāsi sadā tvam keśava-priya
keśavārtham cinomi tvām varadā bhava śobhane*

Then the mantra for circumambulating the Tulasī tree:

*yāni kāni ca pāpāni brahma-hatyādikāni ca
tāni tāni praṇaśyanti pradakṣiṇaḥ pade pade*

So there are three mantras, one for bowing down, one for circumambulating, and one for collecting the leaves. The collecting of leaves should be done once in the morning for worshiping and for putting on the plates of foodstuffs to be offered. On each bowl or plate there should be at least one leaf. So you follow and practice these Tulasī affairs and you try to distribute your experience to all the other centers, that will be a new chapter in the history of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement"

(Śrīla Prabhupāda's letter to Govinda dāsī, 7th April, 1970)

- **70-11** "I know that both you and Gaurasundara are sincere devotees and you have done your best in Hawaii in accordance with my desire and the luxurious growing Tulasī devi is giving evidence of your sincere devotion. Kindly take care of Guru- Gaurāṅga, Rādhā- Kṛṣṇa and Tulasī devī and be happy. Try to make others also happy by spreading this Kṛṣṇa consciousness."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda's letter to Govinda dāsī, 5th November, 1970)



- **71-05** "Your service in the matter of implanting Tulasī seeds as introduced in the Western countries has proved it definitely that actually you are Govinda dāsi, maidservant of Govinda. I always speak to many gentlemen how strenuously hard you worked to have introduced Tulasī in the Western countries and I am hearing from everywhere that Tulasī is growing very luxuriantly. May Tulasī be land upon you and introduce you to Kṛṣṇa, to be one of the assistant maid servant gopīs in Vṛndāvana."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda's letter to Govinda dāsi, May 28th, 1971)

- **72-01** "How are your Tulasī plants in Hawaii? How are they feeling? I am always thinking of them and you. Please let me know how they are growing and how you are taking care of them. This time when I go to Hawaii I shall sit down in the forest of Tulasī plants and chant Hare Kṛṣṇa."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda's letter to Govinda dāsi, January 6th, 1972)

- **72-02** "I am very sorry to hear about your demoniac neighbor cutting down many Tulasī plants, but do not worry, he shall get his due punishment in time, rest assured. Simply go on in the normal way, and gradually his threat will disappear. Such men should be taken and beaten very hard with shoes -- but it will not be very much to our credit if we are accused of fighting in this way. But if that man is caught trespassing on our property, then he may be severely punished by us. You can put up barbed-wire fence around the Tulasī plants if that will help, or somehow or other protect them from further danger. Our experience has been that if we ignore them, such demoniac class of men, they will go away."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda's letter to Govinda dāsi, 12th February, 1972)



- **73-02** "You are the pioneer of pushing forward Tulasī worship in the Western world and I can understand that proportionally as your Tulasī plants are growing, your devotion and love is also growing. Please continue in this way."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda's letter to Govinda dāsī, 17th February, 1973)