

PREFACE

There have been successful founders of religious movements before, and successful missionaries. But one must look far indeed to find another man who, at an advanced age and without funds or institutional support, founded a spiritual movement in a strange land as successful as the Krishna movement has become, and withal regarded by many as both a genuine saint and amazingly productive scholar.

Robert S. Ellwood

Bishop James W. Bashford Professor of Oriental Studies The University of Southern California

INTRODUCTION

The scriptures of India describe God as the Supreme Person, Whom they call Krishna—the All-Attractive One. In 1896, on the day following the celebration of Krishna's appearance on earth 5,000 years ago, a child was born to Gour Mohan De and his wife Rajani in Calcutta. Gour Mohan, a lifelong devotee of Krishna, prayed that his son might also become a devotee of the Lord and His eternal consort Radharani. Thus he named him Abhay Caran, "he who is fearless by taking shelter at the lotus feet of Krishna."

THE LIFE STORY
OF HIS DIVINE GRACE
A. C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA
Text by His Divine Grace Satsvarupa dasa Goswami
and Sesa dasa Adhikari
Illustrations by Bhaktisiddhanta dasa
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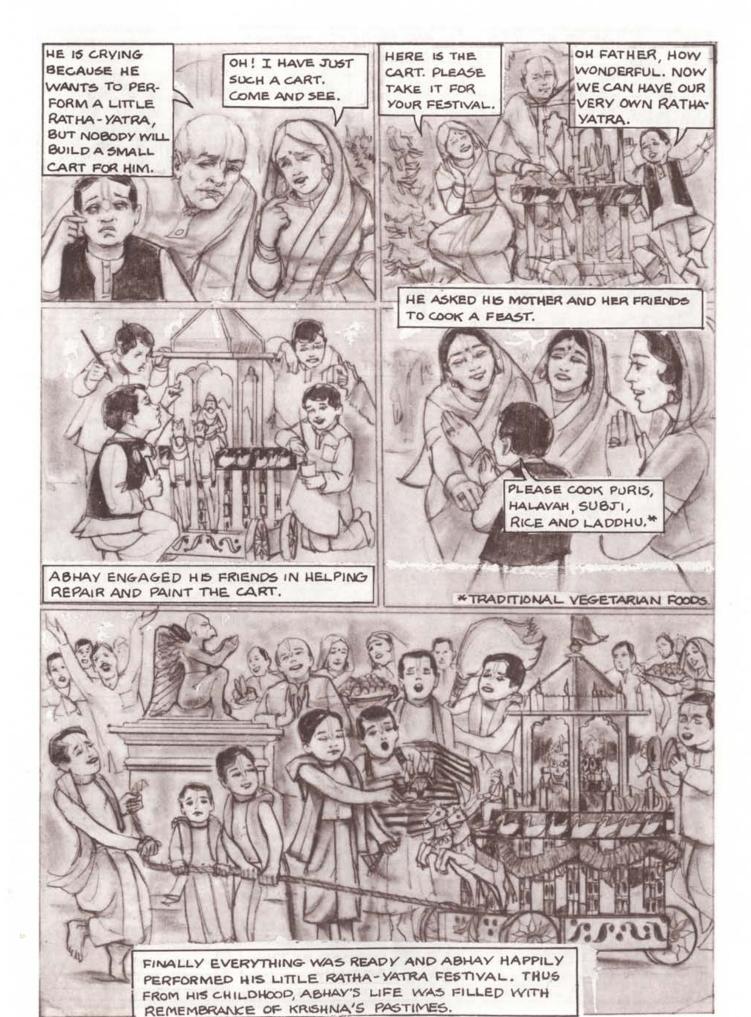
THE LIFE STORY OF HIS DIVINE GRACE

A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA-SWAMI PRABHUPADA

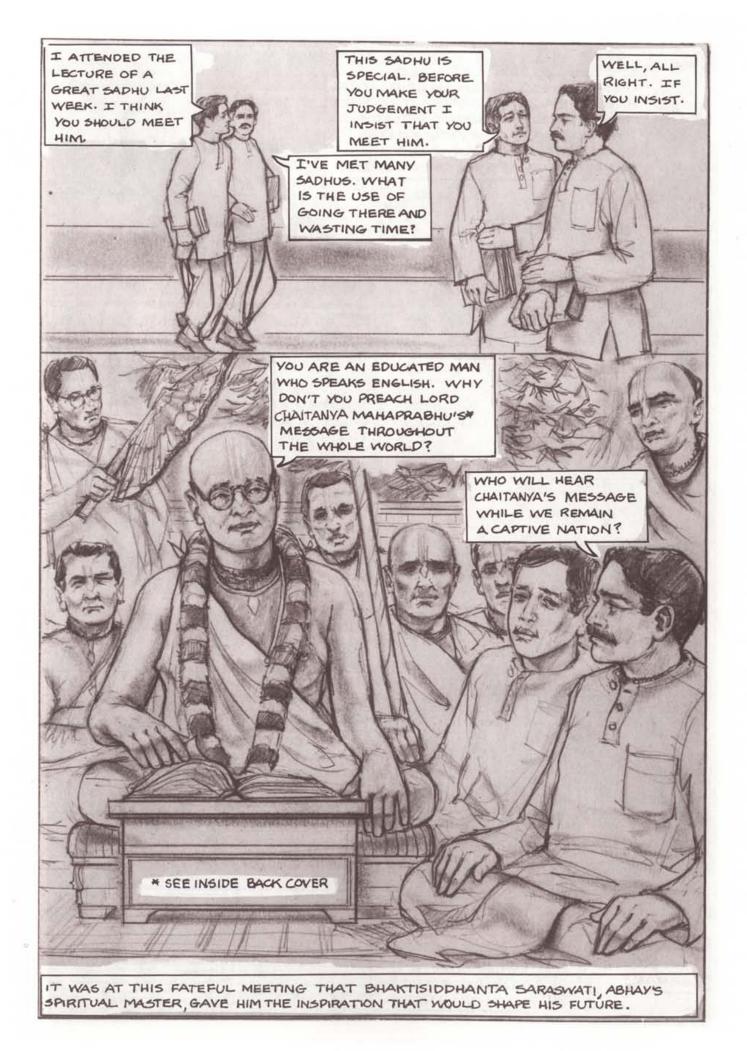
FOUNDER-ACARYA OF
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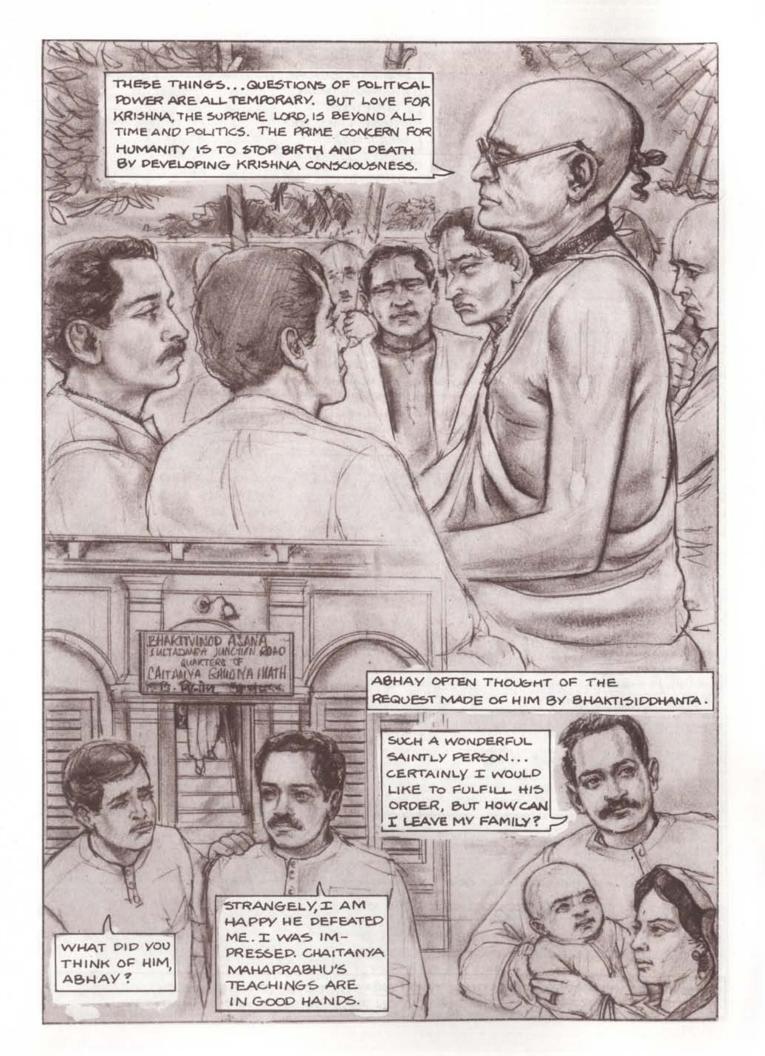
ON AUGUST 13th, 1965, A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA
SET SAIL FROM INDIA FOR THE UNITED STATES. HE POSSESSED ONLY A
HANDFUL OF RUPEES AND A TRUNK FILLED WITH HIS TRANSLATIONS OF ANCIENT
SANSKRIT SCRIPTURES. IN THE YEARS TO COME, THE IMPACT OF HIS JOURNEY
WEST WOULD BE FELT AROUND THE WORLD AND WOULD TOUCH THE LIVES OF
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE. THIS WAS A JOURNEY THAT HAD BEGUN NEARLY SEVENTY
YEARS BEFORE IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE, WHERE THE SEEDS OF DEVOTION HAD
BEEN PLANTED IN HIS PURE, YOUNG HEART.

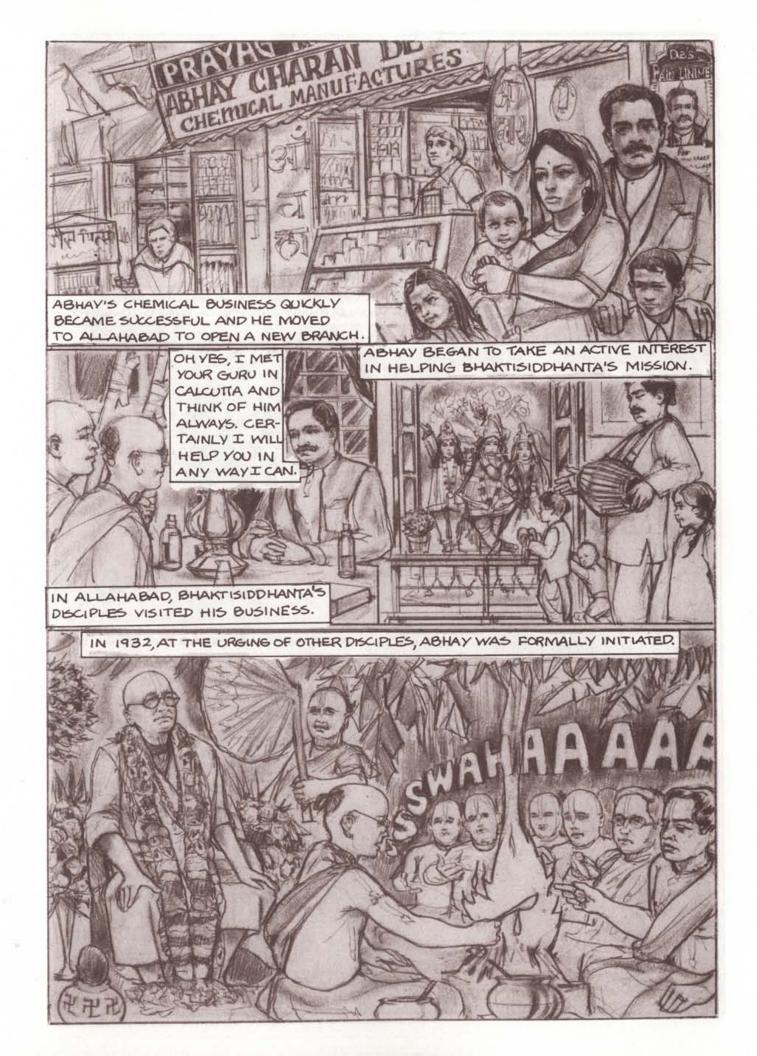


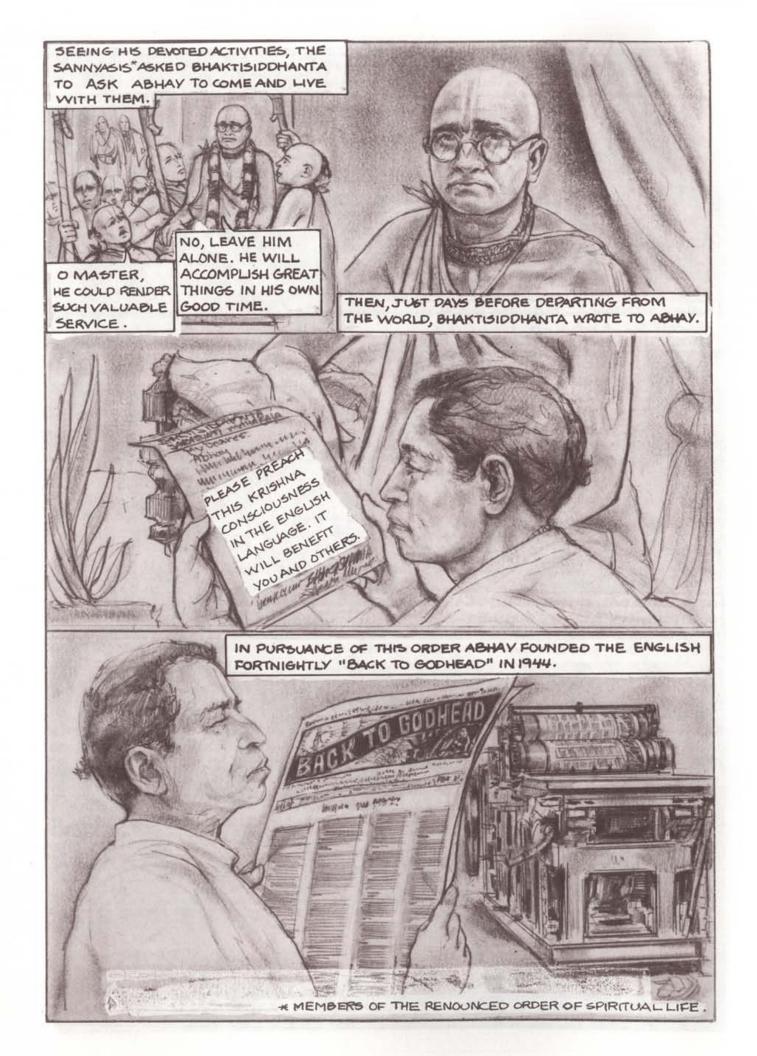


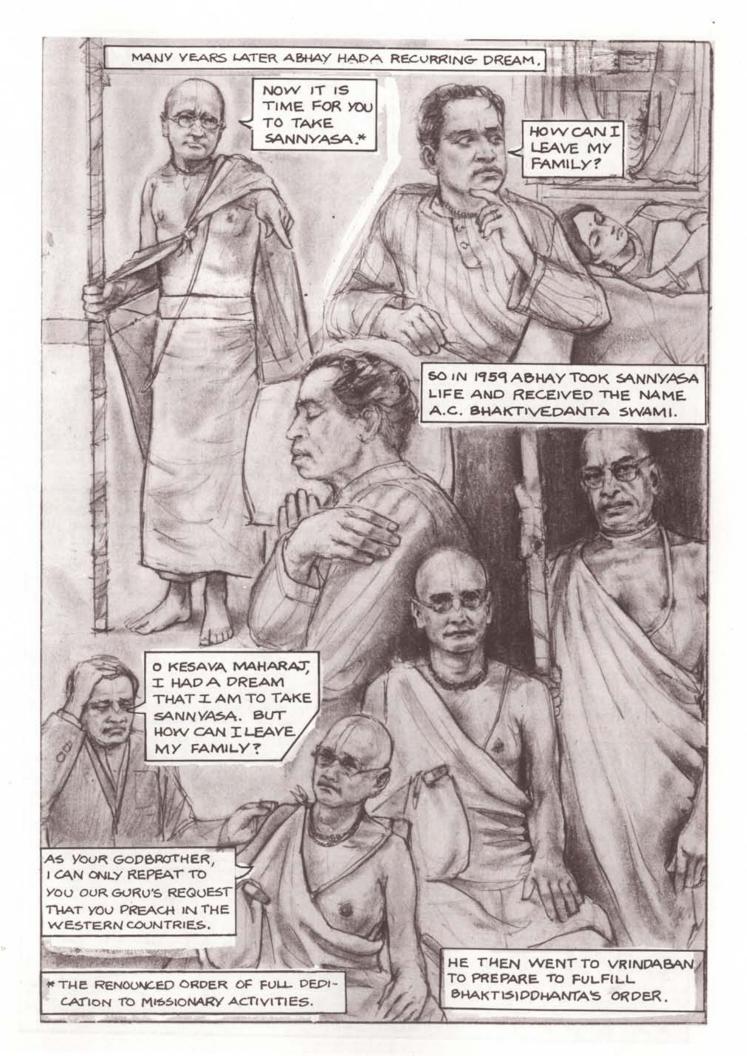


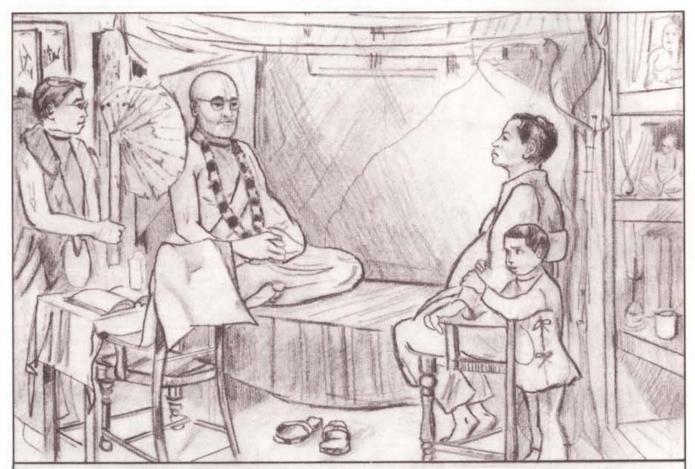




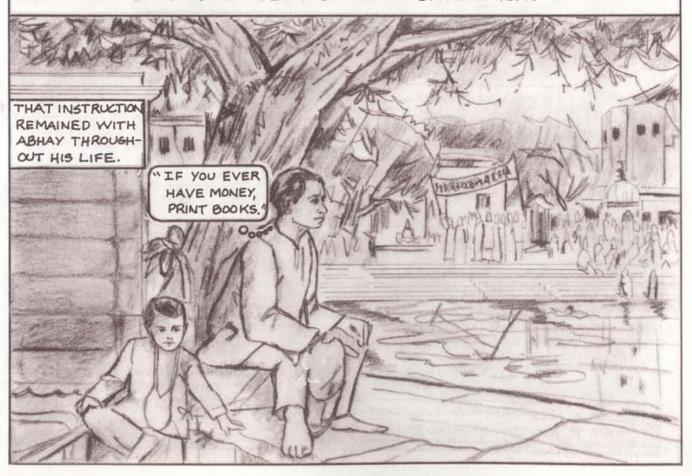


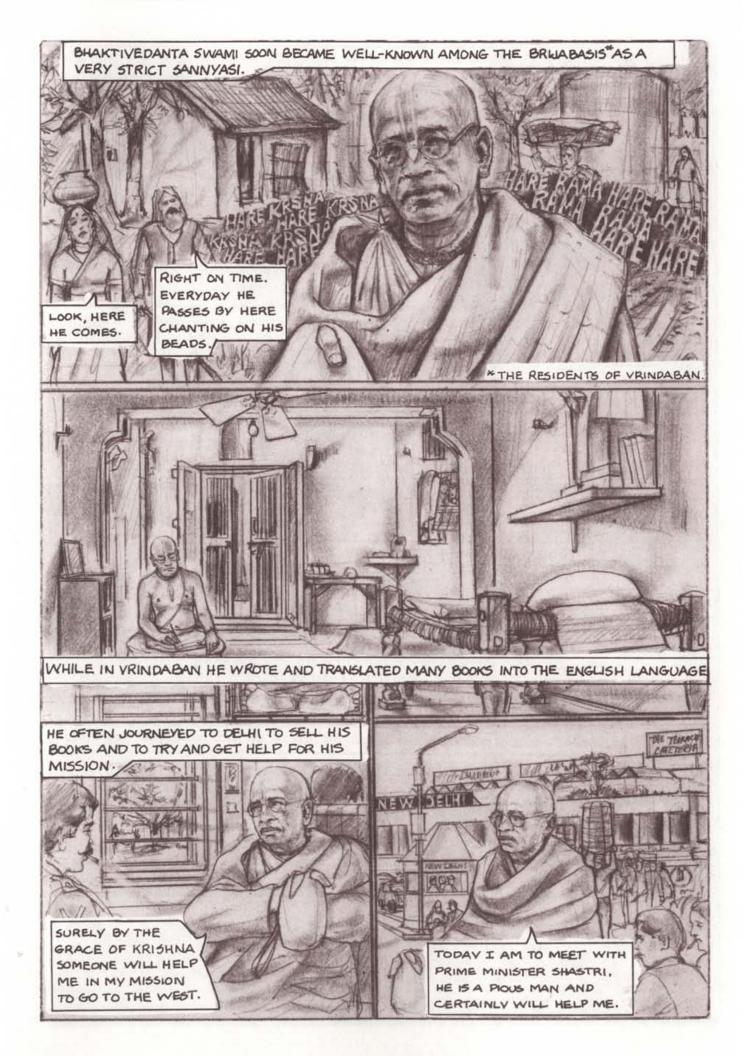


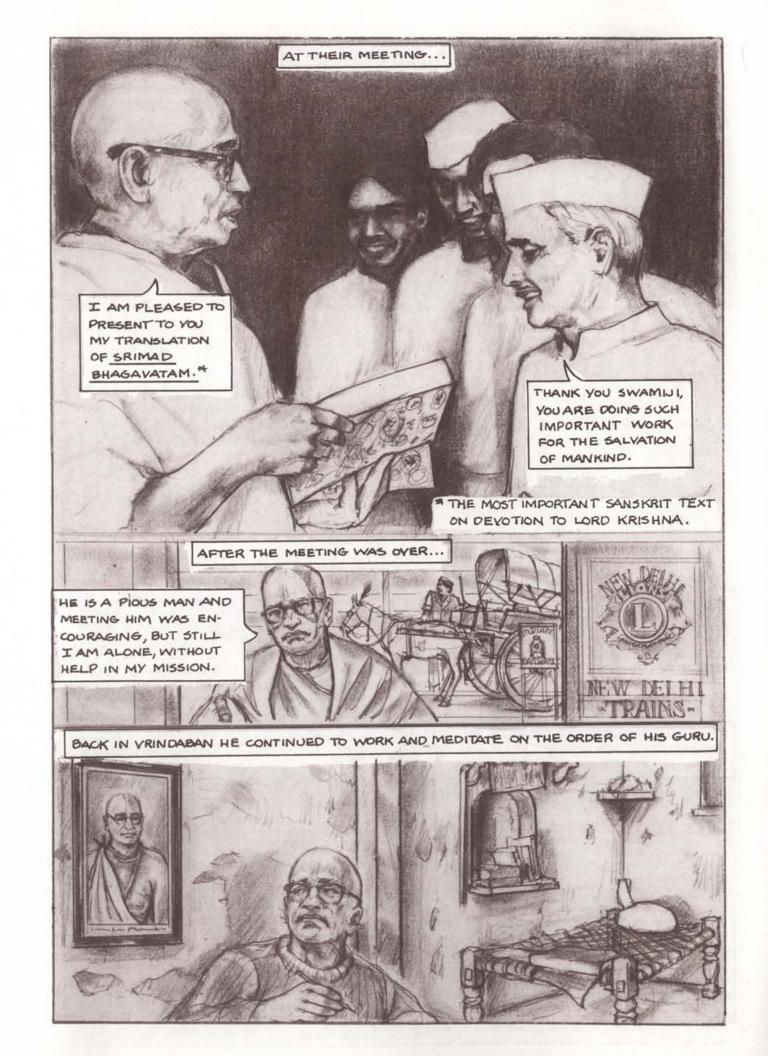


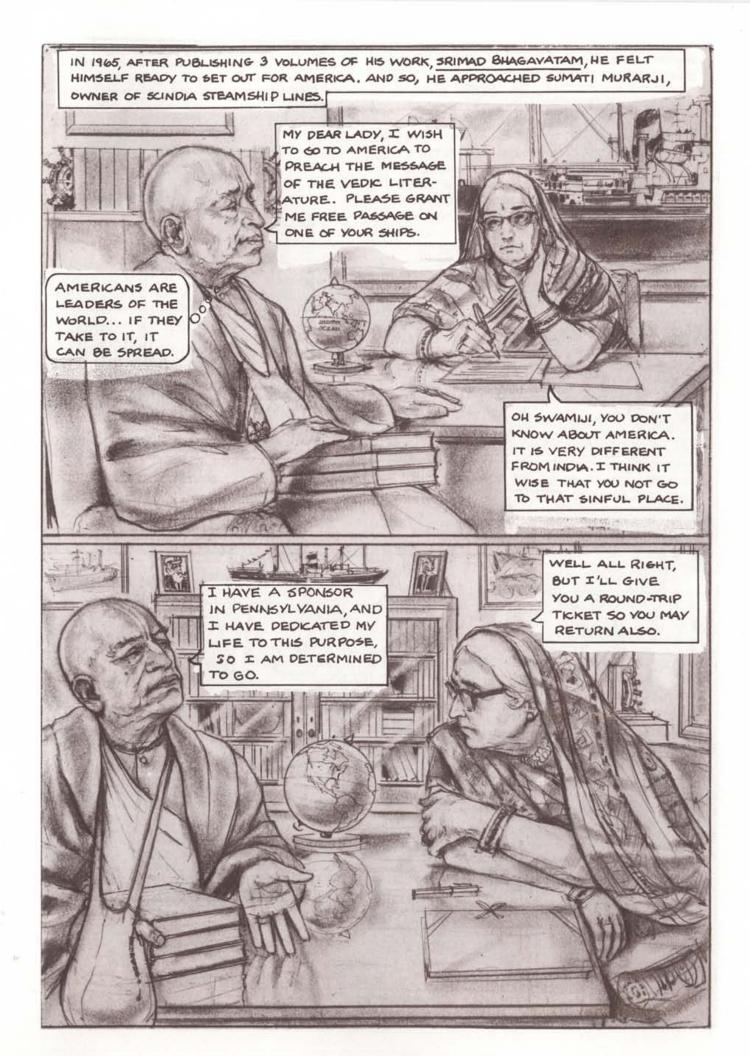


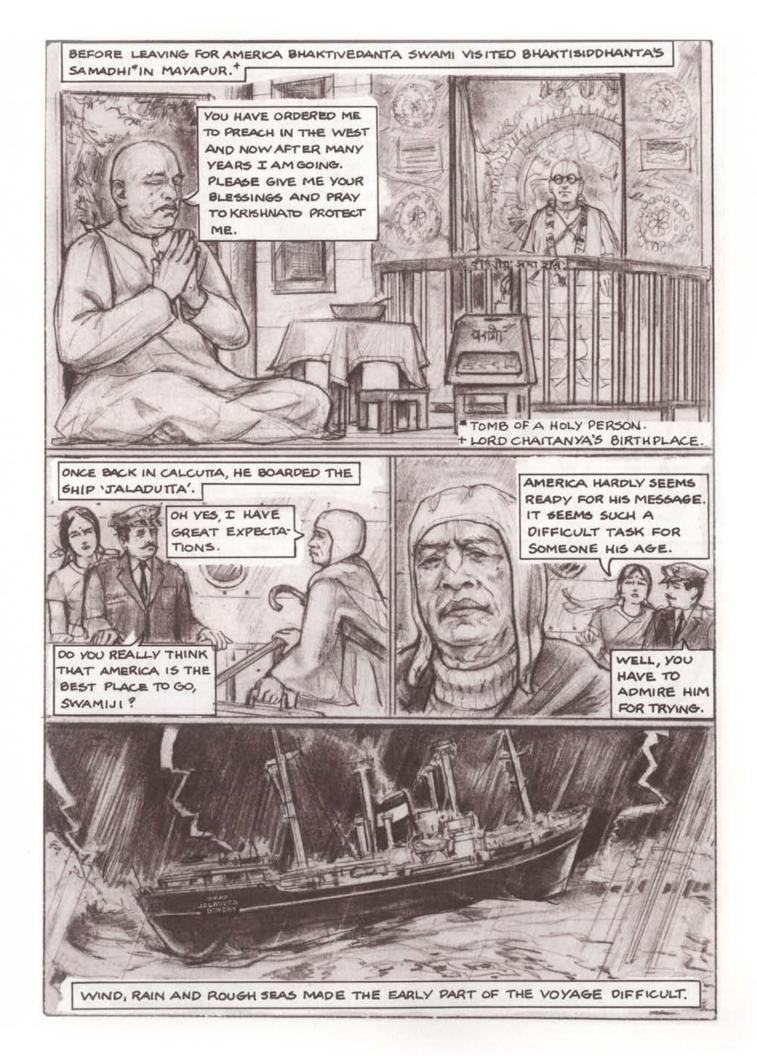
IN NOVEMBER 1935, ABHAY AND HIS SON VISITED BHAKTISIDDHANTA AT SACRED RADHA-KUND LAKE IN VRINDABAN. ABHAY HAD EARNED A REPUTATION FOR HIS LITERARY SKILLS, AND BHAKTISIDD HANTA TOLD HIM "IF YOU EVER HAVE MONEY, YOU SHOULD PRINT BOOKS ON THE SCIENCE OF KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS."







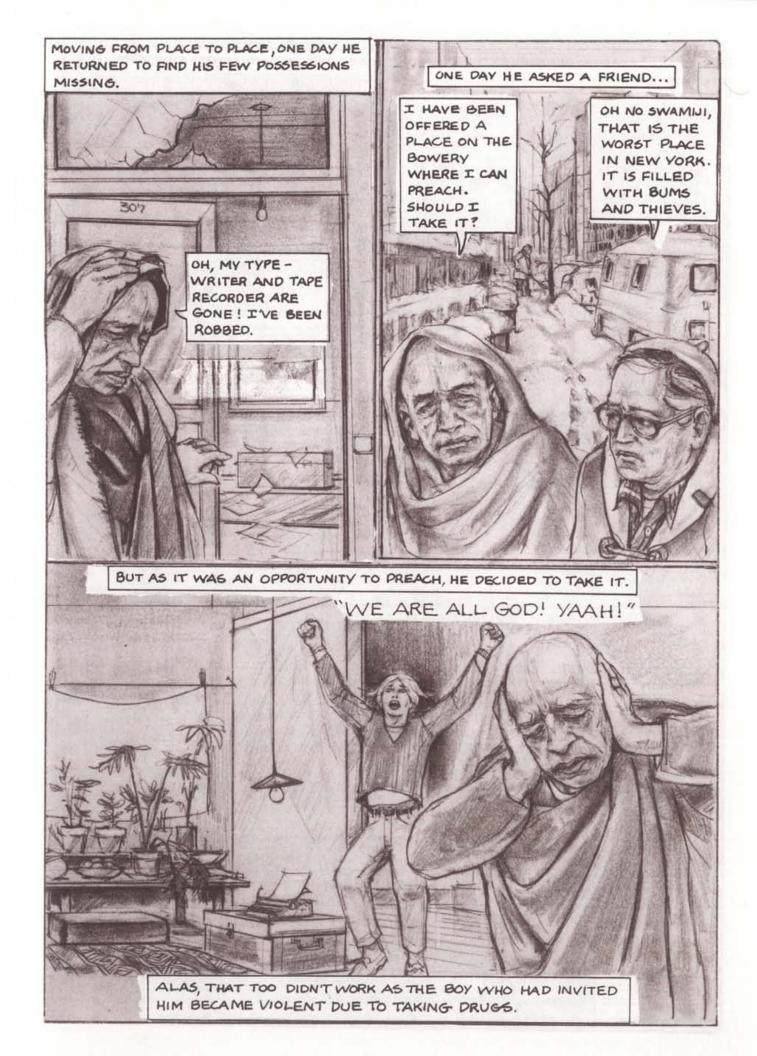




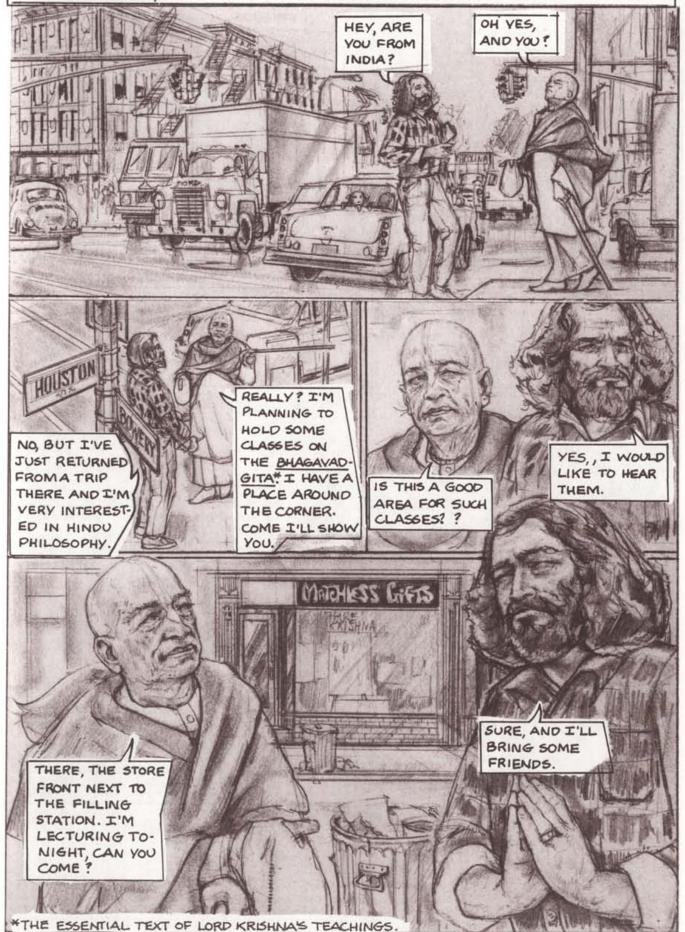


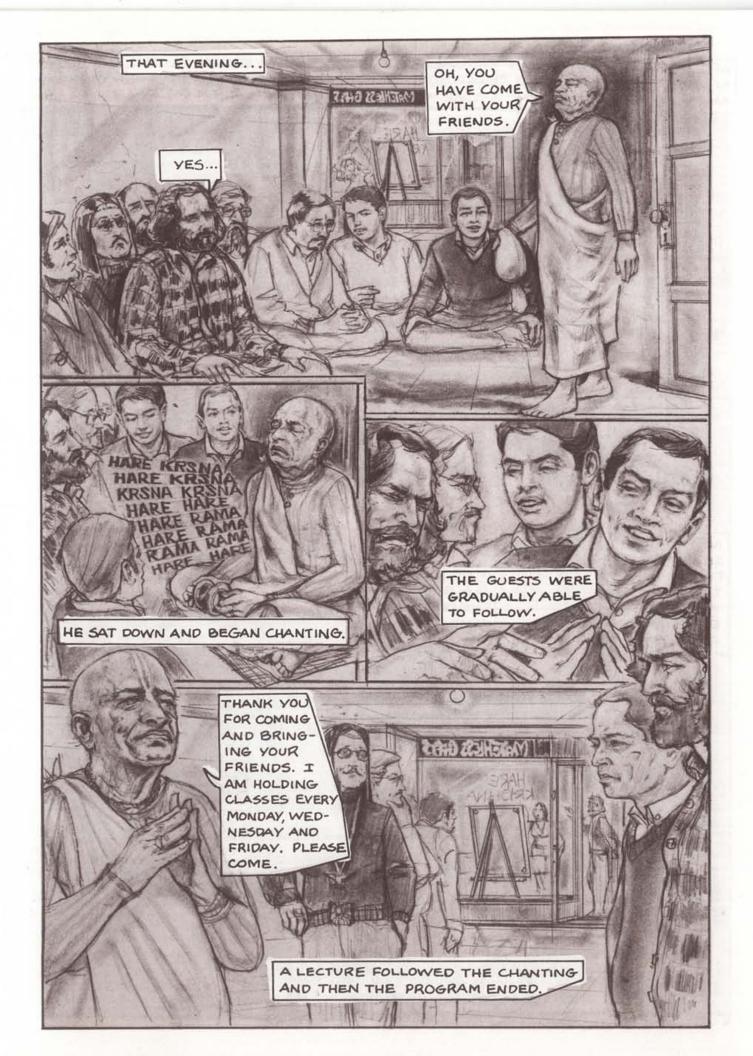


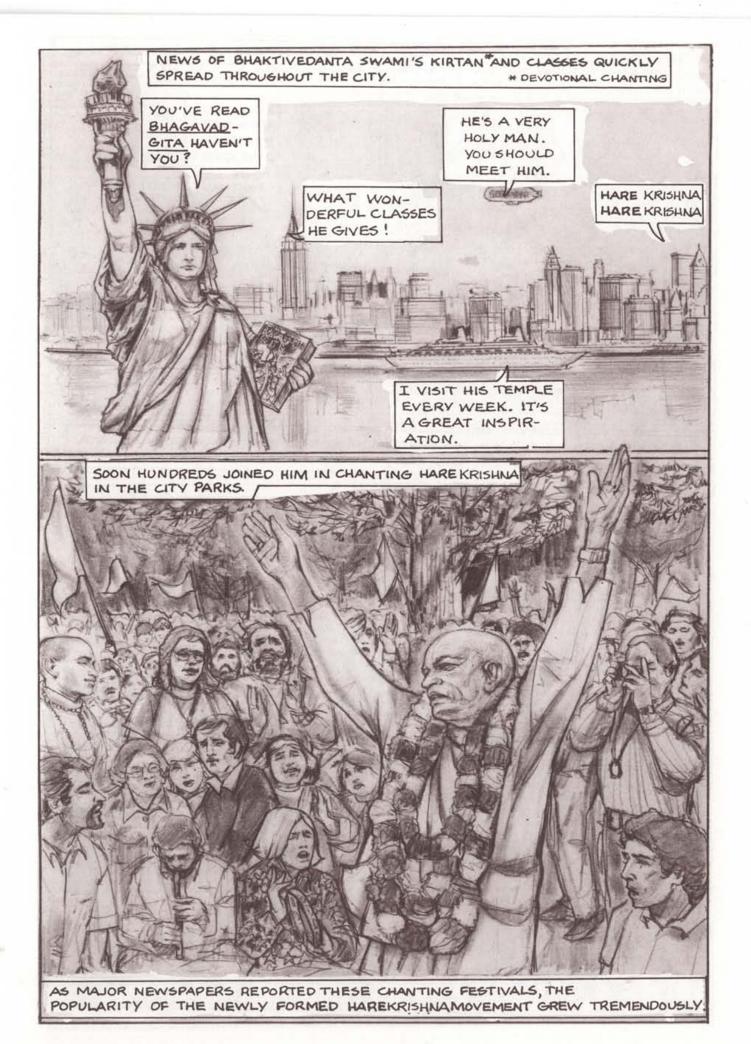


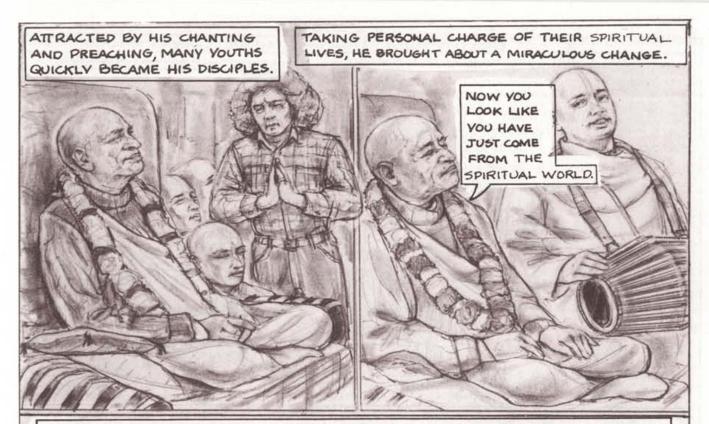


AFTER NEARLY ONE YEAR OF STRUGGLE IN AMERICA, BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI'S DEVOTION AND DETERMINATION WERE REWARDED BY KRISHNA. WITH THE HELP OF SOME YOUNG AMERICAN FRIENDS, HE FOUND A PLACE TO BEGIN HIS PREACHING. THEN ONE DAY...

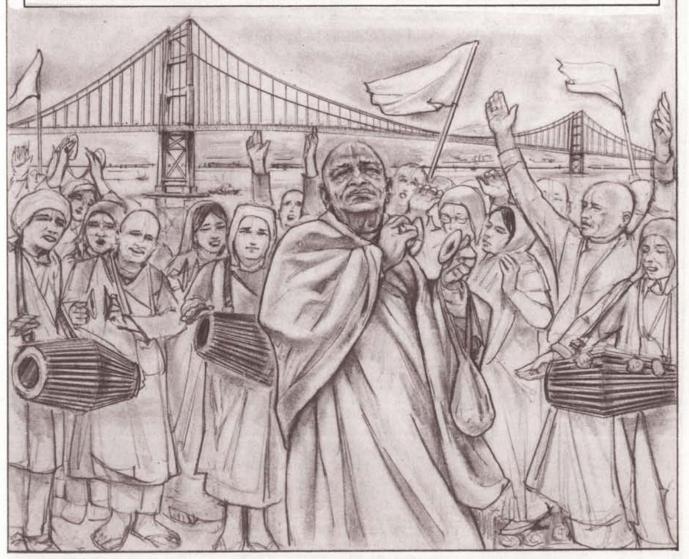




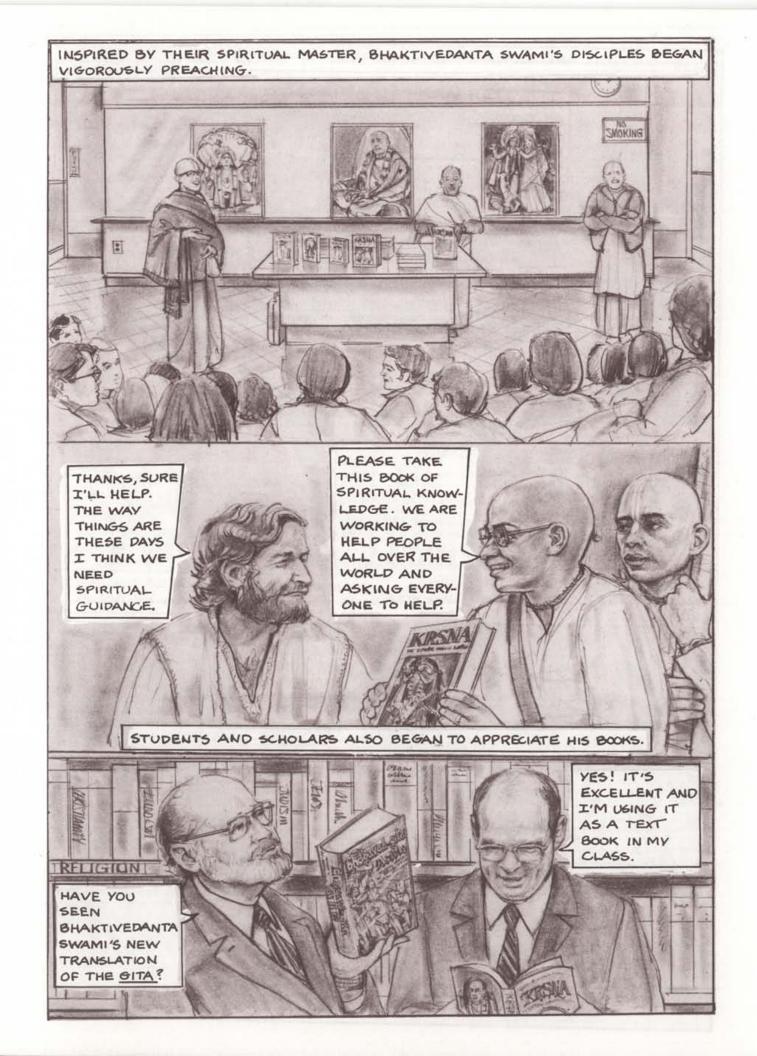


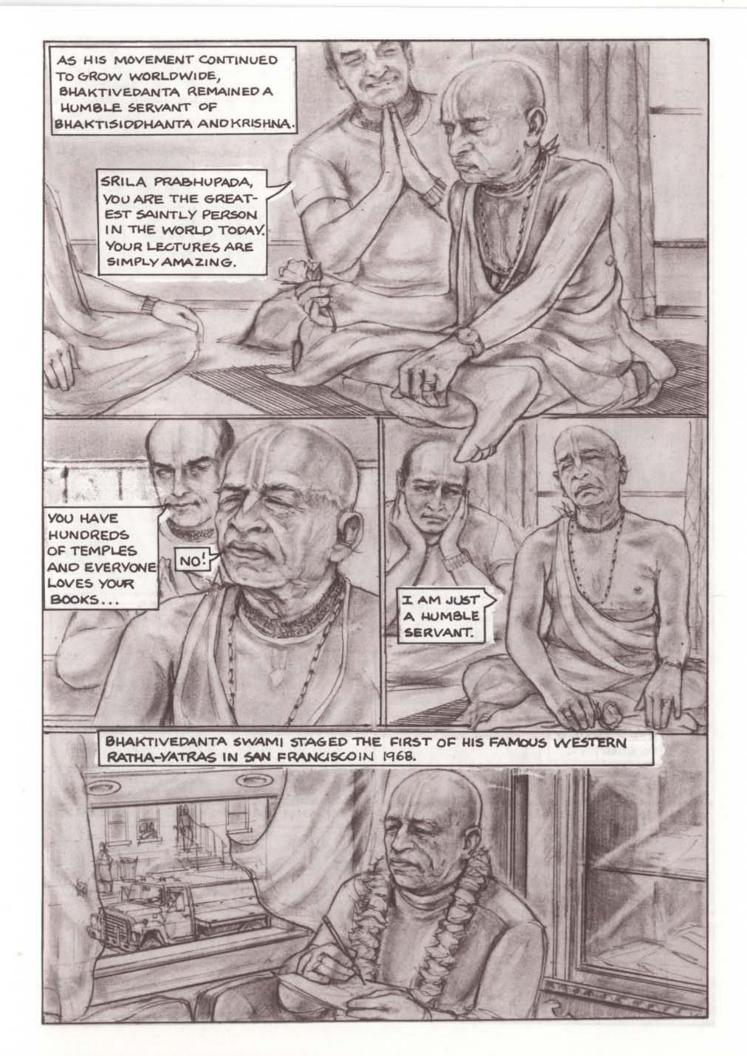


AS A RESULT OF HIS FAITH IN HIS SPIRITUAL MASTER AND KRISHNA, BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI'S MOVEMENT GRADUALLY BEGAN TO SPREAD ACROSS AMERICA.

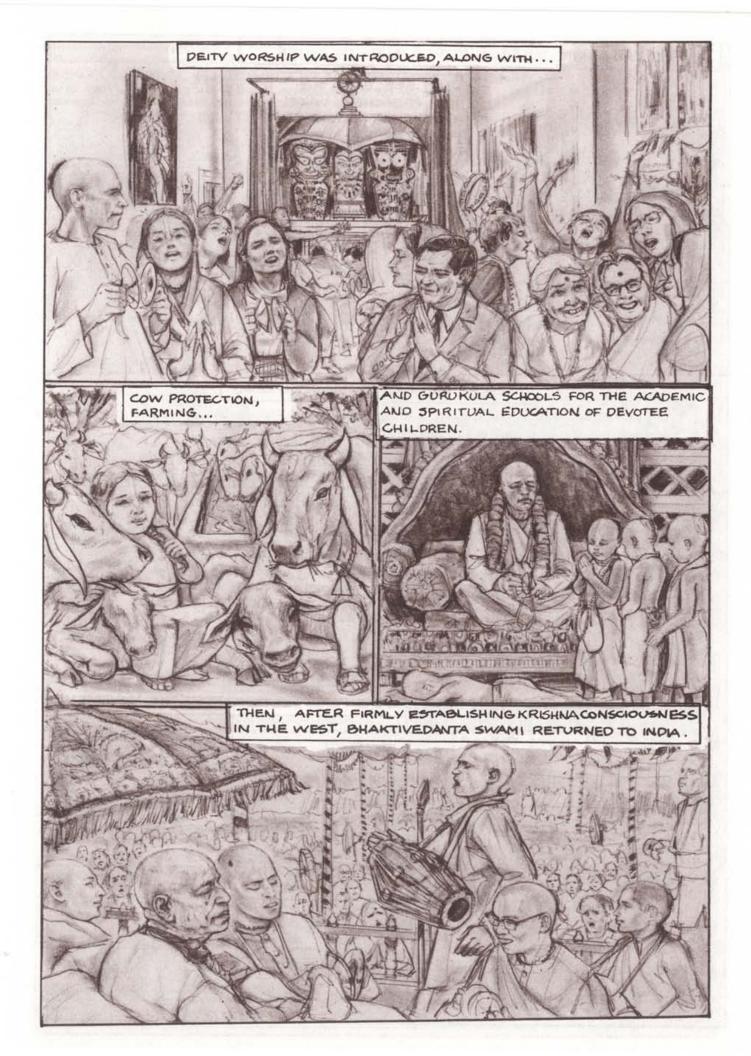




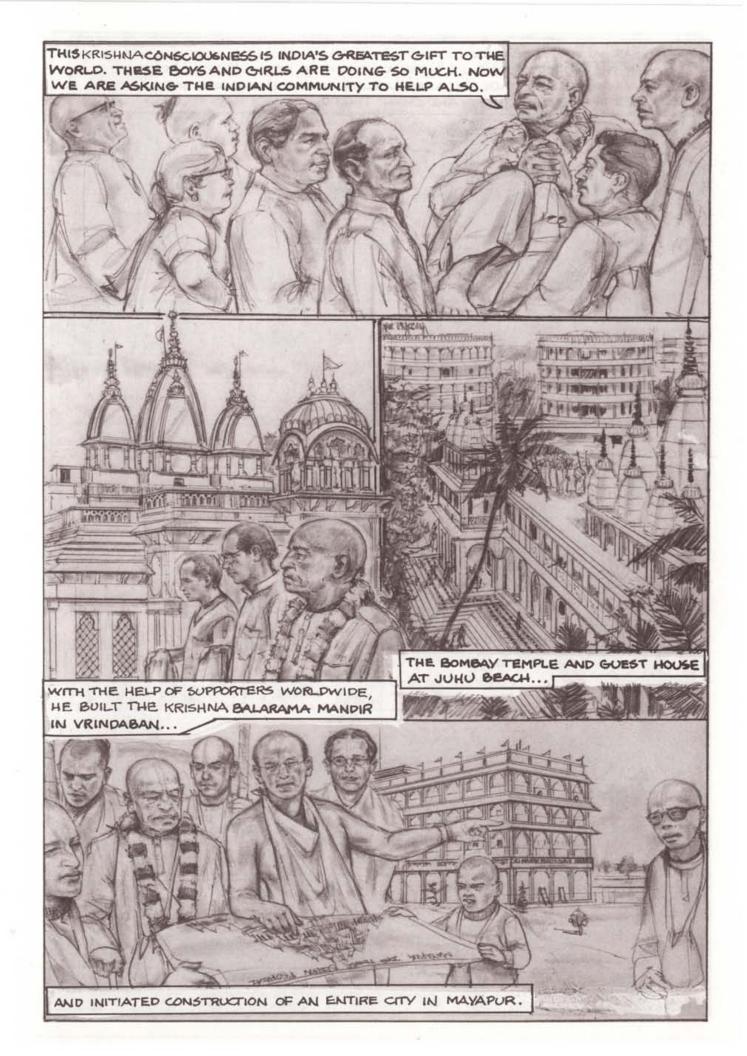




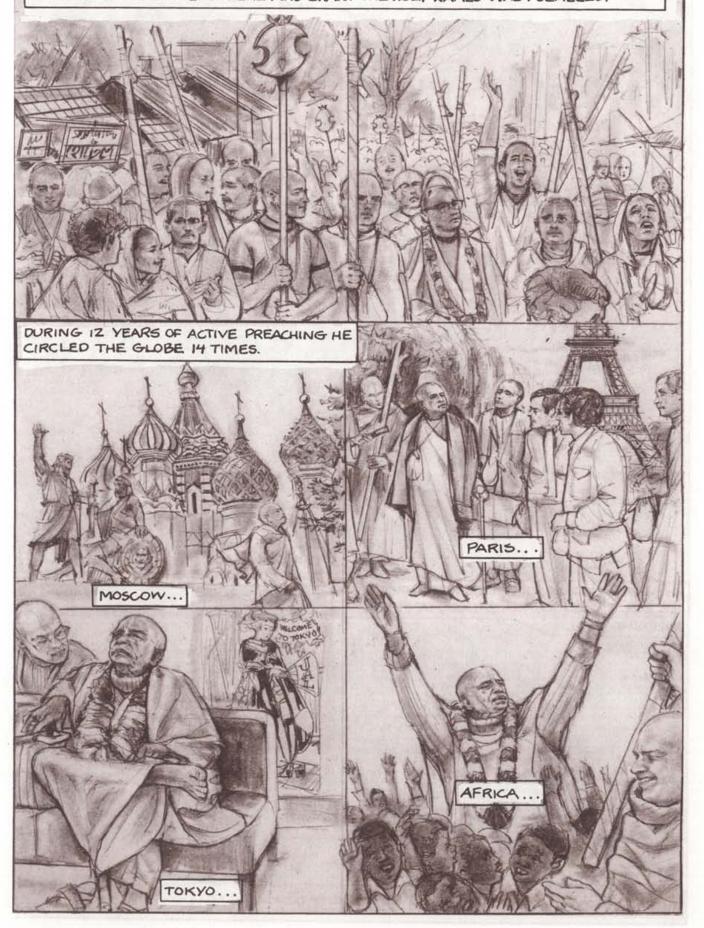


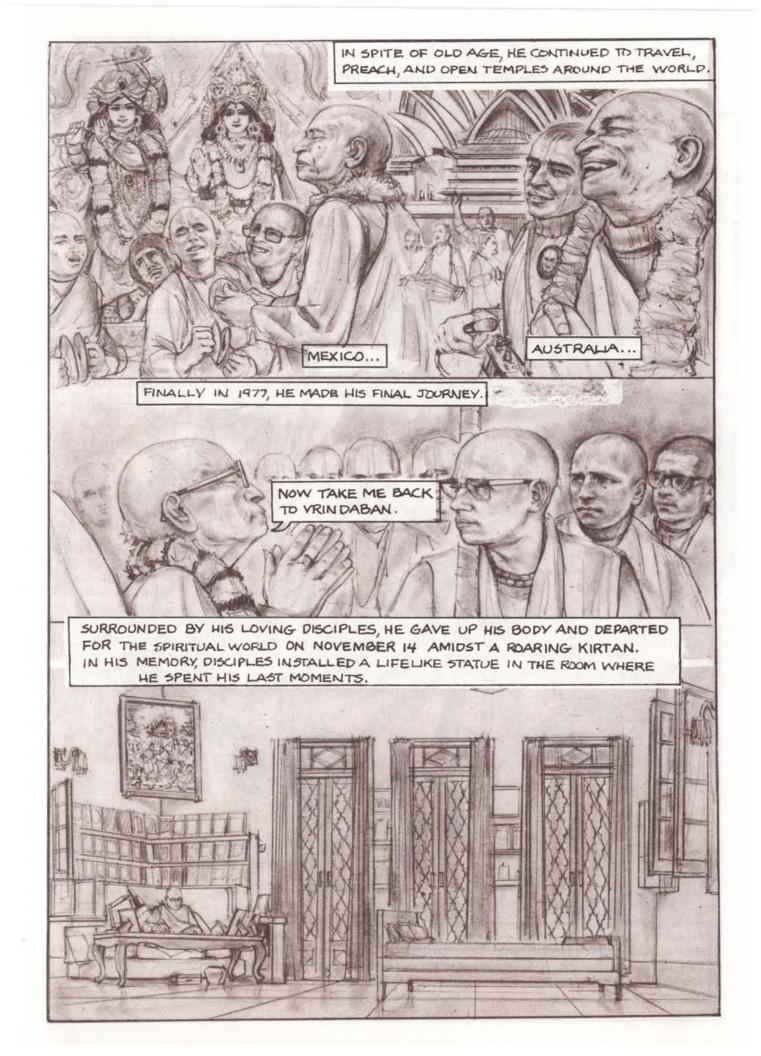






EACH YEAR ON THE APPEARANCE DAY OF CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU HIS DISCIPLES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ASSEMBLED IN MAYAPUR FOR AN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. THUS, A PREDICTION MADE DECADES EARLIER THAT WESTERN AND INDIAN DEVOTEES WOULD MEET THERE AND CHANT THE HOLY NAMES WAS FULFILLED.







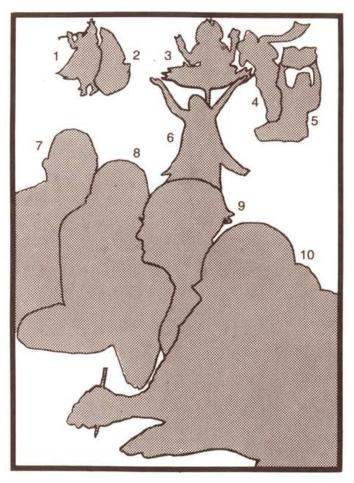
BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI LIVES ON, THROUGH HIS TEACHINGS AND HIS DISCIPLES, BRINGING LORD KRISHNA'S MESSAGE TO EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE THROUGH THE CHANTING OF HIS HOLY NAMES -- HARE KRISHNA, HARE KRISHNA, KRISHNA KRISHNA, HARE HARE, HARE RAMA, HARE RAMA, RAMA RAMA, HARE HARE.

Description of the back cover illustration:

"This supreme science (of Krishna Consciousness) was received through the chain of disciplic succession . . . "

(Bhagavad-gītā, IV,2)

Lord Krishna (1), shown here with His greatest devotee Radharani (2), first taught the science of devotional service (Krishna Consciousness) to Brahma (3), architect of the universe, at the dawn of creation. Brahma instructed that devotional science to his son Narada (4), who travels throughout the material creation singing the glories of Lord Krishna. Narada's disciple Vyasadeva (5), compiled those teachings into



books called the *Vedas*, which were passed down aurally from master to disciple over thousands of years. Five hundred years ago, Lord Krishna personally appeared in Bengal as Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (6) to show by example how to worship Krishna through the chanting of His holy names. Lord Chaitanya's teachings were preserved by His followers, who have included in recent generations Bhaktivinoda Thakura (7), a prolific devotional author and poet; Gaura Kishora dasa Babaji (8), a strict renunciant and the spiritual master of Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati (9), a great scholar of the *Vedas* and head of India's Gaudiya Mission. It was his foremost disciple Srila Prabhupada (10) who at last brought Lord Krishna's teachings to the attention of the world.

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