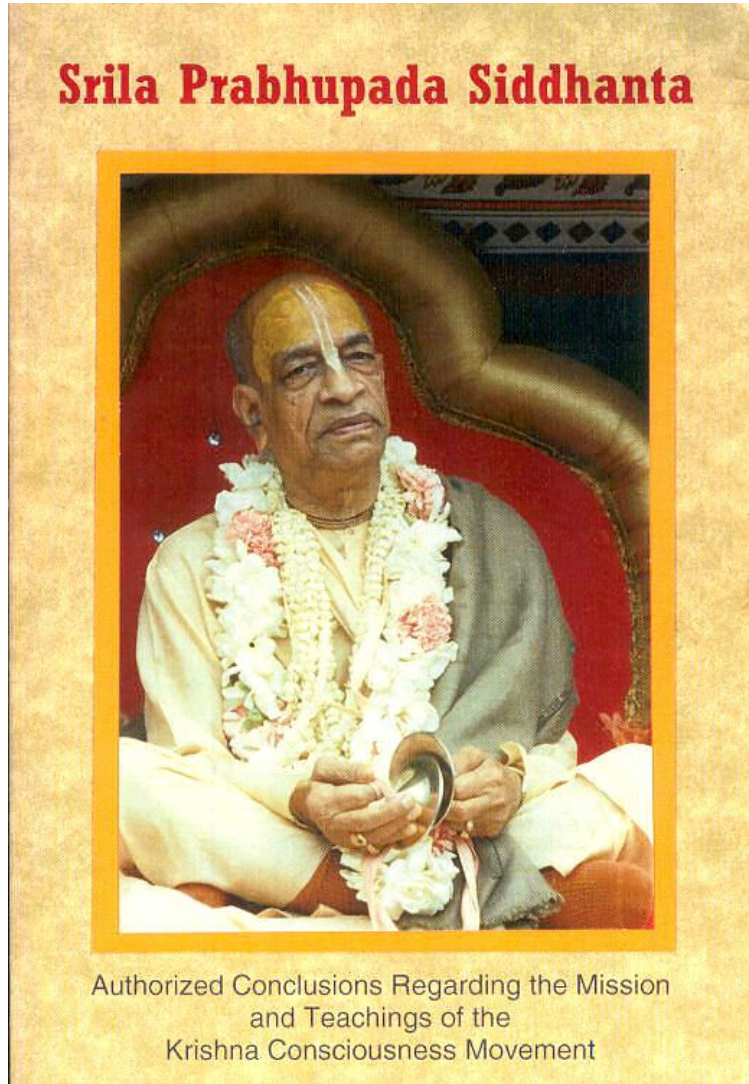


**SRILA PRABHUPADA'S  
HARE KRISHNA SOCIETY**

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Under the inspiration, guidance and authority of  
His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



**Srila Prabhupada Siddhanta**

*Authorized Conclusions Regarding the Mission and  
Teachings of the Krishna Consciousness Movement*

# **Srila Prabhupada Siddhanta**

Authorized Conclusions Regarding Srila Prabhupada,  
Great Vaisnavas, and the Mission and Teachings  
of the Krishna Consciousness Movement

## **'The Prabhupada Book'**

Compiled by  
Devotees of the Hare Krishna Society,  
Disciples of

His Divine Grace  
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada  
Founder-Acarya of the Hare Krishna Society,

The International  
Krishna Consciousness Movement  
(The Hare Krishna movement)

Under His divine inspiration and eternal guidance

**"He lives forever by His divine instructions,  
and the follower lives with Him."**

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# Srila Prabhupada Siddhanta

*Authorized Conclusions Regarding the Mission and Teachings of the Krishna Consciousness Movement*

## Introduction

The Krishna consciousness movement is a global congregation based on the instructions of the Vedic scriptures, the world's most ancient and complete books of spiritual science. Specifically, we follow the teachings of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, whose activities and symptoms prove that he is the predicted great personality (*shakty-avesa-avatar*) who establishes the mission of God, or Krishna, worldwide. We recognize and accept that Srila Prabhupada is a pure representative of Lord Krishna and the current link in the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya Sampradaya. Everyone can attain full perfection by following Srila Prabhupada.

In numerous letters and instructions to his followers, Srila Prabhupada urged, "Please study all of my books very thoroughly." (Letter, December 1974.) He often warned his disciples, "When the waves of *maya* attack, your little sentiment for Krishna may not save you. All my disciples must be thoroughly trained in the philosophy of Krishna consciousness." (Letter, May 1972). He urged his leading preachers to diligently train devotees rather than constantly canvass for converts: "What's the use of so many devotees if none of them are knowledgeable." (Letter, 1972). Thus, Srila Prabhupada worked tirelessly, night and day, to carefully translate, explain and publish the most important Vaisnava scriptures, such as *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, *Caitanya-caritamra*, *Srimad Bhagavad-gita*, and *Sri Bhaktirasamrita Sindhu* (*Nectar of Devotion*).

**Several of Srila Prabhupada's disciples have worked together to create this document**, a collection of essential truths, or *tattvas*, which are like effulgent jewels gathered from Srila Prabhupada's books, conversations and lectures. By his preaching, Srila Prabhupada churned the ocean of transcendental nectar for the benefit of every living being in the universe, particularly his dedicated disciples. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the most munificent avatar of Lord Krishna, insisted that His devotees chant the glories of Sri Sri Radha-Krishna constantly and live purely, without material attachments. Without carefully understanding and appreciating the importance of the *nitya-siddha* devotees of Lord Caitanya, no one can successfully follow the transcendental *sadhana* and mood of service that leads irrevocably to Lord Caitanya's fabulous benediction of pure Krishna consciousness, *prema-bhakti*. Without the blessings of a great Vaisnava like Srila Prabhupada, no one can advance to the higher stages of Krishna consciousness. All *sastras* and all great authorities confirm this principle as fundamental and everlasting.

To glorify Srila Prabhupada and the great teachers of Krishna consciousness, and to defend Their mission, we, a few disciples of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, offer this collection of essential truths for Their pleasure. Without understanding these spiritual facts very carefully, according to *guru*, *sastra* and *sadhu*, the infallible Vedic authority, no one can preach or practice pure Krishna consciousness. We pray this transcendental document regarding 'the Supreme Lord, His empowered devotees and devotional service will benefit every living being in the universe, even without their immediate knowledge. We pray that by Lord Nityananda's divine grace, this brief but concise treatise of Krishna consciousness will help many generations of Srila Prabhupada's disciples remain pure devotees of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krishna Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

## Section One

### Basic Convictions of the Krishna Consciousness Movement

Srila Prabhupada listed the following convictions of the Krishna Consciousness Movement:

1. The Absolute Truth is contained in all the great scriptures of the world. However, the oldest known revealed scriptures in existence are the Vedic literatures, most notably *Bhagavad-gita*, which is the literal record of God's words.
2. God, or Krishna, is eternal, all-knowing, omnipresent, all-powerful, and all-attractive, the seed-giving father of man and all living entities. He is the sustaining energy of all life, nature, and the cosmic situation.
3. Man is actually not his body but spirit soul, part and parcel of God, and therefore eternal.
4. That all men are brothers can be practiced only when we realize God as our common father.
5. All our actions should be performed as a sacrifice to the Supreme Lord: "All that you do, all that you eat, all that you offer and give away, as well as all austerities that you may perform, should be done as an offering unto Me." (*Bhagavad-gita* 9.27)
6. The food that sustains us should always be offered to the Lord before eating. In this way He becomes the offering, and such eating purifies us.
7. We can, by sincere cultivation of bona fide spiritual science, attain to the stage of pure, unendingly blissful consciousness, free from anxiety, in this very lifetime.
8. The recommended means to attain the mature stage of love of God in the present age of Kali, or quarrel, is to chant the holy name of the Lord. The easiest method for most people is to chant the Hare Krishna mantra:

*Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare  
Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare.*

## Section Two

### *Siddhanta* -- Philosophical Conclusions of the Krishna Consciousness Movement

To help fulfill the aims of Lord Caitanya's mission and preserve the spiritual science taught by the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya Sampradaya, we here reaffirm the worldwide association (*sanga*) of Srila Prabhupada's bona fide disciples, based on our clear understanding of the following conclusions.

#### A) Sri Krishna Is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Great authorities (*mahajanas*) like Sukadeva Gosvami, Narada Muni, Lord Shiva, Asita, Devala, Srila Vyasadeva, and Lord Brahma, all great teachers in the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya Sampradaya, and all essential Vedic scriptures confirm that Sri Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and the original source and maintainer of everyone, including all avatars of Godhead. These facts are realized and taught by pure devotees of the Supreme Lord.

*ete camsa-kalah pumsah, krsnas tu bhagavan svayam:*

"All of the above-mentioned incarnations are either plenary portions or portions of the plenary

portions of the Lord, but Lord Sri Krishna, as above mentioned, is the original Personality of Godhead." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 1.3.28)

*ekale isvara krsna, ara sabha bhrtya:*

"Lord Krishna alone is the supreme controller, and all others are His servants." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Adi-lila 5.142)

*aham sarvasya prabhavo, mattah sarvam pravartate:*

"I [Lord Krishna] am the source of all spiritual and material worlds. Everything emanates from Me." (*Bhagavad-gita As It Is* 10.8)

*isvarah paramah krsnah, sac-cid-ananda vigrahah  
anadir adir govindah, satva-karana-karanam:*

"Krishna is the cause of all causes. He is the primal cause, and He is the very form of eternal being, knowledge, and bliss." (*Brahma-samhita* 5.1)

## B) Sri Krishna Caitanya Is Lord Krishna's Most Munificent Avatar.

Sri Krishna Caitanya Mahaprabhu (1486-1534) is the avatar of Godhead for the Age of Kali, and He is recognized by great devotees of the Supreme Lord as the most munificent incarnation of God (*namo maha-vadanyaya*). Sri Krishna Caitanya is identical to Lord Krishna. He is directly the combined form of Sri Radha and Sri Krishna. He descends to liberally grant to the fallen conditioned souls of this age pure love of Godhead (*prema-bhakti*) by propagating *sankirtana*, especially through public chanting of the Hare Krishna *maha-mantra*.

"Lord Caitanya is the original teacher of life's prime necessities. He is the most munificent bestower of love of Krishna. He is the complete reservoir of all mercies and good fortune. As confirmed in *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, *Bhagavad-gita*, *Mahabharata*, and the *Upanisads*, He is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna Himself, and He is worshipable by everyone in this age of disagreement. Everyone can join in His *sankirtana* movement." (Introduction to *Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*)

*yada pasyah pasyate rukma-varnam,  
kartaram isam purusam brahma yonim.*

"One who sees that golden-colored Personality of Godhead, the Supreme Lord, the supreme actor, who is the source of the Supreme Brahman, is liberated." (*Mundaka Upanisad* 3.1.3) [See *Caitanya Caritamrita*, Adi 2.22 Purport]

*atha vaham dharadhame, bhutva mad-bhakta-rupa-dhrk  
mayayam ca bhavisyami, kalau sankirtanagame.*

"Sometimes I personally appear on the surface of the world in the garb of a devotee. Specifically, I appear as the son of Saci in Kali-yuga to start the *sankirtana* movement." (*Brahma-yamala-tantra*) [See *Caitanya-caritamrita*, Adi 2.22, Purport]

*ya eva bhagavan krsno, radhika-prana-vallabhah  
srstyadau sa jagam-natho, gaura asin mahesvari.*

"The Supreme Person, Sri Krishna Himself, who is the life of Sri Radharani and is the Lord of the universe in creation, maintenance, and annihilation, appears as Gaura, O Mahesvari." (*Ananta-samhita*) [See *Caitanya-caritamrita*, Adi 2.22 Purport]

"When Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu appeared, He ushered in the era for the *sankirtana* movement. It is also said that for ten thousand years this era will continue. This means that simply by accepting the *sankirtana* movement and chanting the *maha-mantra*, the fallen souls of this Kali-yuga will be delivered. After the battle of Kuruksetra, at which *Bhagavad-gita* was spoken, Kali-yuga continues

for 432,000 years, of which only 5,000 years have passed. Thus, there is still a balance of 427,000 years to come. Of these 427,000 years, the 10,000 years of the *sankirtana* movement inaugurated by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu 500 years ago provide the opportunity for the fallen souls of Kali-yuga to take to the Krishna consciousness movement, chant the Hare Krishna *maha-mantra*, and thus be delivered from the clutches of material existence and return home, back to Godhead." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 8.5.23, Purport)

### C) Srila Prabhupada Is an Eternal Associate of Lord Caitanya.

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (1896-1977) is a *nitya-siddha* Vaisnava (eternally liberated devotee of Krishna) sent by Lord Caitanya and Krishna to revive the mission of *nama-sankirtana* and save the world from the dangerous atheistic doctrines of impersonalism (*nirvisesa*) and voidism (*sunyavada*). All his activities are eternal and purely transcendental. In fact, the Vedic literature, Lord Caitanya, and predecessor *acaryas* have predicted this great personality, Srila Prabhupada, who fulfilled these predictions by founding the global Krishna consciousness movement and Hare Krishna Society single-handedly. Thus he is worshiped by Gaudiya Vaisnavas with the name "Srila Prabhupada" (the master at whose feet all others bow). Srila Prabhupada's form (*vapu*) and instructions (*vani*) offer the full mercy of Lord Caitanya to all conditioned souls for the duration of the ten-thousand-year era of Lord Caitanya.

"In the Vedic literatures it is recommended that in Kali-yuga people engage in glorifying the Lord by chanting the holy name of Krishna (*kirtanad eva krsnasya mukta-sangah param vrajet*)...." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 1.12.34, Purport)

*"Kirtanad eva krsnasya, mukta-sangah param vrajet:*

simply by chanting the Hare Krishna mantra, one can be freed from the contamination of Kali-yuga and, in his original spiritual body, can return home, back to Godhead.... When Krishna appeared, He gave His orders, and when Krishna Himself appeared as a devotee, as Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, He showed us the path by which to cross the ocean of Kali-yuga. That is the path of the Hare Krishna movement." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 8.5.23, Purport)

"The *Kali-santarana Upanisad* states, 'Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare/Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare—these sixteen names composed of thirty-two syllables are the only means to counteract the evil effects of Kali-yuga.' In all the *Vedas* it is seen that to cross the ocean of nescience, there is no alternative to the chanting of the holy name." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Adi 7.76, Purport)

"So, my dear boys and girls, about six years ago I came to your country single-handed, with this pair of cymbals. Now you are so many chanting Hare Krishna. That is my success. It was the prediction of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu: *prthivite ache yata nagaradi grama, sarvatra pracara hoibe mora noma*. Lord Caitanya desired that 'In all the towns—in as many towns and villages as there are on the surface of the globe—My name will be broadcast.' He is Krishna Himself—*svayam krsna, krsna caitanya-namine* — simply changing His name as Krishna Caitanya. So His prediction will never go in vain. That's a fact. So my plan was that I shall go to America... If I can convince the younger generation of America, they will take it up.' If you kindly take this Krishna consciousness movement seriously, your country will be saved, and the whole world will be saved." (Lecture, May 18, 1972, Los Angeles)

"He [Bhaktivinoda Thakura] sent his first book in 1896. Bhaktivinoda Thakura was the origin of this movement. But he simply thought of it. And he was expecting some others willing to take up the work. Well, somebody says that I am the same man. And I was born in 1896." (Conversation, March 13, 1975, Tehran)

"Thakura Bhaktivinoda... in 1896 he sent Caitanya Mahaprabhu's message to McGill University. That book you have seen. The letter was there... Now, after so many years, a servant of that disciplic

succession has come here again to preach. So these things are significant." (Lecture, March 18, 1967, San Francisco)

'Soon there will appear a personality who will preach the holy name all over the world.' (Prediction of Bhaktivinoda Thakura in the nineteenth century, as cited in *Songs of the Vaisnava Acaryas*, Introduction, Prabhupada-approved 1974 edition.)

"Without being empowered by the direct potency of Lord Krishna to fulfill His desire and without being specifically favored by the Lord, no human being can become the spiritual master of the whole world... Only an empowered personality can distribute the holy name of the Lord and enjoin all fallen souls to worship Krishna. By distributing the holy name of the Lord, he cleanses the hearts of the most fallen people; therefore he extinguishes the blazing fire of the material world. Not only that, he broadcasts the shining brightness of Krishna's effulgence throughout the world. Such an *acarya* or spiritual master should be considered nondifferent from Krishna—that is, he should be considered the incarnation of Lord Krishna's potency. Such a personality is *krsnalingita-vigraha*—that is, he is always embraced by the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna. Such a person is ... the guru or spiritual master for the entire world, a devotee on the topmost platform, the *maha-bhagavata* stage." (Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura, *Anubhasya*, cited in *Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 25.9, Purport)

"By the grace of Lord Sri Krishna, we had the chance of being born in a Vaisnava family, and in our childhood we imitated the worship of Lord Krishna by imitating our father... Our spiritual master, who also took his birth in a Vaisnava family, got all inspirations from his great Vaisnava father, Thakura Bhaktivinoda... There is always symmetry between the early lives of all great devotees of the Lord... Such *maha-bhagavatas* are called *nitya-siddhas*, souls liberated from birth." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 2.3.15, Purport)

"The Krishna consciousness movement is spreading to enlighten people about their real position, their original relationship with Krishna. One requires Krishna's special power in order to be able to do this... The Lord empowers a special devotee to teach people their constitutional position." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 19.114, Purport)

## D) By Accepting that Lord Caitanya's Personal Associates Are Eternally Transcendental, One Is Promoted to Lord Krishna's Abode.

One is promoted to the transcendental abode of Lord Krishna, Sri Goloka Dhama, simply by accepting that Lord Caitanya's confidential associates are *nitya-siddhas*, eternally perfect persons, whose births and pastimes in this world are completely transcendental and meant for the benefit of all conditioned souls in the universe.

*sri caitanya-krpa-bharau bhuvi bhuvo bharavahantakarau  
vande rupa-sanatanau raghu-yugau sri-jiva-gopalakau:*

"Thus they are engaged in missionary activities meant to deliver all the conditioned souls in the material universe..." (*Sri Sri Sad-gosvamy-astaka, Prayers to the Six Gosvamis, by Srinivasa Acarya*)

"The *nitya-siddha* never forgets his relationship with the Supreme Personality of Godhead... By the order of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the *nitya-siddha* remains within this material world like an ordinary man, but the only business of the *nitya-siddha* is to broadcast the glories of the Lord... All *nitya-siddhas* within this material world may appear to toil like ordinary men, but they never forget their position as servants of the Lord." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 5.113, Purport)

"... the conditioned soul is tightly tied by the ropes of illusion. A man bound by the hands and feet cannot free himself—he must be helped by a person who is unbound. Because the bound cannot



help the bound, the rescuer must be liberated. Therefore, only Lord Krishna, or His bona fide representative the spiritual master, can release the conditioned soul. Without such superior help, one cannot be freed from the bondage of material nature." (*Bhagavad-gita As It Is* 7.14, Purport)

"A *nitya-siddha* is one who was never contaminated by the material nature... *Nitya-siddhs* never came into contact with the material nature. All the associates of Lord Caitanya are *nitya-siddhs*, or eternally perfect... We should understand that as Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Krishna Himself, is transcendental, similarly His personal associates are also *nitya-siddha*, or eternally transcendental... Simply by accepting that the associates of Lord Caitanya are eternally free, one is immediately promoted to the transcendental abode of Lord Krishna." (Narottama dasa Thakura's *Savarana-sri-gaura-mahima*, Purport)

"By the grace of Lord Sri Krishna, we had the chance of being born in a Vaisnava family, and in our childhood we imitated the worship of Lord Krishna by imitating our father... Our spiritual master, who also took his birth in a Vaisnava family, got all inspirations from his great Vaisnava father, Thakura Bhaktivinoda... There is always symmetry between the early lives of all great devotees of the Lord... Such *maha-bhagavatas* are called *nitya-siddhas*, souls liberated from birth." (*Srinid-Bhagavatam* 2.3.15, Purport)

## E) Everyone Should Accept Srila Prabhupada as Spiritual Master.

As the *Vedas* underscore, *acaryavan puruso veda*: to get a bona fide understanding of Lord and His instructions in the scriptures, spiritual seekers must follow a bona fide *acarya* or spiritual master. Srila Prabhupada affirms this foundational spiritual principle and casts aside the notion that material space and time can somehow prevent followers of the spiritual master from associating with him in the here and now.

"Sri Jiva Gosvami advises that one not accept a spiritual master in terms of hereditary or customary social and ecclesiastical conventions. One should simply try to find a genuinely qualified spiritual master for actual advancement in spiritual understanding." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Adi 1.35, Purport)

"One should take initiation from a bona fide spiritual master coming in the disciplic succession, who is authorized by his predecessor spiritual master. This is called *diksa-vidhana*. Lord Krishna states in *Bhagavad-gita*, *vyapasrita*: one should accept a spiritual master. By this process the entire world can be converted to Krishna consciousness." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 4.8.54, Purport)

"... *acaryavan puruso veda*: one who follows the disciplic succession of *acaryas* knows things as they are." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 4.22.24, Purport, citing *Chandogya Upanisad* 6.14.2)

"... the Christians are following Christ, a great personality. *Mahajano yena gatah sa panthah*. You follow some *mahajana*, a great personality... You follow an *acarya*. Like the Christians—they follow Christ, an *acarya*. The Muhammadans—they follow an *acarya*, Muhammad. That is good. You must follow some *acarya*... *Evam parampara-praptam*." (Conversation, May 20, 1975, Melbourne)

"Regarding the *parampara* system: there is nothing to wonder for big gaps. We have to pick up the prominent *acarya* and follow from him." (Letter, April 12, 1968)

"This is called *guru-parampara*, disciplic succession... This is the perfect process of knowledge. You approach the perfect person and get knowledge, and that is your perfect experience... We are getting knowledge from Krishna, the most perfect. Or you get knowledge from Jesus Christ. That is also perfect, because the source is perfect." (Conversation, June 19, 1974, Germany)

"Actually, one who is guided by Jesus Christ will certainly get liberation." (*Perfect Questions, Perfect Answers*, Chapter 9)

"... one has to associate with liberated persons not directly, physically, but by understanding,

through philosophy and logic..." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 3.31.48, Purport)

"These are not ordinary books. It is recorded chanting. Anyone who reads-he is hearing." (Letter, October 19, 1974)

Disciple: "I feel so far away from you, you know, when you're not here."

Srila Prabhupada: "Oh—that you should not think. There are two conceptions: the physical conception and the vibration conception. So the physical conception is temporary. The vibration conception is eternal. Just like we are enjoying or we are relishing the vibration of Krishna's teachings. So by vibration He is present. As soon as we chant Hare Krishna or chant *Bhagavad-gita* or *Bhagaimta*, He is present immediately by His vibration. He's absolute. Therefore, try to remember His words of instruction—you'll not feel separation. You'll feel that He is with you. So we should associate by the vibration, and not by the physical presence. That is real association." (Questions and answers following a lecture, August 18, 1968, Montreal)

Disciple: Is there any way for a Christian to—without the help of a spiritual master—to reach the spiritual sky through believing in the words of Jesus Christ and trying to follow his teachings?

Srila Prabhupada: When you read the Bible, you follow the spiritual master. How can you say "without"? As soon as you read the Bible, that means you are following the instruction of Lord Jesus Christ—that means you are following the spiritual master. So where is the opportunity of being "without a spiritual master"?

Disciple: I was referring to a *living* spiritual master.

Srila Prabhupada: The spiritual master is not the question of ["living"]... The spiritual master is eternal—the spiritual master is eternal. So your question is "without a spiritual master." Without a spiritual master you cannot be—at any stage of your life. You may accept this spiritual master or that spiritual master. That is a different thing. But you have to accept. You say "by reading the Bible." When you read the Bible, that means you are following the spiritual master, represented by some priest or some clergyman in the line of Lord Jesus Christ. So in any case, you have to follow a spiritual master. There cannot be the question "without a spiritual master." Is that clear? (Questions and answers following a lecture, October 2, 1968, Seattle)

"The guru must be situated on the topmost platform of devotional service. There are three classes of devotees, and the guru must be accepted from the topmost class... When one has attained the topmost position of *maha-bhagavata*, he is to be accepted as guru and worshiped exactly like Hari, the Personality of Godhead. Only such a person is eligible to occupy the post of a guru." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 24.330, Purport, citing *Padma Purana*)

## F) The Bona Fide Spiritual Master Is Never Limited By Material Conditions.

Wherever Lord Krishna's devotees worship Him, Krishna is present. In the same way, wherever sincere followers worship Krishna's great devotees, these Vaisnavas are present. Krishna's great devotees live forever in their instructions (*vani*), in their form (*vapu*), and in the hearts of their sincere followers. Srila Prabhupada remains present in innumerable places simultaneously and accepts the worship of innumerable followers now and at all times, wherever his instructions are sincerely followed.

"Just like Krishna can be present simultaneously in millions of places, similarly the spiritual master also can be present wherever the disciple wants. A spiritual master is the principle, not the body. Just like a television can be seen in thousands of places by the principle of relay monitoring." (Letter, May 28, 1968)

Disciple: "In some of our temples, such as Vrndavana, the statue [*murti*] of Your Divine Grace has been installed, and they [your disciples] are offering *prasadam* [food]... So is it the same [as Lord Krishna accepts offerings through His Deity form or picture] that the *prasadam* is accepted by the

guru?"

Srila Prabhupada: "Yes. *Saksad-dharitvena samasta-sastrair*. 'The guru is nondifferent than Krishna.' That is accepted by all the *sastras*... *Kintu prabhor yah priya eva tasya*: 'But the guru's position is the most confidential servant.' So the guru is the servant God, and Krishna is the master God. Both of them are God—servant God and master God." (Conversation, October 27, 1975, Nairobi)

Reporter: "What will happen to the movement in the United States when you die?"

Srila Prabhupada: "I will never die. I shall live from my books, and you will utilize." (Interview, July 16, 1975, Berkeley, California)

*"He reasons ill who tells that Vaisnavas die, when thou art living still in sound."* (From a poem by Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura.)

"About one hundred years ago, Thakura Bhaktivinoda also wanted to beget a child who could preach the philosophy and teachings of Lord Caitanya to the fullest extent. By his prayers to the Lord, he had as his child Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami Maharaja, who at the present moment is preaching the philosophy of Lord Caitanya throughout the entire world through his bona fide disciples." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 3.22.19, Purport)

"Although a physical body is not present, the vibration should be accepted as the presence of the spiritual master. Vibration— what we have heard from the spiritual master—that is living." (Lecture, January 13, 1969, Los Angeles)

"...the disciple and spiritual master are never separated, because the spiritual master always keeps company with the disciple, as long as the disciple follows strictly the instructions of the spiritual master. This is called the association of *vani* (words)." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 4.28.47, Purport)

Disciple: "Srila Prabhupada, when you are not present with us, how is it possible to receive instructions—for example, on questions that may arise?"

Srila Prabhupada: "Well, the answers are there in my books."

Disciple: "Other than that—for example, [questions] that we would ask you in [specific daily matters]. Do you direct us, also, through the heart? Besides the Paramatma?"

Srila Prabhupada: "If your heart is pure. Everything depends on purity." (Conversation, May 13, 1973, Los Angeles)

## G) Srila Prabhupada's Words are Above Defects.

All rituals, procedures, and names established by Srila Prabhupada are transcendently pure and perfect. (See "*Sadhana*," next section.) Srila Prabhupada never made mistakes, as do all ordinary men. Everything Srila Prabhupada says and does is pure and perfect, totally devoid of the four defects of conditional life—namely illusion, cheating, imperfect senses, and the tendency to commit mistakes.

"It is recommended that one honor the spiritual master as being on an equal status with the Supreme Personality of Godhead. *Saksad-dharitvena samasta-sastrair*. This is enjoined in every scripture. *Acaryam mam vijaniyat*. One should consider the *acarya* to be as good as the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In spite of all these instructions, if one considers the spiritual master an ordinary human being, one is doomed. His study of the *Vedas* and his austerities and penances for enlightenment are all useless, like the bathing of an elephant. An elephant bathes in a lake quite thoroughly, but as soon as it comes on the shore it takes some dust from the ground and strews it over its body. Thus there is no meaning to the elephant's bath." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 7.15.26, Purport)

*bhrama pramada vipralipsa karanapatava  
arsa-vijna-vakye nahi dosa ei saba:*

"Mistakes, illusions, cheating, and defective perception do not occur in the sayings of the authoritative sages." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta*, *Adi 2.86*)

## H) Srila Prabhupada's Preaching Is Empowered and Complete.

Srila Prabhupada's activities perfectly convey the complete *siddhanta* (scripturally authorized conclusions) of the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya Sampradaya originating from Lord Krishna Himself. Srila Prabhupada is the *acarya-vigraha*, the best example of the perfect teacher. His preaching exhibits the full manifestation *guru-tattva* and *guru-puja*, the essence of the bona fide guru and worship of the bona fide guru. By studying and following Srila Prabhupada's instructions, everyone can achieve the highest stages of Krishna consciousness. Srila Prabhupada's books are perfect and complete and require no editing or change.

**"Whatever is to be learned of the teachings of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura can be learned from our books. There is no need whatsoever for any outside instruction."** (Letter, December 25, 1973)

"Everyone can become a first-class preacher. Simply cram the purports of my books. The references are there. The philosophy is there. Everything is there." (Letter, September 19, 1974)

"Simply read my books and repeat what I have written. Then our preaching will be perfect." (Letter, April 4, 1975)

"One should not partially study a book just to pose oneself as a great scholar by being able to refer to scriptures. In our Krishna consciousness movement we have therefore limited our study of Vedic literatures to *Bhagavad-gita*, *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, *Caitanya-caritamṛta*, and *Bhakti-rasamṛta-sindhu*. These four works are sufficient for preaching purposes. They are adequate for the understanding of the philosophy and the spreading of missionary activities all over the world. If one studies a particular book, he must do so thoroughly. That is the principle. By thoroughly studying a limited number of books, one can understand the philosophy." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta*, *Madhya 22.118*, Purport)

## I) Srila Prabhupada Lives Eternally as the Spiritual Master of the Universe.

To obtain the full blessings of Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu and all previous *acaryas*, we must accept Srila Prabhupada as *acarya-vigraha* or *sad-guru*, the eternal spiritual master, and follow his instructions. Srila Prabhupada is the current, living link of the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya Sampradaya. Therefore, his worship is established as fundamental *sadhana* for all Hare Krishna Vaisnavas in this age. (See "*Sadliana*," the following section.)

Reporter: "What will happen to the movement in the United States when you die?"

Srila Prabhupada: "I will never die. I shall live from my books, and you will utilize."

Reporter: "Are you training a successor?"

Srila Prabhupada: "Yes, my Guru Maharaja is there." (Interview, July 16, 1975, Berkeley)

Guest: "Are you planning to choose a successor?"

Srila Prabhupada: "It is already successful. A genuine thing is always a success."

Disciple: "One thing he's saying, this gentleman—and I would like to know: Is your successor named?"

Srila Prabhupada: "My success is always there. Yes. Just like the sun is there always. It may come before your vision or not—the sun is there. But if you are fortunate, you come before the sun. Otherwise, you remain in darkness. The sun is open to everyone. Our Krishna consciousness movement, Krishna, is open to everyone. But if you are fortunate, you come to the light. If you are

unfortunate, you do not. That is your choice." (Conversation, February 12, 1975, Mexico City)

Srila Prabhupada: "Only Lord Caitanya can take my place. He will take care of the movement." (Conversation, November 2, 1977, Vrndavana)

Disciple: "You are the real *acarya* for this age, Srila Prabhupada." (October 3, 1977, Vrndavana)

Please note: Srila Prabhupada's response to this comment was silence. He would have objected had the comment been bogus or improper. "It is characteristic of advanced Vaisnavas... that they think themselves ordinary human beings. This is not an artificial exhibition of humility; a Vaisnava sincerely thinks this way and therefore never admits his exalted position." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 5.24.26, Purport)

## J) The Disciplic Succession Relies on Genuine Disciples.

The disciplic succession or *guru-parampara* is continued by the spiritual master's genuine disciples. In other words, the disciplic succession relies on disciples who follow the orders, the conclusions, the *siddhanta* of the *sampradaya-acarya*. The disciplic succession never relies on ecclesiastical arrangements for authorizing "gurus" or initiating new generations of disciples. Srila Prabhupada never told his disciples to initiate their own disciples in his mission, and thus he never offered any instructions in this regard. Rather, he carefully trained genuine disciples, like Sriman Jayananda Prabhu, to preach the pure *siddhanta* of Krishna consciousness, as humble messengers of Lord Caitanya's mission and humble servants of the Spiritual Master.

"I am the initiator guru, and you should be the instructor guru by teaching what I am teaching and doing what I am doing. This is not a title, but you must actually come to this platform. This I want." (Letter, August 4, 1975)

Srila Prabhupada: "Only Lord Caitanya can take my place. He will take care of the movement." (Conversation, November 2, 1977, Vrndavana)

Reporter: "Have you chosen a successor?"

Srila Prabhupada: "My success is always there. Yes. Just like the sun is always there." (Conversation, February 12, 1975, Mexico City)

"One should not try to be an artificially advanced devotee, thinking, 'I am a first-class devotee.' Such thinking should be avoided. It is best not to accept any disciples." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 7.130, Purport)

"One who thinks he is guru becomes *goru* [cow]." (Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura, essay)

"If everyone just initiates, then there will only be a contradictory result. As long as it goes on, there will be only failure." (From *Phalguna Krishna Pancami*, Srila Prabhupada's 1961 poem honoring the appearance day of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura.)

## K) Srila Prabhupada Formally Initiates Through Deputed Priests.

Srila Prabhupada personally established in his mission a system whereby he has continued formally initiating new disciples through deputed priests. This system should always be followed in institutions established by Srila Prabhupada and in institutions representing the mission of Srila Prabhupada and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. (See Appendix: Conversation July 7, 1977, Vrndavana; Srila Prabhupada's final will, June 1977; and Srila Prabhupada's last directive on initiations, July 9, 1977.)

"My Dear R-, Please accept my blessings. Just now I have received some more requests for giving first initiation ..., and now I am receiving weekly not less than ten to fifteen such requests from new students. So it is becoming very expensive to send so many sets of beads such a long distance, and it has become a little bothersome for me also, so I think now you may be appointed by me to give

first initiations to new disciples by chanting on their beads on my behalf. In America K- is doing that. So now if there are two of you, that will give me great relief. K- will chant on the beads for new devotees in America, Canada, like that; you can chant on the beads for the European continent, new disciples. They shall, of course, still be considered as my disciples, not that they shall become your disciples, but you will be empowered by me to chant their beads and that is the same effect of binding master and disciple as if I were personally chanting." (Letter, January, 4, 1973)

Disciple 1: "Then our next question concerns initiations in the future, particularly at that time when you are no longer with us. We want to know how first and second initiation would be conducted."

Srila Prabhupada: "Yes. I shall recommend some of you.... I shall recommend some of you to act as officiating *acaryas*."

Disciple 2: "Is that called *ritvik-acarya*?"

Srila Prabhupada: "*Ritvik*. Yes."

(Conversation, May 28, 1977, Vrndavana) (See also: Conversation, July 7, 1977, Vrndavana; Srila Prabhupada's last directive on initiations, July 9, 1977.)

Srila Prabhupada: "Hare Krishna. One Bengali gentleman has come from New York?... So I have deputed some of you to initiate. I have already deputed... So, deputies... J's name was there?"

Disciple: "It is already there, Srila Prabhupada. His name was already on that list [of deputies in the July 9th directive, stating Srila Prabhupada's authorized system for initiations ' henceforward' ]."

Srila Prabhupada: "So I depute him to do this... This initiation; I have deputed my disciples. Is it clear or not?"

Disciple: "It's clear... We will explain to the Bengali gentleman, just as you have described to us, so that he'll be satisfied with this arrangement." (Conversation, October 18, 1977, Vrndavana)

## L) Persons Devoted to Srila Prabhupada and His Instructions Are His Disciples.

Persons initiated according to the *sadhana* established by Srila Prabhupada and fixed in following his instructions are bona fide students or disciples of Srila Prabhupada. (See "*Sadhana*")

"*Sisya* means [one] who accepts the ruling of his spiritual master, and disciple means also the same thing—[one] who becomes disciplined by the spiritual master." (Lecture, September 12, 1969, London)

Srila Prabhupada: "Who is my disciple? First of all, let him follow strictly the disciplined rules."

Disciple: "As long as one is following, then he is ..."

Srila Prabhupada: "Then he is all right." (Conversation, June 13, 1976, Detroit)

**"He lives forever by his divine instructions, and the follower lives with him." (Srimad-Bhagavatam, Dedication, 1962)**

## M) Genuine Disciples Beg All, "Accept Srila Prabhupada As Your Eternal Guru."

The primary aim of missionary work done by Srila Prabhupada's bona fide disciples is to help everyone hear from, worship and serve Srila Prabhupada and in this way learn the complete science of Krishna consciousness. Srila Prabhupada's mercy and instruction provide the only sure way for everyone to participate in the *sankirtana* mission of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and attain perfection in this life.

"...devotional service to the Lord is so powerful that it can cleanse the hearts of the people in general, by the devotional service of the pure, empowered devotee. A true representative of the Lord

like Narada, Sukadeva Gosvami, Lord Caitanya, the Six Gosvamis, and later Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura and Srimad Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura, etcetera, can deliver all people by their empowered devotional service." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 2.8.5, Purport)

"Knowledge should be taken from the perfect person—because if you take knowledge from a person who is defective, your knowledge has no value. You must take knowledge from the perfect." (Lecture, April 12, 1974, Bombay)

"Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you, because he has seen the truth." (*Bhagavad-gita As It Is* 4.34)

"By the mercy of the spiritual master, one receives the mercy of Krishna. Without the grace of the spiritual master, no one can make any advancement." (*Sri Sri Gurv-astaka*, Verse 8, by Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura)

"The path of spiritual realization is undoubtedly difficult. The Lord therefore advises us to approach a bona fide spiritual master in the line of disciplic succession from the Lord Himself." (*Bhagavad-gita As It Is* 4.34, Purport)

"The spiritual master is the mercy representative of the Lord. Therefore, a person burning in the flames of material existence may receive the rains of mercy of the Lord through the transparent medium of the self-realized spiritual master. The spiritual master, by his words, can penetrate into the heart of the suffering person and inject knowledge transcendental, which alone can extinguish the fire of material existence." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 1.7.22, Purport)

## N) The Vaisnava *Acarya* or *Diksa-Guru* Never Falls Down.

An *acarya* or *diksa-guru* in the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya Sampradaya is, by definition, a fully self-realized pure devotee, or *uttama-adhikari*, free from all defects or imperfections. In other words, such a guru is a fully liberated soul. A Vaisnava *acarya*, or *diksa-guru*, being liberated and self-realized, is never deluded or confused in any circumstance and never forgets Krishna even for a moment. The idea that a Vaisnava *acarya* or *diksa-guru* may become fallen or degraded is *apasiddhanta*, a severe deviation. Such offensive ideas run contrary to Srila Prabhupada's teachings and the conclusions of the Vedic scriptures.

"A bona fide spiritual master is in the disciplic succession from time eternal, and he does not deviate at all from the instructions of the Supreme Lord..." (*Bhagavad-gita As It Is* 4.42, Purport)

"The spiritual master must never be carried away by an accumulation of wealth or a large number of followers. A bona fide spiritual master will never become like that. But sometimes, if a spiritual master is not properly authorized and only on his own initiative becomes a spiritual master, he may be carried away by an accumulation of wealth and large numbers of disciples. His is not a very high grade of devotional service." (*Nectar of Devotion*, Chapter 14)

"A first-class devotee never deviates from the principles of higher authority...." (*Nectar of Devotion*, Chapter 3)

"There is no possibility that a first-class devotee will fall down..." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 22.71, Purport)

*maha-bhagavata-srestho brahmano vai guru nram  
sarvesam eva lokanam asau pujyo yatha harih:*

"The guru must be situated on the topmost platform of devotional service. There are three classes of devotees, and the guru must be accepted from the topmost class... When one has attained the topmost position of *maha-bhagavata*, he is to be accepted as guru and worshiped exactly like Hari, the Personality of Godhead. Only such a person is eligible to occupy the post of a guru." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 24.330, Purport, citing *Padma Purana*)

## O) Self-Appointed, Unauthorized Preachers Should Be Neglected.

Persons who insist on posing themselves as *acaryas* or *diksa-gurus*—and who thus neglect Srila Prabhupada's clear instructions on this matter—are, in truth, jealous imitators with no substantial connection to Srila Prabhupada's mission. Serious devotees should neglect such self-styled pretenders, their foolish promoters, and other materially contaminated individuals.

"A jealous person in the dress of a Vaisnava is not at all happy to see the success of another Vaisnava in receiving the Lord's mercy. Unfortunately in this Age of Kali there are many mundane persons in the dress of Vaisnavas, and Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura has described them as disciples of Kali. He says, *kali-cela*. He indicates that there is another Vaisnava, a pseudo-Vaisnava with *tilaka* on his nose and *kanthi* beads around his neck. Such a pseudo-Vaisnava associates with money and women and is jealous of successful Vaisnavas. Although passing for a Vaisnava, his only business is earning money in the dress of a Vaisnava. Bhaktivinoda Thakura therefore says that such a pseudo-Vaisnava is not a Vaisnava at all but a disciple of Kali-yuga. A disciple of Kali cannot become an *acanja* by the decision of some high court. Mundane votes have no jurisdiction to elect a Vaisnava *acarya*. A Vaisnava *acanja* is self-effulgent, and there is no need for any court judgment. A false *acarya* may try to override a Vaisnava by a high-court decision, but Bhaktivinoda Thakura says that he is nothing but a disciple of Kali-yuga." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 1.220)

"If a Vaisnava, by the mercy of the Lord, is empowered by Him to distribute the Lord's holy name all over the world, other Vaisnavas become very joyful—that is, if they are truly Vaisnavas. One who is envious of the success of a Vaisnava is certainly not a Vaisnava himself, but an ordinary mundane man... A mundane person in the dress of a Vaisnava should not be respected but rejected. This is enjoined in the *sastras* (*upeksa*). The word *upeksa* means neglect. One should neglect an envious person..." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 2.218, Purport)

"As soon as a foolish disciple tries to overtake his spiritual master and becomes ambitious to occupy his post, he immediately falls down. *Yasya prasadam bhagavat-prasado yasyaprasadan na gatih kuto pi*. If the spiritual master is considered an ordinary man, the disciple surely loses his chance to advance further." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 5.12.14, Purport)

"...*gurusu nara-matir ... naraki salt*: One who considers that the spiritual master is an ordinary human being...is considered a *naraki*, a candidate for hellish life." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Antya 6.294, Purport)

"One is forbidden to regard the spiritual master as an ordinary human being (*gurusu nara-matir ... naraki sail*). The spiritual master, or *acanja*, is always situated in the spiritual status of life." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 10.4.24, Purport)

"Presently people are so fallen that they cannot distinguish between a liberated soul and a conditioned soul." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 4.18.5, Purport)

"If one tries to mingle the worship of *yogamaya* with *mahamaya*, considering them one and the same, he does not really show very high intelligence." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 8.90, Purport)

"Intermingling the spiritual with the material causes one to look on transcendence as material and the mundane as spiritual. This is all due to a poor fund of knowledge." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 16.72, Purport)

"One may try to support his philosophy by joining some caste or identifying himself with a certain dynasty, claiming a monopoly on spiritual advancement. Thus with the support of family tradition, one may become a pseudo-guru or so-called spiritual master... All these are pitfalls of personal sense gratification. Just to cheat some innocent people, one makes a show of advanced spiritual life and becomes known as a *sadhu*, *mahatma*, or religious person." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 19.160)



"Influenced by an envious temperament and dissatisfied because of an attitude of sense gratification, mundaners criticize a real *acarya*. In fact, however, a bona fide *acarya* is nondifferent from the Personality of Godhead, and therefore to envy such an *acarya* is to envy the Personality of Godhead Himself." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Adi 1.46, Purport)

## P) Srila Prabhupada Is Worshiped on the Same Level as Lord Krishna.

Because Srila Prabhupada is the most confidential and empowered servitor of Lord Caitanya, all learned devotees or Gaudiya Vaisnavas in this age worship Srila Prabhupada on the same level as Lord Krishna Himself. All Hare Krishna temples conduct daily worship of Srila Prabhupada, both at *mangala-arati* while worshipping the Deity and again separately during the daily *guru-puja* program, as per the principles of *sadhana* ordained by *guru-sastra-sadhu* and authorized by Srila Prabhupada personally.

*saksad-dharitvena samasta-sastrair,  
uktas tatha bhavyata eva sadbhih:*

"The spiritual master is to be honored as much as the Supreme Lord, because he is the most confidential servant of the Lord This is acknowledged in all revealed scriptures and followed by all authorities." (*Sri Sri Gury-astaka*, Verse 7).

"Just like Krishna can be present simultaneously in millions of places, similarly the spiritual master also can be present wherever the disciple wants. A spiritual master is the principle, not the body. Just like a television can be seen in thousands of places by the principle of relay monitoring." (Letter, May 28, 1968)

"The guru must be situated on the topmost platform of devotional service. There are three classes of devotees, and the guru must be accepted from the topmost class... When one has attained the topmost position of *maha-bhagavata*, he is to be accepted as guru and worshiped exactly like Hari, the Personality of Godhead. Only such a person is eligible to occupy the post of a guru." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 24.330, Purport, citing *Padma Purana*)

"It is recommended that one honor the spiritual master as being on an equal status with the Supreme Personality of Godhead. *Saksad-dharitvena samasta-sastrair*. This is enjoined in every scripture. *Acaryani mam vijaniyat*. One should consider the *acarya* to be as good as the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In spite of all these instructions, if one considers the spiritual master an ordinary human being, one is doomed. His study of the *Vedas* and his austerities and penances for enlightenment are all useless, like the bathing of an elephant. An elephant bathes in a lake quite thoroughly, but as soon as it comes on the shore it takes some dust from the ground and strews it over its body. Thus there is no meaning to the elephant's bath." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 7.15.26, Purport)

## Q) Srila Prabhupada Blesses the Global Krishna Consciousness Movement.

Srila Prabhupada and our predecessor *acaryas*—particularly Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura and Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura—have encouraged and blessed the Krishna consciousness movement, the worldwide *sanga* of Lord Caitanya's devotees. This *sanga* cooperatively preaches Lord Caitanya's mission in all corners of the globe, following the directions of the Six Gosvamis and serving the mission and teachings of the self-effulgent *acarya*, our Founder-Acarya, Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who is *sad-guru* and *jagat-guru*, the eternal guru for all his followers and the guru for all the world.

*mahat-sevam dvaram ahur vimuktas*: "One can attain the path of liberation from material bondage only by rendering service to highly advanced spiritual personalities." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 5.5.2)

*naisam tnatīs tavad urukramanghrim / sprsaty anarthapagamo yad-arthah  
mahiyasam pada-rajo-'bhisekam / niskincananam na vrnita yavat:*

"Unless they smear on their bodies the dust of the lotus feet of a Vaisnava completely freed from material contamination, persons very much inclined toward materialistic life cannot be attached to the lotus feet of the Lord, who is glorified for His uncommon activities. Only by becoming Krishna conscious and taking shelter of the lotus feet of the Lord in this way can one be freed from material contamination." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 7.5.32)

"No one should think that this Krishna consciousness movement is a new movement. As confirmed by *Bhagavad-gita* and *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, it is a very, very old movement, for it has been passing down from one Manu to another... Krishna consciousness, based on the nine principles of devotional service (*sravanam kirtanam visnoh smaranam pada-sevanam, arcanam vandanam dasyam sakhyam atma-nivedanam*), will never be stopped. It will go on without distinction of caste, creed, color, or country. No one can check it." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 4.28.31)

"A person who cannot keep his faith in the words of his spiritual master but acts independently never receives the authority to chant the holy name of the Lord. It is said in the Vedas: *yasya deve para bhaktir, yatha-deve tatha gurau, tasyaite kathita hy arthah, prakasante mahatmanah*: 'Only unto those great souls who have implicit faith in both the Lord and the spiritual master are all the imports of Vedic knowledge automatically revealed.' This Vedic injunction is very important, and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu supported it by His personal behavior. Believing in the words of His spiritual master, He introduced the *sankirtana* movement, just as the present Krishna consciousness movement was started with belief in the words of our spiritual master. He wanted to preach; we believed in his words and tried somehow or other to fulfill them, and now this movement has become successful all over the world. Therefore faith in the words of the spiritual master and in the Supreme Personality of Godhead is the secret of success. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu never disobeyed the orders of His spiritual master and stopped propagating the *sankirtana* movement. Sri Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami, at the time of his passing away, ordered all his disciples to work conjointly to preach the mission of Caitanya Mahaprabhu all over the world. Later, however, some self-interested, foolish disciples disobeyed his orders. Each one of them wanted to become head of the mission, and they fought in the courts, neglecting the order of the spiritual master, and the entire mission was defeated. We are not proud of this; however, the truth must be explained. We believed in the words of our spiritual master and started in a humble way- in a helpless way — but due to the spiritual force of the order of the supreme authority, this movement has become successful." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta*, *Adi* 7.95-96, Purport)

## Section Three

### *Sadhana* -- Authorized Principles of Spiritual Practice

*sruti-smṛti-puranadi-pancaratra-vidhim vina,  
aikantiki harer bhaktir utpatayaiva kalpate*

"Devotional service of the Lord that ignores the authorized Vedic literatures like the *Upanisads*, *Puranas*, and *Narada-pancaratra* is simply an unnecessary disturbance in society." (A verse from *Skanda Purana*, cited by Srila Rupa Gosvami in Part 1, Chapter 2, Text 101 of his *Bhakti-rasamṛta-sindhu*, which Srila Prabhupada presents as the summary study *Nectar of Devotion*.)

The following principles of spiritual practice have been established by Srila Prabhupada and are recognized, accepted, and followed by the bona fide disciples of Srila Prabhupada. Disciples fixed in following this *sadhana* are true representatives of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Deviation from these principles causes schisms, fall-down from the path of pure Krishna consciousness, and disturbance in human society.

## 1) Offering Obeisances to Srila Prabhupada:

When devotees offer *pranamas* (obeisances) to Srila Prabhupada, they should do this clearly and audibly, with the following two prayers, or *pranama* mantras:

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhu-tale  
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine*

*namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine  
nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascaty-a-des-a-tarine*

"One should not offer obeisances silently to the spiritual master; or in other words, one should recite aloud the prayers to the spiritual master while offering obeisances." (*Nectar of Devotion*, Chapter 8)

## 2) Offering Standard Mantras for *Puja* and *Kirtanas*:

All *kirtanas* should begin with the above-mentioned *pranama* mantras to Srila Prabhupada, which may be followed by chanting "Jaya Prabhupada." The *prema-dhvani* (respectful obeisances at the end of *kirtana*) should be recited starting with *pranamas* to Srila Prabhupada and the predecessor *acaryas*, and continuing with the other standard, authorized *pranamas* taught by Srila Prabhupada.

## 3) Performing Deity Worship:

Deity worship in Hare Krishna temples must be performed exclusively by devotees who are Srila Prabhupada's initiated disciples. By his order, Srila Prabhupada's disciples and students must chant at least sixteen rounds of the Hare Krishna *malm-mantra* on beads daily and must follow the four regulative principles of Vaisnava life—that is, no illicit sex, no meat-eating, no gambling, and no intoxication. The highest standard recommended by Srila Prabhupada is for disciples to rise by 4 a.m. The principle is to rise early for *mangala-arati*.

## 4) Worshiping the Authorized Disciplic Succession:

*Guru-parampara-puja* (worship of the authorized disciplic succession) is essential in Krishna conscious *sadhana*. Offerings should be directed first toward the picture of Srila Prabhupada and should proceed (moving rightward from the picture of Srila Prabhupada) to pictures of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura, Srila Gaura Kisora dasa Babaji, Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura, Srila Jagannatha dasa Babaji, the Six Gosvamis, and the Panca-tattva—that is, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Sri Nityananda Prabhu, Sri Advaita, Sri Gadadhara, and Sri Srivasa Thakura. In other words, on the altar with Srila Prabhupada's picture may be only pictures of Deities and bona fide predecessor Vaisnava *acaryas* of the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya Sampradaya.

*maha-bhagavata-srestho brahmano vai guru nram  
sarvesam eva lokanam asau pujyo yatha harih:*

"The guru must be situated on the topmost platform of devotional service. There are three classes of devotees, and the guru must be accepted from the topmost class... When one has attained the topmost position of *maha-bhagavata*, he is to be accepted as guru and worshiped exactly like Hari, the Personality of Godhead. Only such a person is eligible to occupy the post of a guru." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 24.330, Purport, citing *Padma Purana*)

## 5) Worship Only Authorized Paintings and Photographs.

Only authorized paintings and photographs—that is, pictures of bona fide *acaryas* and also of Deities and Their pastimes—shall be placed on the temple altar or walls. Srila Prabhupada instructs that the disappearance day of Sriman Jayananda Prabhu may be honored with ceremonies (*puspa-abhiseka*) and feasting, as are the disappearance days of other recognized Vaisnava saints. (Srila Prabhupada never authorized demigod worship for his disciples or temples.)

## 6) Establish Only Srila Prabhupada's *Vyasasana* in Temples and Centers.

As with Srila Prabhupada's daily *guru-puja*, Srila Prabhupada's *vyasa-asana* is a permanent feature in all Hare Krishna temples and centers. A floor seat (*asana*) shall be provided for speakers or those giving class on the *sastras*, Srila Prabhupada's authorized and approved pre-1978 book editions. This practice was personally approved by Srila Prabhupada. He never suggested that other arrangements should be made in the future.

## 7) Conduct Temple Programs Approved by Srila Prabhupada.

Only Srila Prabhupada's *guru-puja* and the worship of authorized Deities and predecessor Vaisnava *acaryas*, as mentioned above, can take place in the temple or any other place of Krishna conscious worship. Srila Prabhupada never authorized the worship of imperfect preachers, prophets, leaders, or demigods.

## 8) Celebrate Authorized Festivals.

All Hare Krishna temples must conduct ceremonies for proper observance of Srila Prabhupada's *avirbhava-mahotsava* (appearance festival) and *tirobhava-mahotsava* (disappearance festival). These auspicious days should be celebrated in a grand way, as far as possible. Similarly, the appearance and disappearance observances of the authorized predecessor Vaisnava *acaryas*, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Sri Nityananda Prabhu, Sri Advaita Prabhu, other members of the Sri Pancatattva and *parsadas* (associates of Sriman Mahaprabhu), Lord Sri Krishna, Srimati Radharani, Sri Ramacandra, Sri Varaha, Sri Narasimha, Sri Vamana, and other avatars and bona fide, recognized Vaisnava saints should be celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm.

## 9) Method for Offering Food:

Offering of food, or *bhoga*, to the Deity shall be done by using the following mantras:

*nama om visnu-padaya krsna-presthaya bhuta-tale  
srimate bhaktivedanta-svamin iti namine:*

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who is very dear to Lord Krishna, having taken shelter at His lotus feet."

*namas te sarasvate deve gaura-vani-pracarine  
nirvisesa-sunyavadi-pascatyadesatarine:*

"Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvati Gosvami. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with voidism and impersonalism."

*namo maha-vadanyaya krsna-prema-pradaya te  
krsnaya krsna-caitanya-namne gaura-tvise namah:*

"O most munificent incarnation! You are Krishna Himself appearing as Sri Krishna Caitanya Mahaprabhu. You have assumed the golden color of Srimati Radharani, and You are widely distributing pure love of Krishna. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 19.53)

*namo brahmanya-devaya go-brahmana-hitaya ca  
jagad-dhitaya krsnaya govindaya namo namah:*

"I offer my respectful obeisances to the Supreme Absolute Truth, Krishna, who is the well-wisher of the cows and the *brahmanas* as well as the living entities in general. I offer my repeated obeisances to Govinda, who is the pleasure reservoir for all the senses." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 13.77)

"You may say the prayer to the spiritual master three times, and also the *namo brahmanya* prayer three times, when offering *prasadam*. That is very nice, to say the mantra three times. Also, you

may, after offering to the spiritual master, offer to Lord Caitanya by saying the prayer *namo mahavadanyaya* three times, and then offer to Krishna thrice." (Letter, March 26, 1968)

#### 10) Carefully Study Books Authorized by Srila Prabhupada.

For personal study, readings, classes, and public distribution, accept only the authorized and approved pre-1978 editions of Srila Prabhupada's books. Serious students of Krishna consciousness should never accept unauthorized changes made to Srila Prabhupada's books by various editors.

"I have given you the process of disciplic succession... So in the *parampara* system, in that disciplic succession, you will find no change. The original word is there. That is the thing... If you want the real thing, then you have to take the old, the oldest. You cannot change anything." (Lecture, December 1, 1966, New York)

"In my books the philosophy of Krishna consciousness is explained fully, so if there is anything which you do not understand, then you simply have to read again and again. By reading daily, the knowledge will be revealed to you, and by this process, your spiritual life will develop." (Letter, November 22, 1974)

#### 11) Reject Unauthorized Successor "*Acaryas*" or "*Diksa-Gurus*".

Srila Prabhupada did not practice a system of nominating or approving successor *acaryas* or *diksa-gurus*. Nor did Srila Prabhupada authorize any person, group, or organization to nominate or approve successor *acaryas* or *diksa-gurus*. Nor did Srila Prabhupada indicate that one may appoint himself as *diksa-guru* or *acarya* simply by adopting the role or status. Such ideas are insidious concoctions, unsubstantiated anywhere in Srila Prabhupada's teachings or directives for *sadhana*.

"Caitanya Mahaprabhu—He is God. *Guru more murkha dekhi' karila sasan*: 'My Guru Maharaja saw Me as fool number one, and he has chastised Me.' He's God. This is the example. If one remains a servant everlastingly of the guru, then he is liberated. And as soon as he thinks that he is liberated, he's a rascal. That is the teaching of Caitanya Mahaprabhu. *Guru more murkha dekhi'*. Caitanya Mahaprabhu is *murkha*? Why is it He's posing Himself as that *murkha*?--'I am fool number one.' That means that is liberation. You must be ready always to be chastised by the guru. Then one is liberated. And as soon as he thinks that 'I am beyond this chastisement-I am liberated,' he's a rascal. Why does Caitanya Mahaprabhu say *guru more murkha dekhi' karila sasan*? This is *sahajiya-vada*— thinking, 'Oh, I have become liberated. I don't require any direction of my guru. I'm liberated.' Then he's a rascal.

"Why did this Gaudiya Matha fail? Because they tried to become more than the guru. He—before passing away—he gave all direction and never said that 'This man should be the next *acarya*.' But these people—just after his passing away, they began to fight: 'Who shall be *acarya*?' That is the failure. They never thought, 'Why—Guru Maharaja gave us instruction on so many things—why did he not say that this man should be *acarya*?' They wanted to create artificially somebody as *acarya*, and everything failed.

"They did not consider even with common sense—that 'If Guru Maharaja wanted to appoint somebody as *acarya*, why did he not say? He said so many things, and this point he missed? The real point?' And they insisted upon it. They declared some unfit person to become *acarya*. Then another man came. And then another — '*Acarya*!' Another — '*Acarya*!' So better remain a foolish person perpetually to be directed by Guru Maharaja. That is perfection. And as soon as he learns that Guru Maharaja is dead, 'Now I am so advanced that I can kill my guru and I become guru.' Then he's finished." (Conversation, August 16, 1976, Bombay)

Srila Prabhupada: "Only Lord Caitanya can take my place. He will take care of the movement." (Conversation, November 2, 1977, Vrndavana)

Guest: "When did you become the spiritual leader of Krishna consciousness?"

Srila Prabhupada: "When my Guru Maharaja ordered me. This is the *guru-parampara*. Try to

understand. Don't go very speedily. A guru can become a guru when he's ordered by his guru. That's all. Otherwise, nobody can become guru." (Conversation, October 28, 1975, Nairobi)

## 12) Avoid Disobedient, Unauthorized Ideas about Spiritual Initiation.

Srila Prabhupada never suggested that immature preachers should pose as *diksa-gurus* and initiate their own disciples in the Krishna consciousness movement. Similarly, the practice of "reinitiating" devotees who have already earnestly begun serving Srila Prabhupada, having received the *bhakti-lata-bija* or seed of devotion by His Divine Grace (*guru-krsna prasada*), is against Vaisnava principles. Sincere students reject all these unauthorized practices and never accept imitators as substitutes for the genuine Vaisnava *acarya*. [Persons posing as *sadhus* or *gurus* often propagate the following deviations:

- a) Vaisnava *gurus* or *acaryas* are authorized by ecclesiastical arrangements (*acarya* boards, two-thirds-majority votes, and so forth) or appointed from among immature devotees.
- b) Vaisnava *gurus* are self-made or nominated by their friends or followers.
- c) Vaisnava *gurus* are ordinary men who sometimes make common mistakes, and even great devotees (*mahajanas*) sometimes become degraded under the Lord's external *maya-sakti*.
- d) The bona fide spiritual master may sometimes become a demon.
- e) A disciple may need to neglect his Vaisnava *guru* sometimes, or interpret and edit his instructions, or even reject him completely.
- f) *Sadhana-bhaktas*, neophyte Vaisnavas, may accept special instructions and special *siddha-pranali* "initiation" from an unauthorized, self-styled preacher if he claims to be augmenting the teachings of the bona fide Vaisnava *acarya*.
- g) Vaisnavas, although sincerely engaged in the service of the bona fide *acarya*, require initiation by an ecclesiastical "guru" and "reinitiation" when their former ecclesiastical "guru" deviates.
- h) A student of Krishna consciousness may accept initiation, *diksa*, from more than one *guru*,
- i) Vaisnava *acaryas* die or become "posthumous," like all mortal men, and thus become inaccessible or ineffective in the matter of initiating and guiding new disciples,
- j) Some of the instructions of the Vaisnava *acarya* automatically become irrelevant after his disappearance.

"He reasons ill who tells that Vaisnavas die, when thou art living still in sound." (From a poem by Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura.)

"There is no possibility that a first-class devotee will fall down...." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 22.71, Purport)

"A devotee must have only one initiating spiritual master, because in the scriptures acceptance of more than one is always forbidden." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Adi 1.35, Purport)

"Sri Jiva Gosvami advises that one not accept a spiritual master in terms of hereditary or customary social and ecclesiastical conventions. One should simply try to find a genuinely qualified spiritual master for actual advancement in spiritual understanding." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Adi 1.35, Purport)

"One should take initiation from a bona fide spiritual master coming in the disciplic succession, who is authorized by his predecessor spiritual master. This is called *diksa-vidhana*. Lord Krishna states in *Bhagavad-gita, vyapasarita*: one should accept a spiritual master. By this process the entire world can be converted to Krishna consciousness." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 4.8.54, Purport)

### 13) Follow Srila Prabhupada's Authorized System for Initiations.

Srila Prabhupada has ordained and implemented a system for initiations in his mission using deputed priests of the *acarya*, who offer formal initiation on behalf of Srila Prabhupada. This system has been in place and functioning in the Krishna consciousness movement since 1970, or slightly prior. Srila Prabhupada never suggested it should be discontinued for any reason. To the contrary, via numerous spoken and written directives, Srila Prabhupada has clearly delineated his intention to continue initiating disciples in the Krishna consciousness movement by this system perpetually. Srila Prabhupada's sincere followers accept his system without speculation, following the infallible authority of *sadhu-sastra-guru*. (See Appendix: Conversations, May 28th and July 7th, 1977, Vrndavana; Srila Prabhupada's last directive on initiations, July 9, 1977.)

"My dear R-, Please accept my blessings. Just now I have received some more requests for giving first initiation ..., and now I am receiving weekly not less than ten to fifteen such requests from new students. So it is becoming very expensive to send so many sets of beads such a long distance, and it has become a little bothersome for me also, so I think now you may be appointed by me to give first initiations to new disciples by chanting on their beads on my behalf. In America K- is doing that. So now if there are two of you, that will give me great relief. K- will chant on the beads for new devotees in America, Canada, like that; you can chant on the beads for the European continent, new disciples. They shall, of course, still be considered as my disciples, not that they shall become your disciples, but you will be empowered by me to chant their beads and that is the same effect of binding master and disciple as if I were personally chanting." (Letter, January 4, 1973)

Disciple 1: "Then our next question concerns initiations in the future, particularly at that time when you are no longer with us. We want to know how first and second initiation would be conducted."

Srila Prabhupada: "Yes. I shall recommend some of you... I shall recommend some of you to act as officiating *acaryas*."

Disciple 2: "Is that called *ritvik-acarya*?"

Srila Prabhupada: "*Ritvik*. Yes." (Conversation, May 28, 1977, Vrndavana) [See also: Conversation, July 7, 1977, Vrndavana; Srila Prabhupada's last directive on initiations, July 9, 1977.]

Srila Prabhupada: "Hare Krishna. One Bengali gentleman has come from New York?... So I have deputed some of you to initiate. I have already deputed... So, deputies... J's name was there?"

Disciple: "It is already there, Srila Prabhupada. His name was already on that list [of deputies in the July 9th directive, stating Srila Prabhupada's authorized system for initiations 'henceforward']."

Srila Prabhupada: "So I depute him to do this... This initiation. I have deputed my disciples. Is it clear or not?" Disciple: "It's clear... We will explain to the Bengali gentleman, just as you have described to us, so that he'll be satisfied with this arrangement." (Conversation, October 18, 1977, Vrndavana)

### 14) "Knowledge Should Be Taken from the Perfect Person."

Only an *uttama-adhikari*, a topmost, perfect devotee, is qualified to deliver the student from the miseries of the material world and the cycle of birth and death. Therefore, all *sastras* and *acaryas* recommend that serious students of Krishna consciousness accept only an *uttama-adhikari* as *diksa-guru*. Students should not accept as guru an imperfect person who is subject to fall-down. Sincere devotees should not accept initiation according to temporal ecclesiastical arrangements but should rather accept only the topmost devotee as *diksa-guru*, according to the *sadhana* prescribed by Srila Prabhupada.

"The whole world is in the blaze of material pangs, threefold miseries, and a person who is authorized to deliver people from those material pangs —he is called a spiritual master." (Lecture, August 17, 1968, Montreal)

"... help can only be given by a spiritual master like Krishna. Therefore, the conclusion is that a spiritual master who is one hundred percent Krishna conscious is the bona fide spiritual master, for

he can solve the problems of life." (*Bhagavad-gita* 2.8, Purport)

"Since one cannot visually experience the presence of the Supersoul, He appears before us as a liberated devotee. Such a spiritual master is none other than Krishna Himself." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta*, Adī 1.58)

"A bona fide spiritual master is in the disciplic succession from time eternal, and he does not deviate at all from the instructions of the Supreme Lord..." (*Bhagavad-gita As It Is* 4.42, Purport)

"The spiritual master is always considered either one of the confidential associates of Radharani or a manifested representation of Sri Nityananda." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta*, Adī 1.46, Purport)

"On the whole, the spiritual master is an agent of Krishna. Either he is assistant to the *gopis* or assistant to the cowherd boys. He is on the level of Krishna. That is the verdict of all scriptures. Krishna is worshipable God, and the spiritual master is worshiper God." (Letter, September 26, 1969)

"... a disciple should be careful to accept an *uttama-adhikari* as a spiritual master." (*Nectar of Instruction*, Text 5, Purport)

"Knowledge should be taken from the perfect person—because if you take knowledge from a person who is defective, your knowledge has no value. You must take knowledge from the perfect." (Lecture, April 12, 1974, Bombay)

#### 15) Practice and Preach Srila Prabhupada's Empowered Instructions.

Srila Prabhupada's bountiful *vani* (instructions) found in his authorized publications and in his recordings are fully potent for the practice and propagation of Krishna consciousness. Sincere students of Krishna consciousness regularly study Srila Prabhupada's books and recordings and live by his eternal, divine instructions.

"Whatever is to be learned can be learned from our books. There is no need whatsoever for outside instruction." (Letter, December 25, 1973)

#### 16) Associate With and Serve Srila Prabhupada's Sincere Disciples.

In sum, genuine preachers of Krishna consciousness always encourage and promote the association of Vaisnavas based upon recognition and relish of Srila Prabhupada's unique position as a *nitya-siddha* Vaisnava, *sakty-avesa avatara*, Sampradaya Acarya and beloved guru for all his sincere followers. As a matter of course, Krishna conscious devotees come together and preach on this basis, following Srila Prabhupada's instruction, "Always keep the Acarya in the center."

"I wish that each and every branch shall keep their independent identity and cooperate, keeping the Acarya in the centre. On this principle we can open any number of branches all over the world." (Letter, February 11, 1967)

#### 17) Follow Srila Prabhupada's Format for Various Functions.

Members of the Hare Krishna Society naturally cooperate to arrange Vaisnava festivals on a regular basis and try to preach, according to individual capacity, following the format given by Srila Prabhupada, with the chanting of the Lord's holy names, readings and classes from the authorized and approved pre-1978 editions of Srila Prabhupada's books, discussions based on his Bhakti-vedanta Purports, and *prasada* offered and distributed in the way Srila Prabhupada has shown us.

#### 18) Encourage Open Discussions Among Sincere Devotees.

Srila Prabhupada always encourages *istha-gosthi* (public discussion) among devotees. Members of the Hare Krishna Society agree to encourage and promote *istha-gosthi* among ourselves and others, to discuss the proper conclusions of Vaisnavism and their practical application, based upon Srila Prabhupada's teachings.



*siddhanta baliya citte na kara alasa  
iha ha-ite krsne lage sudrdha manasa:*

"A sincere student should not neglect the discussion of such conclusions, considering them controversial, for such discussions strengthen the mind. Thus one's mind becomes attached to Sri Krishna. (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Adi 2.117)

## 19) Serve Srila Prabhupada, Cooperatively.

In conclusion, members of the Hare Krishna movement embrace the simple yet sublime Vaisnava principles of serving Srila Prabhupada—the *Acarya*—and working together to help him distribute the blessings of Lord Sri Krishna Caitanya all over the universe.

"No one can check the spread of the Krishna consciousness movement, because upon this movement is the benediction of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu." (*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, Adi 17.204, Purport)

*satam prasangan mama virya-samvido,  
bhavanti hrt-karna-rasayanah kathah  
taj-josanad asv apavarga-vartmani,  
sraddha ratir bhaktir anukramisyati:*

"The spiritually powerful message of Godhead can be properly discussed only in a society of devotees, and it is greatly pleasing to hear in that association. If one hears from devotees, the way of transcendental experience quickly opens, and gradually one attains firm faith that in due course develops into attraction and devotion." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 3.25.25)

*Param vijayate sri-krsna-sankirtanam! All Glories to Sri Krishna Sankirtana!*

*Om Tat Sat.*

## Appendix

This appendix is comprised of quotes and partial transcripts from Srila Prabhupada's letters and recordings, including his important final order regarding the system for initiations in his global mission [known at that time as the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)]. ISKCON was perfectly organized by Srila Prabhupada for establishing the mission of Krishna consciousness worldwide by the same formula perpetually. Original audio of Srila Prabhupada's conversations and copies of His letters, final will, and directives can be obtained by contacting the Hare Krishna Society "Prabhupada Center" in Los Angeles, California. [Note: Srila Prabhupada's final will, July, 1977, states that current *and future* trustees of ISKCON properties must be "**my initiated disciple.**" ]

A partial list of temples, centers and friends of the Hare Krishna Society is at the end of this section.

Letter, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1973

My dear R-, Please accept my blessings.

Just now I have received some more request for giving first initiation ... and now I am receiving weekly not less than ten to fifteen such requests from new students. So it is becoming very expensive to send so many sets of beads such long distance, and it has become a little bothersome for me also. So I think now you may be appointed by me to give first initiations to new disciples by chanting on their beads on my behalf. In America K- is doing that. So now if there are two of you,

that will give me great relief. K-will chant on the beads for new devotees in America, Canada, like that. You can chant on the beads for the European continent new disciples. They shall, of course, still be considered as my disciples, not that they become your disciples, but you will be empowered by me to chant their beads and that is the same effect of binding master and disciple as if I were personally chanting. They may continue to send to me their letters of request, along with the President's recommendation, and I shall give them name and it will be entered by my Secretary in our record, only I will send my letter of reply to you and you will purchase beads there and chant them and send, along with my letter to the new initiates. Is that all right?

I shall continue to deal with the matter of second initiations. The sacred threads do not require so much postage to send airmail.

Conversation, Vrindavana, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1977:

Devotee 1: "Then our next questions concerns *initiations in the future, particularly at a time when you are no longer with us*. We want to know how first and second initiation would be conducted."

Srila Prabhupada: "Yes. I shall recommend some of you. After this is settled up, I shall recommend some of you to act as officiating *acaryas*."

Devotee 2: "Is that called *ritvik-acarya*?"

Srila Prabhupada: "*Ritvik*, yes."

Conversation, Vrindavana, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1977:

Prabhupada's Secretary: "Srila Prabhupada, we are receiving a number of letters now, and these are people who want to get initiated. So up to now, since you're becoming ill, we asked them to wait."

Srila Prabhupada: "The local men, the senior *sannyasis* can do that."

Secretary: "That's what we were doing. Formally, the local GBC (or) *sannyasis* were chanting on their beads, and they were writing to Your Divine Grace; and you were giving a spiritual name. So should that process be resumed, or should we... I mean, one thing is that it is said that the spiritual master takes on the... you know, he takes on the... he has to cleanse the disciple by... (taking the weight of the initiates' sinful reactions). So we don't want that you should have to uh...your health is not so good, so that's why we have been asking everybody to wait some more time."

Srila Prabhupada: "No. The senior *sannyasis*... You can give a list of names. I will mark who will... You can do. K- can do. And our S- can do. So these three, you can give, begin."

Secretary: "So supposing someone is in America, should they simply write directly to K- or S-?"

Srila Prabhupada: "Nearby. J- can give. B-. He can also do. H-. Five or six men, you decide, who is nearest."

Secretary: "Who is nearest. So persons wouldn't have to write to Your Divine Grace. They could write directly to that person?"

Srila Prabhupada: "Hm (Yes)."

Secretary: "Actually they are initiating that person on Your Divine Grace's behalf. They who are initiated are still your (disciples)..."

Srila Prabhupada: "Hm (Yes). Second initiation. We shall think over second initiation."

Secretary: "Some devotees are writing you now for second initiation... they should..."

Srila Prabhupada: "They can be second initiated."

Secretary: "By writing you?"

Srila Prabhupada: "No. These men." [He refers to the men he has designated for acting as His deputies (*ritviks*) in the matter of initiating new disciples.]

Srila Prabhupada's Final Order on Initiations, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1977:

(By Srila Prabhupada's order. His secretary sent this directive to all ISKCON temples. The original letter was dictated, reviewed and signed by Srila Prabhupada.)

**To All GBC and Temple Presidents**

Dear Maharajas and Prabhus,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your feet. Recently when all of the GBC members were with His Divine Grace in Vrinda-vana, Srila Prabhupada indicated that soon He would appoint some of His senior disciples to act as "*ritvik*"- representative of the *acarya*, for the purpose of performing initiations, both first initiation and second initiation. His Divine Grace has so far given a list of eleven disciples who will act in that capacity:

(List of eleven names.)

In the past Temple Presidents have written to Srila Prabhupada, recommending a particular devotee's initiation. Now that Srila Prabhupada has named these representatives, Temple Presidents may *henceforward* send recommendations for first and second initiation to whichever of these *representatives* are nearest their Temple. After considering the recommendations, these *representatives* may accept the devotees as an initiated disciple of Srila Prabhupada by giving a spiritual name, or in the case of second initiation, by chanting on the Gayatri thread, just as Srila Prabhupada has done. The newly initiated devotees are disciples of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada; the above eleven senior devotees acting as *His representative*. After the Temple Presidents receive a letter from these *representatives*, giving a spiritual name or the thread, he can perform the fire *yajna* in the temple as was being done before. The name of the newly initiated disciple should be sent by the *representative* who has accepted him or her to Srila Prabhupada, to be included in His Divine Grace's "Initiated Disciples" book.

Hoping this finds you all well.

Letter, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1977

(From a letter sent on behalf of Srila Prabhupada, by His secretary.)

"A letter has been sent to all the Temple Presidents and GBC [the July 9<sup>th</sup> directive on initiations], which you should be receiving soon, describing the process of initiation to be followed in the FUTURE. Srila Prabhupada has appointed thus far eleven representatives who will initiate new devotees on HIS BEHALF. You can wait for this letter to arrive (the original has been sent to R- for duplicating) and then all the persons whom you recommended in your previous letters can be initiated."

Letter (Dictation), July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1977

(A quote from Srila Prabhupada, from a letter sent on His behalf.)

Srila Prabhupada: "Now you have a very good field. Now organize it and it will be a great credit. No one will disturb you there. Make your own field and continue to be *ritvik* and act on my behalf."

Conversation, Vrindavana, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1977

Srila Prabhupada: "Hare Krishna. One Bengali gentlemen has come from New York?"

Secretary: "Yes. Mr. Sukamal Roy Chowdury."

Srila Prabhupada: "So I have deputed some of you to initiate. Hm?"

Secretary: "Yes. Actually... Yes, Srila Prabhupada."

Srila Prabhupada: "So, I think J- can do if he likes. I have already deputed. Tell him."

Secretary: "Yes."

Srila Prabhupada: "So some deputies, J-'s name was there?"

Secretary: "It is already on there, Srila Prabhupada. His name is on that list."

Srila Prabhupada: "So I depute him to do this at Mayapur. And you may go with him. I stop for the

time being. Is that all right?"

Secretary: "It is clear."

Srila Prabhupada: "You have got the list of names?"

Secretary: "Yes."

Srila Prabhupada: "And if by Krishna's grace I recover from this condition, then I shall begin again, or I may not. Pressed in this condition, to initiate is not good."

## A Message from the Hare Krishna Society:

The devotees of the Hare Krishna Society invite you to participate in reviving widespread interest in and obedience to Srila Prabhupada's transcendental mission. The *sanga* of Srila Prabhupada's disciples has been weakened and fragmented due, largely, to institutional corruption and misguided leadership. While some endeavor to reform institutions and their leaders. Hare Krishna Society devotees, following Srila Prabhupada's example, understand the wisdom of avoiding politics and endeavor instead to establish new positive programs for preaching Krishna consciousness worldwide. We hope this book will serve Srila Prabhupada's dedicated followers as a guiding document for preaching Krishna consciousness and establishing temples and communities of devotees all over the world.

The Hare Krishna Society aims to foster an alliance of like-minded devotees engaged in service to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder and beloved Acarya of the entire Krishna consciousness movement. The Hare Krishna Society is spiritually identical to the original International Society for Krishna Consciousness, which Srila Prabhupada painstakingly organized for the benefit of everyone in the world. The Hare Krishna Society aims to promote an atmosphere of love and trust, wherein devotees may cooperate to serve Lord Caitanya's glorious mission under the auspices of Srila Prabhupada's perfect guidance. We invite each of Srila Prabhupada's followers to use this book as a guide for teaching the principles of Krishna consciousness to devotees of Krishna all over the world. (*Srila Prabhupada Siddhanta* will soon be available in French and Spanish.)

Participation in the Hare Krishna Society may be performed in various ways:

- 1.) Association: Take part in local programs and associate with local members.
- 2.) Affiliation: Become an affiliated center or household by understanding and accepting the principles described in *Srila Prabhupada Siddhanta* and by associating with other members of the Hare Krishna Society.
- 3.) Chapter: Become a Hare Krishna Temple by agreeing to accept the principles and practices outlined in *Srila Prabhupada Siddhanta* and to associate and consult with devotees of the Hare Krishna Society for the sake of cooperation through sincere practical efforts for organized public preaching.

Thank you for your association. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada!

Hare Krishna Society centers and contacts:

**Ashland, Oregon:** 84 Pine St. 97520, (541) 482-8387 / **Butte Falls, Oregon:** 4510 Fish Lake Rd. 97522, (541) 865-7977 / **Los Angeles, California:** 3722 Delmas Terrace # 5, 90034, (310) 858-0572 (and) 3162 Hutchinson Ave., 90034 (310) 202-1814 (and) 3731 Watseka Ave. No. 1, 90034, (310) 559-4436 / **Ludlow, Kentucky:** 330 Elm St., 41016 / **Hilo, Hawaii:** P.O. Box 11429, 96721, (808) 937-5486 / **Montreal, Canada:** Govinda Jaya Restaurant 263 Ave Duluth E, (514) 994-9647 / **Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia:** 02-03, Kompleks Kediaman Pendidikan 71010 Lukut, Port Dickson / **New York, New York:** Prabhupada Sankirtana Society (a.k.a. "the original ISKCON"), Contact His Holiness Kapindra Swami, 599 6th Ave, 10011. (212) GOD-8323 / **Portland, Oregon:** 18283 N.W. Chemeketa Lane, Unit B, 97229. (503) 702-8085 / **Sedro Woolley, Washington (Seattle**

area): 8805 Harrison Road 98284, (360) 856-5411. Europe: <http://prabhupadanugas.eu/>

### Additional references regarding great Vaisnavas:

"Sometimes the ever-liberated personal associate of the Supreme Personality of Godhead descends into this universe just as the Lord descends. Although working for the liberation of conditioned souls, the messenger of the Supreme Lord remains untouched by the external energy. Generally ever-liberated personalities live in the spiritual world as associates of Lord Krishna, and they are known as *krsna-parisada*, associates of the Lord. Their only business is enjoying Lord Krishna's company, and even though such eternally liberated persons come within this material world to serve the Lord's purpose, they enjoy Lord Krishna's company without stoppage." (*Caitanya-caritamrta*. Madhya 22.14-15. Purport)

"Srila Vasudeva Datta wanted to completely relieve the conditioned souls from material existence so they would no longer have an opportunity to commit sinful acts. This is the significant difference between Vasudeva Datta and Lord Jesus Christ. It is a great offense to receive pardon for sins and then commit the same sinful activity again. Such an offense is more dangerous than the sinful activity itself. Vasudeva Datta was so liberal that he requested Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to transfer all offensive activity upon him so the conditioned souls would be purified and go back home, back to Godhead...

"Vasudeva Datta's example is unique not only within this world but within the universe. It is beyond the conception of fruitive actors or the speculation of mundane philosophers... The *mayavadis* and *karmis* should therefore turn their attention to the magnanimous Vasudeva Datta, who wanted to suffer for others in a hellish condition... He was the most exalted personality to ever show mercy to the conditioned souls. This is not an exaggeration of his transcendental qualities. It is perfectly true. Actually, there cannot be any comparison to Vasudeva Datta... The entire world is purified simply by the appearance of such a great devotee. Indeed, by his transcendental presence the whole world is glorified and all conditioned souls are also glorified...

"Such a devotee, engaging in the deliverance of the total population, is as magnanimous as Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu Himself, (*namo maha-vandanyaya krsna-prema-pradayate, krsnaya krsna-caitanya-namne gaura-tvise namah*). Such a personality factually represents Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu because his heart is always filled with compassion for all conditioned souls." (*Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya 15.163, Purport).

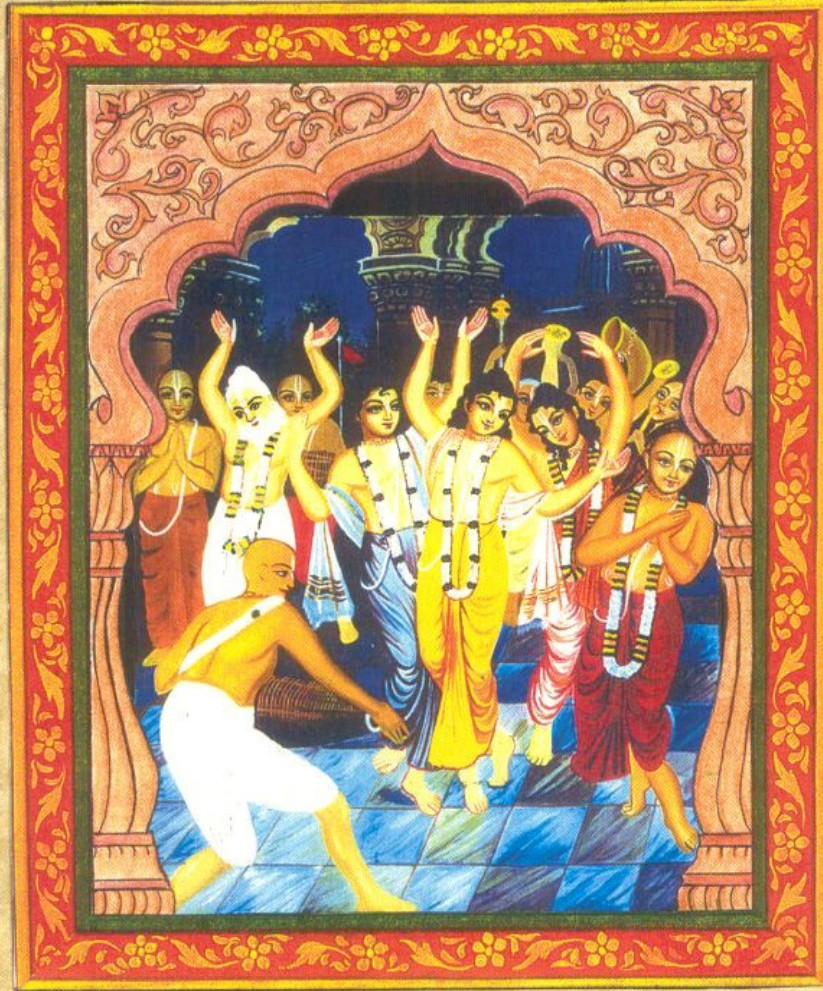
"A *nitya-siddha* devotee comes from Vaikuntha upon the order of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and shows by his example how to become a pure devotee (*anyabhilasita-sunyam*)... A pure devotee, therefore, is a practical example for all living entities, including Lord Brahma." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 7.10.3, Purport)

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto you, *the personified energy of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's mercy*, who deliver devotional service enriched with conjugal love of Sri Sri Radha and Krishna, coming exactly in the line of revelation of Srila Rupa Gosvami." (*Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Pranati*, Verse 3)

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto Srila Gaurakisora das Babaji Maharaja, who is *renunciation personified*. He is always merged in a feeling of separation and intense love of Krishna." (*Srila Gaurakisora Pranati*, Verse 1)

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto Srila Saccidananda Bhaktivinoda, who is *the transcendental energy of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu*. He is a strict follower of the Gosvamis, headed by Srila Rupa Gosvami." (*Srila Bhaktivinoda Pranati*, Verse 1)

"I offer my obeisances unto the Supreme Lord, Krishna, who is nondifferent from His features as a devotee, devotional manifestation, devotional incarnation, pure devotee, and devotional energy." (*Sri Panca-tattva Pranama*)



Śrī Navadvīpa-dhāma Saṅkīrtana

"I offer my respectful obeisance's unto Sri Krishna Chaitanya and Lord Nityananda, who are like the sun and the moon. They have arisen simultaneously on the horizon of Gauda to dissipate the darkness of ignorance and thus wonderfully bestow benediction upon all."  
(*Caitanya-caritamrita*, *Adi-lila* 1.2)



His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada  
Founder-Acharya of the International Krishna Consciousness Movement

"My success is always there. Yes. Just like the sun is there always.  
It may come before your vision *or* not— the sun is there.  
But if you are fortunate you come before the sun...  
"The sun is open to everyone."

(Conversation, February 12,  
1975, Mexico City)

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