

His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣaka Śrīdhara Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja

80.08.19.C

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: This is not objectionable to the extreme, but partially objectionable, because suppose there are five sons of a father. And the elder son says to the youngest, “You don’t know the ways how to satisfy the father. You must, what I shall say you do that to please my departed father. These things were very favourite so offer these things.” This sort of advice may be given. If it is in such colour then of course it is innocent. “That I have got more experience about Prabhupāda’s nature, so if you want to really do favourite work of Prabhupāda, you use my experience and that will help you a great deal. Don’t try to connect direct – connection, relation with him, you’ll be deceived. You’ll not be able to come to his concrete self. It will be only vague.” This sort of...

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: Mahārāja, we heard about the characteristics of a *paramahansa*, that he extracts the nectar, separates the milk from water and he takes the milk. But now we can see in you the manifestation of that quality. Like from, you’re always taking the nectar.

Devotee: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Bright side _____ [?]

We must be safe – to make our position safe, we shall try our best not to commit any mistake. So we shall try to see the bright side of the other party; that this may be like that. You see...

[02.50 – 05.33: Bengali (?) ślokas, and a few English words]

“My Lord, the friend of the other party may say as much as like this something, now please hear that I am cutting everything.”

[05.45 – 06.18 : Bengali (?)]

Astray from the path of truth _____ well guarded.

[Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja and Devotees speak more Bengali: 06.23 – 07.04]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Seniority is not the only criterion.

Devotee: _____ [?]

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: So there’s just a few questions left.

Devotee: So you don’t want to mention any more as a...

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: I think when he describes the three kinds of deviations, those general descriptions; we can understand how to apply them, it’s very clear, without going into the details of each individual.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: _____ [?]

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: *Kanak, kāmīnī, pratiṣṭhā*, mainly. He’s satisfied that from these three standpoints they’re proving unfit, from these three considerations. That is his opinion?

Devotee: _____ [?] From these three perspectives we can understand, we can analyse. Like if we have to find out some characteristics of somebody, deviation of somebody, then if their deviation fits into one of these three or all of these three, then we know that he’s unfit.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Of course; unfit.

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: So...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: And in the case of *pratiṣṭhā*, even in everything, the undercurrent idea should not be ignorant. Ostentatiously he may attract *pratiṣṭhā* and wealth etc, he may, but his inner idea is to utilise them in the service of Gurudeva. We must not ignore that undercurrent...

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: His Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: ...consciousness also.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: And we have noticed also Mahārāja...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: *Pūjāla rāgapaṭha gaurava bāṅge* [*mattala hari-jana viṣaya range*]

["The path of divine love is worshipping to us and should be held overhead as our highest aspiration."]

[Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Ṭhākura]

The very backbone of our Prabhupāda, *vaiṣṇavī pratiṣṭhā, tāte kara niṣṭhā* [from *Vaiṣṇava ke?*] All the glory must come to the feet of my Gurudeva. All, everything, wind up everything and connect it with the holy feet of Gurudeva.

Devotee: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: _____ [?]

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: I’ve got one last question. If you are the Spiritual Master, senior to them, how can they take the superior position in terms of titles or worship, than you?

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: Mahārāja, Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja _____ [?]
You, you are a Spiritual Master, senior to them. How can they take a superior position or title or worship, _____ than _____ you?
_____ [?]

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: There seems to be a transgression of etiquette.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Their contention may be that, “What I do, my direct connection is with my Gurudeva. And his direct superior is Swāmī Mahārāja, so on behalf of Swāmī Mahārāja, whatever little they’re doing, they’re taking everything to the feet of Swāmī Mahārāja.” That may be their plea.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: What if they do not give it to Prabhupāda?

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: And Swāmī Mahārāja is not a mundane figure. He has got his spiritual embodiment and that must be given preference; that conception.

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: The next question, what he said in his previous conversation with them that was discussed being partially opaque and partially transparent. So if you’re opaque, what is going to Prabhupāda and what is coming through him to the disciples? Can you understand? If you’re opaque, what goes through to Prabhupāda, and also what is coming through you to them? Right?

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: Right _____ [?]

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: In his previous conversation with the GBC.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: _____ [?]

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: Partially opaque and partially transparent. So then the question arises, “What is going through the partially opaque and partially transparent to Prabhupāda? And what is coming through the partially opaque and partially transparent to the disciples?”

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: _____ not a mundane figure but he has got a spiritual body.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: Yes.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: And that should be considered, whether he’s nearer to them or nearer to me?

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: Yes. I remember once you told us – you once told me, that the devotee, whatever he gets, he passes it up to his Spiritual Master.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: That is a sign of a devotee. Nothing is mine, but everything belongs to my Spiritual Master. So if we can transfer it to our Spiritual Master it’s the sign of our advancement. But the demoniac people are the ones, whatever is offered to the Spiritual Master, they take it for themselves.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: That is demoniac.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes.

Devotees: Right. So how to figure out what is... how to judge...what are the symptoms of such a person who instead of giving it to his Spiritual Master, is holding it for himself? What are the symptoms?

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: That's those three things that he just said.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: That is a very subtle thing, very subtle thing. One should come to his level to cut him closely. Even a small matter also we can find whether he's for himself or for his Gurudeva. But we should have to come to that particular level to understand the real interest of my Gurudeva; whether the real interest is being misused.

[More Bengali (?) 14.46 – 15.58]

What is the nature of that thing? What he likes to – he's taking something from them and in return he must give something to them. What is that thing? And whose return he's accepting their affection, their attraction, their sympathy, and whatever he's giving to them in return, what is the nature of that thing? That subtle thing we are to study. If his own Gurudeva, secretly, the secret transaction, whether Guru Kṛṣṇa or his gross self? Who's the party there who's absorbing things? His gross self or he's a mediator to Guru, Kṛṣṇa, Mahāprabhu?

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: Now that they're failing to show proper respect to you, what we must understand from that?

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: [More Bengali, 17.15 – 17.25]

Devotees: That is a mundane conception. Why did Prabhupāda himself come to meet you, or requested you to come over to Māyāpur, and sent his car? Why did _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Of course.

[Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja and Devotees, speak more Bengali, 17.40 – 27.28]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: That was a fact, and that must have been recorded also. I don't know.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: _____ [?] Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja _____ [?]

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: One question is that in the fourth canto of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, in the story of Dhruva Mahārāja, it's mentioned that Suniti was his *vartma-pradarśaka* Guru and *śikṣā* Guru. And by dint of devotional service of Dhruva Mahārāja, he took her, she was unable to go back to Godhead, and Prabhupāda mentions there that we can understand that by powerful execution of devotional service of a disciple he can even take his *dīkṣā* or *śikṣā* Guru back to Godhead. So, the question is, these disciples because they're reading Śrīla Prabhupāda's book, and it appears they have the opportunity to become more advanced than even their *śikṣā* and *dīkṣā* Gurus. Can you understand? And they can take them.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: [More Bengali spoken, 28.53 – 30.22]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: With an absolute consideration it's possible. Because the previous accumulation of the character of *sukṛti* may be very high quality, and the *vartma-pradarśaka* Guru like Suniti, she may be of the third class Guru – two legs here and vision on Vaikuṅṭha. And the first

suggestion may come from the third class Guru and the fundamental previous *sukṛti* is so qualified that with this little suggestion he may go higher than this *vartma-pradarśaka*. And then of course he may attract him towards the high plane. This depends on the previous quality and quantity of the *sukṛti*. Little starting – little opening – gives the force and he may go up higher than the suggestive Guru on the side. It may be possible, rarely. Rarely, it may be possible.

But this *aloka dhana* [?] there are four kinds of *bhāgavat kṛpa*. The *bhakti* comes acquired and mercy, two sides. From mercy, main thing mercy comes down and acquired *bhakti* – two classes. Acquired *bhakti* by *sukṛti*, and mercy when it comes down from the Lord's side, that is unknown and unknowable nature, *ahaitukī*. So when acquired *sukṛti* _____ that mercy *sukṛti* comes down, then the Guru may be crossed over, the third class Guru may be crossed over.

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: Another question is that in Śrīla Prabhupāda's...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Just as in the case of Bilvamaṅgala. You know the name of Bilvamaṅgala?

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: Cintāmaṇi.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: *Cintāmaṇi jayati somagirirgurume, śikṣāgurusca bhagavān sikhi-pichcha-moulih* [Śrī Kṛṣṇa-Karṇāmṛtam, 1] Stage by stage, *sukṛti*, first suggestion came from the prostitute. He told that Kṛṣṇa's direction through the prostitute. Anyhow, she was the *nimīta*, the outer show, so *Cintāmaṇi jayati*. Then Somagiri *māyāvādī* Guru, he first gave initiation, Śyāmānanda Sṛṅgha. "Everything is false. Brahma is true." Then spontaneous by chance coincidence grace from Kṛṣṇa came down and took him to that domain. Gradual development we can trace there, even from the meanest position. It is possible sometimes.

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: In Śrīla Prabhupāda's last will he established the GBC as the supreme managing authority of ISKCON. So, but with the establishment of eleven spiritual masters, it has become in the GBC that actually eleven people are making the decisions and not the full Governing Body. So the non Ācārya section of the GBC is very discouraged and unable to fully execute their voice as GBC members.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: _____ [?]

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: _____ [?]
_____ [?]

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: So the non Ācārya section of the GBC are either simply agreeing with the Ācāryas, or they, in anticipation of becoming Ācārya themselves, they agree with the Ācāryas.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: _____ [?]

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: So Rāmeśvara Mahārāja's suggestion is to extend the...

[Devotee and Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: More Bengali (?) spoken, 36.37 - 38.47]

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: Could he please speak in English. This is important question.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: My suggestion was when after the demise, the disappearance of Swāmī Mahārāja, most of his main disciples came to meet me; my suggestion was that during this Gaura

Pūrṇimā ceremony, generally you'll have to convene a general meeting and there you particularly follow this idea. That the Ācārya Board and the GBC, that should be a living, dynamic thing. It will be able to extend itself, and also to narrow down, in elimination and addition you will be able to do it if necessary. Just as now there's Tamal Kṛṣṇa's case, and others. Both elimination and addition, keep it open and make it a living one. But...

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: They're more inclined towards elimination but not addition.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: But not addition. But anyhow, they went away, did not oppose me here, but after going away from me I heard they expressed that, "No. This eleven we must not go against, outside the eleven." That was their considered opinion, and I heard that. But my suggestion was that this body must be a living one. It should eliminate and it should add.

Devotee: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Because you are now in such a position that you'll be able to confer, or to delegate your power to your disciple, then why not to the God-brother? With you the succession won't end – your disciple you must appoint to do the work of an Ācārya. So then why do you not delegate your power to a good, fit God-brother to do the work of Ācārya? That was my contention. But they did not accept this idea. "No. We won't go beyond the eleven." That was their decision. And so they go on rather avoiding me. That was the cause of their avoidance and indifference towards me. I think like so. Sometimes they come with particular cases, but not for general advice.

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: So, if someone is above the advice of the God-brother of his Spiritual Master, it says in Prabhupāda's books, "You're supposed to regard a non envious God-brother as being equal to your Spiritual Master." So if someone thinks that he's above or beyond his advice then he's taking a superior position to his own Spiritual Master.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: _____ [?]
_____ [?]

So what should be done about that?

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: What can be said?

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: I am told...

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: _____ [?]

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: But therefore one can understand why people question their position.

[Bhakti Caru Swāmī and Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: More Bengali (?) spoken, 43.40 – 45.13]

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: The one who thinks that he has superseded his Spiritual Master, he's nothing but a prostitute.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: _____ [?]
_____ [?]

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