

His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣaka Śrīdhara Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja

82.03.06.A

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: _____ internally, and dis-united yourselves and joined Swāmī Mahārāja. What for?

Devotee: For spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: You, yes, that is all important, is it not.

Devotee: Yes.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:

*sarva-dharmān parityajya, mām ekaṁ śaraṇaṁ vraja
[ahaṁ tvām sarva-pāpebhyo, mokṣayiṣyāmi mā sucaḥ]*

[“Totally abandoning all kinds of religion, surrender exclusively unto Me. I will liberate you from all kinds of sins, so do not despair.”] [*Bhagavad-gītā*, 18.66]

Not only non religion but all phase of religion we must forsake, abandon, only for Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Kṛṣṇa consciousness is so valuable and so accommodating. So everything, we shall take all risk for Kṛṣṇa consciousness. *Sarva-dharmān parityajya*. When I was young, I was a student in *Bhagavad-gītā*, when I used to connect with this line...

*[śreyān sva-dharmo viguṇaḥ, para-dharmāt svanuṣṭhitāt]
sva dharme nidhanaṁ śreyaḥ, para-dharmo bhayāvahaḥ]*

[“It is better to carry out ones own duties a little imperfectly rather than faultlessly perform another’s duties. Know that even death is auspicious in the discharge of one’s duties appropriate to his natural position in the ordained socio-religious system, because to pursue another’s path is perilous.”] [*Bhagavad-gītā*, 3.35]

...I felt disconnected. *Sva dharme nidhanaṁ śreyaḥ*. Where I am, my duty, immediate duty, I must die for that, for discharge of duty. I was cowed down there, but whenever I came to *sarva-dharmān parityajya*, I got some strength of infinite character. The risk, everything for _____ [?] So unity, everything is laudable if it is in connection of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. For which Swāmī Mahārāja went there empty handed. I do not know, just by you, about Swāmī Mahārāja, when before he joined the mission to the last day of his life.

He asked me, from America, “That I don’t feel well, I may die. Should I die here working for Kṛṣṇa consciousness, or I should go back to India?”

I told him that, I feel that Prabhupāda has given you that land for propaganda. It is in my mind. So I shall say, you give your life there working. And he took it up. I believe him best.

Devotee: Yes. There is no doubt about that.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: When this ISKCON, the conception of ISKCON, the very word came, before he perhaps some twenty years ago he began his actual writing, preaching, from a hired house in Calcutta. The *Back to Godhead* was published there, my article was there, and at that time he thought of ISKCON. But you have sacrificed so much. We have also got some experience of sacrifice in our mission, in the time of our Guru Mahārāja. And then, what for? That is all important, and that is not a very cheap thing. Kṛṣṇa consciousness proper is not a very cheap thing.

*anyābhilāṣitā-sūnyam, jñāna-karmādy-anāvṛtam
ānukūlyena-kṛṣṇānu-śīlanam bhaktir uttamā*

["One should render transcendental loving service to the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa favourably and without desire for material profit or gain through fruitive activities or philosophical speculation. That is called pure devotional service."]

[*Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu*, 1.1.11] + [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, 11.21.11, purport] +
[*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā*, 19-167]

*muktānām api siddhānām nārāyaṇa-parāyaṇa
sudurlabhaḥ praśāntātmā [koṭiṣv api mahā-mune]*

["O great sage, among many millions who are liberated and perfect in knowledge of liberation, one may be a devotee of Lord Nārāyaṇa, or Kṛṣṇa. Such devotees, who are fully peaceful, are extremely rare."] [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, 6.14.5]

[*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā*, 19.150]

What is Kṛṣṇa consciousness proper, all important, only in human life it is possible to begin. And that is also very uncertain. So once connected one should try his best to attain to work towards as far as possible _____ [?] So the spirit of the thing should be kept in as much as it is possible. And then humility, and management, administration, everything is well and good.

_____ [?] He came here at least five, six times after he began his preaching. Before that also he came here, a number of times. I also used to live by his side, next door. Laboratory ground floor, I am first floor, a long time, anyhow. When he began his translation of *Bhagavad-gītā* consultation with me in a very deep way, anyhow. He requested me many a time that, "Please look after them. I am taking them this side. You have got some responsibility to look after them." In this way.

My nature is avoiding, not very inviting. But still he repeatedly came to me and requested me. And the first batch that he took here in India he kept here in my care. And it is I who suggested to purchase land now where the ISKCON is standing, managed. Anyhow I was all through friendly. Now I am also so but the things have been turned opposite. When I heard that many dissatisfied souls are going astray, away from ISKCON, and some of them I knew personally, then I felt pain in my heart. That such good souls are going away. I gave some proposal to them, that these persons should be accommodated. But they did not care to hear in the beginning. After some time, three important persons in the management they were rudely treated. And then both the parties, agrieved and the aggressor, both came to me and I affected some compromise, and they accepted and things went on well.

Then also I find now and then evidently some persons are going away. And those that are in power and their power is growing, men and money coming in their hand, it is generally a trial for the Ācāryas. I have got experience of at least fifty five years about the mission here. In our Guru Mahārāja's mission so many split, and also I tried to make compromise, and did also something. In this way I'm staying, passing my days. I am a little indifferent character, I'm not interfere character. I do not want, I don't like any big company. Rather I like more to read the *śāstra* and to understand the meaning from it in different ways. I've written some poems in Sanskrit, and books also in Sanskrit. Anyway, my mind almost always busy to find out the real meaning from the *śāstric* scripture, the *mantram* or the *sutram*, or anything. That is my general. But when such things are occurring - when some of the offended persons came to me and requested me to interfere in the matter, because Swāmī Mahārāja said many things about me within his mission and disciples. So some of them knew it and they asked me to interfere. Then when I gave some proposal but they showed deaf ears, then I asked them, try to help in my name in a relieving way.

Devotee: Who did you ask, and in which case?

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: I asked, first came with eighteen points, one Hiranyagarbha. Now he's gone away. I'm sorry for him. I wrote to Tamal Kṛṣṇa...

Devotee: That was Pradyumna, Mahārāja.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Eh? Yes, Pradyumna. Pradyumna came first with eighteen points of dissatisfaction. I reported it to Tamal Kṛṣṇa. He was busy in his propaganda work.

Then he told, "Things are going on very well. I can't go now. When I shall go during Gaura Pūrṇimā I shall try to meet you, I shall meet you."

But he came, went away, did not care to meet with me. "Things are going on very well."

Then one Yaśodānandan, he was in charge of Vṛndāvana *gurukula* perhaps. He came. I saw he's a good man. But I heard that he's indifferent, important man, he's indifferent...

Devotee: He was a little sorry that he was not one of the Gurus...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: But I see _____ [?] not think that he's better than so many Gurus. Then next they came, "Three Gurus they're unfit and they should be discharged and punished." They came to punish three Gurus, as appointed direct from Swāmī Mahārāja. Anyhow I interfered and some compromise was affected, including Tamal Kṛṣṇa also. Then, in this way so many came and I'm hearing, and I told, go on with some relief work between them. In the meantime...

Śrīla Govinda Mahārāja: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: _____ [?]

Devotee: I'm here to, as you say, unity, this is a unity effort only. United we stand divided we fall.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: I differ from you. That unity for what? Unity for bad thing that can create havoc.

Devotee: But how can it be bad thing when it is all meant for Kṛṣṇa consciousness?

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes, so, I say that the ideal is the all important and then next unity. Administration is the *kṣatriya*, the position of a *kṣatriya*. And the Ācārya work that is for the *brāhmaṇa* who does not care for this worldly achievement. That is for the *brāhmaṇas*, and the administration with the *kṣatriya*, finance with the *vaiśya*. The general conception here should be. So the *brāhmaṇic* temperament they should get, with *śāstric* knowledge, Lakṣmī is their, *śabde pare ca niṣṇātām*. [Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, 11.3.21] Then in *Gītā*,

*tad viddhi praṇipātena, paripraśnena sevayā
upadekṣyanti te jñānam, jñāninas tattva darśinaḥ*

["You will be able to attain all this knowledge by satisfying the enlightened spiritual master with prostrate obeisances, relevant enquiry, and sincere service. Great souls who are most expert in scriptural knowledge and endowed with direct realisation of the Supreme Absolute Truth will teach you that divine knowledge."] [Bhagavad-gītā, 4.34]

Then in *Upaniṣad* also, *Bhāgavatam* _____ [?]

*tasmād gurum prapadyeta, jijñāsuḥ śreyasḥ uttamam
śabde pare ca niṣṇātām, brahmaṇy upaśamāśrayam*

["Therefore any person who seriously desires real happiness must seek a bona fide spiritual master and take shelter of him by initiation. The qualification of the bona fide Guru is that he has realised the conclusions of the scriptures by deliberation and is able to convince others of those conclusions. Such great personalities, who have taken shelter of the Supreme Godhead, leaving aside all material considerations, should be understood to be bona fide spiritual masters."] [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, 11.3.21]

In *Upaniṣad*,

tad vijñānārtham sa gurum evābhigacchet, samit pañiḥ śrotriyam brahma niṣṭham

["One who wants scientific knowledge about the Supreme Truth must approach a bona fide Guru and offer him everything required for sacrifice. The Guru must be fixed in the truth, having heard it from a genuine source."] [*Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad*, 1.2.12]

That should be the criterion of the Ācārya. Not a man who can conduct good administration, make money, and recruit more men, that is not the criterion of an Ācārya. So, those that are dissatisfied, to help them, that was my advice to the discontented. And in that way, and before this one thing I should say _____ [?] anyone who came to me and asked anything, they took it in tape. And that tape may be propagated anywhere. Everyone comes and whatever I say they tape it, tape of that and began to preach in their own way. In this way when I heard that Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja he took some tapes from me and he has copied it and he's spreading it amongst the public. And I was told that that was appreciated. And those that came to hear that tape I am told that they had got some sympathy for me. In this way perhaps some persons were attracted towards me through the tapes. And that is the cause of our trouble. Those that can hear from me through the tape they're having some sympathy towards me, and they come to me seeking for some help. I'm here, and those that are coming to hear from me, irrespective of anyone I say. In this way the trouble has arisen here. Some are more attracted towards my tape. Have you heard?

Devotee: Yes. I very much appreciate. I have also heard a tape last year. Only thing that their point is that by hearing your...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: I also like. It is a pride of us all, those that have faith in Mahāprabhu they cannot but feel proud that Swāmī Mahārāja has done such a wonderful work in his propagation. It is inconceivable by so many. And it will diminish, its position, its prestige, will diminish, that will be almost death to us, who want that Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava should have a spacious field. But still, the justice should be there.

Devotee: Now their point is that by hearing your tape...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Their point I have heard. They say whatever we give the majority of the committee that is absolute. I differ there. But I consider that you are all students in the line of truth. So don't think that you are all perfect. You are studying of a student. So try to be accommodating and try to keep the standard.

Devotee: One thing they say that by hearing your tapes the determination to serve in ISKCON will increase, instead they're trying to find fault.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Some told me, one Dayādhara, he was a Dr. sent by Hamsadūta Mahārāja to me for initiation. Because he's sent by one of the zonal Ācāryas, and perhaps he thought of my tape or anyhow got some faith in me, I initiated. That gentleman having my, I've got one book, *Prapanna-jīvanāmṛtam*, a compiled book, compilation from many sources. That Dayādhara told that, "Your book," and some poems also I have composed in Sanskrit,

“They’re helping ISKCON in inestimable way. Deep rooted, making ISKCON deep rooted and also unbending.” That remark came to me.

And it was not impossible. Swāmī Mahārāja spread Mahāprabhu’s instructions very widely. And what I collected in that book, many very selected passages from many higher devotees. And that can help the very movement. It is desirable, it can be really thought. In this way my connection was to consolidate to make it deep rooted. But unfortunately things are going in such way that as if I’m standing in the opposite party. I don’t think so. I think that my inclination, my advice, and my friendship with Swāmī Mahārāja that can help us a great deal. Both sides, from the constitutional as well as from the spiritual ideal, in my simple conviction. And I am there. In my old age, in my whole life I had no ambition, and in my old age I’m not such a fool that this time, at the cost of ISKCON, I’ll try to immortalise [?] my condition.

Devotee: Now what their thing is that they always had great reverence for you, therefore whenever there was a crisis...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Only when they do not differ from me.

Devotee: That is true. But whenever they had any crisis they always approached you as the most reverent Vaiṣṇava.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: That is goodness.

Devotee: And even when there was a personal crisis Śrīla Tīrthapāda’s life they directed, or two GBC directed him towards your good self.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: No, no, that’s not true. Śrīdhara Mahārāja wanted Tīrthapāda to come here.

Devotee: Jayapataka Mahārāja told Tīrthapāda also.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: Anyhow Śrīdhara Mahārāja told me to come to you.

Jayatīrtha Mahārāja: Yes.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Tīrthapāda, who is he?

Devotees: Jayatīrtha Mahārāja.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: Which incident are you talking about?

Devotee: Whatever, what I’m saying is that devotees have a great reverence you. It was not that, only thing that they’re little bitter now is that some of the people who have some criticism against the movement.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Reverence formal. What sort of reverence they have got towards me, do you think? Formal or material? Substantial, spiritual.

Devotee: Well I think for your knowledge.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes.

Devotee: For your...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: No, no. Reverence for me is in a formal way, I think. At least now they have proved like that. They're more particular with formality, and formal help they want from me. But I'm not a man with formality. I more like spirit than form. Rather, I like to be a form breaker than form maker, if it is necessary for spiritual upliftment _____ [?]

Jayatīrtha Mahārāja: Yesterday they gave the report...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: And it is there, *sarva-dharmān parityajya* [*Bhagavad-gītā*, 18.66]. what is that? What is the idea? *Sarva-dharmān parityajya*. And the highest goal, *svajanam ārya-patham ca hitvā, bhejur mukunda-padavīm* [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, 10.47.61] Are you acquainted with this *śloka* of *Bhāgavatam* which is said by Uddhava about the *gopīs* of Vṛndāvana, about their qualification? Are you acquainted with this *śloka* of *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*?

Devotee: No. Kindly tell me.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: So you should be connected and we shall have connection with the highest idea we have got in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism. Where to go? What is our destination? What for we have come to ISKCON? A general call Swāmī Mahārāja has given to so many, crushing the pride of the present scientific civilisation. But what for? What is our aim, highest aim? You must be conscious of that, what for you have come. You soldiers, you are allied to fight with *māyā*, but what for? What is your aim?

Devotee: I'm thirty four.

Devotees: No, what is your aim? Why have you come?

Devotee: My aim is to serve the spiritual master and spread this movement.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: What is the conception? There are so many conceptions, Christianity conception, Islam conception, this *varṇāśrama* conception, Buddhist conception, Śaṅkarācārya conception, so many. But what is Kṛṣṇa consciousness that Swāmī Mahārāja gave to you?

Devotee: Our thinking is that we do not know Kṛṣṇa. We have no qualification to know Kṛṣṇa, but we know Prabhupāda, Swāmī Mahārāja. And therefore we want to serve him.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Ah. That is _____ [?] thing. Why? What is your Prabhupāda? There are so many Prabhupādas in the world. What is the peculiarity of your Prabhupāda?

Devotee: He's putting us at the feet of Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Then what is Kṛṣṇa? He did not preach about Him. He preached about Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Devotee: Yes.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: And what is that Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Devotee: Surrendering to Prabhupāda means preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: No, no.

Devotee: And to practice Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: He captured your mind through preaching through Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Devotee: Right.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: And what did you find peculiar in Kṛṣṇa consciousness that you left your previous religious ideas and joined Swāmī Mahārāja? You took so much risk. What is that Kṛṣṇa consciousness, you must know that.

Devotee: Yes, yes, we know whatever Prabhupāda has taught us.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Not hazy, not taking the name of Prabhupāda. _____ [?]

Devotee: Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Lord. Kṛṣṇa is the Absolute Truth.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Lord, that is a vague word. One will say Allah is the Supreme Lord. Another will say Jesus is the Supreme Lord.

Devotee: So He has a name, form, pastimes, paraphernalia, and they are non-different from Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Then, yes, you are to know what is Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Back to Godhead, what is that Godhead?

Devotee: We are being educated in our ISKCON society about that.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Ha, ha, ha.

Devotee: We are.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: That education is not a mere fashion. That is reality.

Devotee: Our Guru Mahārāja he was there guiding this mission for thirteen years.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: I know your Guru Mahārāja better than you do.

Devotee: But he guided the mission.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: I knew him from the beginning till the last days of his life, so much so, once he proposed myself to be the President of the ISKCON. I refused. In his last days he wanted me to live along with him in ISKCON, to have my constant association.

Devotee: If I say something representing their story, you please not mind it what they're saying.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes, say something, but whatever you may say that will be superficial to me. That won't reach to the depth of my knowledge and experience of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Whatever you will see, and what all of you will see, that won't reach the depth of my knowledge about ISKCON, that is Kṛṣṇa consciousness, what is, who is Kṛṣṇa. You are all primary students, I think you so.

Devotee: Whatever we are our Guru Prabhupāda...

Devotee: _____ [?] I'm *mudha* number one, but I'm trying to serve Prabhupāda that's all. They're trying to spread his mission.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: That is good of course, trying for Prabhupāda.

Devotee: And that is our prime concern, to just give this life for Śrīla Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Ostentatiously that is appreciated, appreciable.

Devotee: I just wanted to ask you one question, that there's rising in their minds, which may have disturbed, which induced them to make some decision that disturbed your feelings. And that is that if someone leaves ISKCON and criticises the different activities of ISKCON, or different authorities of ISKCON, then he comes to take shelter of you, then if you give them *sannyāsa* or recognition immediately, then it has a bad effect on ISKCON as a whole. So that is what their concern is.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: I can feel the present inconvenience of ISKCON. But still, those that came to Swāmī Mahārāja, and frustrated now and going back astray, and if they come to me and want some connection here, I am not running after them, but those that come to me, and they're rejected, but if I think that they should be kept in the fold and I give some connection, how can you say that I will be honourable not to do that.

ISKCON is not _____ [?] They came to Swāmī Mahārāja and now frustrated they're going away, and they have their complaints, and some complaints are true. Because I have got that sort of experience from our generation in our Prabhupāda's, our Guru Mahārāja's followers. We have got some sort of experience. So we can guess what is what to certain extent. When frustrated they come and want some help, how can I say that no, I can't help you. That is my trouble.

Devotee: But then, if they come and they get shelter then they sharpen their attack on the movement, so they increase that.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Sharpen means, what is that? What is that attack? Is it severe preaching, my tapes? Or the members that appreciate my, what they get from my tape? You point out that, "In your tape these undesirable things are being out, these are not desirable. Objectionable, anything I am preaching against ISKCON." What I say that is a general thing on principle. *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Bhāgavatam*, generally I explain so many *ślokas*. That is my *Hari-kathā*, my preaching is that, different types of *ślokas* I explain. My tape means that.

Devotee: That of course is appreciated by everybody.

Jayatīrtha Mahārāja: But they've been banned, all his tapes.

Devotee: _____ one thing.

Jayatīrtha Mahārāja: Appreciation should be put in proper perspective of the current situation. But his tapes have been banned, that after last night's conversation it was referred that his teaching was *Māyāvādā*, to some extent. These things should be presented as they are, what is the actual attitude of the current administration. And then it can be understood why I find it difficult to adjust my own spiritual feelings towards that.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: You see, Swāmī Mahārāja before his departure he told that, "I have said many things against my Godbrothers as a policy of preaching. But I put it, placed it to some of our Godbrothers, but I beg to be excused by them."

On the basis of that I asked your GBC that the portions where he has abused the Godbrothers may be omitted, on the basis of his last words. Because otherwise they're also

coming to throw mud against Swāmī Mahārāja. Already they have begun. And I requested them not to do so. So I'm always trying to save the prestige of ISKCON. He abused for his propaganda almost all the camps of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava but save and except myself. And now they have begun to do that...

Śrīla Govinda Mahārāja: _____ [?]

...

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: ...incident to occur. So I think Jayatīrtha's leaving is a major incident.

Śrīla Govinda Mahārāja: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Compromise, my, the long and the short of your negotiation will be that you keep aloof from the affairs of ISKCON. What they may do or undo, you don't care, worry for that. You miss your, the object of your coming here?

Devotee: Myself?

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: To make me silent?

Devotee: No, no, no. No.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Then, whoever is dissatisfied with the present management of ISKCON, and if they come to me and if I give some sympathy to them, then I'm creating an opposite party thereby _____ [?]

Devotee: Because their feeling is that because it's a world wide mission there will always be some complaints. There maybe some dissatisfaction.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. Of course.

Devotee: Even at the time of Prabhupāda, our own Prabhupāda, there were people who had some difficulties and left the movement.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes, I have got sad experience many have already left him. And in so many, all the institutions there is such.

Devotee: Yes, so, ah, but..

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Many coming, going, coming, going.

Devotee: But if this criticism becomes more intense then the management of the institution becomes more difficult. So that was the concern.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Difficult, so they should be more accommodating, and they should be more earnest to the ideal. Swāmī Mahārāja went there empty handed, not with much wealth and power and splendour. But what was his capital? What was his capital?

Devotee: Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Then, that I want to trace more in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. And accommodating to the Godbrothers. Those I can feel that are sincere, they're sincere students. If I can find that he's a sincere student, but he's neglected by the administration, what should

I do? As a servant of our Guru Mahārāja and Mahāprabhu should I extend my hand to him, or no, go away? What should I do? What should you do if anyone being a guest in your house, should we put some water or food, or he will drive away?

Devotee: No.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Then, they already came to your Prabhupāda and they're going disappointed and if they come before leaving the ISKCON and they ask something, and if I want to pacify them, and thereby a group, one, two, three, four, in this way a group, then what am I to do? Then I'm to close my door and sit in the room?

Devotee: No, no. When a group is formed like that, then there's some other preaching going on, so then there's another wider group is formed...

Devotees: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: You see, my idea is this, Swāmī Mahārāja, you see.

_____ [?] Our Guru Mahārāja sent a party of five or four in the beginning. Next he wanted to send me, but I was reluctant for some reason. Then he sent another one. Then when he was proposing me in Bombay, Swāmī Mahārāja was present there. And in course of his speech he told, "You all be prepared. You will have to go to the west for preaching." In Bombay.

And Swāmī Mahārāja pointed me out, "In your presence Prabhupāda requested me."

Then I came to recollect the thing that he was saying, "That all of you will have to go to the west for preaching."

Our Guru Mahārāja, Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura foretold, our Prabhupāda began, and Swāmī Mahārāja came with flying colours, preaching in the west. So, our Guru Mahārāja he began the attempt. And he proposed me to go. I did not, for two reasons. One, that I can't understand the intonation, the pronunciation of the westerners. And the second, I'm not a pushing man, and don't want to mix with so many. So I modestly refused. Now, in my last days of life Swāmī Mahārāja has taken so many where I am sitting idle and asking me to look after them. And also I remember my Guru Mahārāja wanted to send me to the west for preaching, because there are so many, including our Guru Mahārāja, that my words are very suiting, suitable to the westerners. My reason, my knowledge, my dealing, all these things they appreciated, or they're of such opinion. And in my last days so many are coming at my door and I shall say no, you go away? How can I say so? Who was appointed in the beginning, several, forty seven years ago, that you go to the west for preaching, and I didn't. And they're coming at my door. And what should I, what treatment should I do with them?

Devotee: There is no difficulty with that as it is. ISKCON recognises your prominence as a prominent Vaiṣṇava and they come whenever there is any need they immediately come.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Then? This is one, Caru Swāmī Mahārāja he has got some appreciation for me. He was direct appointed by Swāmī Mahārāja as an Ācārya though *gr̥hastha*. He has got some sympathy with me, and so many others also. But are they not reliable? All bogus persons are coming to me? Those that are approaching me they're all bogus?

Devotee: No, no.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Then? Either I'm to blame, or those that are coming they are to be blamed? If you want to...

Devotee: No, but the, all union people, but if they're formed in many groups then the unity of the ISKCON as a whole may be in danger. This is the concern, this is the biggest concern.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes, yes, that I know fully well. So they are to modify their policy. They should not stand firm that the majority of these few, there are several thousands of disciples of Swāmī Mahārāja and they may be leading to a twenty four. They should not think that their unity may satisfy the whole thing. They should also consider that what sort of conclusion they should come to in the meeting, substantially not formally. The majority of ISKCON, that is absolute, I'm the last man to admit that.

Devotee: But then how can we run the institution smoothly if there's not some arrangement like that, because so many groups are forming.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Of course. No good administration can give Godhead, can it?

Devotee: No, no. It is just, it is for the propagation. Prabhupāda has organised for the propagation.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Then? That is all approximate and relative, all approximate and relative. We should be conscious of the fact.

Devotee: Yes Mahārāja, but Prabhupāda himself organised.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Because we are approaching towards infinite, so everything is finite, however greater it may be. With that consciousness we shall try to move.

Devotee: Yes Mahārāja, Prabhupāda himself organised, and his most concern was that we should all work jointly together.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: There are some also that say that they're all self made Ācāryas. I don't know. I don't say so. But there are some who say that Prabhupāda did not appoint any Ācārya. Rather he told,

*yāre dekha, tāre kaha ['kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa, āmāra ājñāya guru hañā tāra ei deśa
kabhu nā vādhibe tomāra viṣaya-taraṅga, punarapi ei thāñi pābe mora saṅga]*

[“Instruct whoever you meet in the science of Kṛṣṇa. Teach them the instructions of Kṛṣṇa in *Bhagavad-gītā*, and the teachings about Kṛṣṇa in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. In this way, on My order, become a Guru and liberate everyone in the land. If you follow this instruction, the waves of materialism within this world will not affect you. Indeed, if you follow My order, you will soon attain My association.”] [*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā, 7.128-9*]

“Every one of you speak up whenever, whomever you come across about Kṛṣṇa consciousness.” That was his general call.

Devotee: Well here's one of them. You can ask him whether they were appointed or not.

Jayatīrtha Mahārāja: Now there's complaint amongst the men there that the whole conception of Ācārya as you presented it to the GBC when they came here originally in nineteen seventy eight, at Gaura Pūrṇimā, there was something mistaken in that...

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