

His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣaka Śrīdhara Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja

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Jayātīrtha Mahārāja: ...that the individual Ācārya must be completely subordinated to the committee, GBC committee, and that the disciples should be trained to understand that their real relationship is with ISKCON, and their relationship with the Ācārya is the secondary thing. It was explained to me this morning. And they think that your advices in the beginning to set up the Ācārya system in a particular way, that has been the cause of much trouble for them. The Ācāryas are all relative, they're not absolute, and they all have their...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Self effulgent.

Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja: Not self effulgent.

Devotee: No, not that way.

Jayātīrtha Mahārāja: They're not self effulgent. And therefore the Presidents and GBC are now thinking if they're not self effulgent since they were appointed Ācāryas, therefore they're second class Ācāryas and they can't be considered absolute, even to their own disciples, but that the absolute consideration will always be what the committee decides, not what the Ācārya says.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Whatever he mentioned, said, I think that is all recommendatory, all relative, not absolute. It is not possible. You see, the plane is such.

When Uddhava asked Kṛṣṇa, "Why so many forms of religion?"

Kṛṣṇa told, "In the beginning it was one, and I told about what is religion to Brahmā. And from Brahmā it came to his different disciples, and every disciple understood it in a modified way according to his own mental conception. And when in their turn they gave delivery to the same thing the differentiation began."

*Prakṛti-vaicitryāt and pāramparyeṇa, it is, we can't stop differences.
That is also told in Bhagavad-gītā, "I told it to Manu."
Manur ikṣvākave 'bravīt [Bhagavad-gītā, 4.1]
Sa kāleneha mahatā, yogo naṣṭaḥ parantapa [Bhagavad-gītā, 4.2]*

[śrī-bhagavān uvāca
imaṁ vivasvate yogam, proktavān aham avyayam
vivasvān manave prāha, manur ikṣvākave 'bravīt]

[The Supreme Lord said: "Previously, I imparted to Sūrya this changeless path of knowledge, which is achieved by selfless action. Sūrya, the presiding deity of the sun, delivered it to his son Vaivasvata Manu, exactly as he had heard it from Me. Thereafter, Manu instructed the same knowledge to his son Ikṣvāku."] [Bhagavad-gītā, 4.1]

*evam paramparā-prāptam, imaṁ rājarṣayo viduḥ
sa kāleneha mahatā, yogo naṣṭaḥ parantapa*

["O conqueror of the enemy, in this way, the saintly kings such as Nimi, Janaka, and others, learned this path of knowledge through the divine succession. Presently, after the passage of a long period of time, this teaching has been almost completely lost."] [Bhagavad-gītā, 4.2]

In this way the plane is such that things in the starting, as the nature be there, gradually degraded, modified. So the recommendatory but cannot be absolute.

Devotee: So far, whatever our Guru Mahārāja says, that was the standard of absoluteness. And since Guru Mahārāja is not physically...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: He could not say so, that this is absolute. He did not say. He could not say, and he did not, because he knew that he's talking about infinite.

Devotee: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: _____ [?]
He says that what he told, that is absolute.

Devotee: No, because, for the upliftment of the disciple, the spiritual masters instructions are absolute. And since it was his instruction...

Devotees: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Oh. Kīrtanānanda last night came to say so. But I asked him that Gurus position may be absolute, but your understanding of Guru and his instructions, is it absolute?

Devotee: No. Individuals are not absolute.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Then?

Devotee: But collectively as a body as a whole it is absolute.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: No, can never be. That is foolish.

Devotee: Because that is the only representative of Prabhupāda.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: That is foolish.

Devotee: That is the only representative of Prabhupāda. That's what we say.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Then everything is absolute because whatever incident comes to be effected by the will of Kṛṣṇa, even a straw moves by the will of Kṛṣṇa. So everything is absolute, we are to consider.

Devotee: Considering that this is a spiritual movement, this is Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is a representative of Kṛṣṇa on this Earth. That is what we are thinking. Therefore it is absolute.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: No, it is not like that. I like, what I wanted to say, at least, I like Kṛṣṇa consciousness, ISKCON should not have any monopoly of preaching over the whole world. But all my Godbrothers they also may do something in their part, everyone, you also, myself, everyone should do something for the propaganda of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Why the others should be banned, eh?

Devotee: No banning.

Devotee: There's no banning.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Then? All should be fair field.

Devotee: But ISKCON should not be splintered. United we stand, divided we fall.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Fair field, let all say what Kṛṣṇa consciousness, eh? Why should we stand in the way of that? Let them say. The free market. Nation and ocean free.

Devotee: That free market should not be developed by splintering ISKCON. Let ISKCON also preach, others will also preach.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. ISKCON will go on with their preaching, others may also go on with preaching, with Kṛṣṇa consciousness, with Mahāprabhu, Nityānanda Prabhu, all may join, what harm? Fair field. There must be a very wider view.

Columbus, he discovered America. Should it be meant that only his people will go and live there? Others won't go?

Devotee: We're not saying that. We want that everyone should preach.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Everyone, it should be Kṛṣṇa consciousness, that is to be marked, the Kṛṣṇa consciousness, we'll be satisfied for that. Mahāprabhu, what Mahāprabhu wanted to preach, Kṛṣṇa consciousness, Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism School. But too much dogmatism.

I heard and that pained my heart, then that, he's a good soul, I knew him, that Bhāvānanda Mahārāja. Bhāvānanda Mahārāja trampled down one book, *Gauḍīya Kaṅṭhahāra*, that was very favourite of our Guru Mahārāja, and the collection of all from different *śāstras* to help the preacher, *Gauḍīya Kaṅṭhahāra* was planned. Quotations from different scriptures to help Kṛṣṇa consciousness preachers. But that was trampled simply because that was not composed by Swāmī Mahārāja, that valuable book was trampled under foot. Then I sent some intimation to him, you please beg forgiveness, and in a very beautiful way, a grand way, issue one edition of *Gauḍīya Kaṅṭhahāra* to get released from that offence. It is *śāstra*, and it is collected by our Guru Mahārāja I know, and it was helping to a great extent the preachers, meant for the preachers, collection from highly valued books. Should I appreciate that, because that was not translated by Swāmī Mahārāja?

Devotee: Who was it published by?

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Er? Published maybe from different Press, but collected by our Guru Mahārāja.

Devotee: Paramahansa Bābājī's [?] book.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: You know the book. It is with us also, and that helps a great deal. That was meant mainly for the preachers. Highly valued book.

Devotee: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: ____ [?] And Swāmī Mahārāja did not want that?

Devotee: No, that is definitely wrong. Unless there was some criticism of our Guruji inside.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: No, no, that was long before that was printed and published. *Ke?*

Jayatīrtha Mahārāja: Bhakta Jeff.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Hare Kṛṣṇa. I will be happy to the extreme if you can effect conciliation.

Devotee: I was just wondering if they can still come and talk with you, frankly and freely. Yesterday I think the meeting broke up abruptly, so it would be nicer if you give them some one other time. This is what my concern was, because I am just a small man.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. I gave them time. They're always welcome, anyone always welcome, and I'm ready to talk with them. This will be Hari *kathā*, Kṛṣṇa consciousness, spiritual understanding, it is preaching.

Devotee: It is they can freely express their opinion and you can reply to that. And that way some consensus may be arrived at.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Of course. More freely. Everyone should have. Yes. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol.

Devotee: Tomorrow, is it not possible tomorrow?

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Maybe. Maybe tomorrow morning. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Devotee: Thank you very much for your enlivened discourse.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Even whole days I am unfit and I am invalid.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: Mahārāja, I also, when I got the news, what happened, what they did to Jayatīrtha Mahārāja, I immediately felt that only you can save the situation now. And I so immediately rushed back here, and I thought that I'll take you to Māyāpur, because if they do not come...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: _____ [?]

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: _____ [?]

Yeah, I heard that. Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja just told me. So it's nice if they come here.

Devotees: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Hare Kṛṣṇa. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol. Nitāi Gaura Haribol. Your name is?

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa: Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yaśomatī-nandana, very charming name.

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa: Thank you. Prabhupāda gave.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yaśomatī-nandana, *para kī?*

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa: *Braja-baro-nāgara.*

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: *Braja-baro-nāgara, gokula-rañjana kāna.*

*śrutim apare smṛtim itare, bhāratam anye bhajantu bhava-bhītāḥ
aham iha nandaṁ vande, yasyālinde param brahma*

[Raghupati Upādhyāya says: “Those who fear rebirth in this world may follow the advice of the Vedic scriptures - others may follow the *Mahābhārata* - but as for me, I follow Nanda Mahārāja, in whose courtyard the Supreme Absolute Truth plays as a child.”]

[*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā, 19.96*]

Raghupati Upādhyāya. Mahāprabhu was charmed to hear, *śrutim apare smṛtim itare*. “Let them go on with their *śruti* and *smṛti*, but *aham iha nandaṁ vande. Sarva-dharmān parityajya* [*Bhagavad-gītā, 18.66*] My heart is inclined towards the obeisance of Nanda. Why? *Yasyālinde param brahma.*”

One lady also told here in her lecture, when Swāmī Mahārāja came with many disciples, “That what attracted us to ISKCON is this, that we can live in a family with God. God can accept our service as family members. This has attracted to ISKCON.”

So *aham iha nandaṁ vande, yasyālinde param brahma*. The Para Brahma has come.

*kṛṣṇera yateka khelā sarvottama nara-līlā nara-vapu tāhāra svarūpa
[gope-veśa, veṇu-kara nava kiśora, nata-vara nara līlāra haya anurūpa]*

[“Lord Kṛṣṇa has many pastimes, of which His pastimes as a human being are the best. His form as a human being is the Supreme Transcendental Form. In this form, He is a cowherd boy. He carries a flute in His hand, and His youth is new. He is also an expert dancer. All this is just suitable for His pastimes as a human being.”]

[*Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā, 21.101*]

The *aprākṛta līlā*, similar to that of human society, but it is just the opposite. Perverted reflection here, and original there, but very similarity is there.

*martyo yadā tyakta-samasta-karmā, niveditātmā vicikīṛṣito me
tadāmṛtatvaṁ pratipadyamāno, mayātma-bhūyāya ca kalpate vai*

[“One who is subjected to birth and death attains immortality when he gives up all material activities, dedicates his life to the execution of My order, and acts according to My directions. In this way, he becomes fit to enjoy the spiritual bliss derived from exchanging loving mellows with Me.”] [*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, 11.29.34*]

Ātma-bhūyāya ca kalpate. “That means they’re considered as My own.”
Viśate tad-anantaram, tato mām tattvato jñātvā, viśate tad-anantaram

*[bhaktyā mām abhijānāti, yāvān yaś cāsmi tattvataḥ
tato mām tattvato jñātvā, viśate tad-anantaram]*

[“Only through love and devotion can I be understood as I am. Thereafter, fully understanding Me, you can merge into My entourage.”] [*Bhagavad-gītā, 18.55*]

“Ultimately knowing who am I ontologically, then they enter into My domain. Into Me, that in My group, in My, in the system where My servitors are trying their best to satisfy Me.”

Gaura Haribol.

Devotees: Hare Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: We are out for the same.

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa: Please bless me that I can _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Our inner thirst is for the same. And we should think that we come, in a group we come together, all from different sources. But particular aim and there may not be any pollution in that aim, that highest object. That is all important. Organisation next, first ideal, and next, organisation, to facilitate, to preach the ideal. If ideal is drawn away the organisation can give mischief to the people.

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Just as Jīva Goswāmī has mentioned, take from the mantram, formula, take the Name, then put another name, it will go to the opposite site. Take Kṛṣṇa, put Kali or Śiva, it will take to the, all other words are there, but the Name is Kṛṣṇa. Take out the Kṛṣṇa and put Śiva, it will take you, carry you to another direction. So also the ideal, organisation there may be many, and more perfect organisation as military, but the ideal is all important. Otherwise, if for another ideal a good organisation is engaged that will very hurriedly take to our doom. So organisation makes first ideal, Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa: But the ideal...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Organisation must be subservient to Kṛṣṇa consciousness proper. That is my contention, nothing more.

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa: But our idea is that the ideal is non different from the organisation.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: You all say the organisation because it is created by Swāmī Mahārāja it is a perfect one. So this organisation whatever they will create, the majority, that is God. I differ there.

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa: For that we're not deviating from Swāmī Mahārāja's thought.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: _____ [?] should seek, they should search after.

Mahāprabhu Himself told, "*Kṛṣṇānusandhāna*, I am searching for Kṛṣṇa."

Vyāsadeva says, "*Brahmansandhāna*, *brahma-jijñāsā*, I am enquiring, what is Brahman."

Jaiminī says, "*Dharma-jijñāsā*."

In this way, all, they're out to search the infinite, the absolute. And it will be foolish to think that whatever this body will dictate that there is Kṛṣṇa consciousness. The difference is here, and that is most important difference. You are to think it for your own interest, and for the interest of all of us.

Devotee: They say that because in *Bhagavad-gītā* Kṛṣṇa says that there will never be a servant more dear than the one who preaches. And because Prabhupāda exhibited such preaching vigour that has never been exhibited before, that he is the most compassionate personality. Therefore they say that the ideal of the organisation is to give everyone Prabhupāda. Because the conviction is that if we certainly give Śrīla Prabhupāda to everyone then they will get all the mercy of Kṛṣṇa and eventually all the realisation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. They say, because Prabhupāda exhibited the most compassionate nature and the most successful preaching effort in the world, that we simply have to now rally around Śrīla Prabhupāda and present Śrīla Prabhupāda _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Who are you? Who is he?

Jayatīrtha Mahārāja: Jīva Pavana. First initiated disciple of Śrīla Prabhupāda. Second initiated by myself.

Jīva Pavana: This is the mood _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: I have told repeatedly the difference what you say. Mostly, those that are coming to me they all say like that. The general tenor of all the questions that are coming from ISKCON, it is of such nature. What you say that is not new thing.

Jīva Pavana: But that is that the ideal, the organisation may have its defects but that the ideal is already there.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: But what I say you are to understand. Yes. But I say that, I told last night to Kīrtanānanda, the Vyāsadeva is considered to be *śaktyāveśa avatāra*, and he delivered most of the *śāstras*, and still Nārada came and abused him. “Whatever you have done so far that is nothing. You give *Bhāgavatam* to the people.”

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa: That is because Vyāsadeva was not a pure de... he was not presenting pure devotional service. But Prabhupāda presented the pure devotional service.

Jīva Pavana: And Prabhupāda gave us *Bhāgavatam*.

Jayatīrtha Mahārāja: He’s only saying that even Vyāsadeva agreed to be chastised.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: You are to understand what is this, this is not my statement. What I say it is in *Bhāgavatam*.

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa: Yes.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: So you are to adjust, how it is possible. Vyāsadeva is accepted as *śaktyāveśa avatāra*, and he has given all the, most part of the scriptures. Then also...

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa: But we consider Śrīla Prabhupāda more than that.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: _____ [?] What is the reason, we are to enquire why. The Brahmā is the first Guru of Gauḍīya *sampradāya*, Madhva *sampradāya*, he’s benumbed by Kṛṣṇa *līlā*. Madhvācārya, Rāmānuja, they’re all great Ācārya, still, we are to criticise them. So, we are to think deeply everything in our own interest, and we don’t get by half something and produce and reproduce that _____ [?] not that. We are to understand all these things in details and adjust and digest. It is there, how it is possible, that the giver of *Gītā*, *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Vedānta*, all these things, he’s chastised by his Guru Mahārāja. How is it possible? It is there.

Yaśomatī-nandana dāsa: Because he did not really _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: You are to digest that. So the answer is there, the answer is there. The year, by instalment, by the will of the Lord, there by His order extensively may be given by a particular instalment which is possible. His order to give a particular instalment to all.

Devotee: But I still don’t understand...

Devotee: Vyāsadeva’s giving a particular level...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: How we are to adjust all these things, from the scriptures, it is there. It is in *Bhāgavatam*. How is it possible? We are to adjust. It is not my creation, or my whimsical statement. It is there. How you are to take, you please explain it.

Bhakti Caru Swāmī: There is also that *divya-jñān hr̥de prakāśito*, [From *Śrī Guru-vandanā*, 3] that the very scripture, the realisation is coming in the heart.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: _____ [?]

Devotee: What is being presented is very simple affair, that Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Thākura he predicted that there would be a personality who would come and be responsible for delivering the Holy Name of Kṛṣṇa all over the world. The conviction of ISKCON is that Śrīla Prabhupāda is that personality. And the ideal of ISKCON is simply to deliver Śrīla Prabhupāda to the world. He's the person *Bhāgavatam*. He brought us the *Bhāgavatam*. He lifted us out of our nescient condition, and that the feeling of the ISKCON body is that we may have so many defects on our own, but just as Prabhupāda gave the example, we simply have to deliver the mail, just like the postman. He may not be very expert but the message is in the letter already. So our feeling is simply that we are, have to deliver. So the mood at the temple is simply we have been sitting and hearing Prabhupāda *līlā* every morning, how Prabhupāda came to the west, how he picked us up, we're becoming absorbed more and more in Prabhupāda *līlā*. And in this way we're feeling that we understand, through Prabhupāda, what is the mission of Lord Chaitanya, and a little bit about Kṛṣṇa. That's all we know is Prabhupāda. This is the feeling. And so although no one is attacking your position as a Vaiṣṇava, we feel that the general mood of the family is being disturbed since Śrīla Tīrthapāda is not there to share in these loving exchanges and remembrances of Śrīla Prabhupāda. That is the general mood, it's coming from that, from the heart, not so much from a managerial...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: So, you differentiate from one Guru with another Guru.

Devotee: Yes, because Śrīla Prabhupāda...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes, you differentiate from...

Devotee: *Acintya bhedābheda tattva*.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Hear me. The present Ācārya and your Prabhupāda, there is much difference? Eh?

Devotee: Yes. Because Śrīla Prabhupāda we say is Jagat Guru, because in *Bhagavad-gītā* Kṛṣṇa says, "The most dear servant..."

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: And the disciple of the present Ācārya they will see that their Guru, their Ācārya is not Jagat Guru, is it?

Devotee: They say yes, the idea is that Śrīla Prabhupāda is Founder Ācārya...

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: No, no. I am speaking of Swāmī Mahārāja and the present Ācārya.

Devotees: _____ [?]

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Founder Ācārya is another thing.

Devotees: _____ [?] They say that any Ācārya in ISKCON after Prabhupāda are...

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