

Vaiṣṇava
Transmission

Volume 1, No. 2 • May/June 1994



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Gokulananda das

Initial Contact

Gokulananda das

Since this is the “initial contact” you, the reader, will receive from *Vaisnava Transmission*, allow me to get right to the point. Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja has assented to return to the New York/New Jersey area this August, from the 14th to the 20th.

The opportunity for true service to Sri Sri Guru Gauranga materializes very rarely. It should be apparent, therefore, that the appearance of Srila Govinda Maharaja and his associates will offer that rare opportunity to make real connection to the eternal service plane of reality. What aspirant could ask for more?

So much needs to be arranged. The devotees here in New York must arrange preaching engagements, prasadam distribution, airfare, transportation for His Divine Grace and the other devotees, flowers, and accommodations for His Divine Grace while here in the Tri-State area. It is a wonderful opportunity for all here to do the necessary, and get in gear. Tomorrow will be too late.

Srila Govinda Maharaja’s last tour of New York resulted in many new devotees, the opportunity for hundreds of wayward souls to find the cooling association of His Divine Grace, and the promise of greater things to come. Now is the time. Greater things *will* come. We must all contact Sripad Bhakti Kanan Giri Maharaja and tell him what we can do as individuals for the glory of His Divine Grace and his preaching program while here in New York.

I hope that the many devotees in this area, as well as around the globe, get the opportunity to make contact with His Divine Grace. The need of the *jiva* is to make connection to the spiritual world and begin serving the highest ideal, namely that of *Radha Dasyam* in the line of Srila Rupa Goswami. We are so fortunate to have that opportunity. Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja is affording us the chance to make connection to that higher plane of reality, and thereby, begin our serving function in that world. All Glories to Srila Govinda Maharaja!

V a i s ṇ a v a
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This magazine is an offering to Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja, who is fulfilling the innermost desires of Srila B.R. Sridhar Dev Goswami Maharaja and Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada by traveling this Earth planet and presenting the conception of Radha Dasyam in the line of Srila Rupa Goswami.

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Letters

International letters to the editors

From the war zone

Dear Sripad Giri Maharaja,

Please accept my humble dandavat pranams. All glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga. All glories to our beloved guardians.

I have heard that you have began to publish a magazine called *Vaisnava Transmission*. I am interested to hear some information about this magazine and especially how to subscribe. I would like to receive copies regularly and I humbly pray that you are able to write back to me and advise me how much money I need to send for a yearly subscription?

I hope you will be glad to hear that the preaching is going very well here in Croatia despite the ongoing war. This process of Hari Nama Sankirtana is so easy and nice that it can be practiced under any condition or circumstance. Despite many difficulties and great pain because of the separation from my Guru Maharaja, Sripad Narayan Maharaja, I try to continue His mission in this part of the world. I ask people to simply chant Krishna's Holy Names and follow the four simple rules in their life. In this way everybody can easily taste the nectar of Sri Chaitanya's Sankirtana Movement. War is the best time for preaching, because when everything is bad and heavy people are more interested to hear about Krishna. Enclosed is a copy of my publication *Gauranga*. In this newsletter are the words of Srila Sridhar Maharaja. I began this publication for all the people here that don't speak english, so that they can read this nectar and understand our Vaisnava philosophy. This is the first time that the words of Srila Sridhar Maharaja have been translated and published into the language of the people of my country. I am doing this according to my circumstances and conditions, and although it is not like the mag-

azines which devotees in other countries publish, I hope that this publication can give inspiration to others that take shelter at the lotus feet of our guardians led by Srila Govinda Maharaja. In this way I wish to join with all the devotees worldwide in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Srila Sridhar Maharaja, and I hope that His Divine Glories will be better known in Croatia through this publication.

Dear Maharaja, again I offer my dandavats to you and I beg to remain in your service. I wish to stay in touch with you because you are my spiritual uncle, and you can help me to increase my dedication and make my service better. I felt that I must be in connection with my elders and betters so that I can present our Vaisnava siddhanta in the right way. My Guru Maharaja always taught that the most important thing is Vaisnava Seva, so if there are any possibilities for service that I can do for you, then I humbly pray that you give me your instruction and advices. Thank you very much.

I hope this meets you in good health and I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With the best wishes

Your humble servant

Radha Ramana das

Zagreb, Croatia

Waiting in Germany

Dandavats and Pranams Giri Maharaja,

Please accept my obeisances. I hope this short letter finds you in good health and in good spirits. I have no news really as I'm still spaced out from my visit to India. It was great to meet you again and especially in Sri Dham Navadwip. Looking forward to your you next publication of *Vaisnava Transmission*, and if there is any-

thing I can do for you please let me know.

Anyway Maharaja, drop me a line whenever you get time. Please say a prayer for me, I always need every bit of help I can get!

Your well Wisher and servant,

Pranasis das

Stuttgart, Germany

In desperate need

Dear Sripad Giri Maharaja,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Sri-Sri Guru Gauranga. All Glories to our dear Srila Maharaja, Srila Govinda Maharaja.

A week ago I was sent a copy of the newsletter *Vaisnava Seva* from our math in California. Reading it, I came across an article glorifying your service for the devotees. Also an address of your good self was printed there. And also reading from our magazine *Sri Gaudiya Darshan* (Gaura-Purnima issue) I learned that you have launched a very informative magazine called *Vaisnava Transmission*. Maharaja, can it be possible also that I can have a spare copy for us? I am sure it will be a very big help. Although that magazine is intended for U.S. distribution, if I am not mistaken, still, we believe it will enlighten us as well.

A few days ago, Sri Mahananda Prabhu sent me two copies of Sri Gaudiya Darshan along with a Vaisnava Calendar for the Philippine devotees. Actually, only through this way we are able to get reading materials. And if a copy is sent I always try to photocopy them for the devotees. I hope this will not pose a burden to you. Kindly forgive me for any offenses I may have committed in approaching you.

May this letter reach you in the best of health. I hope to hear from you. Hare Krishna. Again my full dandavats.

Your fallen servant,

Rupa Vilasa das

Quezon City, Philippines

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By Their Mercy

Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja

In October 1993, during his first visit to the New York City area Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja delivered the following lecture at the 108th Street preaching center.

Honorable Vaisnavas, devotees, gentlemen and ladies, in your presence I feel very fortunate to be here. Sripad Bhakti Kanan Giri Maharaja and Sripad Bhakti Ananda Sagar Maharaja have previously asked me to tell you all about my relationship with Srila Prabhupada. Therefore, in order to serve Srila Guru Maharaja (Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhar Dev Goswami Maharaja), I will try to do this for their satisfaction. We are conditioned souls with very tiny capacities and Gurudeva and the Vaisnavas want something of us. In this way we receive their well-wishing and the transcendental wave will enter us. That is my strength. Srila Guru Maharaja, Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada and all the affectionate devotees, their mercy is my only wealth. What can I do by myself? What can I do by myself in this mundane world? This mundane universe is composed of many planes, and in all of them the mundane illusion is very strong. We are very tiny jiva souls. By the will of Krsna everything is possible and also by the will of the devotees Krsna will do the impossible



Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja

in order to fulfill their desires. Krsna wants the conditioned souls to willingly serve Him with their own freedom. This is why Krsna will never take away our freedom.

Never Forced

When the jiva souls are emanating from the Tattastha Shakti (the marginal potency) Krsna is giving freedom to the individual souls. One example of this freedom is the tongue. Through the tongue I can taste many things, some bitter, some sweet, some salty, everything can be tasted through the tongue. This is one freedom that I have. Krsna has given freedom to the jiva souls to taste the ecstasy, the four kind of rasas, and entering the eternal abode of Krsna where they can freely serve Him and His associates. Krsna is hoping that we will choose to serve Him, but He is not forcing. If He was to force, then that would interfere in the jiva soul's freedom of choice.

Most of the jiva souls emanating from the Tattastha Shakti immediately choose the service of the Lord. Three quarters of the jiva souls choose the spiritual world of service. However, one fourth, unfortunately become attracted by maya or lordship over the material energy. When they are looking at maya they are thinking that they are greater than the illusion. Naturally, after the ego is attracted by maya, the soul will be drawn to a mayik loka, like this world. When these souls are drawn into the illusory environment of maya Krsna does not want that. But Krsna would never interfere with their freedom. He wants them to come of their own accord and discover their real happiness in His service.

Ecstasy, happiness, charm, beauty, everything is in Krishna's abode. From time to time, Krsna sends his associates in order to assist the fallen jiva souls. His associates come to this plane in order to help the fallen souls rediscover their true wealth and place in His abode. Krsna himself is also coming whenever the jiva souls, who are acting



Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja Preaching in New York.

under the influence of maya, begin to behave cruelly with the tendencies of the asuras, then Krsna himself will come in order to protect the sadhus and teach the jiva souls. He comes to reestablish religious principles. Sometimes he sends the avatars or his incarnations. But only one fourth of the jiva souls are living in the illusory environment. But most of the jiva souls, three fourths, they are always getting that happiness of the transcendental world. When Krsna himself comes, there is no problem because Krishna's will is playing over this mundane world rescuing the jiva souls. But afterwards, circumstances will change making the devotional environment less favorable so Krsna sends powerful devotees, his associates, to help the jiva souls. Through these associates of

Krishna, these devotees, we are getting transcendental knowledge. This is the cyclic action.

Cleaning House

During the good times, many associates are coming. Just look at the last five hundred years at the great souls like Rupa Goswami, Sanatana Goswami, as well as other acharyas came here to this mundane world and they preached Krsna consciousness. But afterwards the illusory environment again reasserted itself and the jiva souls were again dragged into maya. And what these souls preached then was misinterpreted by the apasampradaya, the imitationists. We can see why Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura came to clean the sampradaya of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Srila Bhaktivinoda

Thakura composed many songs and wrote many books for the benefit of the conditioned souls and distributed Krsna nama, the Hare Krsna Mahamantra. His preaching was very sober and he tried in many different ways to give something substantial to the jiva souls for their benefit. And lastly, it can be said he gave us Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada Saraswati Goswami Prabhupada.

I studied Bhagavad Gita with Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada.

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada, who was Krsna Shakti, preached with his full power all over India and even tried to preach all over the world. And within a few years he opened 64 preaching centers in India. Later we have seen how the Indians were able to catch Krsna consciousness while the Western world still had no knowledge of Krsna consciousness. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada tried to preach in the Western world the movement of Krsna consciousness. He sent three of his most knowledgeable disciples to England, where they tried to preach in many ways in London and in Germany. But these attempts were not very fruitful. Actually they preached Krsna consciousness but unfortunately these disciples became converted in certain ways by the foreigner's culture. This was not the intention of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada showed his unhappiness by later proclaiming that if anyone can purely represent Krsna consciousness in the Western world he will give his full blessings. At that time Srila A. C.

Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada was a householder, but Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada felt that anyone could get his blessings no matter what ashram or external qualification if they only desired to preach Krsna consciousness purely and with no compromises.

Always Preaching

In 1947 I knew Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada as a householder. He was always trying to preach to others in order to break their egoistic mentalities and bring them to Krsna consciousness. At that time I was surprised that a householder with little money was doing what the sannyasis and brahmacaris were not. At that time I was the same age as his son, 17 years old, and I remember that Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada was bereft of friends in his preaching work other than Srila Guru Maharaja. Whenever he would write something, a letter, a pamphlet, a book, he would show it to Srila Guru Maharaja and myself. In 1944, he published a maga-

zine called Back to Godhead but their was no one there to distribute it. So all the copies remained in his office. At that time, Srila Guru Maharaja and I were living in the same house with him, and I had just joined the movement, so he asked me, "Gaurendu (my name at that time was Gaurendu Das Brahmachari), can you distribute these magazines?" And I replied, "Yes, I can distribute them."

Srila Guru Maharaja gave me the order that I should learn Srimad Bhagavad Gita in the mornings from Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada. So I studied Bhagavad Gita with Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada. At that time I was only distributing three books, one was Srila Guru Maharaja's Sri Prappanajivanamritam. But when I got the Back to Godheads which were published in English, I felt very proud that I, an illiterate village boy, should get the opportunity to distribute an English magazine. When I went door to door, if anyone would give me four paisa then I would give them a Back to Godhead, in this way, the first Back to Godhead



Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhar Dev Goswami Maharaja with his most intimate disciple, Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja.

distribution program started. So because there was no one there other than myself to distribute Back to Godhead, I was allowed to be the first distributor. Over the years my relationship with Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada developed very nicely. Every morning I would take breakfast with him and then he would give Bhagavad Gita class. Every morning I would come at eight o'clock and I would find him eating four puris with sugar and some potato subji. Srila Guru Maharaja and I would like to have muri (puffed rice for breakfast). He would always tell us, "You are simply cheating the stomach. Muri is nothing. There is only air inside. It is simply cheating the stomach. You must take something more substantial, like some chapati." But we always responded, "We are happy to take muri."

Advice for Gandhi

During the riots of 1947, Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada was trying to get his godbrothers to go with him to convince Mahatma Gandhi personally of the need to renounce his political life and take up the banner of Mahaprabhu. Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada also was writing letters to Gandhi, many letters, trying to convince him that he was misguided, sometimes even challenging his ethics ("How can you take this title Mahatma?"). Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada's chemical laboratory was in Allahabad, and his business notoriety allowed him to have personal exchanges with many big personalities of the day like Dr. Radhakrishnan, Gandhi, and many others. I can't remember the exact history but I think the only reason Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada was unable to personally go and try to convince Gandhi, was the fact that Gandhi had changed his travel plans and went somewhere else in Bengal instead, where there were more serious riot conditions. I have got the inspiration to preach from Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada. His



Srila Guru Maharaja - "neither brave nor desperate"

enthusiasm and dedication in the preaching field I have seen. Nobody could understand that when he was a householder his future was to be a grand guru of the whole world. Only Srila Guru Maharaja was encouraging him in this way.

Krishna's Will

Once there was a great meeting of all the disciples of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada but Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada was not invited. I was very unhappy to see that. The others were thinking, "He is just involved with business and family life, so what can he do? Maybe he published a magazine for three issues but then he stopped. What can he do in the preaching field?" That was their idea. However what is Krishna's will nobody can say. Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada tried so much to maintain his family and business but he was unsuccessful. But how could he have been successful? He was a chemist and his laboratory was located under the floor that he gave Srila Guru Maharaja for use as a math or temple. This was his house. He gave us the first floor and downstairs he used for his labora-

tory. He invented and marketed many different medicines. But when the customers came, he would preach Krsna consciousness instead of doing business. Many of the customers left thinking, "What business does he really want to do?" He was always preaching Krsna consciousness.

*"Brother, it is not
your life this
business life.
You go and
preach Krsna
consciousness.
That is your life."*

*Pishima - Sister of
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami*

His nature was very strong and he was very fearless. People like Gandhi and Nehru were at the very top of society in India but he did not care. He is teaching them. They are not accepting his teaching but he doesn't care. Again and again he is pushing Krsna consciousness, hammering Krsna consciousness, into them. Thus, he became a failure in every way in his business life. Seeing this, his sister, Pishima, told him, "Brother, it is not your life this business life. You go and preach Krsna consciousness. That is your life." Then Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada said to her, "But who will look after my family? Something has to be done for them." His sister replied, "We shall see what can be done. You just go and preach!" His sister was very nice and he got some inspiration to preach from her. This same sister would always invite Srila Guru Maharaja into her house whenever he was traveling to Calcutta. She would always prepare so many things for him. Preparations of unbelievable quality. Her cooking was of the quality of Mother Sachi. I myself

am not a bad cook, but after trying many times I could never compete with the cooking of Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada's sister, Pishima. I remember in 1973 at the Mayapur inauguration ceremony, I tasted a preparation of Pishima and was astounded, to this day I remember it.

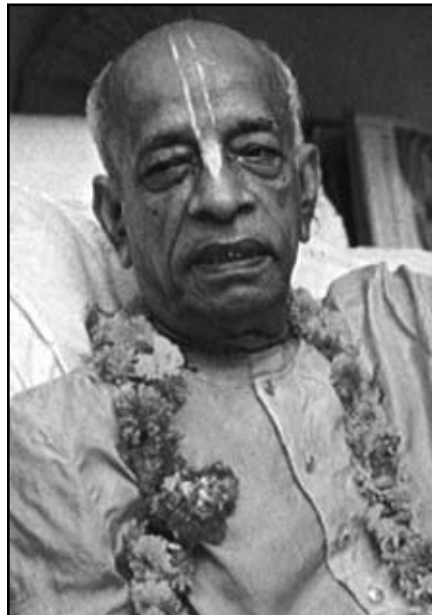
The Decision

Anyway, when Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada made the decision to take sannyasa, he approached Srila Guru Maharaja, who was his intimate and long time friend and advisor. When Srila Guru Maharaja and I were living in Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada's house in Calcutta, I remember them staying up every night until 2:00 in the morning. Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada always wanted to discuss the wrongness of mayavada and sahajjiyavada. The talks between Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada and Srila Guru Maharaja were very high and always many scriptural references were cited. For the 12 years we lived with Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada, these discussions occurred every day. He would leave his business, he would leave his family, he would leave everything just to sit with Srila Guru Maharaja from 9:00 in the evening until the wee hours of the morning. And after taking sannyasa, what he accomplished, everyone knows. How he came to the West and preached is common knowledge. But when he returned to Navadwip, after his first preaching in the West, Srila Guru Maharaja told him that he should open a center in Mayapur. But Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada stated that he didn't want to create any quarrels with his godbrothers in Mayapur, mainly because they were very envious of him. He said, "I would rather make my center in Calcutta or Vrindavan or somewhere else where they are not." But Srila Guru Maharaja said, "No, in Mayapur you must make your center. Mayapur is Mahaprabhu's birthplace and our Gurudeva, Srila

Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada said that his disciples must live to glorify Mayapur Dhama. Now you have that chance. You must do it." Then Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada said, "Who will give me the land?" To which Srila Guru Maharaja replied, "I shall arrange it."

"Now all over the world, the chanting of the Hare Krsna mahamantra has begun by his grace."

So Srila Guru Maharaja coordinated with one of his godbrothers to find some land and then he sent me to arrange for the purchase of the land (which was one acre). Then they constructed one building and after its completion, Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada held an inauguration ceremony to which Srila Guru Maharaja and I attended. Perhaps you've seen that photo of Srila Swami Maharaja



Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Prabhupada, myself and Srila Guru Maharaja. Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada and Srila Guru Maharaja are seated on the same vyasasana and I am in the lower corner chanting Sri Sri Prabhupada-Padma-Stavakah. After they both gave a lecture, then they pushed me to say something. The meeting was a very big meeting. So I began by quoting the sloka "Who could I tell and who would believe me, that I have seen the Supreme Personality of Godhead playing as a child in the courtyard with Nanda Maharaja's shoes on His head?" Then I said, "In the same vein, who can I tell and who would believe that today, that this Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada was Abhay Babu who was my very affectionate father figure in Calcutta and now he is a world guru. Now all over the world, the chanting of the Hare Krsna mahamantra has begun by his grace. He was a very small businessman and who could believe what he has become, but the will of Krsna is not something easy to understand." In this way, I gave my lecture and everybody was very happy.

Who Knew?

It was the will of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada and Srila Guru Maharaja that Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada should become a world acharya. Srila Guru Maharaja always gave his full support and encouragement to the preaching activities of Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada except in the case of giving him sannyasa. But there was cause for this. Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada came to Srila Guru Maharaja and asked for sannyasa. He said that his sister Pishima had taken charge of his family and that he intended to take sannyasa and go to the West to preach. Srila Guru Maharaja said, "I cannot give you sannyasa now because your family has become my family, since I have been living with you all these years. If I give you sannyasa then your family will chastise me for taking you away when only one

of your sons is married and the other two are still very young. So if you take sannyasa now, your relatives and family will attack me for what I have done. I have been your friend since the first time you came to the Gaudiya Math in 1930 and I think that now you should go somewhere and stay there six months, away from your family. Then I shall see the situation and then give you sannyasa.” But Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada was adamant and he forcefully replied, “No, I need sannyasa now.” So Srila Guru Maharaja said, “If you need sannyasa now, then go to Keshava Maharaja, for he is very brave and very desperate.

I myself
am
not
brave
very

brave nor desperate. But you are desperate and Keshava Maharaja is desperate so you should go to Keshava Maharaja. My sannyasa mantra I have given to Keshava Maharaja so you can get my mantra through Keshava Maharaja.”

A Good Right Hook

Keshava Maharaja at that time was in charge of the Mayapur Temple and Estates. He was a fearless man. Keshava Maharaja was even more fearless and desperate than Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada. Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada could never beat someone with his hands but Keshava Maharaja could. Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada liked to shout but Keshava Maharaja liked to beat. Actually Keshava Maharaja liked shouting too - shouting and beating both. During the time of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada, Keshava Maharaja was a brahmachari in saffron cloth. At that time the entire city of Mayapur was against the preaching of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada made Keshava Maharaja his manager. Keshava Maharaja said that if you want me to be your manager than give me white cloth. So Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati gave him the white cloth of an ordinary man. Then Keshava Maharaja became the rent and tax collector and when people didn't pay, he would beat them. Soon everybody became very fearful of Vinode Babu. When he was a brahmachari, his name was Vinode Bihari Brahmacharya but after he took white cloth then he told everyone, “Do not call me Brahmachari, you call me Vinode Babu.” Babu means one who has control over the society. That is why he wanted to be called Vinode Babu. It was from this man that Srila Swami Maharaja

Prabhupada went to take sannyasa. And after he took sannyasa, he stayed around the Radha Damodara temple for some time and then made his way to the West, everyone knows the story.

Global Chanting

After coming to America, he tried for one year to preach Krsna consciousness. He was very determined that he had to preach and that this was his duty. And by Krishna's will the desire of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada was realized through the sacrifices of Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada and now the whole world is chanting the Hare Krsna mahamantra.”

*Srila Swami
Maharaja
Prabhupada
could never
beat someone
with his hands
but Keshava
Maharaja
could.”*

In 1967 he returned to India after his successful preaching attempt in the West, he wrote all his wealthy godbrothers, but none of them would arranged a reception for him. He did not write to Srila Guru Maharaja because he knew Srila Guru Maharaja was poor, even poorer than he was and could not afford such a reception. But after his wealthy godbrothers ignored his letters, then Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada wrote a letter to me. He wrote me, “Please ask Srila Guru Maharaja if I can stay in his math when I return to India. Tell him I will be bringing some new American brahmacaris.” When I told Srila Guru

Maharaja, he was very happy, and Srila Guru Maharaja immediately wrote him, "I shall arrange everything here in our math, you come here." This was the first and only invitation for Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada to come and stay in India after preaching in the West. And so Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada came and stayed for a month and Srila Guru Maharaja said in front of all of us, "After what he has done, if my Guru Maharaja was still present, it is inconceivable how nice a reception he would have arranged. Therefore we must arrange a reception with all the citizens of Mayapur in attendance. So in my name go and invite all the citizens to come and honor Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada."

The Citizen's Reception

Even the most egotistical pundits agreed to come because Srila Guru Maharaja's name carried so much respect. So everyone came to the town hall in Navadwip where I arranged a very big meeting. It was the citizen's reception for Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada. The whole Navadwip Sanskrit college and the big pundits and the goswamis and all the acharyas, all of them, came when they heard the invitation was from Srila Guru Maharaja. I remember Achutyananda Prabhu and Ramanuja Prabhu singing



bhajans and then playing a record they had made in America of Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada chanting. It was a very big and very beautiful reception, it was the first reception for Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada and his new Western disciples. This was Srila Mahaprabhu's will and Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura had also stated that within 50 years the men of the West and the East would come to Mayapur and chant the glories of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu together. And now we are seeing that with our own eyes. And all the devotees of the Western world by the mercy of Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada are proceeding to Mayapur. From Russia, Holland, Hungary, China, Krsna consciousness has been spread everywhere. By the mercy of Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada this has happened. Srila Guru Maharaja said that Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada was a saktayava avatar. Otherwise, he could not do what he has done. Nityananda Prabhu himself, has bestowed the mercy of Mahaprabhu through Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada. That was Srila Guru Maharaja's vision. And I am very fortunate to have had the association of such a grand acharya in our sampradaya from my youngest age.

Siksa Guru

Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada was very broad hearted and his letters show that. In his letters, he would say, "Srila Sridhar Maharaja is my siksa guru." At the time Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada said this, his position in India and abroad was so very high but he declared very happily and broadly that Srila Sridhar Maharaja is my siksa guru. He said, "If you want to learn anything, go to him. And in my absence you should go to him." And through that mercy of Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada we have gotten Sripad Sagar Maharaja, Sripad Giri Maharaja and so many other devotees who know that Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada said, "If

you want to learn anything of the finest subject matter, go to Srila Sridhar Maharaja and you will get that and even I consider him to be my siksa guru." He was very broad hearted. He was a very big guru at that time. He didn't need to say that. He had nothing to gain by saying it. Yet he declared it, that is because he is a Vaishnava.

Vaisnava Religion

Therefore, when somebody asks me why am I praising Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada so much, I tell him that the religion of the Vaishnava is to praise the Vaishnava. I come here to New York but I was born an illiterate boy and only by some good sukriti did I come to Srila Guru Maharaja. And my good fortune was that Srila Guru Maharaja was my teacher. And for many years, I learned from Srila Guru Maharaja, Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada and many of their god-brothers. That is my good fortune. My enthusiasm for preaching I got from Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada. I remember that when Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada was publishing Back to Godhead, after a few years, I began thinking that I should publish one in Bengali which I did publish under the name Sri Gaudiya Darshan. For 17 years I have continued publishing it. The first two copies of that magazine I sent to Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada and after examining them, Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada sent a letter to me. It was a very nice letter. I had forgotten about that letter until I saw it in an ISKCON publication documenting the letters of Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada. It was a very kind letter, a very good certificate for me. In the letter, Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada says that in the future, I will be this and I will be that and he said that he thought that the magazine was not the work of Srila Sridhar Maharaja but rather the work of me. In this way he glorified me. This letter is very good for me as a certificate. The highest certificate.

Thinking about these things of spirit it makes me wonder what can be done with this mundane thing: New York City. Many of the devotees are trying to attract me with this New York City but by the mercy of Sripad Giri Maharaja I have got this opportunity to meet with you all. Otherwise, it was not my desire to come to this “big apple”. I remember when Sripad Sagar Maharaja said that I had to see this “big apple”. I told Sripad Sagar Maharaja that we should see the glory and the majesty of the abode of the Lord. So why are you telling me about some “big apple”?

“I have some property and that is my friendship with all the devotees all over the world.”

But if you see that beauty of Goloka Dhama through the eyes of the devotees, you will see that and you will faint. But what is the position of this mundane world? In the spiritual world, all the ladies, like Laxmidevi are dedicating themselves with their full serving mood to Krsna. All the ladies are very beautiful and very affectionate with Krishna and Krsna is only their enjoyer. And everyone is fully serving Krishna with their full devotional mood and energy. There the trees can produce any fruit you wish of the highest quality and with no seeds. The water is like nectar. For the residents walking is like dancing and their chanting and singing is unbelievably beautiful. And Krsna is playing his flute. And everyone is reacting to the sound in a personal way. They think, “Oh, Krsna

needs something. Krsna needs milk. Krsna need yogurt. Krsna needs my association. Krsna wants to play in the Yamuna. And within their personal relationship they are always serving Him.

A Private Joke

Many times in the past I would make a joke about how I would come to the West. Three times, Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada offered me a plane ticket to come. But at that time, Srila Guru Maharaja was sick and I told Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada that I could not come. Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada’s desire was that I should see with my own eyes his worldwide preaching mission. And then I could report what I saw to Srila Guru Maharaja and this would make Srila Guru Maharaja more happy getting this information from me. This is why he invited me to come. But I told him, “No, Maharaja, it is not possible because I have to take care of Srila Guru Maharaja.” Many times Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada expressed his desire that I come to the West, and through that desire I am now able to come to the West. But my joke was that I would come to the West and the plane would go whoosh! And the plane will fall from the sky. Before coming to the West, I had never used an airplane because I had no money. If ever I traveled I would go by second class train. So I would always joke that I cannot use airplanes because if the plane falls from the sky then I will die. And many accepted what I said as the truth although I was joking.

But after the time of Srila Guru Maharaja, many devotees had the desire that I come to the West - they knew of my relationship with Srila Guru Maharaja and Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada. For 42 years I stayed with Srila Guru Maharaja. Therefore I must have some established position no doubt. Also I like to answer any challenge to Krsna conscious siddhanta, that quality I got from Srila Swami

Maharaja Prabhupada and Srila Guru Maharaja. Also many have told me that if someone has even the smallest brain they can still get something substantial after 40 years of staying with such great personalities. So in this way I cannot say I haven’t got something from them. I have got something no doubt. But they are very big and I could never compete with them. I am just the servant of the servant of the servant of Srila Guru Maharaja and Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada.

Blasting A Tunnel

The mercy of my guardians is very powerful. Just like the will of Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada was very strong. He came to America alone and with no friends and he spent a whole year trying to preach Krsna consciousness. But when I come here, hundreds of friends are here waiting for me and I come here very easily. And whose mercy is that? It is Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada’s. It is Srila Guru Maharaja’s mercy. It is like I said in Australia, Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada blasted a tunnel through the mountainous ego of the Western world, and I am simply walking through that tunnel.

Maybe you have heard the story of how Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada entrusted the Sampradaya



to Srila Sridhar Maharaja. Maybe you heard that story of how Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Prabhupada wanted Srila Sridhar Maharaja to sing the song Sri Rupa Manjari Pada before departing this mortal world. I remember Srila Guru Maharaja telling me that at that time he hesitated because he was not a good singer. But Srila Bhaktisiddhanta insisted that he alone sing. But the secretary of the Math was thinking Srila Sridhar Maharaja cannot sing. So he ordered another man to sing the tune sweetly. But when Srila

Bhaktisiddhanta heard the tune of this other man, he became very angry and ordered him to stop. He said, "Only Srila Sridhar Maharaja can sing this." Then all of the godbrothers of Srila Guru Maharaja saw and respected Srila Guru Maharaja's position as that of Srila Rupa Goswami. That is the highest position in the Sampradaya. And all of the dear godbrothers of Srila Sridhar Maharaja, who Srila Sridhar Maharaja respected as well, like Keshava Maharaja, Tirtha Maharaja, Paramahansa Maharaja, Bhagavat

Maharaja, Madhu Maharaja, Goswami Maharaja, all of these men were senior to Srila Guru Maharaja. Yet they took sannyasa from Srila Guru Maharaja.

The Highest Mantra

The sannyasa mantra is the highest mantra, more than diksha mantra. And that mantra they took from Srila Guru Maharaja. These men knew what was what, they knew that Srila Bhaktisiddhanta had given the charge of the sampradaya to Srila Guru Maharaja. And Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada knew this. And immediately, he invited Srila Guru Maharaja into his house and gave an entire floor to him. And said, "You stay here and preach." At that time, Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada was a businessman but he also knew the business of Krsna consciousness. He could not do mundane business very well, but transcendental business he knew very well. Therefore he took Srila Sridhar Maharaja into his house and also their relationship automatically grew very nicely.

No doubt I have gotten some remnants from them. When they were discussing their topics and something came into my ears and entered into my heart, that was my enrichment. That was my position. And now you are giving respect to me. But I am a fallen soul and an unqualified man. But that respect, it is not mine, it is my guru's respect. My Srila Guru Maharaja, and Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada told me that the master of kama (wealth) is Narayan, the master of women is Krsna and the master of pratistha (fame) is the guru. And anything I may have is not my property, it is my guru's property.

I have some property and that is my friendship with all the devotees all over the world. That is my property. And that property is coming through the mercy of my gurus- Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhar Dev Goswami Maharaja and Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja Prabhupada!



Srila Govinda Maharaja - always situated at the lotus feet of Srila Guru Maharaja

Letter To Mohandas K. Gandhi From Srila Prabhupada

December 7, 1947

Mahatma Gandhijee
Bhangi Colony
New Delhi

Dear Friend Mahatamajee,

Please accept my respectful Namaskar. I am your unknown friend but I had to write to you at times, although you never cared to reply to them. I sent you my papers "*Back to Godhead*" but your secretaries told me that you have very little time to read the letters and much less for reading the magazines. I asked for an interview with you but your busy secretaries never cared to reply to this. Anyway, as I am your very old friend, although unknown to you, I am again writing to you in order to bring you to the rightful position deserved by you. As a sincere friend I must not deviate from my duty towards a friend like your good self.

I tell you as a sincere friend that you must immediately retire from active politics if you do not desire to die an inglorious death. You may have 125 years to live, as you have desired, but if you die an inglorious death it is of no worth. The honor and prestige that you have obtained during the course of your present lifetime, were not possible by anyone else within the living memory. But you must know that all these honors and presiges were false in as much as they were created by the Illusory Energy of Godhead called Maya. By this falsity I do not mean to say that your so many friends were false to you nor you were false to them. By this falsity I mean illusion, or in other words the false friendship and honors were but creations of Maya, and therefore they are always temporary or false as you may call it. But none of you - neither your friends nor yourself know this truth.

Now by the Grace of God that illusion is going to be cleared. Your faithful friends like Acharya Kripalini and others are accusing you for your inability at the present moment to give them any practical programme of work as you happened to give them during your glorious days of non-co-operation movement. So you are also in a plight to find out a proper solution for the present political tangle created by your opponents. You should therefore take a note of warning from your insignificant friend, like me, that unless you retire timely from politics and engage cent per cent in th preaching work of *Bhagawat Geeta*, which is the real function of the Mahatmas, you shall have to meet with such inglorious deaths as Mussolini, Hitler, Tojo, Churchill, or Lloyd George met with.

You can very easily understand as to how some of your political enemies in the garb or friends (both Indian

and English) have deliberately cheated you and have broken your heart by doing the same mischief for which you have struggled so hard and for so many years. You wanted chiefly Hindu-Muslim unity in India and they have tactfully managed to undo your work by the creation of the Pakistan and India Separately. You wanted freedom for India but they have given permanent dependence of India. You wanted to do something for the upliftment of the position of the Bhangis, but they are still rotting as Bhangis even though you are living in the Bangi Colony. They are all therefore illusions and when these things are presented to you as they are, you must consider them as God-sent. God has favoured you by dissipating the illusion you were hovering in, and by the same illusion you were nursing those wrong ideas as truth.

You must know that you are in the relative world which is called by the sages as Dwaita i.e. dual - and nothing is absolute here. Your Ahimsa is always followed by Himsa as the light is always followed by the darkness or the father is always followed by the son. Nothing is absolute truth in this dual world. You did not know this, neither did you ever care to know this from the right sources, and therefore all your attempts to create unity here were followed by disunity and Ahimsa was followed by Himsa.

But it is better late than never. You must know something about the Absolute Truth. The "truth" with which you have been experimenting so long is relative. The relative truths are creations of the 'Daivi Maya' qualified by the three modes of Nature. They are all insurmountable as is explained in the *Bhagawat Geeta* (7/14). The Absolute Truth is The Absolute Godhead.

In the *Katha Upanishad* it is ordered that one must approach the bonafide Guru who is not only well versed in all the scriptures of the world but is also the realised soul in Brahman, the Absolute, in order to learn the science of the Absolute Truth. So also it is instructed in the *Bhagawat Geeta* as follows

*Tad Biddhi Pranipatena Pariprasnena Sebaya
Upadekshyanti Tad Jnanam Jnanina Tatwadarshina (4/34)*

But I know that you never underwent such transcendental training except some severe penances which you invented for your purpose with the relative truths. You might have easily avoided them had you approached the Guru as above mentioned. But your sincere efforts to attain some Godly qualities by austerities etc. surely have raised you to some higher position which you can better utilise for the purpose of the Absolute Truth. If you, however, remain satisfied with such a temporary position only, and do not try to know the Absolute Truth, then surely you are to fall down from the artificially exalted position under the Nature. But if you really want to approach the Absolute Truth and want to do some real good to the people in general all over the world, which shall include your ideas of unity, peace, and non violence, then you must give up the rotten politics immediately and rise up for the preaching work of the philosophy and religion of '*Bhagawat Geeta*' without offering unnecessary and dogmatic interpretations on them. I had occasionally discussed this subject in my paper *Back to Godhead* and a leaf is enclosed herewith for your reference.

I would only request you to retire from politics at least for one month only and let us have discussions on *the Bhagawat Geeta*. I am sure, thereby, that you shall get a new light from the result of the discussion, not only for your benefit, but also for the benefit for the world at large (as I know that you are a sincere, honest, and moral.

Awaiting your early reply with interest.
Yours sincerely,

Abhay Charan De

Enclosed - one leaf from *Back to Godhead*

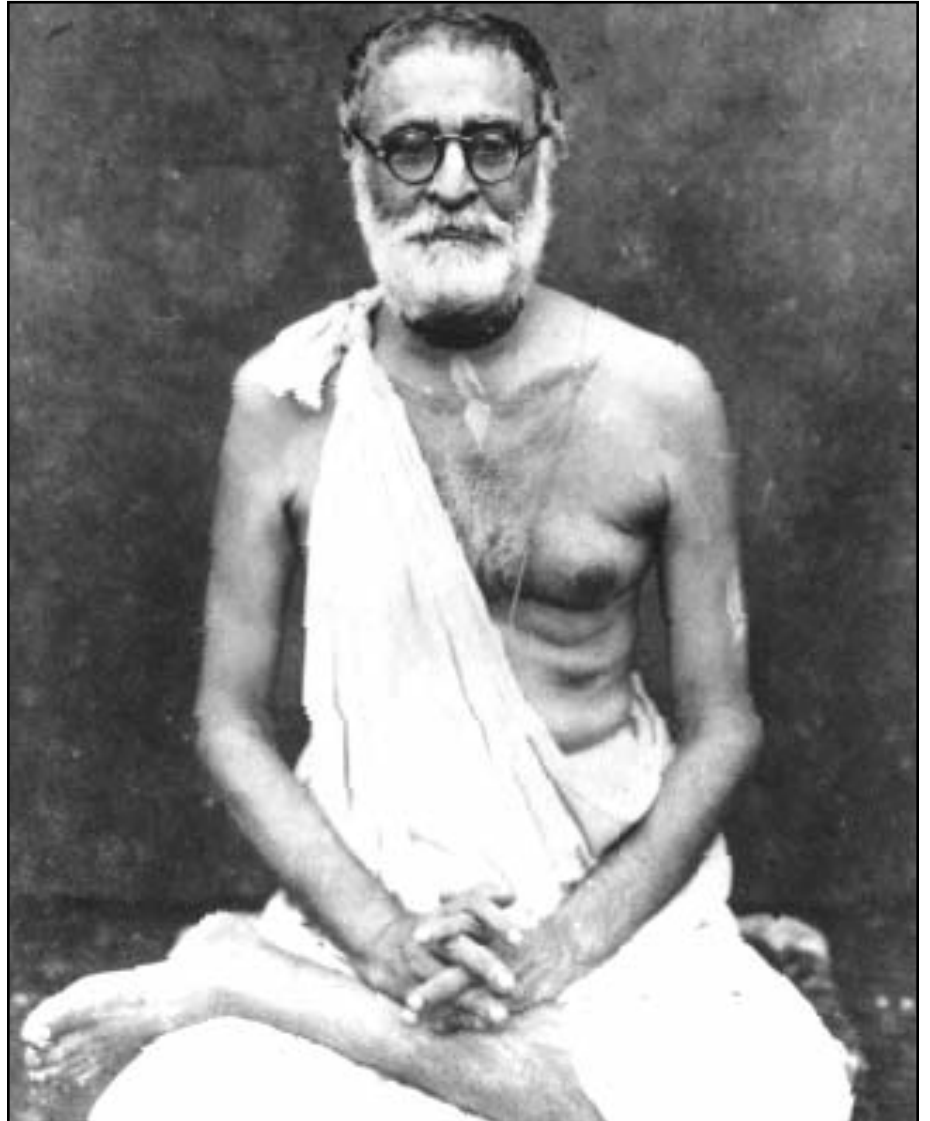
L'Envoi

By
Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupada

During the 1930s, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupada sent the first ambassadors of the Gaudiya Vaisnava Sect to Preach in the Western World. These brave men were sent to England and Germany. Before they departed, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta gave a rousing speech to help these men remember the position of a preacher in this mundane world.

The happy day has come when we are destined to spread the message of our Great Master to distant corners of the earth. The spiritual service to which we are dedicated has now passed the bud-stage and blown fully into a flower whose aroma we have to carry across the seas with that willingness which characterized Shri Hanuman when he leapt over the wide ocean with the message of Shri Rama. This extension of Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's spiritual gift to foreign countries is our humble offering at His Feet.

The back-bone of our Maths, Mahamahopadeshaka Acharyatrika Shrimad Kunjabehari Vidyabhusana, Bhaktisastris and those numerous servitors of the Maths, who are the propagators and helpers of his cementing methods with a single-hearted devotion to the cause, are the body, secondary-limbs, weapons and associates of Shri Gaurasundar, being the bed-rock basis of



the propaganda to all parts of the world.

The Words of instruction of Shri Gaurasundar are verily His beautiful body; the preachers of His Word through the ages are His secondary limbs; the teaching of Shri Gaurasundar is His potent weapon; and the Grace of Shri Hari Himself established in the Word of Shri Chaitanya, is His eternal associate. Therefore, for the purpose of truly presenting Shri Gaurasundar, the Lord of the Gaudiya, to the aliens, I am addressing these few words of mine to the preachers who are about to proceed to countries beyond India.

Those nations to whom you are going for the propagation of the chant of Hari are mounted on the summit of proficiency in all affairs of this world.

We find the following great precepts (Mahavakya) in the body of the Teaching that has been vouchsafed to us by the Supreme Master of all Masters: 'To chant constantly the discourse of Hari by being (1) extremely more humble than the blade of grass, (2) by being as forbearing as the tree, (3) by seeking no honor for oneself and (4) by offering due honor to all entities, is the highest natural function of the unalloyed individual souls (jivas). The lotus-feet of my Shri Guru-deva attracted me to his service by his manifestation as the living embodiment of these four great precepts, My friends will be in a position to attract all souls of the world to the foot-stool or the Real Truth by pur-



**Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda
Dev Goswami Maharaja
Second New York Tour:
August 1994**

Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja has consented to return to the New York/New Jersey Area this August. This time the residents of the Math, and its local friends, plan an even more extensive program for His Divine Grace.

There will be more opportunity for private darshans, hearing His Divine Grace at one of the many public lectures, not to mention ample time set aside for harinama and second initiations for all sincere seekers.

The sky is literally the limit, and we sincerely hope many of our friends will contact our local math to get up-to-date on His Divine Grace's tour schedule, as well as finding out what service is available. There will be many opportunities for the devotees to serve at the divine lotus feet of Srila Govinda Maharaja-all you have to do is ask for service, and it will be available for the taking!

We sincerely hope to hear from you all. Call or write to:

Sripad Bhakti Kanan Giri Maharaja
883 Cooper Landing Road, Suite 207
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
(609) 962-0894

chasing the same unfailing method.

The crest-jewel of the order of the Sanyasis of the triple-staff, Shrila Prabodhananda Saraswati Goswamipad, has taught the same process to those who assume the triple-staff of renunciation, in the following words: "I say this by holding the straw between my teeth, by falling at your feet and uttering hundreds of the humblest entreaties: All ye good souls, by throwing off everything to a distance, practice love to the Feet of Shri Chaitanya Who is so surpassingly Beautiful." Following in the foot-steps of all the former devotees I am making a submission to them to pursue the identical method of propaganda.

Shri Krishna Chaitanya Deva is the Supreme Teacher of all teachers of this world and the ideal possessor of intel-

ligence that is the highest of all. It should be our only duty to constantly chant those words regarding the cleansing of the mirror of the heart of which He speaks in His Eight Precepts (Shikshastakam). We are only the bearers of the Transcendental Word. We shall never in any way hesitated to offer every honor and facility, for which they are eligible, to all persons of this world. We must pray to all for the boon of aptitude for the service of Krishna. We shall come across many persons in this world, possessing an endless variety of characters, disposed or hostile to the service of Krishna. But we should not slacken in our loving service of the Lord of our hearts and should offer due honor to all persons.

We will have opportunities, as we approach different persons in all parts

of the world with the vendor's bag of the discourse of Hari, to see a good many sights, to hear much and to seek to derive much benefit from our experience. May we never forget that all entities of this world are essentially protégés of the Lotus-feet of Shri Guru for helping the expansion of His service. May we always remember that the excellences only if they are prepared to wait with the utmost eagerness on the particle of dust of the lotus-feet of my Shri Guru and that otherwise they are merely the mirage devised by the deluding potency for our ruin. I wish to remind those friends of mine who are proceeding to the west for preaching the words of Shri Chaitanya, the two precept of my Master Shri Rupa:

May we never forget that all entities of this world are essentially protégés of the Lotus-feet of Shri Guru



The search for Sri Krishna: reality the beautiful

(1) 'The constant endeavor for cultivating relationship with Krishna of person who, being free from all mundane affinity, enjoys the entities of this world, having due regard to the propriety of each case, in pursuance of his purpose, is called the proper kind of renunciation.'

(2) 'The abnegation, by persons desirous of liberation, of entities that have an affinity with Hari, in considering their mundane nature, is termed renunciation possessing little real value.'

It is my request to my friends by giving due honor to all persons to follow in their preaching the ideal of Shri Sanatana Goswami Prabhu in his exposition of the aphorism of the Vedanta

viz., ‘Cessation of mundane birth from (the transcendental) sound, cessation of further birth from sound,’ under the section of result to be achieved, to be found in such Shlokas as All glory to the Bliss of the Name of Murari.....’,

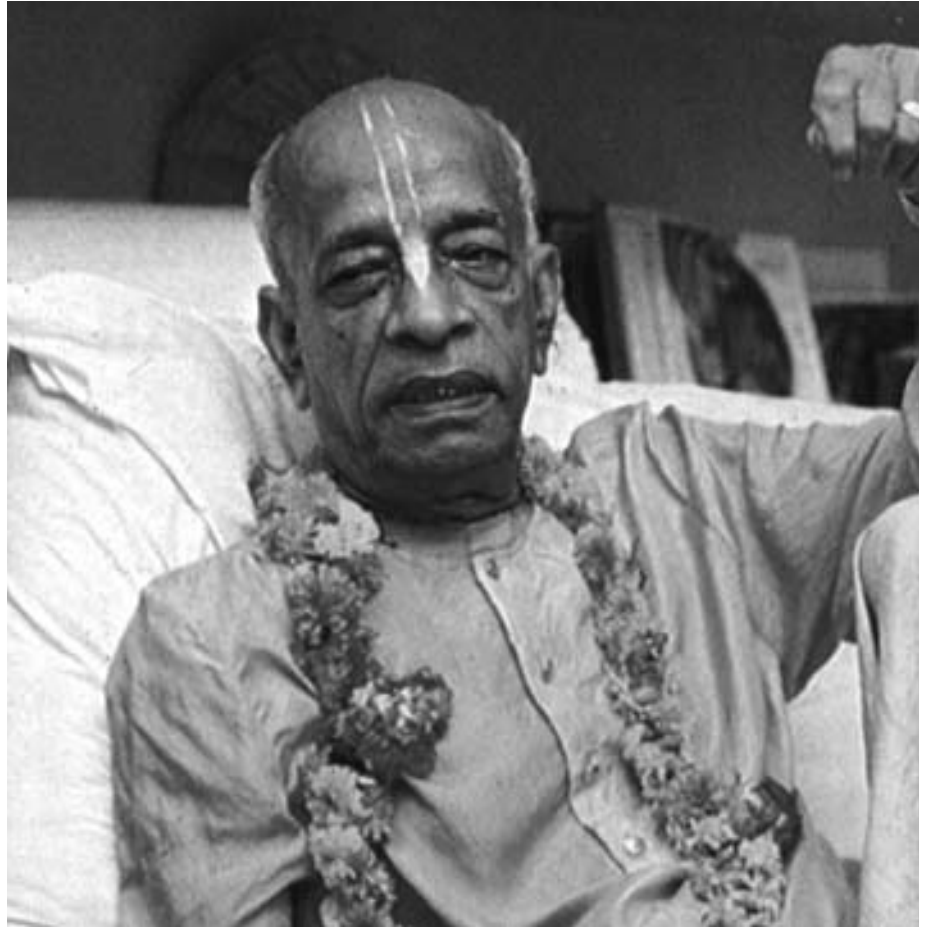
Summit Of Proficiency

Those nations to whom you are going for the propagation of the chant of Hari are mounted on the summit of proficiency in all affairs of this world. They are practiced in the exercise of their rational judgment, are endowed with the quality of good manners and are superior and glorious in many respects. Therefore, we should maintain our hope unshaken that they will prove to be worthiest recipients of the heard transcendental Voice if we unlock to them the gates of the natural exhibition of abiding argument and enduring judgment. If we unpack our baggage of the genuine discourse of Hari by relying on the qualities of forbearance it will certainly receive the garland of welcome from the hearts of nations gifted with keen intelligence.

None Of Our Business

We have not been actuated by any attempt of rivalry or hostility to undertaking this propaganda. This should always be borne in mind. We should call at the door of each and every seeker of the Truth, bearing on our heads the baggage of the Real Truth to be offered to them. It is no business of ours to be elated or discouraged by the praise or neglect of any person. We must be constantly alive to the duty of enhancing the pleasure of our Master by serving Him with perfect sincerity.

We must not look at the world by being weighed down with the mentality that is oppressed with the sense of deficiency or otherwise, by the poverty or otherwise, of the display of worldly erudition, rank, etc. by any particular person. This is the state of forgetfulness of our real selves. All persons of this world are really superior to us in every way as far as this world is con-



Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada-through him the desire of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura was fully realized.

cerned. All those matters are not any commodities that are fit to be coveted by us. We are merely beggars with the triple staff of renunciation devoted to the chanting of the Words of Shri Chaitanya. We have no more nor any higher desirable object than the Pleasure of serving Shri Hari-Guru-Vaishnavas.

Living Mridangas

We are not the operators of the instrument, but only the instruments. We must always bear this in mind. The triple staff Bhikshus are the living mridangas of Shri Chaitanya. We must constantly give forth our music at the lotus-feet of Shri Guru. We should practice the function of the peripatetic preacher (pari-vrajaka), of carrying aloft the victorious banner of the Commands of Divine Shri Gaurasundar by constant submission to Shri Guru and the Vaishnavas, fixing our eye on

the pole-star of the heard transcendental Voice. We must always bear in mind that we have been initiated in the vow of the peripatetic preacher for the sole purpose of promulgating the Heart's Desire of Shri Guru and Gauranga. If we are constantly inspired with the duty of discoursing about the Truth under the guidance of Shri Guru, no hankering after traveling, nor any veiled form of desire other than chanting of Hari-Nama, will ever strike any terror into our hearts.

Who We Are

The vowed service of the Name, the Transcendental Abode and the Desire of Shri Gaurasundar, is our only eternal function. We are Bhikshus of the triple-staff. The in-gathering of the smallest alms, even such as are gathered by the bees, is our only means for serving the manifestation of the Manifestive

Divine Form of Shri Chaitanya Math all over the world. We are neither enjoyers nor abnegators of mundane entities. We recognize as our highest objective the desire for carrying the veneration the shoes of the order of the Paramahansas.

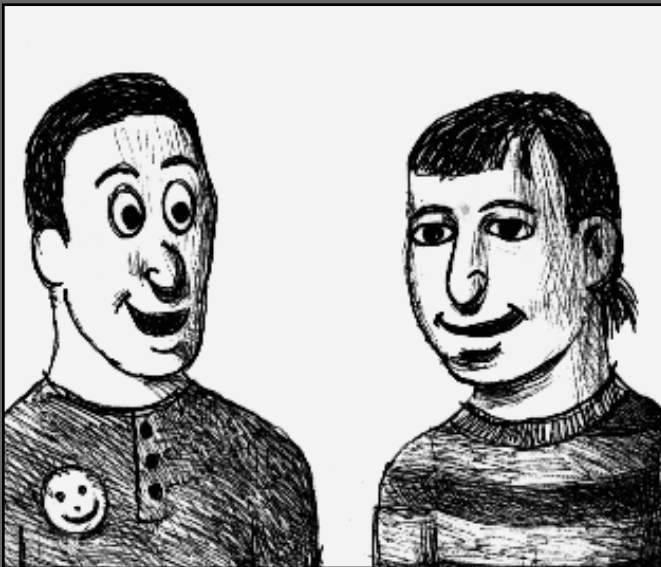
It will be our only duty, to proclaim to all the people that complete reliance

on the Transcendental Absolute Truth is by far the highest form of freedom and one that is infinitely superior to the partial independent mastery over the distorted reflected entity in the shape of this mundane world. By holding the straw between our teeth in supplication we shall carry aloft the banner of that real freedom to all persons. We

should be constantly engaged in chanting the exhilarating Name of Shri Hari by adopting as our fundamental enlightening principle that the highest path is the path of submission, endorsed by Shri Rupa with the further exhortation to cherish the unwavering faith that He will always protect us.

Humorous Interlude

Artwork and Text by Joseph Herman



“My teacher says that we all descended from monkeys, and that lizards evolved into birds.”

“Your teacher sounds like a very erudite gentleman, it would be a distinct honor to meet him.”



“Well isn’t this our lucky day!!? Here he is!

Meet Professor Stu Pitt, PhD.”

“Hmmm...I think he’s made a monkey of us!”

May 29, 1994

MINUTES

of the Organizing Committee for Srila Govinda Maharaja's August 1994 New York Tour

Dearest devotees, community members, and friends:

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glory to His Divine Grace Om Vishnupada Sri Srila Govinda Maharaja, Srila Sridhar Maharaja, Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupada.

I hope everyone is well as we witness a rare transcendental event, the divine appearance in the tri-state area of our dearest Srila Govinda Maharaja. Traveling along with His Divine Grace will be Rasabdhi Prabhu, B.A. Sagar Maharaja, B.P. Janardana Maharaja and Mohanananda Prabhu.

Last Saturday on 21 May we held the first organizational meeting at the home of Jagannatha Vallabha Prabhu. This is a report so all the community members will know the when, what and where regarding everything that is happening.

First, we must express our heartfelt thanks to Jagannatha Vallabha Prabhu for his generous hospitality to all the devotees present headed by Sripad Giri Maharaja, and attended by Gokulananda Prabhu, Jayanta Rama Prabhu, Gaurasundara Prabhu, Preet, Elaina, Vlada and Alexa, as well as myself and my three daughters.

We of course hope the meetings blossom with the whole community present creating a bond of affection for the happiness of our Sri Gurudeva and the mission of Sriman Mahaprabhu.

The first thing we talked about was the itinerary. After the grand arrival and joyful greeting of Srila Govinda Maharaja at Philadelphia airport on Sunday 14 August at 11:45 a.m., The plan is to return to the Math for informal darshan, prasadam and rest. At 4:00 p.m. we must leave for a tentative 7:00 p.m. program at the New Vrindavana temple located in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, where Srila Gurudeva has been asked to give a lecture.

Monday and Tuesday have been selected for informal darshans, private talks, prasadam, and 7:00 p.m. evening programs at the Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math. Also, if anyone wishes to receive Harinama initiation these are also the two days to do it. Now is the time to let Sripad Giri Maharaja know about initiations.

For Wednesday 17 August at 7:00 p.m. we have a program scheduled in the great hall of a beautiful and historic church in Manhattan. The media is being invited to conduct interviews. My sister will do one for her radio show on WBAI and we hope to arrange more for print and television.

The radio interview is confirmed for 15 August we must be at the station at 12:00 p.m. we can have an on-air kirtan if we like too.

Thursday 18 August is another full day at the Math with a 7:00 p.m. evening program. Some kind of activity for the children needs to be arranged, and I have decided to take this upon myself using Sripad Ashram Maharaja's ideas that he executed so wonderfully in Mexico. He had activities, games, and even a clown present to keep the little tykes busy while the adults engaged in Krsna Katha.

For Friday 19 August we planned a program for the Indian Community in New York. We also would like to invite the Indian media, and Pritiraja Cheddie Prabhu, who will be taking initiation this August, is trying to arrange this.

Saturday 20 August is again a full day at the Math, this is the day for the morning fire yajna for second initiations (please contact Sripad Giri Maharaja for information about requesting second initiation), and the final day of Srila Govinda Maharaja's visit. We will gather for departure for Kennedy Airport from the Math around 4:00 p.m. to arrive in time for the 7:00 p.m. check in. The flight to London leaves at 9:00 p.m.

Now, for the organizing committees we have so far categorized them as follows;

1) Transportation: these duties will include arranging the rental van for Srila Govinda Maharaja, Rasabdi Prabhu, the sannyasis and Mohanananda Prabhu. We talked about checking out churches and schools as possible sources for vans, and they might come with drivers. The other duties include things like map making, also we talked about the riders contributing funds for gas, tolls and meters to the drivers of vehicles. The map makers will be responsible for posting maps and having them handy if needed.

2) Advertising: this not only includes straight advertising but also sending out media packets (the details need to be worked on).

3) The all important cooking group needs to plan full menus, arrange all the shopping (save receipts), post menus in kitchen with names of whose preparing what and when, as well as organize the clean up crews.

4) Decorating: this group must purchase flowers and arrange for enough garlands each day. Also the decoration of the temple room must be attended to.

5) Fund raising: we need something like \$6,500 minimum. We currently have about a \$100. The good news is that if only 20 devotees put away \$6.00 every day in our Guru's world tour savings box for the next 56 days we will have collected adequate funds. A full detailed accounting is to be published in one of these reports, as well as the names of who gives how much (which will be also be printed). We want every penny to be accounted for, so all receipts must be collected and saved.

I hope this meets everyone well and we look forward to our next meeting.

Again, my respectful obeisances to you all.

Humbly and affectionately, for the organizing committees,

Divya Sari Devi

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