

Letter 3 to Disciples by Param Gati Swami

Dear disciples,

Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I would humbly like to beg for your forgiveness for my recent inappropriate behavior of which you are all aware. The intense years of extensive travelling and managerial responsibilities generated a circumstance which misled me in such a way that eventually manifested in inappropriate physical exchanges with a young man of around 19 years. This incident took place in January this year.

In order to clear up some misunderstanding regarding the incident mentioned above, I would like to confirm that in fact I embraced a 19 year old man for more than 5 minutes, and this act developed to more intimate gesture, namely a kiss. I became involved in the situation up to point that I realized that I was losing myself and stopped it.

I want to make it clear to all of you that the GBC statement is accurate and reveals the truth as it happened and I was simply too embarrassed to admit at first to my disciples and therefore in personal conversations with some of my disciples I chose not to reveal the details of the incident. I now understand that omitting the facts can put doubts in the minds of some of my disciples in relation to the GBC statement.

The incident made it clear to me and to the GBC Body that a change of service for me would be the best for my own spiritual welfare as well as the Society. Consequently, I decided to step down from my GBC duties and stop giving initiations in order to invest more time and energy towards my spiritual studies and increase my worship of Lord Krishna.

Sri Krsna showed me that we should all be very careful in our personal rapports

and at this current moment of time I am taking the opportunity to go through a period of deep introspection. I am intensely praying to Srila Prabhupada and Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai that I can quickly recover from this state of utter exhaustion. I will also be taking a spiritual break in several Holy Places in India and I will take the personal association of some of my senior Godbrothers.

My ultimate duty to you all remains the same, to help you in your loving service to Srila Prabhupada and his mission. I now have the opportunity to dedicate more time towards my spiritual life and I see this as the mercy of Lord Krishna and His representatives. Many of you have been urging me for years to take time for my own spiritual practices, and I feel that Lord Krishna has now shown me that this is what I should do.

I thank you all for the service you have rendered to Srila Prabhupada's mission. I am sorry if I have disappointed you and I pray that you continue to find inspiration from the many siksha gurus that ISKCON provides. That will help me to get the time to recover spiritually.

As for my aspiring disciples and disciples they are free to seek and take guidance from another spiritual master.

With all my sincerity,

Param Gati Swami