

**Some
Concerns
About
ISKCON**

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Part-3

Further Discussion on Concerns About ISKCON

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INTRODUCTION

WHY THIS SESSION IS TAKEN?

A few days ago I gave a lecture about some points of concern about ISKCON which was potentially controversial although no controversy has erupted around it so far. I received a few questions about that which I will answer now. “How should I advise my disciples on how should they respond to the actions or questions posed to them by disciples of other gurus on the lecture, especially when they live in a multi guru scenario?” Multi guru means in many temples ... not just temple but many communities of devotees, there are gurus of different disciples where as in India, in particular and in some other areas we find that most of the devotees are disciples of one guru.

With the comment, “We should not bring this debate from the board room to the grass rooms.” You know what does that means? That there is some matter which should be settled at a higher level and not just that junior devotees they argue among themselves and I agree with that... I mean as I said when I gave that lecture, I am not on a campaign. I feel that it's just my duty to inform my disciples or anyone else who wants to hear that there are certain problems which you should be aware of because after all this is supposed to be a spiritual science.

DEVOTEES SHOULD THINK PHILOSOPHICALLY

Srila Prabhupada often spoke that it's spiritual science, bhagavat tattva vijnana. ... that the science of knowledge of the Supreme Personality of Godhead ... so we should understand scientifically, it's not just all sentiment. And according to the science of Krishna Consciousness there are certain signs which we should be able to recognize that something is not right. We do tend to be ... it's another observation about our society ... that we do tend to despise Srila Prabhupada so much stressing that this is spiritual science. We do tend to be not very scientific and we tend to be like a religion. The atheists they criticize ... one of their many criticisms of religion, many of them which are ... atleast some are valid. One of the criticisms is that it's a crutch, you have all heard this, it's a psychological crutch that you just, you are feeling distress in this world and therefore you just take to religion and you hope that there is something better going on somewhere else or that you can imagine that there is a God or something like this. But that's one reason why Srila Prabhupada distinguished Krishna Consciousness from mundane religion, which it is different. It's supposed to be a spiritual science in which one doesn't just take a religion like a sleeping pill ... like the class is like a sleeping pill right? That you just join a religion and you think, “Well now I am safe, do whatever” and then you just don't think about anything. But rather one is supposed to ... ideally one is supposed to take to it with his intelligence. Ofcourse we can't expect everyone to be like that. But Srila Prabhupada, he specifically set up ... one of his specific aims in ISKCON was to train a new class of Brahmanas, thinking people. Brahmanas mean not just one who learns but the best class of Brahmanas is one who can think philosophically. But we do tend to get ... many people who join, who are just content to join and then have their thinking done for them. This is one of the complaints of the atheists because they get their

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thinking done for them by Dorkinson's (?) company but they protest that we have seen you just blindly follow. So this is widespread in our society even amongst people who otherwise might seem to be intelligent is that we see things which are not according to the spiritual science and we just go along with it. The worse thing is we don't think about it all and we just presume that it must be right.

ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE PROBLEMS USING SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

See I got into lot of trouble few years ago, when I gave a lecture saying that what we shouldn't think that what some one says is right because he is a guru but he is a guru because what he says is right. So around the other way. So that wasn't a very popular analysis but actually it's a fact. So if there are problems we should see.

Eg One need not be an astrologer to see problems in the world

I means it's a ... it's like you don't have to be an astrologer to say or _____ or a _____ to see that the world is heading for lot of problems. There is always told 2012 many people in the world think this the world is going to end or there is going to be cataclysmic changes in 2012. Well definitely there will be lot of problems in 2012, guess what? There are lot of problems already in 2011 and there will be lot of problems in 2013 also because the karmic deficit, you could say that about budget deficits, the karmic deficit is beginning to take in. Human race is getting reactions for its grossly exploitive and sinful activities. I mean the actions are always there but they are becoming more pronounced now.

One need not be an astrologer to see someone deviating from Krishna Consciousness

So similarly you don't have to be astrologer to see that if someone even if they are renowned to be very advanced devotee or very pure or very charismatic and very successful in preaching but if they whatever, however much they may be presumed to be on an advanced level which they ... then if they start to do things which are not Krishna Conscious then they are not going to remain in Krishna Consciousness right long. They already are not properly situated. So you don't have to be an astrologer to see that.

WHY NOT LEAVE THIS ISSUE FOR THE BOARD ROOM LEVEL?

1. Deviations of leaders are not dealt at the boardroom level until the end

Then our society generally ... you may say well ya leave it, this should be dealt with at the board room level. But generally it's not dealt with because I know ... for some reason or the other. When leading devotees start to ... or if leading devotee start to deviate then it's usually left until there is some really gross manifestation before like at the last minute before anything is said from the top level

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2. Leading devotees usually do not listen to anyone

or may be that behind the scenes they are trying to do something. But usually what happens when someone is a big shot in the movement then they won't listen to anyone and they are convinced that they are doing it right and all their followers are adulating them and they are able to somehow or other justify what they are doing by some perversion of the philosophy of Krishna Consciousness.

3. Good results by such leaders create illusions

And it may look that what they are doing is right because it seems to be that they are getting very good results but anyway ... we have seen it so many times and we should know it by now, we have seen it so many times and therefore I feel it's my duty atleast to say something about this.

HOW TO ADDRESS CONCERN OF DISCIPLES OF OTHER GURUS?

How do you react about this if you are asked by disciples of other gurus? Well if you want to take the time and the trouble and have the patience to do so you could explain to them in the way that I just explained, say that you know Krishna Consciousness society ... you have to take sometime and be somewhat expert otherwise you can brush it off. You may see well ... one thing is it's very unlikely that they are going to listen to you anyway because if they haven't been trained in the spiritual science from the beginning then to suddenly try to educate them it might be quite difficult. It's not impossible. If they have read Srila Prabhupada's books they should have some idea about that.

Like I said I am not going to campaign, may be I should be but doesn't seem to work. It's just like you know you have to let fate take its course. And you never know things might get better or whatever. Matters may not come to the horrible conclusion.

MEANING OF MAINTAINING UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Maintaining unity with in our society is also important. It's not easy especially in kaliyuga, in the age of quarrel to maintain unity. Srila Prabhupada famously wrote about maintaining unity in diversity that people have different outlooks and approaches. This is much quoted. Ofcourse Srila Prabhupada explained that in another letter where he said that there may be different devotees working different way but they should all unite following the instructions of the spiritual master. It's unity in diversity not unity in perversity which means that you just do whatever you like and say Jai Prabhupada! Now and then and as long as you remain a bonafide member of ISKCON you can do and say any damn thing you like. But first it should be ascertained what are the orders and desires of Srila Prabhupada. Generally we see that people just start some program and without even consulting with others. **Just like I was telling about Mid day meals. Did anyone get any GBC permission to do that? They just started doing that.** That's just one, there are many examples. Atma yoga all this kind of thing. And without first consulting with the GBC they just starts some program and then it just comes to be accepted as part of the Krishna Consciousness movement. Whether it's actually fulfilling Srila Prabhupada's desire that should be first discussed with others but ...

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HOW SHOULD ALL OF YOU RESPOND?

So what should you do? How should they respond to reactions or questions? I guess keeping the peace, what can I say, it's like living a lie you could say to some extent. What can you do? I mean if I can't do anything then what can you do?

1. LET TIME TAKE IT'S COURSE

So we just have to wait for time to take it's course that's all. Time is also representation of Krishna.

Sometimes time works against Krishna Consciousness

So sometimes time seems to work against Krishna Consciousness.

Ex persecution of brahmanas

I mean there was a time when ... it happened several times in the history of the universe that the Brahmanas have been killed or persecuted or not allowed to perform sacrifice and you may say, "Well why does Krishna allows that?" People want to do yajnas to worship Visnu. So why does Krishna allows them to be persecuted by demons? Just Krishna waits for the demon's offences to become pakka just like a boil to become ripe so that it's ready to pop and then He comes as Narasinghadeva, as Krishna Himself. So we may say why is the Krishna Consciousness is going through all these things? Well it may be for sometime and then ...

2. WE SHOULD JUST FOLLOW SRILA PRABHUPADA AND NOT INVENT ANYTHING NEW

We can pray that at some point of time we will just come to the point of remembering the very simple thing which Srila Prabhupada always taught us which is we just have to follow him. We don't have to invent anything new. Just follow him with firm faith that he is the empowered representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. We don't have to add anything or subtract anything. Just follow that's all. When different people have done their circus acts of you know someone is a rock star and someone is a welfare worker, ISKCON ancestors saint ... what's her name? You know mother Teresa. You know someone is the son king. With ____ so many different climax. Eventually we might just understand that being a guru in ISKCON means simply to follow Srila Prabhupada that's all. Just do ... follow what he has told us to do and instruct others to do that also. So it's difficult to understand all of this. But we shouldn't be discouraged. Whatever anyone else may do, we can follow Srila Prabhupada's simple instructions. They are not difficult to follow.

3. UNDERSTAND THAT MAYA WILL ATTACK ISKCON

We should think or understand that it should be expected that maya will attack ISKCON because ISKCON is the movement that is meant for defeating maya and establishing Krishna Consciousness in the world.

Further concerns

Ex Play by Girish Ghosh

There is that one play by one Girish Ghosh which Prabhupada had translated into English from Bengali and the devotees used to perform that. Still in Mayapur the Bengali devotees they sometimes, they perform that. And it shows Kali, the personality of Kali how he received when Caitanya Mahaprabhu came and how the personality of Kali was so much disturbed. It's a good play. We should get that in Hindi and other languages also. Prabhupada approved it. Even some ... one devotee asked Srila Prabhupada, "Well how can we perform this play? It's just written by some Girish Ghosh, he is not a pure devotee." Prabhupada said, "Well it's a good play. Why not?" So it was very effective and they used to perform that in New York and people come and pay to see it and they would appreciate it very much.

Maya will attack ISKCON leaders especially

So we can expect that maya and her agents such as the personality of Kali will attack this movement and especially we can expect that she will attack the leaders because if you get one leader then you get so many followers all at once.

4. DO NOT THINK BADLY ABOUT THE LEADERS BUT UNDERSTAND IF THERE IS ANYTHING WRONG

But anyway anyone who has come to a position of leadership in Krishna Consciousness we can understand that they are great personalities. We shouldn't think badly of them but at the same time we should understand that if they are doing something which is not in the line of Krishna Consciousness then something is wrong, something is seriously wrong.

5. EITHER EXPLAIN IT TO OTHERS OR PACIFY THEM

So we could attend to explain this to others or otherwise we could just pacify them and say that "Well there is an issue. Ya but let's see what happens." You could say something like that. But it seems that no one wants to make it an issue. Radhanath discuss all these things so ... alright let it remain like that. I guess I have done my duty.

ISSUE OF RADHANATH MAHARAJA PLAYING BLUES

Someone sent me an email in which "So and so swami is playing a blues composition with a western band. I find this depressing and discouraging for those who want to follow Prabhupada and our acaryas." Ya naturally it can be discouraging. You look up to people and then they do things that disappoints. Just like children like to look up to their parents then if they see their parents acting in a bad way they become disappointed. "How can this be accepted?" Well you don't have to accept it. "And how did those who want to please Prabhupada and his sincere followers take this?" Well just understand according to this what I am telling you.

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JOURNEY HOME ISSUES

And another question about this “I come across newer devotees who are more attracted to reading such and such a book, autobiography instead of Prabhupada’s books. This happened to me and I ended up discrediting that book and telling devotee to avoid such books and instead read Prabhupada’s book. First, I have not read it, nor do I intend to, nor do I have the time but I have seen some excerpts in which so and so swami claims to receive the Hare Krishna mantra from the river Ganges before he met Srila Prabhupada. This looks very strange and sounds like self aggrandizement. Do you think it is wrong to openly discredit such a works in your devotees?”

JOURNEY HOME WILL NOT GIVE PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

Actually it’s not an issue but what happens is people come newly and they are given this book, which I say is an act of violence, to give people this book. They should give people Prabhupada’s books. If they get this book first they are going to be ... it’s going to be very difficult for them to have a proper understanding of Krishna Consciousness either. He gets started in the wrong way but on the other hand what can we do.

HOW TO STOP IT?

1. Inform local temples to promote Prabhupada’s books

I would take it up with the local ISKCON authorities and tell them that look we should promote Srila Prabhupada’s books.

2. Tell them to read Prabhupada’s biography

Or you could tell them if you like to read biographies read Prabhupada’s biography. It’s a lot more Krishna Conscious. But you know what happens people come new and then there is this whole hype going on and they get carried away and new people how much they can understand philosophy.

3. Show people difference in quality between JH and SP’s books

You can may be tell them, “Ok that’s very good. But if you actually want to understand what is Krishna Consciousness and get instructions and then read Prabhupada’s books.” And you could may be read a little bit with them and just show them what is the difference in quality.

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My experience of reading Srila Prabhupada's books

I mean I remember when I first started reading Prabhupada's books... then and now also even after so many years I was just astounded by the quality of Prabhupada's books. This is something ... I read so many books by so many intelligent people, so many insights and religious books and scriptures, translation of scriptures but reading Prabhupada's books was just really a revelation. Very clear that Srila Prabhupada is a person in touch with reality, actual reality. He is not speaking from this plane at all. He is completely different from anything else. Every word is just full of spiritual meaning. It doesn't appeal to the mind, to the senses, the ego, or even the mundane intelligence, completely from the spiritual platform. So you could just sit down and read ... especially I often mention that first verse of Srimad Bhagavatam that just that one verse ... ofcourse it's a long verse but there is so much in there. That one verse of Srimad Bhagavatam has got more actual spiritual substance than all the Bible, Koran and Buddhist books and even all the Upanisads, and everything put together and then you read verse 2 and ... the first three verses of the Bhagavatam are just ... actually the first two verses especially ... The third verse can be especially appreciated by very advanced devotees but the first two verses, they are just revelatory. So you could try doing that but don't expect to have too much luck.

4. Make proper policy to distribute Srila Prabhupada's books

You could say to the local ISKCON authorities that they should ... just you could appraise them of your concerns about this and then some policy could be made that we distribute Prabhupada's books. Actually as I said before Prabhupada himself didn't say that we should only distribute his books but some temples like to do that because it makes it easy because then you don't have to sort out all the good books from the not so good books written by others apart from Prabhupada. The problem with that is that some of them are very good and should be distributed while some of them are not at all good and shouldn't be distributed. But if you make such a distinction then out of sentiment some people get upset. And then you get some temples where you can't even find Prabhupada's books for sale. There are all kind of other books for sale, even books by non-devotees, there are karmi translations of sastra, all kind of strange books. And time to ... or may be its not time, may be you have to wait for the time to offer ISKCON back to Prabhupada.

WHAT ABOUT AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SRILA BHAKTIVINOD THAKURA?

I. IT WAS NOT MEANT FOR MASS DISTRIBUTION

Just to finish this "I have heard that Bhaktivinod Thakura wrote an autobiography of his early years. I have read it online." Well that was never meant for mass distribution. He himself wrote that it's just my ... It's like the Vedas, they were never meant for writing down and being printed. Sruti the original Vedas are only meant for oral transmission. So something they are not meant for wide distribution ... So that autobiography of Bhaktivinod Thakur was specifically meant for his one son who requested it, Lalita Prasad.

Further concerns

2. AUTOBIOGRAPHIES SHOULD BE THERE IF IT SERVE CAUSE OF KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

About autobiographies and biographies of devotees, should they be, should they not be? They may be if it serves the cause of Krishna Consciousness. That's all, if people are benefitted by that.

3. JOURNEY HOME IS NOT SERVING CAUSE OF KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

In particular one under discussion. I don't think that people are at all benefitted by it. They might be carried away on the waves of mundane sentiments but as far as Krishna Consciousness is concerned which begins with distinguishing spirit from matter, there is nothing in there whatsoever to help.

CAN AN ACARYA FALL DOWN?

So a related question – “Can an acarya fall down?” Well one point to understand and this is not ... I am not just trying to _____ the issue here.

USAGE OF TERM ACARYA IN DIFFERENT WAYS

This is not equivocating is that the term acarya is used in different ways.

1. Acarya could mean on the level of Prabhupada

In the very beginning of his _____ on Caitanya Caritamrita, Srila Prabhupada refers to an acarya in the true sense of the term. So acarya can mean on the level of Prabhupada, Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, Ramanujacarya, can also mean someone who has two or three students who he teaches. It can't mean he is teaching them dancing or something which is not directly Krishna Conscious.

An acarya on the level of Prabhupada do not fall down

So obviously devotees on the level of Prabhupada, Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati they don't fall down.

Reference for a guru falling down

We do have quote in Mahabharata, quoted in Srila Prabhupada's books,

*guror apy avaliptasya
kāryākāryam ajānataḥ
utpatha-pratipannasya
parityāgo vidhīyate*

Further concerns

Even if one is a guru, the most respectable position but if he is not properly situated, if he is hopelessly addicted to sense gratification. He was properly situated but now isn't properly situated, doesn't know how to instruct properly, he should be fully given up. Now this was spoken by Bhishma to Parasurama, his guru, when Parasurama said, "Hey you come, fight with me" and Bhishma said, "Damn it I am going to fight with you." So you may say, "Well Parasurama he wasn't the spiritual guru, he taught the science of weapons. But that same verse is quoted by Jiva Goswami in his sandarbhas in relation to spiritual guru and Prabhupada quotes it in that context also. So yes it is possible but then again we should see sastras. What is that?"

Quote on even if devotee falls, he does not become a karmi

*na vai jano jātu kathañcanāvrajen
mukunda-sevy anyavad aṅga saṁsṛtim
smaran mukundāṅghry-upagūhanam punar
vihātum icchen na rasa-graho janah*

That Narada says to Vysasa that a devotee doesn't fall down, he doesn't become like a karmi. Even if he falls, he is still a devotee.

2. One can act as an acarya by following instructions of previous acaryas

And Srila Prabhupada said that one can act as an acarya by following the instructions of previous acaryas.

Eg. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu instructing others to be guru

Just like Caitanya Mahaprabhu Himself said,

*yāre dekha, tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa
āmāra ājñāya guru hañā tāra' ei deśa*

Who did he say this to? He would say this, "Whoever you meet, instruct them in the science of Krishna Consciousness, in this way become a guru and deliver the land." He said this to whoever He met. So He just meet people, infuse them in Krishna Consciousness and go on and tell them, "Now you be a guru on My order."

Even if someone not mahabhagavata can become guru by following mahabhagavatas

And Prabhupada often quoted this. So they may not be fully qualified or trained but there is such a need for gurus or people to instruct in the science of Krishna that even if someone who is not qualified on the level of mahabhagavata, he may instruct others by following the instructions of the mahabhagavata.

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Eg Even if the leader is killed, fight goes on

So it's a fight, in fight some people will be killed. Prabhupada gave that example ... actually from Bhakti Siddhanta Sarasvati, he said, some people will be killed but still the fight has to go on. Even some of the leaders of the troops but still the fight has to go on. So we should all understand that just like you might be fighting and the leader of your platoon, he gets killed but still there is the general, you have to follow him so the leader of the platoon, he has to take orders from the general. So like that.

To the degree one follows Prabhupada to that extent one is guru

The gurus in ISKCON should be understood as they are followers of Prabhupada and as much as they follow Prabhupada they are qualified to be guru and if we don't follow Prabhupada then we are not qualified to be guru that's all. If they fall away it's because Krishna didn't think them fit to represent Prabhupada any more. So if we think that we are independently powerful then that's maya. Prabhupada himself said, "I am just doing what my guru told me. That's all" It's simple matter. You just have to follow.

So don't be discouraged. You can go on. Others may fall away but you can go on. Others will fall away, you can expect that.

HOW TO DEAL WITH HRTVIKVDIS LIKE TIM LEE?

UNDERSTANDING OF HRTVIKS

Now just one other point, the one who asked this question said that he got a mail from Tim Lee, Tim Lee that's his name. He was initiated by Prabhupada as Puranjana Dasa. So he is very dedicated promoter of the hrtvikvada which is the idea that only Prabhupada could initiate, Prabhupada could never have meant that anyone else should initiate after him because how could anyone fall down. That's his idea. So now we may think that well let me try and work everything out here what's going on. But again there is a spiritual science. It's not just by one's intelligence one can understand Krishna. One of Caitanya Mahaprabhu's most important instructions is *asat sanga ei vaisnava acara*, to give up bad association.

PERCEPTION OF TIM LEE ABOUT ISKCON

So Tim Lee no doubt is from his own perspective very sincere about what he is doing. He is very dedicated to what he is doing. No doubt, sincere it's like you know sincere thief... Prabhupada... sincere atheist, honest thief. So he can't see any good in anything in ISKCON. He thinks from his perspective, everything in ISKCON is bad and his duty is to warn everyone that ISKCON is a dangerous cult which promotes pedophilia (?) and black marketing and so many other things. It's a sex cult according to him ... which is not true, which is fanatical.

Further concerns

ADVISE ON DEALING WITH SUCH PEOPLE

So my advise, if you want to take it, is don't associate with him, don't read his stuff. You can't get Krishna Consciousness by floating around on the internet and just looking up everything that's there. Find saintly association, it is available in ISKCON and stick with it. And don't try to understand everything by your own mind also. Intelligence has to be exercised but one of the means to exercise the intelligence is to know that we can't understand everything with our intelligence. We can't examine everything in the world and then come to a conclusion. That's not possible because even if you examine everything in the world, by the time you finish doing that there will be some other thing. So you will never come to an end. At some point one has to make a leap of faith. And if one is sincere, Krishna will help him. Ok that's all I want to say for now unless any of you have any questions about this.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

HOW TO ANSWER SOMEONE COMPLAINING ABOUT ISKCON?

Q1. If any person comes and say this is also in Krishna Consciousness...

Ans. Even common people may say that's true.

Accept and explain them the nature of big organization

When you are distributing books some people may say, "Well this is going in ISKCON that is going on in ISKCON" and you can say, "Ya" You can tell them, "Ya there are some bad things. It's in a big organization you can expect that there will be some bad things. Not everyone who joins will be completely sincere but that doesn't mean that the whole organization is bad.

Eg Indian going to America and committing crime

It's just like someone from India may go to America and may commit a crime. So would you judge from that that everyone in India is a criminal or every Indian who goes to America is a criminal? Is that a reasonable conclusion to draw? You have to see the overall activities.

High level of corruption has entered ISKCON

Ya there is a lot of what should not be with in ISKCON. But that doesn't mean that the whole purpose of the organization is wrong, the whole society is corrupted. Actually in some ways I would say that a high level of corruption has entered our movement. This is a kind of thing that Tim Lee and company like to quote out of context. But more at the philosophical level then the ... there is also at the behavioral level. But again we can't say it's all bad.

Further concerns

Lot of good things happening in ISKCON

Lot of people are chanting Hare Krishna, there is lot of ratha yatra's going around, lot of Prabhupada's books are being distributed, these are all good things.

Eg. Preaching in Gujarat

You can see here. Just going around with me in the last few days and we are going around Gujarat, right different places and so many people are taking up Krishna Consciousness in a good spirit, feeling spiritual enlivenment by doing that. We can't say that's all false. We are not cheating them. We are not traveling around place to place to cheat people. We are only speaking the message of Bhagavad Gita which is given to us by Prabhupada, right? We are distributing Prabhupada's books, right? Giving them prasadam... these are not bad things right? At least you can judge for yourself what you are part of this little group here in a small town in Gujarat. It's all selflessly for the sake of serving Prabhupada and Krishna, is it not? You are getting training in spiritual practices, spiritual philosophy according to guru, sadhu and sastra. So you can tell people, "Ya", you can say, "Ya there are some bad things." But that's not the whole purpose of the movement or that everyone is bad.

Tell them about me

Sometime they talk about big leaders they are just exploiting you and making a comfortable life. Well you can tell them that you know a big leader and I am not taking your money, I am not living ... Well I guess it's comfortable compared to the people living in jhopad patti, just over there, slightly comfortable you could say but certainly not luxurious living.

All ISKCON leaders are working very hard to spread Krishna Consciousness

So at least one thing I will say that they are all working very hard. I don't see any of the leaders in ISKCON simply exploiting people, I don't see that at all. They are all working hard to spread Krishna Consciousness. And if they are corrupt then Krishna will look after them, maya will ... But I see all the leaders they are working hard.

Eg HH Jayapataka Maharaja

Jayapataka Maharaja, for years people were telling him you got to rest more, sleep more, he wouldn't and eventually he got this severe stroke and he is paralyzed and still he is going on traveling all over the world and preaching. I mean what more? Anyone would say that alright now if he retires it's alright, let him just sit but he won't, he is addicted to preaching. So I don't see that's a ... They don't have any blame.

No benefit in associating with hrtvikvadis

Just to see all bad that is not a beneficial attitude, it doesn't help anyone. That's why Tim Lee and hrtvikvadis and company ... what they say it's not all untrue, they may be exaggerated but it's not all untrue but it may not help us to hear it from persons who by associating with them, I don't see anyone ever benefited by associating with them, may be they are trying to

Further concerns

save people from associating with people like me, terrible gurus of our movement. Anyway you have to choose.

WHY NOT SIT TOGETHER AND WORK IT ALL OUT?

Q2. Maharaja do you think it is a better idea if this particular leader in question and yourself and some senior sannyasis they sit together and ...

Ans. Why don't we all sit down together and work it all out? Well there was an article in Back to Godhead many years ago by Drutakarma prabhu. This must have been in the 1980s.

One should limit one's speculation about the future

Situation in 1980s

During the 1980s, pretty much everyone in the western world was sure that it's just a matter of time between the befall Nato powers ... you know Nato is? Means America, Britain, France, the western powers. They go to war with the Soviet blocks specifically the USSR. It's going to be big Nuclear war and there will be mass destruction. Some of our devotees in England, they were running a successful business selling, making nuclear shelters and all this ... Even one of our gurus who is no longer with us made spent (?) lots of money making nuclear shelters with canned food and all pretty much everyone was sure (?) and those people ... some people were saying that no I don't ... they would go and see some people, "You can buy these things to help you survive after the nuclear blast." They said, "Forget it. When the bomb drops, I just want to be right underneath it." And there were films made. I saw both, one was made in America, it's called, "The Day After." All our devotees saw it. I went to see it with Prabhuvishnu Swami actually before I took sannyasa. It's called "The Day After" and it showed like what would happen if the Nuclear bombs drop in, what would it be like afterward and then in Britain they made one also because they thought that "The Day After" was too optimistic and they showed more like what it really be like and it would be really miserable. Anyway I am getting on digression. Just goes to show that what you think will happen ...

Illusion regarding the influence news will put on people in the future

I was just reading one of the earliest BTGs, it was 1967 or 1968 and in the editorial he was talking about now in the modern age we have news from all over the world and that's going to force people to be honest and he was convinced that the world is going to change because the news we can't hide and people can't be corrupt. But what happened was that certain people took over the control of all the news channel and everything so the news became just another means of propaganda. So it's interesting that people think that it's going to happen but it doesn't happen like what they think. So that's why it's better to limit our speculation about the future to saying that definitely birth, death, old age and disease is going to be ... anyway coming back to the point

Article of Drutakarma prabhu

Further concerns

Why not American President & Head of communist party come together and settle things?

Drutakarma wrote an article for Back To Godhead saying that why don't Roney and Leowit ... that means Ronald Reagan, the President of America and Leowot Brussner (?) the head of the communist party in Russia ... why don't they just don't get together and sit down and talk together and sort everything out and everything will be ok? That did happen actually after _____ and then there came _____ and _____ and then there came the famous ... what's that guy with a black dot on his head? Oh! Come on... it's famous name. He had the one who had cut up the USSR. Come on... you must know the famous leader of USSR who chopped it all up into pieces. Anyway somehow or other I forgot his name. I remember all the less significant ones, Russian guy. They gave him a noble prize. Noble prize is also just a bunch of propaganda. So anyway they did get together and Reagan famously called the USSR 'The Evil Empire' Anyway the USSR all broke up.

Things are not so easy to settle by coming together and talking

So anyway Drutakarma, he gave the conclusion that well it's not so easy that you can just talk it out because there are deeper forces of work and they are not just political forces. There is the force of time, there is the force of karma. The big leaders they think they are in control but they are not in control. They are all controlled, there are bigger forces than ourselves.

Big leaders are convinced that what they are doing is alright

So why don't we all get together and sort it out? Well like I said that often when someone becomes a big lead as ... you know they can't hear anyone what they have to say. They are convinced that what they are doing is right and I also mentioned in my previous lecture about this that I tried speaking, maybe I am not the most diplomatic person, I tried speaking to previous leader about some of his strange things but it didn't change his mind at all and though he agreed under pressure to do certain things directed by the situation, he didn't and then he left this world.

GBC is thinking about doing something

Why don't we get together? Ya Well ya it will be good, let's see if something can be done but it's ... I am in touch with one GBC member about this who says he is going to ... at least he is thinking about doing something. So they are considering what to do. So let's see if anything happens. It's very difficult to deal with all these things because people you know they have their own power base and this and that. So it should be the easy solution but it's not so easy.

People come up with their own reasoning

Just like you see, I don't get involved in all these email discussions about different issues. Just like Vasu Ghosh he gets into these email discussions and he quotes Prabhupada line by line and on different issues he says, "So how can you go against this thing?" But people do. They come up with their own reasoning. Well if Prabhupada was here, now he would have done this, he would have done that, this, that, the other and quote some obscure sastras which no

Further concerns

one even heard of, no acarya in recent times has ever implemented. So what can we do? So you go on distributing Prabhupada's books and read Prabhupada's books and preach there and people will be benefitted.

Q3. _____ Not very clearly audible

Ans Why do they follow their acaryas? Well that's what they are supposed to do.

WHY DO PEOPLE DEVIATE?

Q3 continued. _____

Ans Why did they get side tracked? Well it's you know ask them. Why, why, why? Is anyone in maya?

Maya is very strong

It's not that just by walking in the door of ISKCON that you become free from maya. It's not that by taking sannyasa you become free from maya. It's not that by taking up the role of a guru one becomes free from maya. Maya never sleeps. She is always active, she is very powerful.

One should be afraid of maya

Once Srila Prabhupada said that his disciples they are not afraid enough of maya. We always have this tendency to think that we are more advanced than we are. 'You know I can preach to young girls, there is no problem' that was the end of his brahmchari life that was the end of his sannyasa. 'I can associate with mayavadis, I am purifying.' Well let's see. Then you become a mayavadi. If you associate with mayavadis, talk like a mayavadi, dress like a mayavadi then what are you? A bird that swims in the water, 'Quack! Quack!' makes a sound like that, walks on land in a wobbling (?) kind of manner, has webbed feet, what you call? It's a duck. So if someone associates with mayavadis, talks like a mayavadi, doesn't dress like a Vaisnava, he look like a mayavadi then what you call?

Do not compromise with mayavada

Hare Krishna! Ok go out, distributing books means fighting with mayavada. There are so many quotes from Prabhupada saying he wants to defeat mayavada. I am going to post one I know. Everyday I post a quote from Prabhupada. So one of the many quotes from Prabhupada, 'Don't make any compromise with mayavada.'

Mayavada is worse than Buddhism

Prabhupada said, 'Mayavada is worse than atheism, it's covered atheism, worse than Buddhism.' In Buddhism they deny any spiritual reality but in mayavada, *pracchannam buddham ucyate*, it's covered Buddhism. They say that it's spiritual but it has ... what they call spiritual as no name, form, qualities, pastimes, abode, associates, so it's worse. What is that Caitanya Mahaprabhu said?

Further concerns

*veda nā māniyā bauddha haya ta' nāstika
vedāśraya nāstikya-vāda bauddhake adhika
(CC Madhya 6.168)*

Caitanya Mahaprabhu said that Buddhists are called nastiks or atheists because they don't accept the Vedas but the mayavadis, they are worst then the Buddhists because they theoretically accept the Vedas but they preach the same thing so they are worse. Hare Krishna!