Lecture on CC Adi-lila 1.13 -- Mayapur, April 6, 1975

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Sri Caitanya-caritamrta Lectures, Adi-lila, Chapter 1

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Nitāi: "...because He propagates the cult of devotion, He is called Ācārya. He is the Lord and the incarnation of the Lord's devotee. Therefore I take shelter of Him."

Prabhupāda:

advaitam harinādvaitād ācāryam bhakti-śamsanāt bhaktāvatāram īśam tam advaitācāryam āśraye



His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

CC Adi 1.13

So gradually the author is offering respect, śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya prabhu-nityānanda śrī-advaita. He has already offered respect to Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityānanda. Now it is the turn for Śrī Advaitācārya. So advaitam, nondifferent, expansion of Mahā-Visnu. Therefore He is Visnu-tattva; He is not jīva-tattva. Therefore He is advaita. Advaitam acyutam anādim ananta-rūpam [Bs. 5.33]. Krsna has got unlimited number of expansions: expansion, expansion of the expansion, then expansion of the expansion, in this way. So Advaitācārya is expansion of Krsna, it is already explained. Therefore He is called advaitam, and ācāryam bhakti-śamsanāt.

This is the business of ācārya, to spread bhakti cult. Ācāryam mām vijānīyāt nāvamanyeta karhicit SB 11.17.27. It is said by the Lord that "You should accept the ācārya..." Ācārya means one who transmits bhakti cult. Bhakti-śamsanāt, spreading, gosthyānandī. One who is not spreading—he is cultivating Krsna consciousness for his personal benefit in a secluded place, sitting and chanting—that is also nice, but he's not ācārya. Ācārya means he must spread. Goṣṭhyānandī. Bhajanānandī, gosthyānandī. So generally, gosthyānandī means one who wants to increase the number of devotees. He's called gosthyanandi. And one who is self-satisfied, that "Let me do my own duty," he is called bhajanānandī. So my Guru Mahārāja, Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Thākura, he was gosthyānandī. He wanted to increase the number of devotees. And the more you increase the number of devotees, the more you become very much recognized by Kṛṣṇa. It is Kṛṣṇa's business. Krsna personally comes as He is, Krsna, to spread this bhakti cult. Man-manā bhava mad-bhakto mad-yājī mām namaskuru SB 11.17.27 . Sarva-dharmān parityajya mām ekam śaranam vraja SB 11.17.27. He's canvassing personally.

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paritrāṇāya sādhūnām vināśāya ca duṣkṛtām dharma-samsthāpanārthāya sambhavāmi yuge yuge

BG 4.8

So same thing entrusted to another devotee, and who spreads, he's ācārya.

So Krsna says, the ācārya... Here it is said that advaitam harinā advaitād. So of course Advaita Ācārya is expansion of Visnu-tattya, but any ācārya, he is to be considered identical with the Lord. The Lord says that, that ācāryam mām vijānīyāt SB 11.17.27: "One should understand the ācārya... "Ācārya bhakti-śamsanāt. Ācārya means who is spreading pure bhakti cult. "That ācārya, "Krsna says, "you should consider such ācārya as Myself." Ācāryam mām vijānīyāt nāvamanyeta karhicit, that... You cannot consider, "Yes, he's ācārya, but not as good as Krsna." No. Na avamanyeta. Don't deride in that way. Then there will be falldown. Ācāryam mām vijānīyāt nāvamanyeta karhicit. And in the Vedas also it is said, vasva deve parā bhaktir vathā deve tathā gurau: [ŚU 6,23] "Anvone who has got unflinching faith in the Supreme Personality and the similar faith in guru..." Yasya deve parā bhaktir yathā deve tathā gurau, tasyaite kathitā hy arthāh: "All the Vedic literature," prakāśante, "becomes revealed simply by these two principle." Guru-krsna krpā pāya bhakti-latā-bīja. We should not jump over Krsna without the help of guru. That is not possible. You must go through. Because Krsna says, ācāryam mām vijānī... Tasmād gurum prapadyeta jijnāsuh śreya uttamam: SB 11.17.27 "Actually one who is serious to understand higher transcendental subject matter, he must approach guru." Tasmād gurum, prapadyeta. These are Vedic injunctions. Caksudāna dilo yei, janme janme pitā sei. So anyone who opens... Guru means who opens the eyes of the ignorant person. Ajñānatimirāndhasya jñānāñjana-śalākayā. Opening the eyes by giving real knowledge... Guru-krsna krpā pāya bhakti-latā-bīja. So bhakti-latā, the devotional service, the seed of devotional service, can be received by the paramparā system through bona fide spiritual master. And if we abide by the orders of spiritual master faithfully, then Kṛṣṇa becomes pleased. That is stated by Viśvanātha Cakravartī Thākura, yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādah ** . Āra nā koriya mane āśā. Narottama dāsa... All the ācāryas, they say like that. Ācāryam mām vijānīyāt. Ācāryavān puruso veda: "One who has accepted ācārya, he knows things as they are." Others, they do not know. It is not possible.

So Advaita Ācārya is the typical example how to become ācārya. All are our ācāryas, śrī-krsnacaitanya prabhu-nityānanda, śrī-advaita gadādhara śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda. All of them are ācāryas because they are following the ācārya, supreme ācārya, Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Therefore they are ācārya. Evam paramparā-prāptam imam rājarsayo viduh BG 4.2. So we have to follow the ācārya. Then, when we are completely, cent per cent follower of ācārya, then you can also act as ācārya. This is the process. Don't become premature ācārya. First of all follow the orders of ācārya, and you become mature. Then it is better to become ācārya. Because we are interested in preparing ācārya, but the etiquette is, at least for the period the guru is present, one should not become ācārya. Even if he is complete he should not, because the etiquette is, if somebody comes for becoming initiated, it is the duty of such person to bring that prospective candidate to his ācārya. Not that "Now people are coming to me, so I can become ācārya." That is avamanya. Nāvamanyeta karhicit. Don't transgress this etiquette. Nāvamanyeta. That will be falldown. Just like during the lifetime of our Guru Mahārāja, all our Godbrothers now who are acting as ācārya, they did not do so. That is not etiquette. Ācāryam mām vijānīyāt na avaman... That is insult. So if you insult your ācārya, then you are finished. Yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo yasya aprasādāt na gatih kuto 'pi ** — finished. If you displease your ācārya, then you are finished. Therefore it is said, Caitanya

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Mahāprabhu says to all the ācāryas... Nityānanda Prabhu, Advaita Prabhu and Śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda, they are all carriers of orders of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. So try to follow the path of ācārya process. Then life will be successful.

And to become ācārya is not very difficult. First of all, to become very faithful servant of your ācārya, follow strictly what he says. Try to please him and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. That's all. It is not at all difficult. Try to follow the instruction of your Guru Mahārāja and spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. That is the order of Lord Caitanya.

āmāra ajñāya guru hañā tāra' ei deśa yāre dekha tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa

CC Madhya 7.128

"By following My order, you become guru." And if we strictly follow the ācārya system and try our best to spread the instruction of Kṛṣṇa... Yāre dekha tāre kaha 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa CC Madhya 7.128 . There are two kinds of kṛṣṇa-upadeśa. Upadeśa means instruction. Instruction given by Kṛṣṇa, that is also 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa, and instruction received about Kṛṣṇa, that is also 'kṛṣṇa'-upadeśa. Kṛṣṇasya upadeśa iti kṛṣṇa upadeśa. Samāsa, śāsti-tat-puruṣa-samāsa. And Kṛṣṇa viṣayā upadeśa, that is also Kṛṣṇa upadeśa. Bāhu-vrīhi-samāsa. This is the way of analyzing Sanskrit grammar. So Kṛṣṇa's upadeśa is Bhagavad-gītā. He's directly giving instruction. So one who is spreading kṛṣṇa-upadeśa, simply repeat what is said by Kṛṣṇa, then you become ācārya. Not difficult at all. Everything is stated there. We have to simply repeat like parrot. Not exactly parrot. Parrot does not understand the meaning; he simply vibrates. But you should understand the meaning also; otherwise how you can explain? So, so we want to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Simply prepare yourself how to repeat Kṛṣṇa's instructions very nicely, without any malinterpretation. Then, in future... Suppose you have got now ten thousand. We shall expand to hundred thousand. That is required. Then hundred thousand to million, and million to ten million.

Devotees: Jaya!

Prabhupāda: So there will be no scarcity of ācārya, and people will understand Kṛṣṇa consciousness very easily. So make that organization. Don't be falsely puffed up. Follow the ācārya's instruction and try to make yourself perfect, mature. Then it will be very easy to fight out māyā. Yes. Ācāryas, they declare war against māyā's activities, that māyā instructing that "Here is wine. Here is cigarette. Here is that..." In your country these advertisements are very prominent, holding both ways, wine advertisement, cigarette advertisement, naked woman advertisements, and sometimes gambling also, advertisement. What is that? Congo?

Devotees: Bingo.

Prabhupāda: Bingo. (laughter) Yes. So this is māyā. And our declaration of war with māyā— no intoxication, no meat-eating, no bingo—(laughter) these are our declaration of war. So we have to fight in that way because nobody can understand Kṛṣṇa without being free from all sinful activities. These are sinful activities. Therefore it is ācārya's business to stop these nonsense activities. Otherwise they'll not be able to understand, especially the meat-eaters. They cannot understand.

nivṛtta-tarṣair upagīyamānād bhavauṣadhi chrotra-mano 'bhirāmāt ka uttamaśloka-guṇānuvādāt

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pumān virajyeta vinā paśughnāt

SB 10.1.4

Unless one is very expert in killing animals, he's not bereft from Kṛṣṇa consciousness. That means one who is very expert in killing, he cannot understand. Therefore Christ also said, "Thou shall not kill," the first business. Nobody will be able if one is a killer of animal, small or big, ultimately killer of his own children, killer of his own self. The killing process is so nice that it goes up to the point of killing one's children. That is now happening. Killing business has so expanded that they are killing their own children. Just see the influence of Kali-yuga. The children, they take shelter of the father and mother, thinking very safe. Now, in this Kali-yuga, even there is no safety under the care of father and mother. Just see how this material civilization is progressing. Very, very dangerous. Kalau naṣṭa-dṛṣṣām. Therefore that Bhāgavata verse is there,

kṛṣṇe sva-dhāmopagate dharma-jñānādibhiḥ (saha) kalau nasta-drśām (esa)

purāṇārko 'dhunoditaḥ

Very, very abominable condition in this age of Kali. Very, very. It is the beginning of Kali. Now we have to pass through 427,000's of years. Kali-yuga will make progress in that way. And people are now practicing eating their children, and at the end of Kali there will be no food available. They'll have to eat the children just like the snakes do. The snake eat their own children. There are many animals—they eat their own children.

So don't try to repeat your birth again and again in this Kali-yuga. It will be not very happy life. Better sacrifice everything in this life and be fully Kṛṣṇa conscious and go back to home, back to Godhead. Don't wait for the next life. This is very seriously repeated, that "This life I shall finish my Kṛṣṇa consciousness business," and, as it is stated in the Bhagavad-gītā, that Kṛṣṇa consciousness business means to understand Kṛṣṇa rightly. And He's explaining Himself rightly. Where is the difficulty to finish the Kṛṣṇa consciousness business? If Kṛṣṇa is explaining Himself, what He is, then where is your difficulty? Kṛṣṇa is explaining Himself in the Bhagavad-gītā, Kṛṣṇa is sending His representative ācārya to teach you, and Kṛṣṇa is within yourself trying to teach you if you are actually serious. Then where is the difficulty? Inside, outside, always, books, knowledge—He is prepared. So where is the difficulty to make yourself perfect in Kṛṣṇa consciousness? There is no difficulty at all. Provided you are serious, you can become fully Kṛṣṇa conscious in this very life. You are all young men. You are not old man like me. I have no opportunity. (pause) (end)

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