

Atreya Rishi Das

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March 16, 1986

Sriman Hari Krishna das
ECA Chairman
European Continental Assembly
Bhaktivedanta Manor
Letchmore Heath, Hertfordshire
England WD2 8EP

My dear Hari Krishna Prabhu:

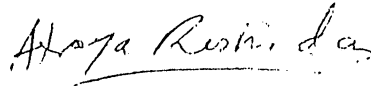
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Balavanta Prabhu dated February 20, 1986. I feel obliged to reveal my mind given the seriousness of the circumstances.

You have accused Balavanta because of the way he conducted and organized the meetings and the serious flaws regarding the procedures followed during those meetings and, in general, in the conduct of affairs by the GBC in our movement.

The main issue leading to the September 1985 New Vrindaban meeting was the unanimous concern by the GBC regarding a major basis of conflict between the ISKCON authoritative body and a large portion of senior devotees in our movement. The basis for our mistrust and conflict was that over the years devotees have begun to doubt several major claims made by individual gurus and acaryas and supported by the GBC body. These claims have led to the introduction of many new conceptions within ISKCON which many senior devotees feel are not in line with Srila Prabhupada's intentions and teachings. These concerns are of a very serious nature. Their effects on the movement and on the individual devotees could be terminally critical. Unfortunately, despite the fact that since Prabhupada's departure these issues have been repeatedly raised by many respected senior devotees, the authoritative body, i.e., GBC members, have refused to face the issue, enter into an open dialog, remove the doubts, or admit their guilt. The New Vrindaban experience was a reaction to these oppressive tactics of ISKCON's authoritative body. For many devotees, without any trace of doubt, these issues could mean life or death for the immediate future of preaching efforts, the unity of ISKCON, and the individual spiritual well-being of the innocent devotees. It is obvious to me that the points in your letter, as well as the efforts leading to the conclusions of your meetings in Europe are overlooking these very essential, vital issues and trying to cover them up through bureaucratic, procedural, surface endeavors. I am convinced that any such efforts attempting to thwart the revelation of the truth will be smashed by Prabhupada and Krsna. I am further convinced that the individuals behind these efforts are directly under the influence of the demoniac nature, and each of them will be punished by Providence.

I hope you and your associates realize that those who have an understanding of the truth regarding Prabhupada's intentions on the matter of disciplic succession are very much angered by the lack of sensitivity on the part of individuals who do not wish to address the issues at hand. I am in touch with this anger within myself and am somewhat familiar with the same force within my Godbrothers. I cannot help but laugh at your puny endeavors to maintain the false status quo built upon the speculative misconceptions of a few ambitious, aggressive, self-propagating, so-called leaders.

Your servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Atreya Rishi das". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Atreya Rishi das

cc His Grace Balavanta das