

THE NEXT STEP IN THE EXPANSION OF ISKCON:  
Ending the Fratricidal War

A Preliminary Proposal

The root of all problems now facing ISKCON is that we, the disciples of Śrīla Prabhupāda, have not yet established proper Vaiṣṇava relationships among ourselves. While Prabhupāda was here with us, we did not enjoy such relationships, and our spiritual master plainly told us that our greatest fault was our tendency to quarrel with each other. But as long as Prabhupāda was among us our contentiousness did not constitute an insurmountable problem. Prabhupāda was always available to pour oil on troubled waters, keep ISKCON unified, and maintain our faith and enthusiasm.

Since the departure of Śrīla Prabhupāda, however, our failure to establish pure relationships has become life-threatening to ISKCON. When Prabhupāda left, we established gurus and ushered in a whole new complex of relations: between gurus and their Godbrothers, between gurus and disciples, between disciples and the Godbrothers of gurus--and yet we failed to fulfill the essential requirement for the continuation of ISKCON after Prabhupāda's departure. We did not form ourselves into a

*Tridandi Swami*  
**Tamal Krishna Goswami**

Acarya & Governing Body Commissioner

Reply: HONG KONG

December 9, 1984  
Manila Temple  
Philippines

My dear Rabindra Svarup Prabhu,

Please accept my most humble obeisances at your feet. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I have been very fortunate to receive a copy of your preliminary proposal dated November 16, 1984 entitled "The next step in the expansion of Iskcon' ending the fratricidal war".

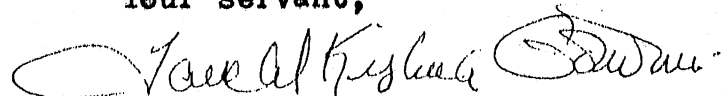
I was very much pleased to read the contents of this essay and I may state that I embrace it in all respects completely. For the past few years I have been sincerely endeavoring to the very best of my ability with the help of Srila Prabhupada, Lord Krishna, and my Vaisnava god-brothers as well as disciples to clear my heart of whatever impurities may be there. I firmly believe that only with purified heart will I be worth associating with, and will any of my efforts be crowned with success. I can see no other cause for the success of Srila Prabhupada's preaching activities other than the fact of his pure devotion to Krishna. Therefore in trying to fulfill our spiritual master's instruction, I have considered my own purification to be the most essential part of my efforts and I've encouraged this consciousness in all of those with whom I work.

Just as you in Philadelphia have begun to renovate your vaisnava relationships, so I have been doing the same through-out my zone as best as I'm able to do. I absolutely agree with you that there is no other way to keep our movement together and to make it successfully fulfill our previous acarya's desires except through loving cooperative devotional service to Sri Guru and Gauranga.

I'm happy that you have not dealt with details in your essay, but rather have stressed the essence which is individual purity and it's natural extension in the form of compassionate dealings with fellow devotees. If this idea is properly imbibed, then all the other necessary rectifications will certainly follow. Whereas if we try to make adjustments without personal purifications we will only be guilty of committing further mistakes because of our acting on the mental platform rather than the pure spiritual platform.

You have my firm commitment towards renovating this reformation in consciousness as far as I am able to do by the mercy of Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with all of us. I hope this meets you well and I look forward to your association in the near future.

Your servant,



Tamal Krishna Goswami

TKG/msg  
His Grace Rabindra Svarup  
das Adhikari  
c/o Iskcon Philadelphia