

Addendum: further clarification of the process

March 1978

### Worship of the Diksha Guru

We can understand that when the initiator guru is a disciple's nam-guru he should be given all worship, just as the disciples of Srila Prabhupada worshiped His Divine Grace. But the question may be asked what worship should be offered to the guru if he is one's diksha guru?

The answer is that the disciple should see his nam-guru within his diksha guru. In arcana, such as arotike, he should worship his mantra guru's portrait. In general the worship of both gurus should be the same as far as possible. One should think, "Prabhupada is present in my mantra guru."

The sannyasa guru, however, is generally not worshiped. The sannyasa guru is more a function necessary to carry on our preaching work. But he should be given respect.

### A Godbrother's New Relationship With An Initiating Guru

Srila Prabhupada has chosen eleven of his disciples to become initiating gurus. Previously many of their Godbrothers have dealt with these gurus as familiar friends. Now these Godbrothers are worshiped by their disciples as genuine spiritual masters. This means, for example, that they are to be considered, as stated in the Gurvastakam, as nikunja-yuno rati keli siddhyai--intimate assistants in the pastimes of Krsna. So how are their old Godbrothers to understand that their fellow Godbrother has assumed the position of associating with Krsna in this way?

The adjustment comes in a two-fold way. The disciples are in one disposition and the Godbrothers in another. When, for example, Krsna entered the arena at Mathura, He appeared to different persons in different ways. So for the disciples of a genuine guru, Krsna will come to them through their guru, even though it may not be shown to his Godbrothers. Krsna can show Himself differently to different persons. A devotee in madhurya rasa is seeing Krsna in one way and in vatsalya-rasa, Yasoda is seeing Krsna in another, and the servants of Krsna see Him in still another way. Rsi Gargamuni sees Him in still another way.

You may look upon your Godbrother who's now a guru in your own way, but you must behave so that the new bhaktas' and disciples' faith is not disturbed. Your conception of him may be kept in the mental world, but not shown on the outside. It is very difficult for a fallen soul in Kali-yuga to collect his faith and regard and offer it to his guru. The maximum faith that he can gather and offer

to his guru will benefit him accordingly in his approaching Krsna. So that sraddha shouldn't be disturbed. The guru's rank or position should be respected even by his Godbrothers. The disciple is advised by sastra to understand that the Personality of Godhead has come down to him in his gurudeva. The well known injunction that the spiritual master is never to be considered as an ordinary man must be observed in this case also. As long as the gurus are sincerely functioning in the charge given them by Srila Prabhupada, all others have to preserve this line by their own respectful dealings with them.

The point is not to be a faultfinder, especially in this case. Sincerity is the main thing. If one feels that the chanting of Hare Krsna has removed his trouble then he has a right to give it to others: "Take the Holy Name, it will relieve you from all troubles." The position of acarya can begin from this point, and then it can go on. Srila Prabhupada may be compared to an ocean and the new gurus may be like so many tanks or ponds, but still they are going on. By sincerely serving Krsna, they can deliver their disciples from birth and death.

Again, the main thing is faith. Because Krsna is infinite, even the greatest devotee cannot know Him in full. Therefore whether one is touching the ocean from the shore or another is diving a mile deep into the ocean--the ocean's limit is unobtainable in either case. And both are genuinely touching the ocean. Srila Prabhupada used to give the example that a ripe mango is mature and an unripe mango may not be mature, but both are the same fruit, mango. So real sraddha can bring us near and connect us to Krsna. Not imitation sraddha, but real. And as much as the faith in guru and Krsna is increased, a disciple can go deeper and deeper. We should realize that a new bhakta or new disciple can even surpass a senior devotee one day, if he has Krsna's favor. We have to deal with these matters in all humility and submissive faith, not with pride or haughtiness.

#### The New Guru's Actual Realization of Krsna

We can understand without too much difficulty, that the person holding the designation of guru must be given all respect, just as we give respect to the judge in court, calling him, "Your honor." When we are alone with our guru Godbrother we may mix freely but when amongst his disciples we must observe the proper protocol. But aside from the formality, factually what is the position of those empowered by Srila Prabhupada to act as gurus? Does it mean that because they've been given the position of guru they are, as in the verse, nikunja-yuno rati keli siddhyai, actually intimates of Krsna?

One verse in the Bhagavatam helps us in this connection, aham vrtti suka vrtti, vyaso vrtti nivrtti ca. This means that the real purpose of the Bhagavatam is difficult to conceive. The verse is spoken by Lord Siva and he says, "I know the purpose of the Bhagavatam, Sukadeva, the disciple and son of Vyasa, he knows it thoroughly, and Vyasa, the author of Bhagavatam, he may or may not know." When Lord Caitanya was teaching Sanatana Goswami He said to him, "Sanatana, Krsna is going to give His kindness to you through Me. I am talking to you like a madman. I feel many things are passing through Me to you. I feel that much. But I do not know what I have."

Once during the war, a patriotic advertisement appeared showing a picture of a military uniform and the saying "Just take this uniform and the dress will show you what you have to do." If one is sincere and is given a particular charge or post, he will learn what the duties of that post are. Krsna will help him if he is sincere. Srila Prabhupada has given us the more familiar example that while ordinarily a judge must first possess all qualifications and only then sit on the judges bench, bhakti yoga offers such facility that one first assumes the activities of a devotee and then the qualifications follow. The new gurus have taken the charge--but that charge has not come only by chance. It was Srila Prabhupada's own picking. So if they try, Krsna will help. Prabhupada and Krsna are not cheats. They will come to a sincere devotee with all Their might and instruct him, "Do like this. I'm helping. I'm behind you." When we are all sincere, it will happen like this. We all know what we have to do; we simply have to carry it out sincerely. Surely His Divine Grace is continuing to direct us through these changes. Let us cooperate and expand the Krsna consciousness movement keeping all its purity intact: