

His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣaka Śrīdhara Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja
&
His Divine Grace Śrīla A.C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Mahārāja

77.00.00

A devotee [Bhakti Caru Swāmī ?] reads a transcript of a discussion between Śrīla Prabhupāda and Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja at Navadvīpa in 1976

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This is a discussion between Śrīla Prabhupāda and Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja at Navadvīpa in 1976.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: The essential principle of *niṣkiñcana bhakti* is surrender, otherwise one will not be able to get to know the substance. Whatever you are seeing, from externally, by means of your intelligence, that is not going to help you to become acquainted with the real substance.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: That Dr. Radhakrishna (one time President of India) was victimised by western philosophy. He had no understanding of Indian philosophy.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: No matter up to what extent they go, ultimately they end up becoming the worshipper of the hell. They think that they will become God. The geocentric philosophy requires heliocentric. According to Śrīla Prabhupāda [Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Thākura] they're not heliocentric, they're geocentric. Their limit is only up to their senses, beyond that they don't have any understanding whatsoever. Ultimately their goal is Brahmāloka. Brahmāloka is the ultimate goal of these people and beyond that they don't have any knowledge. The *para-bhakti* in *brahma-bhūtaḥ* platform – that when one is situated in the Brahman platform, the transcendental platform – there the pure devotional service begins, they don't have any understanding about that.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: But that Radhakrishna inwardly he was afraid. I used to visit him from time to time. He used to be quite intimate with me. He used to say, "Please pray to God about me."

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Where did he say that?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Where he used to stay in Delhi. He once wrote to me also. "After I retire I shall join your movement."

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Sometimes the false prestige spoils everything.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: He used to have a lot of respect for me. Once he asked, "Are you writing everything in English?" So I asked him, 'What do you do?' and he smiled.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: When he used to teach in Calcutta University Bon Mahārāja used to go to him and once he took me with him and before that once he brought him to Prabhupāda [Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Thākura]. So the second time when he went to invite him I went with Bon Mahārāja.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Personally he was a fine gentleman; a *brāhmaṇa*, very cultured; but a *māyāvādī*. He is dead now.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. But Raja Gopāl Acari (another political leader of India) was a Vaiṣṇava.

Certain devotees: (to Prabhupāda) Śrīla Prabhupāda has given you a lot of mercy.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: That’s all due to your blessings. I don’t know for how long I’ll be able to carry on so I came to see Śrīdhara Mahārāja.

Devotee: If you all go away then the world will become dark.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: It is so wonderful that the will of the Lord becomes manifest through somebody.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: I very much want Mahārāja that you come and stay at Māyāpur. Because Prabhupāda always desired that you preach. He told me quite a few times, “Why don’t you pull him out?” (Both Prabhupāda and Śrīdhara Mahārāja laugh.) You know I also tried to some extent before. But somehow or other it did not work out. Now why don’t you come and stay at Māyāpur?

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: At last Prabhupāda told me that, “You are an ease lover.” (Laughter) “The qualifications that you have...”

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. That’s true. He told me also that, “He’s such a qualified person; one of the finest preachers.” I want to take you everywhere. At least the place we have in Māyāpur, people are coming from all over the world. Why don’t you come and stay there? What is your objection to staying in Māyāpur? If you just agree then whatever kind of building you want I will arrange it for you. They’re trying to build a house for me, so both of us can stay there regardless and whenever you want you can come here.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. As long as I am alive to fulfil Prabhupāda’s desire.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: This is my earnest desire. Since you could not go around the world and preach at least stay there and people will come to you. I shall make that arrangement. If you stay then it will be very helpful to me also. Sometimes I need to consult with someone but there is none; there is no one that I can consult. I feel this deficiency very greatly.

One lady devotee: If he stays in Māyāpur then all kinds of people will get to hear from him.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. That’s right.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. People from all kinds of cultural backgrounds will come there.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. They are already coming. And in that house I’ll make arrangements for a lift from here so that you don’t have to go through the difficulty of walking up and down. You don’t even have to move upstairs yourself. I’ll make arrangements for cars and lift. Jayapataka is telling that he will build a house for me so both of us will stay in that house. Most of the time I’m just travelling around so if you are there then they can get some guidance. So Mahārāja please give me the order and I will make all the arrangements for you.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Well I’ll think it over and let you know.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: So let me make this arrangement Mahārāja. That Planetarium [The Temple of Vedic Planetarium] also will be built under your directions. My idea is to combine the Indian culture and the American money – the lame man and blind man policy. I tell them also that this will be very beneficial for the world. Indian culture and *varṇāśrama*. Prabhupāda's [Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Ṭhākura's] desire was to establish the *varṇāśrama dharma*. So we have to do that, we have to establish our *varṇāśrama* college. Let the people from all over the world come and learn about *varṇāśrama*.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: The effort that you're making to acquire the land in Māyāpur, has that been successful?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: No. Nothing has happened as yet. But we're buying the land. How far can you hassle with the government? Of course they haven't yet said either yes or no. But we're buying the land now. They demand a very exorbitant rate, but what to do? We are buying; whenever someone is selling his land we are buying. But when they see the Americans they want a price four times more, but what to do? I feel, let these poor people also have something. They're stealing, but what to do? I feel, let them also have something. Every month I bring one million rupees to this country and spend it for our development work; about seventy-eighty thousand dollars.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: So this is a big income for Indira Gandhi.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: That's what I say. With much difficulty I translate the books at night and they print it and sell it and then send seventy-eighty thousand dollars every month to me here. Is India benefiting out of this or losing out of this? But they're blaming them as CIA's. Tīrtha Mahārāja used to say: "American government has given Swāmīji two million dollars." As if the American government could not get anything better to do or any better person to give the money. For making them chant Hare Kṛṣṇa and dance they will give me the money, two million dollars.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: A man from the Central Intelligence Department took initiation from me. He was asking me. I told him these are nothing but rumours. I know Swāmī Mahārāja since a long, long time. I know him very well and this movement is nothing but a purely spiritual movement. Actually what they're thinking is that previously they used to send the missionaries, then they used to send the merchants, and then the army used to come and take over, but those days are no more. Christianity has become useless now; not at all effective. Through such a faith of universal religion if a net could be cast throughout the world that can be utilised in future.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. His study has been quite proper. This is what our plan is. I tell them that you work in this direction and in future everyone will recognise this movement. American government is already telling that this movement is spreading like an epidemic. (To some of his disciples Prabhupāda asked), "Who said this?"

Satsvarūpa Mahārāja: Yes. One Congressman had said that.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Who said this?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: One American Congressman from the Senate. He said that in a TV. "Hare Kṛṣṇa Movement is expanding like epidemic. And if we allow them to go on like this then one day they'll capture the government, within ten years."

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: All the governments are becoming alarmed. (Laughter) Even this government. If they can conquer the mass and get them to support them.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. That is the fear of everybody.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Ultimately it may become the world state religion.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Automatically that will become. That is the idea I have.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: America was being accused of trying to make one state world. That let there be just one state then there won't be any war. If the whole world is made into one state then there won't be any war.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: I replied to that: "You may make a one state world. But if you make the populace into dogs then they won't be any use. They'll just keep barking. You have to make them into human beings."

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. They'll start fighting with each other.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Right. That is their nature to fight. So first of all you have to make them human beings. That is the *brahma-bhūtaḥ prasannātmā, samaḥ sarveṣu bhūteṣu*.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Then *mad-bhaktiṁ labhate parām*.

*[brahma-bhūtaḥ prasannātmā, na śocati na kāṅkṣati
samaḥ sarveṣu bhūteṣu, mad-bhaktiṁ labhate parām]*

[“The spotlessly pure-hearted and self-satisfied soul who has attained to his conscious divine nature neither grieves nor craves for anything. Seeing all beings equally (in the conception of My supreme energy), he gradually achieves supreme devotion (*prema-bhakti*) unto Me.”] [*Bhagavad-gītā*, 18.54]

Śrīla Prabhupāda: When they come to that stage then it will be useful. Otherwise there's no hope. It is not impossible to happen.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. When there's a common centre then everybody can unite. Everybody can be harmonised. That has to be real. If it is fictitious then there won't be any achievement.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: I'm hearing that the present American President, President Carter, he has some such plan and he is discussing with Indira Gandhi. He is consulting with Indira Gandhi quite intimately.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. They're accepting a broad policy. What I hear from the radios and newspapers it seems that their policy is becoming much more broader than before.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Besides that they don't have any other way. Otherwise they cannot achieve what they're actually wanting, the peace through the United Nations. That cannot be achieved.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. Nothing less than Kṛṣṇa consciousness will be able to give them that desired peace. Nowhere else they'll find it.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes.

bhoktāraṁ yajña-tapasāṁ, sarva-loka-maheśvaram
[*suhṛdam sarvva-bhūtānām, jñātvā mām śāntim ṛcchatī*]

["I am the enjoyer of the results of sacrifice performed by the fruit-hunter, as well as the results of austerity performed by the liberation-seeker - I am their only worshipping object; I am Nārāyaṇa, the indwelling monitor of all planes of life, and the Supreme Worshipping Personality who awards liberation. And I am the well-wisher of all - I am Kṛṣṇa, the devotee's most adorable friend. The soul who thus knows My true identity attains the ecstasy of knowing his own original divine identity."]

[*Bhagavad-gītā*, 5.29]

So that's what I was telling that stop fighting and making all those legal suits then so nicely the preaching can be done in India, in every village, every town. One disadvantage with these people is the language but still, you must have heard, wherever they're going they are getting very good reception. My *Geetār-gan*, first I printed five thousand, then ten thousand, then thirty thousand. But this time we're printing one hundred thousand. And they're selling very nicely. In Bengali we're printing various books, *Geetār-gan*, *Bhāgavani-kathā*, *Bhāgavat-darśana*. In Hindi also we're selling many books like in Kumbha-mela we sold many, many books.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. This is what Kṛṣṇa consciousness is and people will naturally wonder what is there in it that captured the whole world in just ten years.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Now they're opposing to it that this is a great credit.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. That's why the governments are organising the oppositions.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. They're clearly mentioning that if they get a chance to expand unrestrictedly then in ten years time they'll capture the governments.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Yes. If the mass is converted and their votes can be acquired then the government will be captured.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. And these are all young men. The young class of people have accepted it. Dr Stillson Judah has already predicted that this movement will not be destroyed, because this has entered into the bones and marrows.

Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja: Who is he? Where is he from?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: He's an American; a Professor in the Berkeley University.

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