

## His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣaka Śrīdhara Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja

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**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** ...Ruci Prabhu, he's from America.

**Devotee:** \_\_\_\_\_ kaliphos [?]

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** So he's from America and he's been listening to the tapes of Your Divine Grace very ardently for around one year. He listens very, very carefully and is studying the theistic conception that you're presenting. And Bhaupadeva Prabhu he's coming from South Africa, and he has one letter to Your Divine Grace from Mukunda Mālā Dāsa, Mukunda Mālā Vilāsa.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** What is the letter?

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** In the letter there's also a hundred dollar donation.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Govinda Mahārāja.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** It says, "To His Divine Grace Bhakti Rakṣaka Śrīla Śrīdhara Deva Goswāmī Mahārāja, Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭha, Koladwīp, Bengal. Dear Gurudeva, please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to your lotus feet. As an agent of Mahāprabhu you shower the mercy from the highest plane upon the lowest of men. Such an act of kindness can never be repaid, for the gift you are giving is so valuable that it can never be purchased by any amount of material opulence."

And then he quotes the verse of Raghunātha Dāsa Goswāmī:

*nāma-śreṣṭham manum api śacī-putram atra svarūpaṁ  
rūpaṁ tasyāgrajam uru-purīm māthurīm goṣṭavāṭīm  
rādhā-kuṇḍaṁ giri-varam aho rādhikā-mādhavāsām  
prāpto yasya prathita-kṛpayā śrī guruṁ taṁ nato 'smi*

"I bow down to the beautiful lotus feet of my Gurudeva, by whose causeless mercy I have attained the Supreme Holy Name, the Divine Mantra, the service of the Son of Śacī Mātā, the association of Śrīla Svarūpa Dāmodara, Rūpa Goswāmī, and his older brother Sanātana Goswāmī, the Supreme Abode of Mathurā, the Blissful Abode of Vṛndāvana, the Divine Rādhā-kuṇḍa and Govardhana Hill, and desire within my heart for the loving service of Śrī Rādhikā and Mādhava in Vṛndāvana."

"After the disappearance of our beloved Śrīla Prabhupāda we felt like a rudderless ship cast adrift in a great ocean. Although he has given us the course and pointed out the direction in which to sail, in his absence we feel so much incompetent to steer the ship on our own."

*tvaṁ naḥ sandarśito dhātrā, dustaram nistitīṣatām  
kalīm sattva-haram puṁsām, karṇa-dhāra ivārṇavam*

"We think that we have met Your Goodness by the will of providence, just so that we may

accept you as captain of the ship for those who wish to cross over the dangerous ocean of Kali, which deteriorates all the good qualities of a human being.” [Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, 1.1.22]

“I’m simply praying that by your mercy I’ll be enabled to understand the essence of your teachings and surrender completely to your instructions, which are non-different from those of Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Ṭhākura, and our own Śrīla Prabhupāda. I would like to glorify you properly but I’m an insignificant *jīva*. No one can estimate the extent of your glories. Out of billions of living beings only a few have the human form of life. Out of billions of human beings only a few are devotees. And out of thousands of devotees one may be a *mahā-bhāgavata*. Who then can estimate the rare good fortune of those who have the sublime opportunity of sitting before your lotus feet...

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Jai! “...as we are doing...”

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Hare Kṛṣṇa.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** ... “and hearing you explain *Bhāgavatam*? Such persons must be the most fortunate souls in the universe.”

*tulayāma lavenāpi, na svargaṁ nāpunar-bhavam  
bhagavat-saṅgi-saṅgasya, martyānām kim utāśiṣaḥ*

[Śrī Śaunaka Ṛṣi said to the assembly of the sages of Naimiṣāraṇya: “The attainment of heavenly planets or liberation from material existence cannot even slightly compare with the immeasurable fortune gained by a moment’s association of a devotee of the Supreme Lord. What, then, can be said of the petty dominion and assets of mortal men.”]

[Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, 1.18.13]

“The value of a moment’s association with a devotee of the Lord cannot be compared to the attainment of heavenly planets, or liberation from matter, and what to speak of worldly benedictions in the form of material prosperity which are for those who are meant for death. I had also planned to be in Navadvīpa in order to take firm shelter of your lotus feet, but it seems that Kṛṣṇa has other plans. I have heard from Yudhāmanyu Prabhu that Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja wants me to go to America as soon as possible. I will help him in the publication of a book compiled from your lectures. You once explained that just as a son is relieved of his debt to his father by begetting a child, the disciple is somewhat relieved of his debt to his Guru by establishing the message of his Guru within human society for the benefit of future generations. There’s an urgent need for the devotees of the world to hear your message. And even the non-devotees may be reclaimed by hearing from you. I want to see your words published in books that can be distributed all over the world.”

*pṛthivīte āche yata nagarādi-grama, sarvatra pracāra haibe mora nāma*

[Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu is the pioneer of Śrī Kṛṣṇa *saṅkīrtana*. He said: “I have come to inaugurate the chanting of the Holy Name of Kṛṣṇa, and that Name will reach every nook and corner of the universe.”] [*Chaitanya-Bhāgavata*]

“Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Ṭhākura stressed the need for the publication and

distribution of transcendental literature. And if a fallen soul such as myself can assist Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja in fulfilling this mission I will consider it a great honour. I have no qualification to help him but by your mercy I may become fit to do this service. Please give me your blessings so that I may become inspired to help Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja in distributing your teachings to the world.

Since I've been here in South Africa I've done my best to help with the relief work. I've typed up manuscripts of your lectures which I've distributed among the devotees here. The temple president here, Mahātmā Dāsa, is becoming more and more eager to hear your *siddhānta*, and he's thinking about going to India to take shelter of you, and ask for guidance and help. Many other devotees are also enthusiastic to know more about you, and I'm trying in my own small way to encourage them to hear your tapes, read the transcripts, and the paper of Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja, and in this way develop an understanding of your relationship with Swāmī Mahārāja and ISKCON.

I am well and happy, and by your inspiration I'm still going out regularly for preaching. Since I've been here I've distributed about five hundred volumes of a book entitled *Teachings of Queen Kuntī*, a series of lectures by our Śrīla Prabhupāda. The people here are simple and friendly and interested in our philosophy. I will depart for England on the eighth of March, and hope to arrive in America soon after that to work with Dhīra Kṛṣṇa. I hope this meets with your approval."

And then he says he has one question to ask you.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** What is that?

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** It is he says, "I hope it is not impertinent." But before the question, in your poetry you say, "*Kamala-priya-nayanam*." [Śrī-Dayita-dāsa-praṇati-pañcakam, 4]

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** *Kamala-priya-nayanam*, yes. Kamala, the name of Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura in her private life in, under Rūpa Goswāmī to serve Rādhārāṇī, and *nayanam* means that our, the name of our Guru Mahārāja. *Kamala-priya-nayanam*.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Yes.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Nayanamaṇi is, was the name of our Guru Mahārāja in her Vṛndāvana *bhajan*, and Kamala Mañjarī that of Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura, and Guṇa Mañjarī that of Gaura Kīśora Bābājī Mahārāja. Three have been mentioned there in that poem.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** So that's why this question is about Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura and Svarūpa Dāmodara.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Svarūpa Dāmodara is Lalitā Sakhī, it is mentioned.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Anyway, then he says, "I hope I have not committed any offence by making this letter too long. Please forgive any impertinence I may have committed."

*Jaya om viṣṇupāda paramahaṁsa-parivrājakācārya aṣṭottara-śata-śrī-śrīmad bhakti rakṣak śrīla śrīdhar dev-goswāmī mahārāj kī jaya!*

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Hare Kṛṣṇa. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** "Your humble servant, Mukunda Mālā Vilāsa Dāsa. Enclosed is a donation

of one hundred dollars.”

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Has come through?

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Bhaupadeva Dāsa.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Bhaupadeva. He’s coming from South Africa, this Bhaupadeva?

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Yes.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** And he wants to stay up to Gaura-Pūrṇimā?

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Yes. His ticket expires on that day so he will be forced to leave the country. Mukunda Mālā Vilāsa, he must leave South Africa.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** And another boy, this Ruci or who?

**Aranya Maharaja:** Ruci Dāsa Brahmācārī and Rohiṇīpriyā Dāsa.

**Devotee:** Just coming today Mahārāja.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** And another boy came with them to enquire, to inform me that I am ill-presented about the ISKCON.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Yes, misinformed.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Misinformed, misrepresent ISKCON has been misrepresented to me by some. Is that boy here?

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** No, he’s returned to Māyāpur.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Without meeting me.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Yes.

**Aranya Maharaja:** He asked some questions this morning. He asked many of the questions about Mahāprabhu \_\_\_\_\_

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** All right.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** He had a lengthy discussion with me after your *darśana* for around one and a half hours.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** And this Satānanda.

**Śrīla Govinda Mahārāja:** Satānanda Prabhu.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** He’s also in some doubt.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Yes.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** So you're to help him according to your capacity. He has lost his faith there, and whatever faith he had in me that is also disturbed by their abuse for me. Hare Kṛṣṇa. So he's a little perplexed.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Hmm. Doubts, in *Bhagavad-gītā*,

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** *Samśayātmā vinaśyati, nāyaṁ loko 'na paro*

*[ajñāś cāśraddadhānaś ca samśayātmā vinaśyati  
nāyaṁ loko 'sti na paro na sukhaṁ samśayātmanaḥ]*

["But ignorant and faithless persons who doubt the revealed scriptures do not attain God consciousness; they fall down. For the doubting soul there is happiness neither in this world nor in the next."] [*Bhagavad-gītā*, 4.40]

So doubt is a very mischievous thing. That should be cleared as early as possible, and to place us in a positive plane. Hare Kṛṣṇa. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** So I proposed to Mukunda Mālā Vilāsa to help me with this book. And also I wanted to inform you that the idea of the book would be to take excerpts from your speaking in the mornings on particular subjects. You speak repeatedly on a particular subject in different lectures.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Yes.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** So I want to combine them together to create a chapter.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** As you like you can adjust them. Hare Kṛṣṇa. But if it is possible, in two ways you can, one, *sambandha, abhidheya, prayojana*, selection under three heads. Or historical, date by date, or classification of the same nature, that is *sambandha, abhidheya, prayojana*, or by historical instalments, as suits you. Hare Kṛṣṇa. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol. And the topics in the heading, or in the marginal note, the topics dealt with may be given in the margin or in the heading. The subject matter, to facilitate the understanding of the reader you may use.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** There are also certain phrases that you use repeatedly that make nice titles for chapters.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Maybe, I forgot. Hare Kṛṣṇa. Gaura Haribol.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Just like you speak of the world of exploitation.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Ha, ha, yes.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** That is a nice title for a chapter.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Exploitation, renunciation and dedication.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Yes.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Exploitation also *karma*, *vikarma*, *sukarma*, sub-division there may be, renunciation also of several kinds, dedication generally two. *Vaikuṅṭha*, *Paravyoma* and *Goloka* area, there is also gradation, development. Any way! And the abstract of the lectures also may be given in the beginning in a note as you like.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Yes. That's what I'd like.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** To help others to understand in your own way you may put note there. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** Also to capture their curiosity, their interest.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Yes. Hare Kṛṣṇa. Nitāi Gaura Haribol. Nitāi Gaura Haribol.

Govinda Mahārāja \_\_\_\_\_ [?]

**Śrīla Govinda Mahārāja:** \_\_\_\_\_ [?]

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Hare Kṛṣṇa.

**Devotees:** Akṣayānanda Mahārāja.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Akṣayānanda Mahārāja quite silent.

**Akṣayānanda Mahārāja:** I just came Mahārāja.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Hare Kṛṣṇa. Nitāi Gaura Haribol. You are to help our Satānanda Prabhu. He's a little weakened. Hare Kṛṣṇa. Gaura Haribol. What are the points of his doubts, suspicion, to note carefully and to try to help him. Hare Kṛṣṇa. Hare Kṛṣṇa. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol. Nitāi Gaura Haribol. \_\_\_\_\_ [?] Nitāi Gaura Haribol. Govinda Mahārāja \_\_\_\_\_ [?]

**Śrīla Govinda Mahārāja:** \_\_\_\_\_ [?]

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** Hare Kṛṣṇa. Gaura Haribol. Hare Kṛṣṇa. Hare Kṛṣṇa.  
Nitāi Gaura Haribol.

**Dhīra Kṛṣṇa Mahārāja:** So Mahārāja, in your poem you say, "*Kamala-priya-nayanam*." [*Śrī-Dayita-dāsa-praṇāti-pañcakam*, 4] Is this revealed, some kind of revelation, the identities?

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** It is mentioned there, Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura has mentioned his name in his poem he's such. And we also could trace the name of Prabhupāda from some letter, and so I have mentioned there. And I heard from the lips of Prabhupāda about the name of Gaura Kiśora Bābājī Mahārāja, that secret name I got from Prabhupāda. And Prabhupāda's own name I got from his letter, one letter. And Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's name, that is already mentioned in his

own self composed poem. And Gaura Kiśora Bābājī Mahārāja's name perhaps mentioned in *Gauḍīya*. Hare Kṛṣṇa.

**Aranya Mahārāja:** So it's true that the great Ācāryas they reveal their identity in their literatures, in some of their writings?

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** In their Kṛṣṇa *līlā* participation within a very confidential circle.  
Hare Kṛṣṇa. Hare Kṛṣṇa. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol.  
Nitāi Gaura Haribol. So I want to go in.

*Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Goswāmī Prabhupāda kī jaya.*  
*Śrīmad Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Mahārāja kī jaya.*

...

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** ... not Haṁsadūta, Jayatīrtha Mahārāja, so he told Jayatīrtha Mahārāja himself has recommended that Satsvarūpa Mahārāja.

**Jayatīrtha Mahārāja:** Yes. I notice some difference in temperament between myself and himself to some extent.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** He had some grievance in his mind that, "Jayatīrtha Mahārāja he's not so much engages himself in the study of Swāmī Mahārāja's books, but Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Ṭhākura and your tapes. He devotes much of his time for that, not so much fond of Guru Mahārāja's books and literature: little indifferent." That was his complaint.

**Jayatīrtha Mahārāja:** Achar.

**Śrīla Śrīdhara Mahārāja:** I told that what Swāmī Mahārāja imparted to you all, that is a general course, but there is special course also. And that you can find from your Guru *paramparā* and the *mantram* you have got. Where to go, where is the goal? The primary training he has given you all. But long way to go. If you consult the *mantra* which you have got, the second *dīkṣā*, second initiation, and also Guru *paramparā*. And if you go through Rāmānanda Rāya *saṁvāda*, how step by step we are to go, where, it is clearly mentioned there. Where denotation increases connotation decreases. And if connotation is to increase denotation will diminish, necessarily.

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