

Vaiṣṇava Transmission

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Transmission

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This magazine is an offering to Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja, who is fulfilling the innermost desires of Srila B.R. Sridhar Dev Goswami Maharaja and Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada by traveling this Earth planet and presenting the conception of Radha Dasyam in the line of Srila Rupa Goswami.

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Initial Contact

Gokulananda das

Welcome to the first double issue of *Vaisnava Transmission*. Why so large? Mainly because of the fact that I have moved, and it took me about a month to set up my computer system again. However, you, the auspicious reader, shall not be made to do without. This issue will be twice the size of a normal issue. Therefore, "Nobody misses nothing!"

The last few months I have spent working on this issue and painting the Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math in Woodlynne, New Jersey. There, Sripad Giri Maharaja has been forging ahead with refurbishing Srila Govinda Maharaja's Math, and to ready it for the increasing service of Sri Sri Guru Gauranga. There are so many things to do at the Math, so anyone who has free time is encouraged to write or call us so that all the Vaisnavas might benefit from your time and service inclination.

The production of Vaisnava Transmission in Spanish has been proceeding steadily, and soon the premier issue should be ready. Write or call the math for further details.

The programs of Adi Purusha Das at his apartment have ended, due to his recalibration of his living arrangements. Those programs hosted by Sriman Adi Purusha das revitalized our preaching activities in Manhattan, and we will be forever grateful for that. However, just as soon as one door closed, another opened. Sripad Giri Maharaja can be seen preaching at Madhava Priya's apartment in Manhattan. There, many devotees are happily engaged in the worship of Sri Sri Guru-Gauranga-Gandarvika-Giridharijiu.

I sincerely hope that all the souls who come in contact with this publication are pleased by our efforts, and we gladly welcome any correspondence you would care to send.

The Day of Days

In this article, Sripad Bhakti Kanan Giri Maharaja, the appointed representative of the Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math on the east coast of the U.S. reveals his inner thoughts on the *vyasa puja* celebration of our founder *acharya*, Srila Bhakti Rakshaka Sridhar Dev Goswami Maharaja. *Gaura Bhakta Vrinda Ki Jaya!*

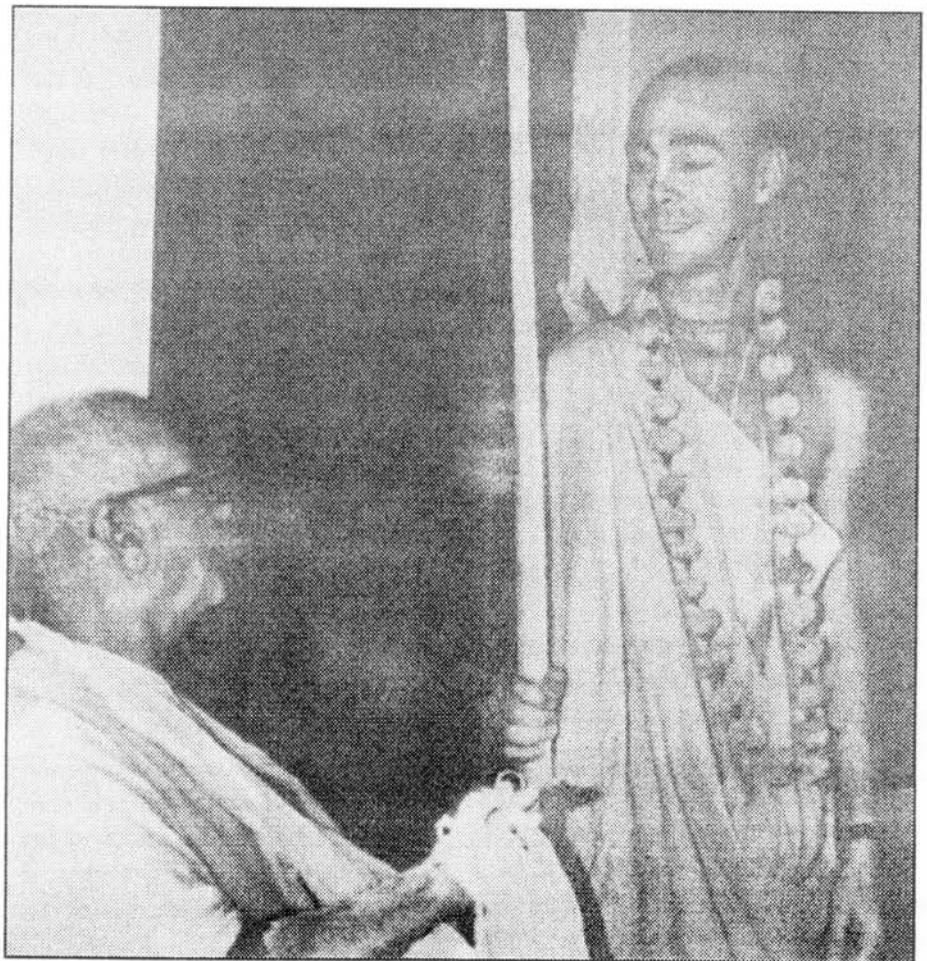
*devam divyatanum succandavadanam
balarka celancitam*

*sandranandapuram sadekavaranam
vairagya-vidyambuddhim*

*sri siddhanta-nidhim subhaktilasitam
sarasvatanambaram*

*vande tam subhadam madekasaranam
nyasisvaram sridharam*

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Rakshaka Sridhara Deva Goswami Maharaja, who is especially beautiful and kind. He presents the highest ontological truths in the most pleasing poetic style. His transcendental body is decorated with fine garments colored like the newly risen sun. He is the spiritual storehouse of concentrated bliss and the single fit choice of the honest devotees. He is an ocean of renunciation, knowledge, and the conclusions of pure devotional service. He is the most distinguished among all learned devotees of Krsna. Sporting in the pastimes of pure devotional service, radiant with the highest mellow of love of Godhead,



B.K. Giri With Srila Sridhara Maharaja on the day of his sannyasa initiation (Nov 1981).

He bestows the highest auspiciousness. He is the spiritual master and commander-in-chief of the Gaudiya Vaishnava *sannyasis*, and he is my only shelter.

Glorious Demarcation

Today marks the glorious and auspicious day of the one hundredth advent celebration of our most worshipable *acharyadeva Om Vishnupada Paramahansa Chudamani Sri Srila Bhakti Rakshaka Sridhara Deva Goswami Maharaja*, the most beloved disciple of Nitya Lila Om Vishnupada Paramahansa Paribrajakacarya Sri Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Maharaja.

“Without his guiding hand we are lost to the neverending onslaught of the mind’s attraction to the mundane world.”

It is the beginning of a year-long worldwide centenary festival culminating in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the appearance of His Divine Grace Srila Sridhara Maharaja. The festival is the inspiration of our most beloved President Acharya His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Sundara Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaja and is being conducted under his divine guidance for the satisfaction of Srila Sridhara Maharaja, his disciples, followers, and friends.

In our Math we are regularly observing many wonderful events connected with Krishna, His Avatars, expansions, pastimes and devotees. Yet, as splendid and meaningful as these



Sripad B.K. Giri Maharaja welcoming Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda-Dev Goswami Maharaja to his math in Woodlynne, New Jersey.

observances are none can excite the heart of the disciple as deeply as the celebration of the appearance of our most beloved Gurudeva. Although Krishna tells us *acharyam mam vijaniyam* “I am the Guru”, still Krishna Himself remains at a distance hidden from our view.

Close At Hand

It is His devotee, the supreme personality of servitor Godhead, our Gurudeva, who is close at hand guiding us with his supreme kindness and utmost patience as we struggle to culture our spiritual life. Without his guiding hand we are lost to the neverending onslaught of the mind’s attraction to the mundane world. We are, in the most real sense, helplessly and hopelessly dependent on his mercy.

This is not to say the disciple is without hope altogether. He is always hopeful of receiving the mercy of Sri Krishna knowing that Sri Gurudeva is the most merciful manifestation of the Supreme Lord. With this knowledge the disciple is confident that execut-

ing the instructions of the *guru* will bring about the greatest transcendental reward. It is those portions of the *shashtra* that address these points that seem most inspiring to us.

In his prayer *Sri Sri Gurv-astakam*, Srila Vishvanatha Cakravarti Thakura writes *yasya prasada bhagavat-prasado*, by the grace of the spiritual master one receives the mercy of Krishna, and perhaps more importantly *yasya prasadan na gatih kuto 'pi* without the mercy of the *guru* there is no possibility of making advancement in devotional life. Therefore, *dhyayan stuvams tasya yasas* I must constantly meditate on, praise, and glorify my spiritual master.

Nothing Is Impossible

The feeling of the disciple toward his *guru* is that by his grace anything is attainable, nothing is impossible. This is the ultimate expression of hope and confidence. *mukam karoti vacalam pangum langhayate girim, yat-krapa tam aham vande sri gurum dina tari-nam* By the mercy of the spiritual mas-

ter a lame man can cross over mountains, a dumb man can speak beautiful poetry and the fallen souls can be delivered from the clutches of material life.

“Our Gurudeva is so merciful that even the smallest service will bring enormous benefit.”

The infinitesimal is running after the infinite in an effort to understand Him and know Him. It is a hopeless, reckless pursuit, yet we are so confident of our Gurudeva's intimate connection with the Absolute Truth and his infinite goodwill toward us that we proceed fearlessly into the unknown. Gurudeva is not only our guide, he is our guardian.

No Trespassing!

Srila Sridhara Maharaja was given the name Bhakti Rakshaka, the guardian of devotion. He is the ever vigilant guard posted by Srila Saraswati Thakur at the door of the storehouse of Krishna *bhakti*. With his charming countenance he extends himself to greet and welcome the deserving aspirants to relish the contents, while his unswerving adherence to the *bhakti siddhanta* bars entrance to the undeserving.

The gross materialists are easily diverted from their attempts to gain entrance to the storehouse by the charm of maya, acting as a moat, surrounding the castle of the sweet Absolute where the storehouse is situated.

Yet, there is another group of intruders more cunning and stealthy who, posing as friends, attempt to gain entrance. These are the insincere,

curiosity seekers, and imitationists, who would delight in exploiting the all beautiful absolute. Cloaked in the veil of devotion they disarm the less astute, but they can never elude the penetrating glance of the Bhakti Rakshaka. Simply by his piercing vision their inner motives are exposed causing them to flee in fear of themselves. These are the same types as those who would seek the company of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu who was always protected by the watchful eye of Sriman Svarupa Damodar.

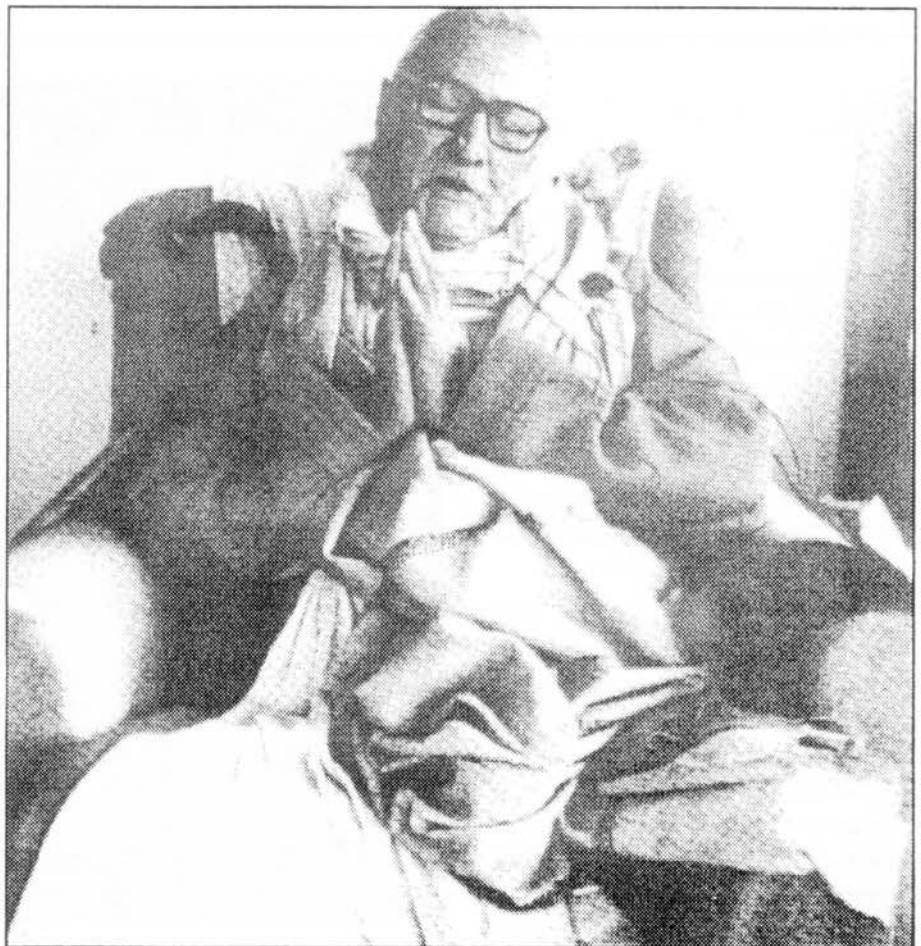
Rest Assured...

As he is the guardian of the storehouse of Krishna Bhakti, Srila Sridhara Maharaja is also the guardian of the devotional life of his sincere followers. If we accept his protection by following his divine guidance we can rest assured that all impediments to our devotional life will be removed. In Bhagavad Gita Krishna says *ye yatha*

mam prapadyante tams tathaiva bhajamy aham “Those who surrender unto me are rewarded in proportion to the degree of their surrender.” However, our Gurudeva is so merciful that even the smallest service will bring enormous benefit. Still we should never take advantage of his generosity and shall try to assume the position of all risk and no gain. We will happily risk everything of our own for his service while not expecting the least remuneration.

Unrestrained

His Divine Grace Srila Sridhar Dev Goswami Maharaja is so exalted that his glories are sung even by the *nitya siddhas*, the eternally pure and perfect devotees of the Lord. By comparison we are like a candle trying to illuminate the sun. Still, we cannot restrain our heartfelt desire to praise the glorious qualities of our divine master and pray for his continued blessings on us all.



Srila Sridhara Maharaja: guarding the storehouse of Krsna Bhakti.

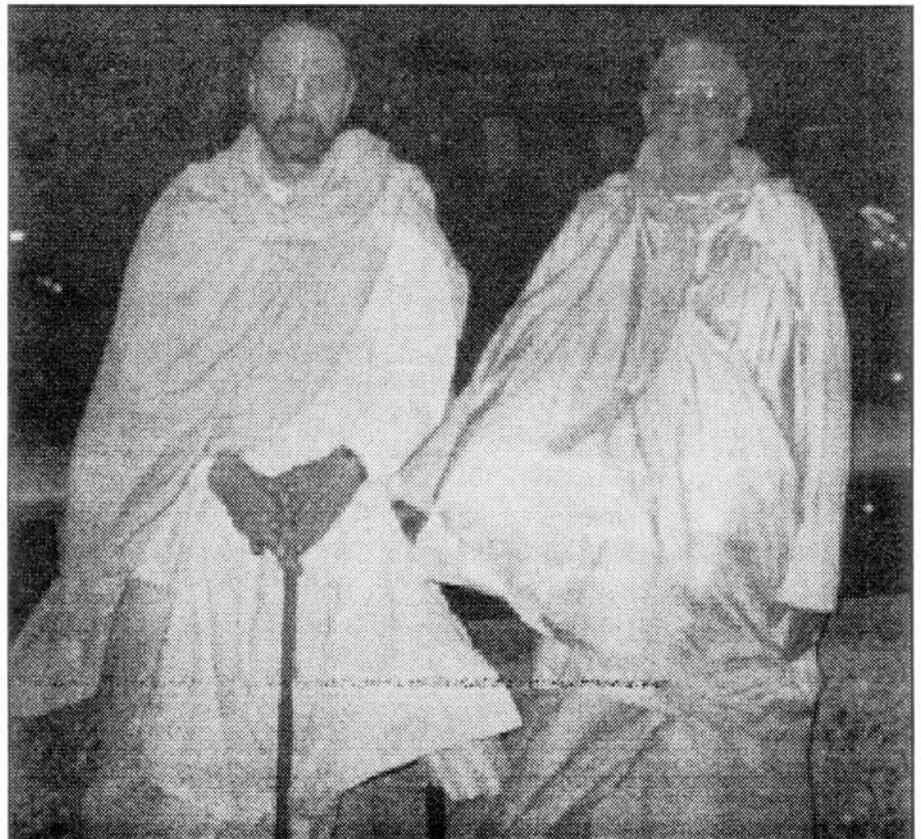
Spiritual Assistance for Our Friends

Sripad Bhakti Ananda Sagar Maharaja

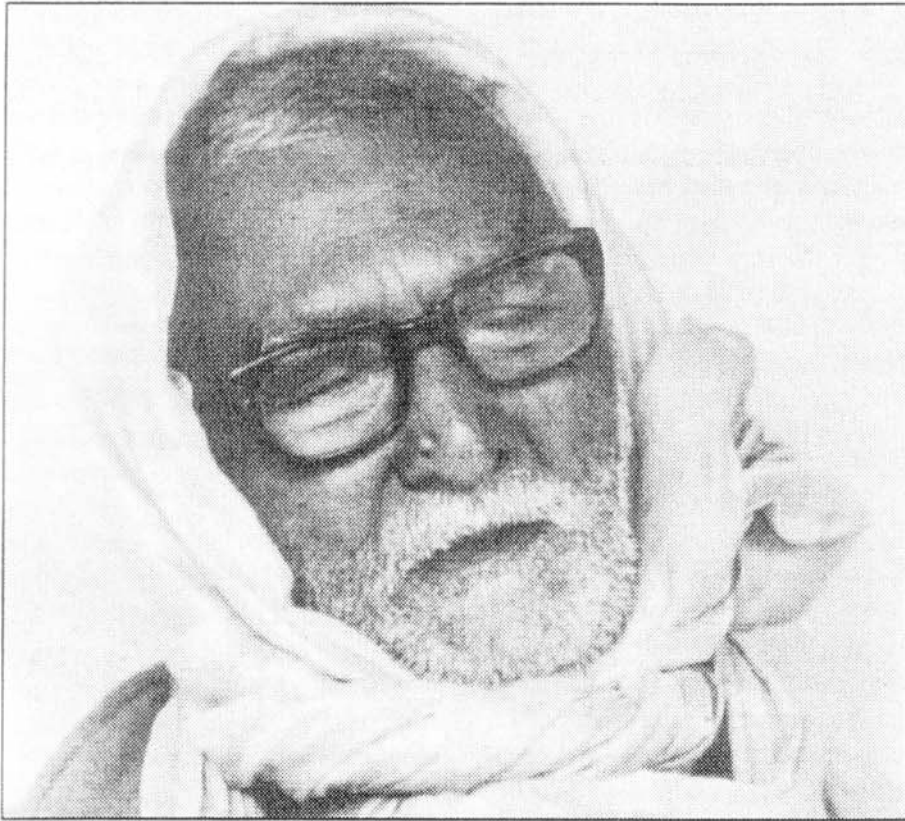
This article originally appeared in the book "Spiritual Assistance for our Friends" published on November 7, 1994, the auspicious appearance day of Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. It has been called by some "The most important thing printed to date" and by others "a final chance."

The genuine Acharyya is like the beautiful shining sun. When he appears like the charming vision of new sunrise, the entire planet is rejuvenated and illuminated in his brilliant rays of mercy. Once again, the whole world begins with new vigor the joyful journey back to the nectarean home of Loving Service to the Lord.

What a wonder then, at that very moment by the cunningness of the incorrigible Satan, the inauspicious, terrible long shadows of offense to the Vaisnava spread around in all directions like an epidemic, and stealthily try to thrust all those enlightened, fortunate souls back to the unknown quarter of oblivion. After all, Satan is indeed—Satan. There is no deficiency of anti-theistic artful tricks in his store.



The Author, Sripad Bhakti Ananda Sagar Maharaja, with Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja.



Srila Sridhar Maharaja: always pushing the conception of slavery to the absolute.

On the other hand, it's no surprise that the demonic owls, who can never tolerate the sunlight, become helpers of that Satan. Satan and the demons embrace each other and break the spiritual heart—they make it their only business to cause many disturbances in the pure service-land of the faithful plane of Devotion. They try to destroy the very seeds of the Devotional creeper that were collected and nurtured by the souls of tender faith.

The Action Of Satan

We can easily understand the matter if we consider the lives of all the Vaisnava Acharyyas, who want nothing but to bring good to the world. All the Acharyyas more or less suffer the obstacles of the demonic action of Satan. The more they endure in their auspicious work, the more Satan and the demons' party persist in their foul play. And this is still the position today because this is the natural wave of Maya's fortress.

As soon as 'thesis' blooms and shows its dignity, 'antithesis' naturally

sprouts up and confronts it. When Prabhupad Srila Saraswati Thakur declared totalitarian war against Maya and her associates, 'antithesis' retaliated from Maya's chamber with the worst opposition, endangering even his life. Anyone interested in exploring this history can refer to his authentic spiritual journal, 'The Gaudiya', which was published and preached for fifteen years.

After him, Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupad, taking his blessed instruction as his life's work tried to give shape to his divine desire. Alone, he inundated the whole world from shore to shore—immersing young and old, man, woman and child—in a great transcendental flood of "Hare Krsna" Mahamantra. He gave spiritual connection to countless souls, so they could get relief from perpetually wandering around the universe, and he gave them the golden opportunity to play in the ocean of Service to the nectarean Holy Name of Krsna.

But what's the position now?!

There are many who would have us think they are so expert in saving themselves. But today we see them turning their backs and fleeing that flood of the nectarean Name and falling into the jaws of Mahamaya's plague. Everyone knows well the two effects of flood. One is to wash away all filth and give the earth a new life of fertility. That is to say, even those who couldn't stay afloat in the water can also be benefited. If they try to carefully cultivate that fertile land, they too can easily obtain an auspicious fruit. But the other effect is on the negative side, and this is a very sad affair.

*“As soon as
'thesis' blooms
and shows its
dignity, 'antithesis'
naturally
sprouts up and
confronts it.”*

Now, those who were too careless are, as a reaction, being devoured by the epidemic of Vaisnava-aparadha, the poisonous effect of the negative side. They go on continuously spraying their poisonous insecticide of offense to guru and Vaisnava. In his inconceivable benevolence, Sri Srila Prabhupad Saraswati Thakur's open declaration of war was against the offensive sickness of such evil-doers. Even today history is repeating itself, and the natural law of the mundane world will have its play.

The International Scene

Everyone knows something about Srila Prabhupad Saraswati Thakur, and on the international scene, his beloved, intimate servitor Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupad is probably even more well-known.

Furthermore, who was the powerful and exalted personality whose effulgent divine potency we find in the background of Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupad, and who Prabhupad accepted as his Siksa Guru?

“Through thick and thin, Srila Guru Maharajaa saw his avowed responsibility through to the end.”

He was no other than the crown-jewel of the Paramahamsas, Srila Bhakti Raksak Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaja — The personified object of Srila Swami Maharajaa’s heart’s affection and most intimate friendship; the Glorious Guru of the sannyasins; the Ambassador of the Achintya-Bhedabheda-Siddhanta of Mahaprabhu Sri Chaitanyadev; the diamond in the necklace that garlands the Vaisnava world of the faithful followers in the line of Sri Rupa-Sanatan. Srila Guru Maharaja was unique in his vast scriptural learning and supramental realization.

Blessed Emaniation

But the world would never have known Srila Guru Maharaja without having been blessed by the endless fountain of affection emanating from our best friend and well-wisher—Srila Guru Maharajaa’s most beloved and confidential, exclusive servitor—Srimad Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswami Maharaja.

Who can forget those sweet days when Srila Guru Maharajaa graciously delivered his high, divine conception to the Western devotees? Everyone also knows that he was disinclined to

accept their responsibility. It was only when he was requested by his most intimate attendant Srila Govinda Maharaja—Who also promised to carry that responsibility—that Srila Guru Maharaja accepted our service and accepted us as disciples. And today, we see the very same Srila Govinda Maharaja even in failing health tirelessly upholding that responsibility even more brilliantly, even more powerfully and affectionately. In fact, Srila Govinda Maharajaa is today the transparent medium of Srila Guru Maharaja’s long-standing desire to bring the light of his brilliant rays of mercy all over the world.

Envy = Failure

Now the story of 1947 comes to mind, as we heard it directly from the lotus mouth of Srila Guru Maharaja. When Srila Guru Maharaja saw the surrender and constant service enthusiasm embodied in this seventeen-year-old youth and decided to select him as

his successor, many jealous persons tried to undermine the exposition Srila Guru Maharaja wanted to give him. They even tried to drive him out from the Math. They lost all hope in their selfish desires for that divine chair; they took many assets of the Math with them [the registered document proving this is still preserved].

Now, That’s A Weapon!

Despite all this, Srila Guru Maharaja took personal responsibility for the young man’s formal and spiritual education, and he gave his full attention to mold and shape him in several ways into an ‘all-rounder’ of the transcendental plane. Through thick and thin, Srila Guru Maharaja saw his avowed responsibility through to the end. And what was that? It was to create a transcendental Brahmastra weapon.

That weapon shines brilliantly in the form of Srila Govinda Maharaja who is the Agent to slash the material bondage of the conditioned souls, and



Sripad Sagar Maharaja: Always serving the lotus feet of Shri Guru.

who is today the illustrious personality worshipped as the Guru of the Universe [Visva-Guru].

Everyone who is acquainted with the actual history of the growth of the Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math remem-

Brilliant Example

bers with full regard the brilliant example of Srila Govinda Maharaja's constant, unalloyed Service [there are many written and taped evidences given by exalted disciples of Srila Prabhupad Saraswati Thakur, like Srila Swami Maharaja, Srila Tapasvi Maharaja, Srila Santa Maharaja, Sripad Satish Prabhu and many others]. From the Lord's Temple to the cowshed, from his Srila Guru Maharaja's Temple of Union in Separation to Sri Govinda Kunda and in the publication of more and more new spiritual books—the grand example of his Service pervades the whole environment like a supernatural, beautiful Himalayan mountain of Pure Devotional Service.

The jealous persons' eyes, blinded by their vain exploitation and fake renunciation, cannot see this great mountain standing right before them. However, the truthful, nonenvious devotees always remember the inconceivable Glory of Srila Govinda Maharaja's service ideal. In this there is not a hint of exaggeration.

His Heart's Desire

Srila Guru Maharaja took Srila Govinda Maharaja by the hand and seated him on the Guru's exalted chair. He was happy to reveal his heart's desire that his devoted followers—both personal servitors as well as newly arrived sincere seekers, would sincerely follow Srila Govinda Maharaja. To this day, it is extremely rare in the his-

tory of the world to see such a thing.

Everyone knows that Srila Govinda Maharaja neither became a guru by his own choice, nor having become one did he ever try to assert himself in that role. Even today we see that he still feels himself humble and insignificant. But he is with full honor holding the exalted chair of Srila Guru Maharaja. He is wholeheartedly pro-



tecting its dignity. Srila Guru Maharaja wanted him to be great, and that all would recognize his greatness, but we never see a hint of pride in his character.

Although for about 30 years Srila Guru Maharaja was eager to give this position to Srila Govinda Maharaja, Srila Govinda Maharaja thought himself unfit and with all humility and respect he kept his distance from any such idea. Rather, he engaged even more intensely and deeply in the Service of Srila Guru Maharaja.

Finally Srila Guru Maharaja strong-

ly ordered him to accept Sannyasa and directed him to accept the chair of the Spiritual Master and the responsibility of his entire mission. When Srila Govinda Maharaja followed Srila Guru Maharaja's order, Srila Guru Maharaja was extremely happy and free from anxiety. He personally seated him on his exalted chair.

Clarification Time

Moreover, to clarify the position for the unqualified yet sincere persons, Srila Guru Maharaja has briefly explained in his Last Will and Testament why he made Srila Govinda Maharaja the Acharya. Here we have a quoted part of that:

Srila Guru Maharaja's Divine Desire and Testament:

"The said Sriman Bhakti Sundar Govinda Maharaja (of whom I, Sri Bhakti Raksak Sridhar Dev-Goswami Maharaja, am the godfather, and am by caste Gaudiya-Vaisnava Brahman, and am by occupation a Religious Preacher and Worshiper of the deities at the address Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math, (PO and Police Station Nabadwip) — the said Sriman Bhakti Sundar Govinda Maharaja, who, despite temporarily changing his formal position, was named and recognized by me as Sri Govinda Sundar Vidyaranjan and engaged by me in all the various services of the Math; and upon whom on the 6th November, 1985 I conferred the order of Sannyasi whence I again

Singular Recognition

named and recognized him as Sri Bhakti Sundar Govinda Maharaja; and, since he has tirelessly and wholeheartedly assisted in the duties of organizing and developing this Math and also in the duties of establishing and developing Calcutta and Hapaniya

Centers, etc., and since he has arranged many donors and has provided much encouragement even to myself in the duties of managing the Math, etc., and all the above-mentioned tasks he is still performing up to this day; and since he is still naturally disposed to serve the Math and its residents, and at all times he is endeavoring for the progressive development of Sri Math, and above all, he is well-known and unanimously acclaimed as being firmly established in the philosophy of the Perfect Axiomatic Truth [Siddhanta] of Bhakti as propounded by both myself and as well by my Divine Master—thus, I hereby appoint him as my Successor Sevaite (Successor-Guardian-Servitor), Acharyya, and President.

“...They must respect him as the exclusive Acharyya and President, and remain faithful to him...”

In compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the aforesaid Deed, all my lawful claims, directorship, and rights will automatically be inherited by him. In all my Maths, etc., he alone shall as the Acharyya, confer initiation, etc., and shall as the Savaite (Guardian-servitor) and President, manage all the duties of my established Temples, ashrams, etc. Hereby, I do reveal my final desire and directives unto all my Eastern and Western lady and gentlemen disciples, as well as to the faithful souls devoted to the Divinity, that: they must respect him as the exclusive Acharyya and President, and remain faithful to him and cooperate with him in the service duties of the Math.

“If anyone cannot honor these direc-



tives and this final desire of mine, then they shall be bound to disassociate themselves from my established Maths....."

What more can I say about Srila Govinda Maharaja than this? That day is still perfectly clear in our memories. It is also known to all that after that, from Gaura-Purnima Day 1986 up to Srila Guru Maharaja's Departure Day on 12th August, 1988, he never again accepted anyone as a disciple but he arranged for them to be initiated by Srila Govinda Maharaja, and then showered even more of his nectarean grace upon them. Only the unfortunate owl-like persons who have chosen to shut their eyes tightly cannot see the beauty of this historically rare example. Not only that, but who has ever seen such an unprecedented example?

He Made It Clear!

Sri Gurudev showed the gravity of his own disciple, and for the transcendental benefit of his grand-disciples had the pranam-mantra of his disciple composed; he personally proclaimed the glories of that disciple *jaya paramahansa parivrajakacharyya*; and in the regular Temple worship he directed that this disciple's picture be worshipped on the altar. In this way, he revealed his firm conception beyond all doubt. During his presence in this world he never once expressed a complaint against Srila Govinda Maharaja; on the contrary he glorified his qualities time and time again, uprooting the seeds of doubt in the hearts of any simple disciples of shaky faith.

The evidence of Srila Guru Maharaja's desire is crystal-clear on these three occasions; in his later Testament of 2nd December 1985, in his public meeting declaration of 1986, and in his conversation with his beloved disciple Dr. Ami Asthana in 1987. The same thing is repeated everywhere [recorded on tape.] In his lifetime no one could say a word against his wish or

against Srila Govinda Maharaja.

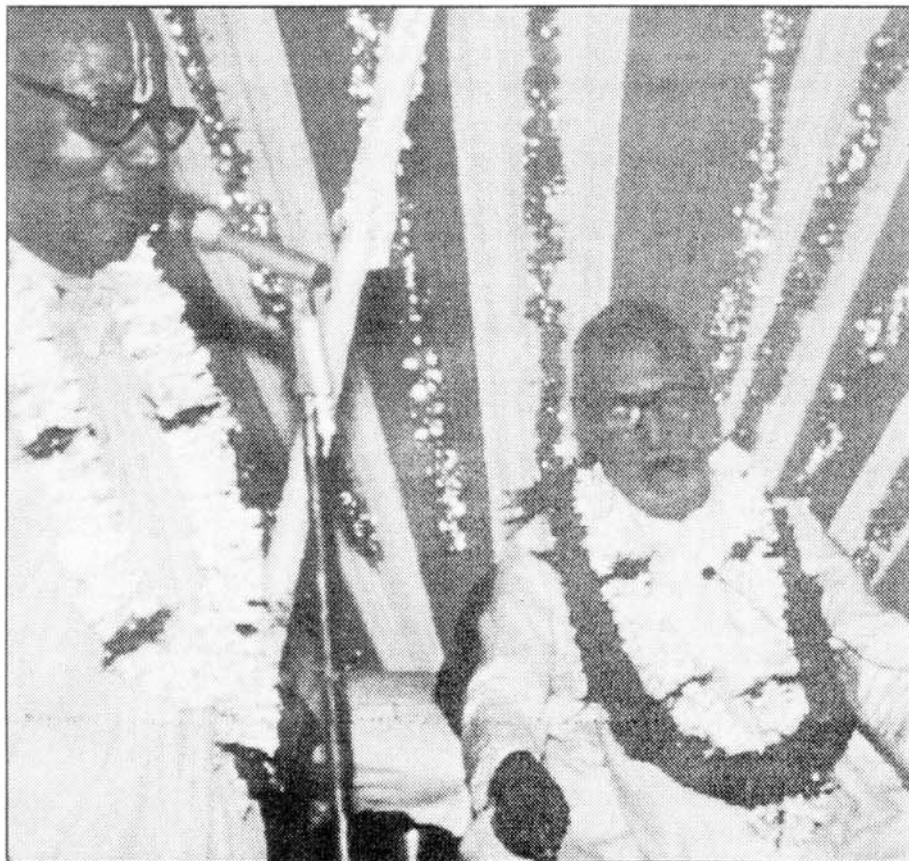
Now many are becoming self-made 'gurus', and desiring the service of material gain, adoration and fame from their disciples, they are saying so many things in the name of Srila Guru Maharaja. And today, the great surprise to me is that these 'gurus' are now dancing with persons who once turned up their noses and made ugly faces when we used the name 'Prabhupada' for Srila Swami Maharaja.

*"But thieves
never learn
from tales
of virtue."*

These so-called teachers are growing like parasites of the spiritual world, and many unsuspecting, unfortunate people

are following them. What these "gurus" are saying in the name of Srila Guru Maharaja is one thing; but their actions in his name are even worse. We feel shy to mention such things, but we have no other way if we are to help our sincere friends who are young on the path of Devotion.

In the course of traveling around the world almost five times in the last two years, many evidences of their unhappy, undevotional behavior has come to our attention. For example, during the presence of Srila Guru Maharaja they initiated some disciples, assuring them (and us) that they were acting as Rtvik and also assuring each of those disciples, "You are Srila Guru Maharaja's disciple." After the departure of Srila Guru Maharaja they announced, "You are my disciple." Naturally those disciples felt hurt, cheated, angry and disturbed by



Who can fathom the transcendental relationship between Srila Sridhar Maharaja and Srila Govinda Maharaja?

their treacherous dealings. Now we see that our Acharyyadev Srila Govinda Maharaja has objected to such behavior as beneath the dignity of the Chaitanya Saraswata Sampradaya. Because of this, they are gradually disconnecting themselves from Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math.

We see that diplomacy is also becoming a fashion with many. Their outward behavior is like our dearest friend, and they continuously praise our Guru and the Vaisnavas with 'lotus-poetry'. They roll in the foot-dust of Guru and Vaisnava, like the embodiment of humility. A few years later they try to reject the very person they for so long praised as God. Amazing! They are like the Kali-worshippers who throw their clay deities in the river like dolls when they think their purposes are served. Then where is their conception of truth? In a moment they can change their principle. Practically speaking, in the morning they are worshipping, at noon they are praising, and in the afternoon they are rolling in the dust; but in the evening they throw away their conception. Finally we see they have no stability in their own understanding. The association of such fickle-minded persons is extremely harmful for the practitioner devotees.

More Than Myself

But our solace is to remember the Transcendental Glories of our Acharyyas. Srila Guru Maharaja went so far as to say about Srila Govinda Maharaja, "Sometimes I consider you more than myself, something I could not say about even my own Godbrothers." [All these comments were taped by various devotees from around the world. Fortunately, those tapes have been brought to me. Anyone who wants to hear them may do so, but can the unfortunate persons take the time and trouble to digest the truth?]

Not only that, in Srila Guru

Maharaja's glorious presence and also after his departure, his exalted Godbrothers have made noteworthy comments that magnify the evidence of Srila Govinda Maharaja's glorious position as the *Acharya*. I had the fortune to be present on the morning of Srila Guru Maharaja's Holy Appearance Day of 1985 when for two hours he spoke extensively on all these things. There is no lack of witnesses and evidence in this matter. But thieves never learn from tales of virtue.

Ant Like Fools

Those whose nature is like ants searching for a hole in a jeweled temple or like those who spit at the moon, can never appreciate the exquisite beauty of the jeweled temple or the moon. These unfortunate persons cannot tolerate that the preaching mission of Srila Govinda Maharaja has within only two years had such spectacular success and been so highly appreciated by sincere seekers all over the world; and it continues to expand. These offensive persons want to belittle his prestige in various ways.

Who does not know that like Srila Swami Maharaja Prabhupad, Srila Govinda Maharaja's international

preaching has exploded into a volcanic fountain changing the face of the world? Under his affectionate leadership and the service efforts of his friends worldwide, the victory flag of Srila Guru Maharaja's Divine Dignity flies higher and higher, and over one hundred and fifty beautiful books in various languages have now manifested. Everyone from all walks of life cannot but be amazed and overwhelmed seeing the dynamic expansion of Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math under the powerful leadership of Srila Govinda Maharaja.

Now there are more than seven spiritual journals, periodicals and newsletters in various languages, and from the beginning of the Golden Jubilee Festival up to Srila Guru Maharaja's Centenary Appearance Day countless preaching publications and books have come out, and the grandeur of the preaching centers at Sri Dham Nabadwip, Vrndavan, Puri, Calcutta, etc., is increasing day by day.

Burning Up!

Despite all this, some envious, selfish persons are burning in the fever of their inferiority complex. Now they are waging a personal attack on Srila



The Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math: United for a common goal; marching under the same banner.

Govinda Maharaja. They are digging their own graves and ruining the spiritual lives of the devotees of tender faith.

This article has been written for the protection of the innocent from the evil influence of such offenders of the Vaisnavas. They epitomize the sins of Kali-yuga. Our only intention is to try to provide some nourishment for the faith of the sincere souls. It is appropriate for the offenders to get a last chance for their spiritual lives in the line of Srila Guru Maharaja. Moreover, it is our expectation that our friends and devotees will find strength and heart's joy in this article because—

*Vaisnavaer gunagan karile jiver tran
suniyachhi sadhuguru mukhe
krsnabhakti samuday janama
saphala haye bhava sagara tare sukhe*

“The only way to get free from this illusory gravitation is to glorify the qualities of the Vaisnava. We have heard this from our Divine Master. By his grace, Devotion reveals itself in the heart, and one's life is fulfilled. Happily, the soul can cross over the ocean of illusion.”

It's true that Srila Govinda Maharaja's high voltage, indomitable spiritual lifestyle does not always come within our mundane understanding. Not only that; many big, big stalwarts have been left behind in the hurricane of his intense Service life. But he never lost sight of his target or abandoned his Service. His life history reveals to us a liberated soul of the Transcendental Plane, and this is why he is venerated by all—from his supremely worshippable Guru-section down to his disciple-section who are virtually 'still in the womb'. We have never seen such honor afforded to anyone.

In Srila Guru Maharaja's own words we quote, “Sri Govinda Maharaja is a natural Paramahamsa.” We have seen Srila Guru Maharaja himself sing Srila Govinda Maharaja's 'jaya' as a

Paramahamsa. In this way, Srila Guru Maharaja enlivened and strengthened our hearts.

After all this if we have the audacity to pass our paltry judgment over Srila Govinda Maharaja, who could be more unfortunate than us? It's a foregone conclusion that if a disciple considers in the tiniest degree his Guru to be a common mortal, he must surely go to hell.

*“Why do
we ignore
our Guru
and take
the hellish
channel?”*

Further, if we have faith that Srila Guru Maharaja was an exceptionally great personality of the highest intellect, past, present and future, and the honored advisor to the whole Sampradya (Divine Succession); and above all if we accept him as mercifully showing us the form of a Siddhamahapurusa Spiritual Master and our own savior—we will happily and wholeheartedly accept his decision with our heads at his feet.

We have boasted our expertise so often, and this is still our habit, but why do we ignore our Guru and take the hellish channel? It's impossible that a person of such extraordinary intelligence as Srila Guru Maharaja could make a mistake in his choice of Srila Govinda Maharaja—if this simple fact can enter our poor brains only once, our degree of stupidity must automatically decrease. If a person of only normal intelligence observes another in various circumstances for forty-two years, how can he commit the blunder of misjudging him?

What, then, to speak of Srila Guru Maharaja?

The life of Srila Govinda Maharaja is a vivid example of how a perfect Teacher can empower a seventeen-year-old youth with full-fledged Divine Knowledge. Beyond all doubt Srila Govinda Maharaja's life is full of deep mystery. The only way to know such a mysterious play from top to bottom is to dive deep in the reality of Krsna consciousness under the safe shelter of the genuine Spiritual Master. Such high things are never cheap.

Seen it All Before

Now, if after reading all this the question still arises, “Why did Srila Guru Maharaja glorify Srila Govinda Maharaja several times?”, the answer is that Srila Guru Maharaja, in his long experience, had seen that many missions were disturbed after the disappearance of their Divine Masters. Therefore Srila Guru Maharaja mercifully saved us from the pits of all our mundane arguments and with his own hand gave Srila Govinda Maharaja his chair of the Divine Succession, giving us his Supreme Transcendental Directive to serve the Lord, the devotees, and his Mission—under the guidance of this pure devotee of the Lord.

But we cannot do anything for those who will not listen to this. With deep sorrow we remember Srila Guru Maharaja's last words—

“I have deserted them. But they may do anything and everything as they wish and reap the results far from the spiritual world, from God. Unlawful We hate them; we hate them: we don't think that they have any religious line in life.”

iti te jnanam akhyatam guhyad guhyataram maya

vimrsyaitad asesena yathecchhasi tatha kuru

“I have revealed to you in the deepest of internal knowledge. Now think it over fully, and do as you wish.”

—Amen

Baby Cobra

*Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhar
Dev Goswami Maharaja*

This article originally appeared with the title, "Basic Transcription - 6th & 7th November 1985." Within these lines the reader will find Srila Sridhar Maharaja's deep and glorious realizations about Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja.



First Krsna Dasa Babaji Maharaja drew my attention towards him, and I gradually found that intelligence and quality for the Vaisnava preacher line in him. And many appreciations came from inside the Math, and outside scholars also. Many, many. A Calcutta Vice Chancellor only heard a talk of two hours hard discussion with Govinda Maharaja present, and when the discussion was finished he came to the door and told me, "You please take care of this boy. He will keep your name. And don't think that I am talking nonsense; I am a Vice Chancellor. Thousands of graduates I am dealing with, so you should not undermine my remark." There are so

many [instances].

I sent him [young Govinda Maharaja] to deliver a lecture in South Calcutta. The next morning I met the gentleman. He told, "That you could not come, I was disappointed that you had neglected the assembly. I called you for *Bhagavat* explanation, but the boy was sent as your representative. There were at least eight doctors present in the audience, but the boy you sent explained *Bhagavatam* in such a way that they were all more than satisfied: "This boy has satisfied our intellectual thirst" So many remarked.

So Many Certificates

And from within [the Mission]: Kesava Maharaja, Goswami Maharaja, Vasudeva Prabhu, Sakhi Babu, Ram Gopal Babu, Madhava Maharaja, Jajavar Maharaja—so many gave certificate to him that he has got some supernatural qualification.

I myself also felt, that many times his suggestion came to help me in many, many places. So I believe he is endowed with some supernatural power. Some *siddhi*, a sort of *siddhi*. That is my fair, sincere conviction: he has some supernatural power in him though apparently he wanders like this and that.

And he has deep conception about religious, theistic life. He has not seen our Guru Maharaja but he feels, that as if he has seen him. So much nearness in the common faith. There are many things to be given for him.

It Is Fulfilled

His apparent partial indifference to the Math affairs, I am also responsible to such an extent for that, I think. So I am going on retaining his name as a preacher. And now after so many days it is fulfilled. And that is your contribution also, the

contribution of the foreign preachers, you are also entangled in this. Prabhupada wanted me to preach in the West; but anyhow it was not done. And in the last days you all have come.

An Intimate Connection

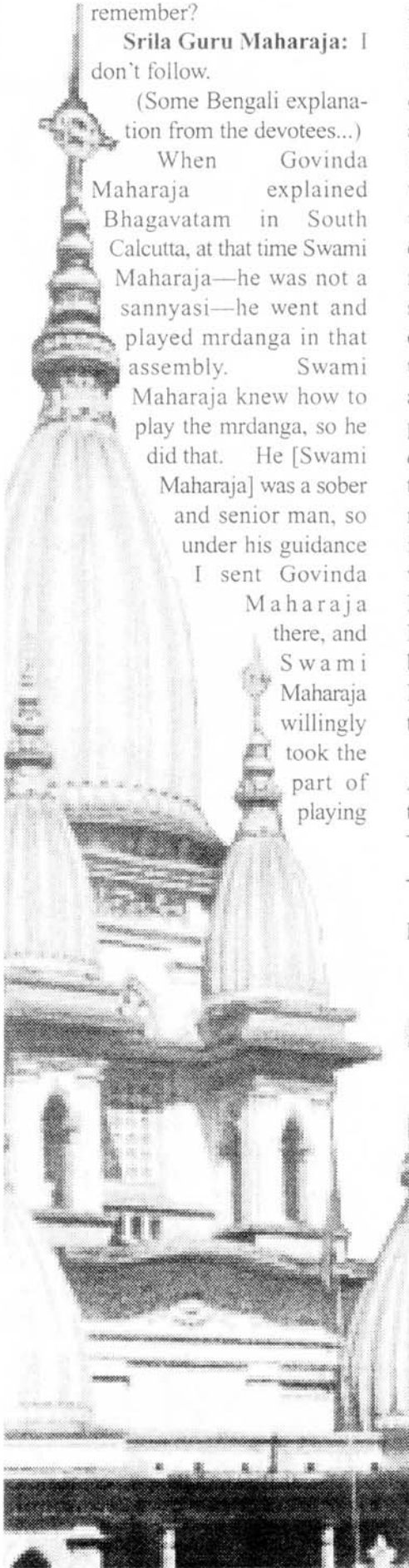
You have come any how through Swami Maharaja to have my connection, and I think what I could not do, Govinda Maharaja may take up the thread and continue that by the Divine Will of my Master. It may be done, I do not know. Swami Maharaja had a very intimate connection with him. Though so much difference of age, still he had very affectionate and close connection with Govinda Maharaja. Not only he, but so many sincere souls that have come under the direction of our Guru Maharaja, they all have some underground flow of sympathy towards him, I have found.

"So, we do not know what is in the universal mind."

So, we do not know what is in the universal mind. It may be that what was expected from me from Guru Maharaja, it may be done through him by the friendly and affectionate help of you all. (Hare Krsna. Gaura Haribol. Gaura Haribol.) Let us hope life's success in his preaching life.

Devotee: Maharaja, one time you told that Swami Maharaja and Govinda Maharaja went to give a lecture, and Swami Maharaja played the mrdanga and requested that Govinda Maharaja give the lecture. Do you





remember?

Srila Guru Maharaja: I don't follow.

(Some Bengali explanation from the devotees...)

When Govinda Maharaja explained Bhagavatam in South Calcutta, at that time Swami Maharaja—he was not a sannyasi—he went and played mrdanga in that assembly. Swami Maharaja knew how to play the mrdanga, so he did that. He [Swami Maharaja] was a sober and senior man, so under his guidance I sent Govinda Maharaja there, and Swami Maharaja willingly took the part of playing

mrdanga in that assembly. Karnani [our devotee] is now living in the same house. That was the house of one of the Bengali coal merchants, and it is in the possession of that Karnani now. In that same house there was a *pandal* and the next morning I visited and I was told by the proprietor like this, "At first I thought you neglected our meeting but whom you sent, we are satisfied more than enough. All the scholars who came told that this boy has delivered such—and dealt such—subtle and fine, high points about *Srimad-Bhagavatam*: the *adhoksaja*, *aprakṛta*, all these things: the classification, knowledge, and so many things he told. Those scholars' intellect was more than satisfied." This was told by the proprietor, Satkori Banerjee, he was a 'coal-prince'. Nepal's Palace was perhaps purchased by that gentleman, Satkori Banerjee. He is now dead but his children are there in that Nepal Palace.

That coal prince remarked like that. And Swami Maharaja was present in that party and played the mrdanga.

The First Letter

When foreign preaching, Swami Maharaja wrote the first letter not to me but to Govinda Maharaja: "Please ask Sridhar Maharaja about this and that." The letter was addressed to him—the first letter from America.

Acyutananda and Ramanuja, those disciples came at that time. Under his [Govinda Maharaja's] care, he [Swami Maharaja] sent them, and the letter was also with them.

Devotee (in Bengali): Maharaja, please tell what your godbrothers said about Govinda Maharaja.

Srila Guru Maharaja: Keshava Maharaja remarked that what Govinda Maharaja likes to do, he has the capacity of doing that. He has the capacity. Whatever he wants to do, he can fulfill—that capacity he has. That was Keshava Maharaja.

Sakhi Babu, the very successful

merchant, came with fifteen rupees from home, and then he became the master of crores of rupees and constructed Prabhupada's building in Chaitanya Math, and the big temple of Mahaprabhu, and so many things—Imlitala [also], and he purchased this land for me. He remarked—many remarks—but one remark was, "You are a young boy. You have so much intelligence that is maddening! Will you make me mad? For such a small boy you have such intelligence!"

Devotee (in Bengali): There was an incident regarding the sloka in Imlitala, Vrndavana...

Srila Guru Maharaja: There are so many instances! Tirtha Maharaja invited our parikrama party in Mayapur and our men were taking prasadam. Sakhi Babu asked Govinda Maharaja, "You please supervise whether your men are properly getting prasadam or not."

"This boy has delivered such, and dealt such, subtle and fine, high points about Srimad-Bhagavatam."

Govinda Maharaja replied, "What do you say to me? Tirtha Maharaja managed the whole of the Mission of Prabhupada. He has invited our men, and he, without feeding his own men, when he has invited, he will feed our persons. He is an expert manager and if I go there to supervise, it will be a direct insult to him." This Sakhi Babu remarked like that: "Young boy, you have got so much intelligence!"

And in Imlitala, when they were coming back from Badrinarayana they

were discussing, "In which year did Mahaprabhu visit this place? You please go and ask Sridhar Maharaja." Sakhi Babu there told, "[Ask] Sridhar Maharaja what is the year when Mahaprabhu visited. Is that written in the sanskrit verse he has made and is engraved here?"

In Sanskrit a few slokas were there. So many scholars also came and read but could not understand the meaning. Then Govinda Maharaja said: "Oh, so many slokas written by Guru Maharaja are engraved here. There must be the date." So he began to read and found, "Oh, here is mention of the date."

[For double confirmation as to whether or not Govinda Maharaja knew the meaning of the compositions inscribed there, Sakhi Babu asked the meaning of another of Srila Guru Maharaja's slokas written there which also contained some mathematical reference].

*"Oh, only five
or six years
back he was
such-and-such,
and what
God does,
all wonder!"*

Govinda Maharaja replied: "Ratnesuvedanvite. What is this ratnesuvedanvite? None can understand the meaning. Ratna means nine, Navaratna. Isu means five, pancavana; and veda means four. Ankasya vama-gati. Forty-five-nine [459 Chaitanya Era]. This is the year when [Sripad Goswami Maharaja got] this place. It is mentioned."

They were all perplexed: "This boy has got the meaning. Also so many scholars failed, but it is a simple thing!"—in this way!

Once we had some anti-feeling with Kunja Babu—Tirtha Maharaja afterwards—because he could not accommodate us though I affected the compromise on this condition that they will form a governing body with all of us as members. But when the compromise was finished he did not care to fulfill that condition, then we kept aloof from them. We, both the parties, [were] out on *parikrama* and at Mathura station our tourist reserved compartment and Tirtha Maharaja's tourist compartment were side by side: ours in the front and Tirtha Maharaja's in the back. We avoided seeing him although he is a senior member of our mission.

Real Faith

Paramahansa Maharaja and so many we were, but we avoided seeing him. But Govinda Maharaja, he privately met him because he heard that our Guru Maharaja had much affection for Tirtha Maharaja. So he privately saw him and of course he gave honor, dandavats. Then he remarked, "This boy has got real Vaisnava faith within him." That was the remark of Tirtha Maharaja!

Madhava Maharaja told on some occasion when he managed some litigation, "You are so much of a golden boy but we could not get this whole-time service from you. That is our sorrow."

Jajavar Maharaja the other day he felt, "You are the only person who will be able to keep the whole prestige of Sridhar Maharaja. I am satisfied with your dealings; they are all square. To look after all sides you are the fittest person to do it."

He [Govinda Maharaja] came, he was a student in the school near Vrndavana Dasa Thakura's place, Bramanpara. After four or five years when he visited that place—he was invited—and he explained *Bhagavatam*. The staff of the school including the headmaster, they came to hear *Bhagavatam*, and their remark was: the first remark was, "Like a par-

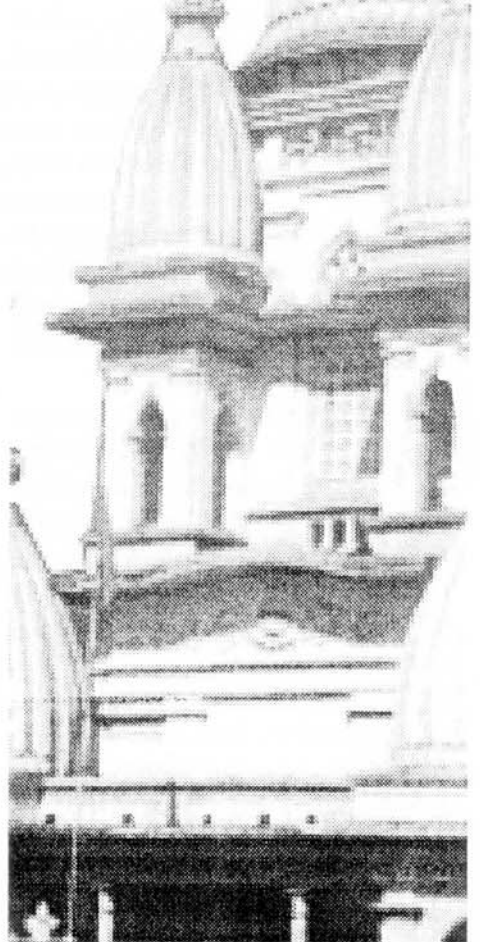
rot he is pronouncing all these things. It is impossible that what he says, his realization is like that."

Then one gentleman said, "Put some question, then it will be out, whether a parrot is reproducing or he has knowledge about that."

All Wonder!

Then they put some questions to him they were astounded by finding the answer. Then they remarked, "Oh, only five or six years back he was such-and-such, and what God does, all wonder! He has become such a great scholar that he is impressing us with his supernatural knowledge." All were astounded.

Then once he went to that



Chaitanyapura, the house of Zamindar. They told, generally ordinary people have some complaint against Vaisnavadharmma—they can't understand. They belittle it. Then one old gentleman who went with him told, "Maharaja himself has not come but only this boy has come. You question him and you will know the high position of Maharaja himself. You may question this boy."

When they came to discuss with him about Vaisnavism, Govinda Maharaja told them, "You are so many. You select someone amongst you who will talk with me. Whom you consider to be fittest, you select him and let him talk and you all hear. At one time don't come to put many questions to me. Select one and let him talk with me and you all hear."

A Little Introduction

Then they made a representative: "He will talk and we will all hear." Then Govinda Maharaja explained, "Let me give some introduction. A little bit."

"So the jnanis have five layers: *pratyaksa, paroksa, aparoksa, adhok-saja and aprakrta*. Five layers of knowledge. This is the sign, the symptom of all these layers:..... Now, from what plane are you coming?" (Srila Guru Maharaja and assembled devotees laugh!) Hearing this introduction he vanquished [them. They felt] "When you say like this, then what answer, talk, all—that will be a wastage(?), so how can we talk, discuss with you?"

Ram Gopal Babu was a veteran member of this mission. In his outer life he was a manager. He was M.A. of the first time; Calcutta University, M.A. And he was successor, and also another big zamindar of the locality (Sampal(?)). Very experienced man. Straightforward and upright.

When the *Bhakti-rasamrta-sindhu* was prepared by him under my guidance here—he was a Sanskrit scholar also—he saw the composition of a Sanskrit poem by Govinda Maharaja and he was so much impressed with the wording and the meaning that he sud-

denly embraced him: "So fine! You can produce. You are a boy and you can compose such a wonderful Sanskrit sloka poetry." He embraced him.

Too Rough

Also when he [the scholar] was given Sanskrit poetry from another M.A., his God-brother - Haripada Vidyaratna, that was so rough that he [responded]: "Why do you produce that to me? that is, I do not like his composition. But Govinda Maharaja's composition..." So many.

Vasudev Prabhu; formerly he loved me but then there was a quarrel. I came away and then when I was affecting some compromise between two parties—Kunja Babu and Vasudev Prabhu—then he came to our rented house in Calcutta just adjacent to Swami Maharaja, that house in Sitakanta

Banerjee Lane. And he found him and remarked, "You have a very good guide, so please attend affectionately." Vasudev Prabhu had some intellectual capacity, and he could detect only within few hours, and he appreciated his service in that [time].

There was one Zamindar, very rough language he always used. He did not care for any man; he was so much egoistic. Be he told, "You sent the *brahmacari*, so young but very qualified, very *tejasvi* [means exaltedly powerful]. He came as the * ('cobra'—Haricharan Prabhu suggests to Srila Guru Maharaja).....

[But it's the end of this tape.

(Let's try to locate the next tape.....)]

*Srila Govinda Maharaja comments: "...baby cobra, that is he can defeat an elephant easily if he can get the opportunity."



Srila Govinda Maharaja; The Baby Cobra Of Srila Sridhar Maharaja.

On The Road

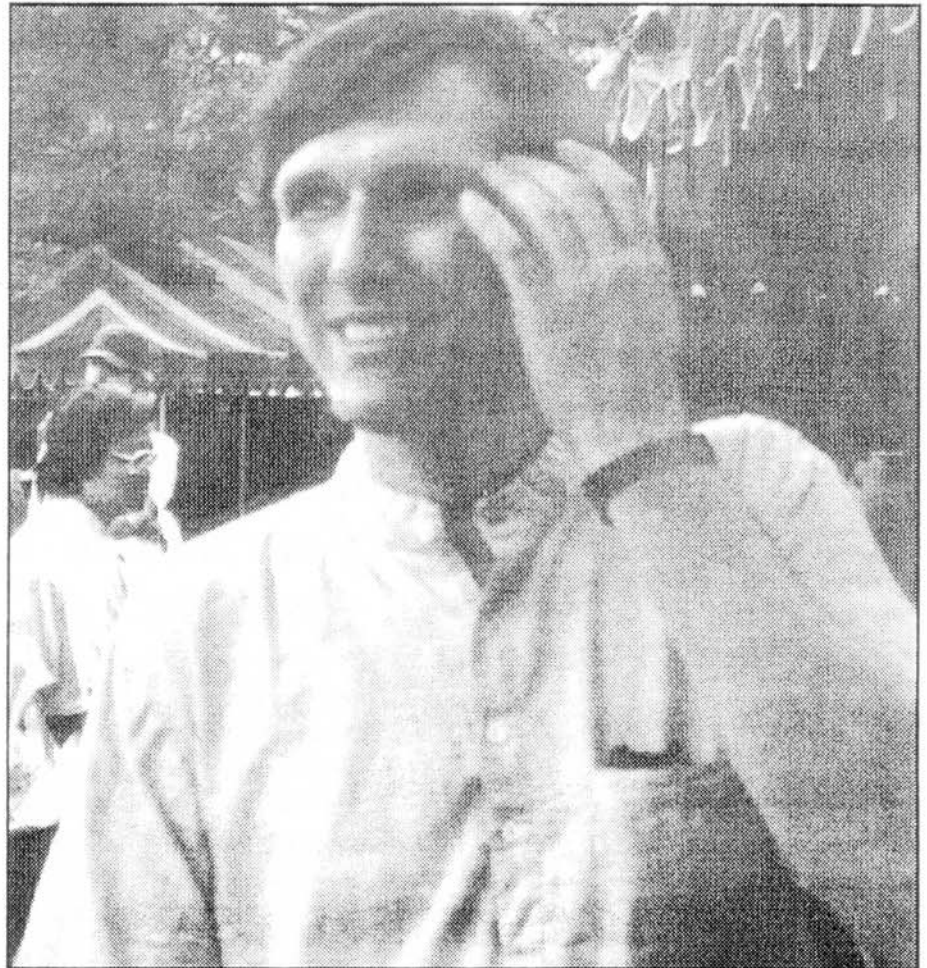
By Krsna Balaram das

Sripad Giri Maharaja is the appointed local Acharya of Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja for the Tri-State Area. We all know him well. But, Krishna Balaram das, the first disciple of Srila Govinda Maharaja from this area remembers him way back when.....in the early days!

Sripad Bhakti Kanan Giri Maharaja, who is tirelessly serving the mission of our Guru Maharaja by caring for and directing the Northeast branch of the Sri Caitanya Saraswat Math is a real *sadhu* whose life and vision are guided by the instructions of Sri Caitanyadev and our great *Arcaryas*.

I once had the fortune of experiencing firsthand the surrender and dedication of Giri Maharaja, as well as his affectionate and good humored personality, when I served as his assistant and cook on a cross country jaunt (by trailer). In order to glorify His Holiness, as well as purify myself and inspire our readers, I will recall some moments of days of intimate *sadhu sangha*.

It was the year 1984, a time of tremendous upheaval in the Gaudiya Vaisnava movement in the west. Basic concepts of our siddhanta were being questioned and clarified, such as the



Krsna Balaram das



The famous mobile ashram that Sripad Giri Maharaja and many fortunate souls travelled (circa 1987).

qualification of Guru, the difference between *siksa* and *diksa* and even “the origin of the soul”. The depth of the devotees vision and faith were tested as great stalwarts seemed to fall, and substance over appearance became important guidelines. I was also caught up in these struggles, living in the *brahmacari ashram* of a Vaisnava Society.

Immense Good Fortune

Reading Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja’s *Caitanya-caritamrita* was inspiring me, and I was hoping to connect with a Vaisnava who personified the high conception of Mahaprabhu. By some immense good fortune, I first heard about, and then read books by, Srila Sridhar Maharaja. However, the local interest authorities seemed to feel threatened by Srila Sridhar Maharaja’s teachings, which emphasized intense self observation and humble dedication to those who actually were in touch with the Divine Plane. Seeing how Srila Sridhar Maharaja had the recommendations of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati and Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja, I prayed for some contact with one of Guru Maharaja’s agents.

Luckily for me, I heard through a friend (Prahna Krishna das), that a devotee who had taken sannyasa from Srila Sridhar Maharaja would soon be passing through town. Several of us who were searching for Reality the Beautiful made arrangements to travel from the *ashram* to the home of a devotee family who were hosting this *sannyasi*.

“We set off the next morning with Maharaja at the wheel of our mobile ashram.”

To our good fortune, we were then introduced to Sripad Bhakti Kanan Giri Swami, just returned from Navadvip Dham. His Holiness answered our questions to everyone’s satisfaction, clearly explaining the lofty teachings of Srila Sridhar Maharaja and the importance of applying them to our lives. “What is it we are searching for, and

how important is it to us?”, he asked. We all had some soul searching to do. Later I was told that Giri Maharaja would be leaving the next day, on a cross country journey, bound for the Sri Caitanya Saraswat Math of San Jose. He was looking for a *brahmacari* assistant or two to help with preaching, book distribution and seva of Sri Giridhari, his worshipful deity. When Maharaja heard that I was an experienced cook, as well as attracted to Guru Maharaja’s movement, he convinced me to travel with him and meet other like-minded devotees across the USA. It would mean leaving the *ashram* where I had begun my search, but remembering the expression of Guru Maharaja, “no risk, no gain”, I knew that this was an important opportunity and I prepared to leave.

Maharaja At The Wheel

We set off the next morning with Maharaja at the wheel of our mobile *ashram*. Various emotions were welling up in me upon taking what seemed like such a big step, but Maharaja soon put a stop to that by quoting Bhaktivinode Thakur, “progress means elimination and new acceptance”. This was one of

the first of many times I was to see how Sripad Giri Maharaja lived by the teachings of the *Acharyas*, and tried to help others to live that way also. There was hardly an incident that passed without evoking a scriptural lesson, or an example from the lives of the *Sadhus* being applied by His Holiness.

Often Amazed

Actually, I was often amazed to see how Maharaja's consciousness was permeated by Vaisnavism, especially compared with my own wandering, unsteady mind. Maharaja is a wonderful example of *sastra caksus*, or seeing through the eyes of the scriptures, a vision we should all pray to attain. As we traveled, we kept a regular program of *sadhana*, awaking early, doing *mangalarcanam* and Hari Kirtan, and then reading from the scriptures. Maharaja would illustrate the slokas with wonderful examples of applied Vaisnavism, quotes from the *Arcaryas* and stories of Navadwip Dham and the Holy Personages there.

"I'll never forget the smile on his face as he looked up from his dish, spoon in hand and said, "Bhakta Joseph, this is Krishna Consciousness!"

This was my first real exposure to the lives of Srila Sridhar Maharaja and his remarkable associates and servants. I never tired of hearing of the pastimes of Guru Maharaja, his beloved Govinda Maharaja (our revered Gurudev), Godbrothers and others. Coming from

Giri Maharaja these episodes seemed very much like the *lilas* of Mahaprabhu and His associates that we read about in the *Caitanya-caritamrita*, and I felt fortunate to hear firsthand how the pastimes of the Lord's devotees are continuing blissfully to this very day.

Sweaty Marxist Brow

After taking prasadam, we would sometimes practice our preaching skills, usually with myself taking the part of a puffed up scientist or Marxist (a role I was well suited for), and Giri Maharaja as the expert Vaisnava preacher. I would really try to defeat him, and anyone who knows me can attest to my persistence in a debate, but Maharaja always established the supremacy of the KRISHNA conception, and would end with an illustration or two of how he had once been in a situation exactly like our practice debate, fearlessly facing down the materialists. Usually these stories ended on a humorous note, with a frustrated professor of "Leninist semantics" wiping his sweaty brow

while faced with the simple, undeniable facts of *Bhagwat Dharma*. Speaking of humor, Sripad Giri Maharaja has an excellent sense of one and it was a delight to travel with him.

A Real Birdbrain

He would often needle me about my attraction to the material energy, especially the natural world of trees, mountains and birds which were a real obsession with me. I had lived in Central American rain forests and in a teepee in the Rockies. I never tired of pointing out the various species of birds we saw on small back roads, or of jumping out of the trailer to chase a crane or alligator. "Bhakta Joseph," he would say, "you must have been a bird in your past life, and if you're not careful you'll be one again."

Sober Up

On another occasion he said, "If you had one tenth the attraction for Krishna that you have for the mountains, you would be Krishna conscious."



Sripad Giri Maharaja instructing Krishna Balaram das in the worship of Sri Sri Guru-Gauranga-Gandarvikha Giridharjiu. (circa 1987)

A very sobering thought. But Maharaja was always looking out for my well-being, sometimes with amazing results.

Every Trick In The Book

For example, we were passing through New Mexico, quite close to the mountains of southwest Colorado where I had spent much of my youth. My attraction for the “mode of goodness” as exemplified by country living was still strong and I tried every trick I knew to get Maharaja to swing up there, probably hoping to disappear in the process. Maharaja put off any decision for a couple of days, finally saying, “if you want to go up there for a few days on your own I’ll wait for you, but you better leave tomorrow, we’re behind schedule.” He added, “I don’t think it’s a good idea though, it’s a material desire.” But I went to bed dreaming of the Rockies. The next morning, one of the worst snowstorms to hit Albuquerque in forty years was upon us! “I guess Krishna doesn’t want you to go” said Maharaja. As I looked at the storm in amazement I had to agree.

“He would just smile and say, ‘Bhakta Joseph, you cannot make me angry so give up!’”

There were actually a couple of incidents of this type. Maharaja’s transcendental qualities were always apparent. For example, I used to suffer severe depression, and would try, usually by being argumentative to drag others down to my level, but this did not work with Giri Maharaja. He would just smile and say, “Bhakta Joseph, you cannot make me angry so give up!” Then he would read some sastra or play a tape by Srila Sridhar Maharaja and my dark moment

would pass. Sripad Giri Maharaja had definite ideas about Deity worship, especially as regards his worshipful Sri Giridhari. He insisted on His Lordship being constantly supplied with milk sweets, the more the better. I was constantly at work making sandesh and “simply wonderfuls” of all types.

On A Mission

I especially remember one occasion, Maharaja had received a gift of sugary, homemade pralines, and he decided that Sri Giridhari must enjoy these on top of rich Breyer’s Ice Cream, (the only commercial ice cream which is eggfree), so we set out to find some.

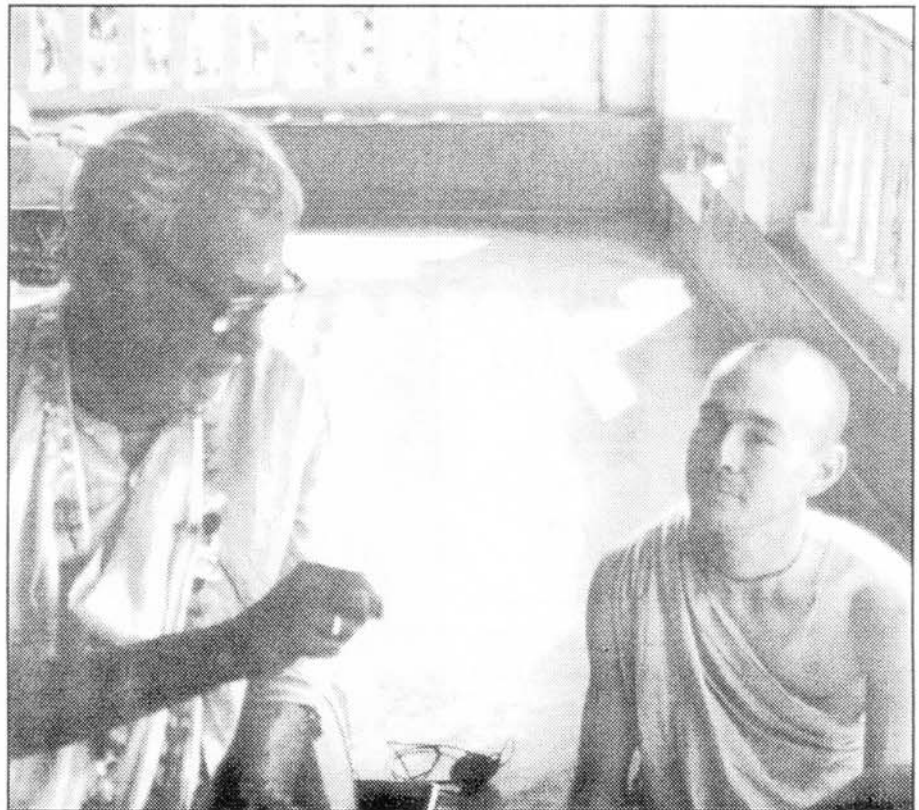
Unfortunately, none of the local supermarkets seemed to have this brand but Maharaja was determined. We headed for the next small town. And the next. Finally, about 8 pm, Maharaja hit the jackpot, and stocked up on several 1/2 gallons of sweet ice cream. We prepared the offering, several varieties smothered in syrup and covered with the pralines and had a nice kirtan. Afterwards I offered the remnants to

Maharaja who invited me to join him. I’ll never forget the smile on his face as he looked up from his dish, spoon in hand and said, “Bhakta Joseph, this is Krishna Consciousness!”

In the months we spent together we had many transcendental adventures. I would like to mention that we were joined for a while by another “searcher”, Bhakta John (now Jitendra Mohan das). Eventually we arrived at the famous San Jose Math, from which the teachings of Srila Sridhar Maharaja were spreading far and wide. Sripad Giri Maharaja went on to San Francisco, and we separated, to my misfortune, actually.

Thank My Lucky Stars

But now he is with us in New York, so we can have the benefit of his association, and the opportunity to serve Srila Govinda Maharaja by helping him solidify the mission here. Personally, I always “thank my lucky stars” for the chance to meet Sripad Giri Swami, and recall with much fondness our times on the road. *Gaura Bhakta Vrinda ki Jai!*



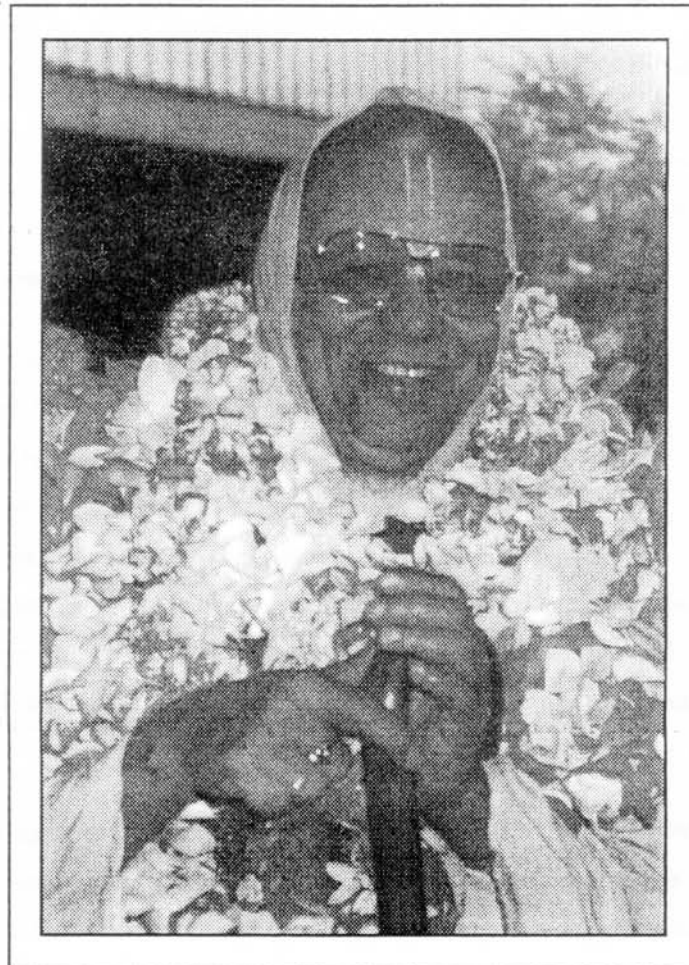
Sripad Bhakti Kanan Giri Maharaja is always ready to serve Srila Sridhar Maharaja and Srila Govinda Maharaja by helping others in their preceptorial line.



ALL GLORIES TO SRI SRI GURU AND GAURANGA

VYASA PUJA OFFERINGS

Srila Bhakti Sundar
Govinda Dev
Goswami Maharaj



The following are the heartfelt offerings from the New York and New Jersey devotees to His Divine Grace Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja on his Vyasa Puja.

Bhakti Sundara Govinda

His heart's treasure is found in his beautiful name,
a constant reminder of the beauty and fame
of our dearest Lord, for whom he came,
to carry us up to the *aprakrita* plane.

His form, ever resplendant with sweetness and grace,
illuminates the darkness and changes the face
of *maya*'s stronghold, leaving no place
she'll stand, like Durvasa's flee from Sudarshan's chase.

Beauty, sweetness and charm find their home within him.
Magnanimous and tolerant, only begin
to describe the qualities within
his spacious heart, with no trace of ego or sin.

In his preaching he's fearless, undaunted and brave.
In the service always of his own gurudeva.
Smiling, laughing, serious and grave,
loved by us all - Bhakti Sundar Govinda Deva.

Swami B.K. Giri

The Higher Realm

Dear Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja:

I cannot properly express the gratitude I feel from within my heart, on this, your appearance day. This was the day your Divine Grace chose to enter this plane of experience, in order to pull others up into the higher realm of Divine Slavery.

Therefore, how can I glorify you? Whatever I am able to do in the positive realm is by your grace, and your goodwill and tolerance is the functioning principle of reality. Your standard of

devotion is of the highest caliber, yet you allow even the lowest persons to become involved in your mission out of love and caring. Yet, your associates and disciples are all of the highest standard, so those like myself feel a little out of place. We are too low and mean to ever feel deserving of a place amongst the higher servitors.

I do not deserve a place in the fold of the devotees, yet by your mercy I am doing something. There are many like myself currently in this world, and on this, your appearance day, I would like to remember how lucky I am that you came to give some future. Without the touch of the upper world, which is embodied in your instructions and personality, the material consciousness would be forever devoid of hope, and the dream of the souls here would be all-pervasive darkness.

Gokulananda das

Glorification

Revered Srila Govinda Maharaj;

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glory to Sri Guru and Gauranga. Please allow me to convey my respectful best wishes on this auspicious occasion of the appearance day of Your Divine Grace. Although I am hardly qualified to call myself a disciple, and even hesitate to sign my name to this letter, the *sastra* definitely advises us that glorification of the Vaisnavas should be performed at every opportunity, without regard to our own status. With this in mind only, do I dare to offer Your Grace this offering on Sri Vyasa Puja.

Travelling throughout countless universes and taking repeated births, some civilized, others abominable, the unfortunates such as myself are continually experiencing the horror of birth,

death, old age and disease while ever straying farther and farther from the *seva* of the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha-Govinda and their intimate associates which, unknown to us, is the real panacea for all suffering and the actual acme of attainment in the material world. Sometimes, due to our *karma* and upbringing we may be prompted to question the reason for our appearance in this abode of sorrows, and turn to philosophy or religion for answers, but, because of overwhelming material desires we allow ourselves to be cheated, and even to deny the Lords personal form, or consider ourselves His equal. In such a state it is readily apparent that, by our own meager efforts we will never come to the end of this cycle of *samsara*, and the universe seems a cold and hopeless place.

Fortunately for us, however, there is a Supreme Being, and His love for the *jivas* is all-embracing. As agents of that Divine Love, the sevitors of Godhead are travelling the various universes, canvassing for the Absolute Truth and attempting to awaken us from our deep slumber and reveal our eternal connection with Reality the Beautiful. How fortunate for someone to come into contact with such an agent. For such a connection the *jivas* should constantly pray. The Lord does hear our prayers, and the proof is here in the Divine Form of Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda-dev Maharaja, whose only concern is serving his own Divine Master by engaging everyone he meets in the



Srila Govinda Maharaja on *parikrama* of Hapaniya (birthsite of Srila Sridhar Maharaja) with Rasabdi and Mohanananda Prabhus

service of the Lord and His devotees. Sri Guru is so merciful that he can attend to spiritual infants and fools such as myself while internally residing on the plane of Absolute Reality. I can only wonder what sort of good fortune I attained to come in contact with a real Vaisnava, living proof of 24 hour engagement in Mahaprabhu's *samkirtan* movement, and a resident of the Holy Dham of Navadwip, where *krishna prema* was so freely distributed by Sri Nityananda. Srila Govinda Maharaja is happiest seeing the people of the world awakening to their real status as participants in the divine *Lila*, and he knows the price of that attainment, *Vaisnava-seva*, therefore he expertly guides us and arranges the opportunity for that *seva* with the help of his dedicated itinerant preachers, sanyasis and *grhastas* alike. He inspires us by making real and relevant the supreme teachings of the *Caitanya-caritamrita*. When hearing him speak of the pastimes of Srila Guru Maharaj and his Godbrothers, we are transported to the realm of Sri Caitanya's *kirtan* party. How great is the limitless mercy of Sri Guru! He allows even fallen rascals like myself a chance to serve and associate with the highest plane of reality, and gives a glimpse of the wonder of that service in his own Divine Person.

Srila Govinda Maharaj, I am so thankful that Srila Sridhar Maharaja is allowing us to serve you. Through you we see the reality of the *parampara*, transcendental relationships and *krishna prema*. Although I am so unworthy, please allow me to continue associating with your aides such as Sripad Giri Maharaja, and your servants here in New York. Please take me to the land of *seva*, forcibly if necessary. On my own I am helpless, but seeing or hearing you makes *maya* go far away. I pray to some day, some life, be allowed to serve you by facilitating the pastimes of Your Divine Grace, Srila Guru Maharaj and Sri Sri Gaur-Nitai in the Land of Love Divine.

Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Maharaja *ki jai!*

Krishna-Balarama dasa



Srila Govinda Maharaja heading kirtan at Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math in Woodlynne, New Jersey

Auspicious

Please accept my dandavat pranams, Gurudeva.

Today is the most auspicious day, for it marks the appearance of a pure Vaisnava. This exalted and rare *paramahamsha* is none other than you, Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja. Since, you are always fulfilling the supreme desires of Srila Bhakti Rakshak Sridhar Dev Goswami Maharaja, and Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, all the fallen souls must take advantage of your *darshan* as much as possible. This is our only hope in this mundane world.

I personally see Gurudeva as my Lord Nityananda who can bestow an ocean of infinite mercy, not only for the devotees, but for the whole human and non-human sections. As my eternal Gurudeva I am indebted to you so much, that it is impossible to put it into words. Without your mercy, I could have never attained your divine association. I remember the first time I saw you, it was in Mexico 1992. Your unparalleled humility and kindness made a great impact on me. Srila Govinda Maharaja, empowered by Srila Sridhar Maharaja, is bringing to us an unending ocean of nectar and mercy through his lotus mouth and writing. Gurudeva is the oasis that quenches the thirst of the conditioned souls in the desert of material existence. It is my duty to glorify and worship my beloved spiritual master every

day, because Gurudeva represents Krishna, as He Himself stated in Bhagavad Gita.

Devotion also means spiritual activities, therefore we must follow with faith our Gurudeva's directions, because he knows our needs and how to teach us how to develop *bhakti*.

Once again, I offer my *dandavat pranams* to you, Gurudeva. Please bestow your mercy upon me.

Your aspirant,

Dayal Chand das

In Reverence

All Glory To Sri Guru And Gauranga!

Please accept the most humble pranams of your most insignificant servant.

I revere your most radiant lotus feet, the ocean of grace. You have blessed me with your *darshan* and given me the sweetest *mantra*, the sound of Goloka Vrindavana: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare.

You have traversed this planet, even the darkest parts, to



spread the mercy of Sri Krsna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Those who have experienced your sight have received the magnanimity of Lord Sri Krsna. You have built a great bridge across this world of *maya* to the highest region, for the lowest to cross on. You have accepted me, despite all my shortcomings and inability to surrender. For this I hope someday to be truly worthy.

Falling at your lotus feet:

Your most insignificant servant,

Satya Hari das

Results

To Govinda Maharaja:

Although I didn't deserve initiation, you were generous, and blessed me.

My life will never be the same again. My family, friends, and people I meet tell me that I look as if I am at peace. But, as you know, it's much more than that.

I'm spreading Krsna Consciousness everyday and people are listening because they're seeing the results.

Your servant,

Madhava Priya das

Surrender, Surrender

Surrender, surrender to what and why and how?

To the *guru of guru's*, the master, be submissive and then bow.

Surrender, beautiful surrender, thru dandavats we greet.

This is but one way we must serve his lotus feet.

Surrender, loving surrender, how shall we address this most auspicious teacher who gives us all success.

Surrender, surrender to His Divine Grace oh so clear,

Srila Bhakti Sundara Govinda is celebrated dear.

Surrender, eternal surrender, for he alone can give purest *Krishna Bhakti* for the jiva soul to live.

Surrender, youth's surrender, his appearance day is here.

Precious, for it only comes, but once, in all the year.

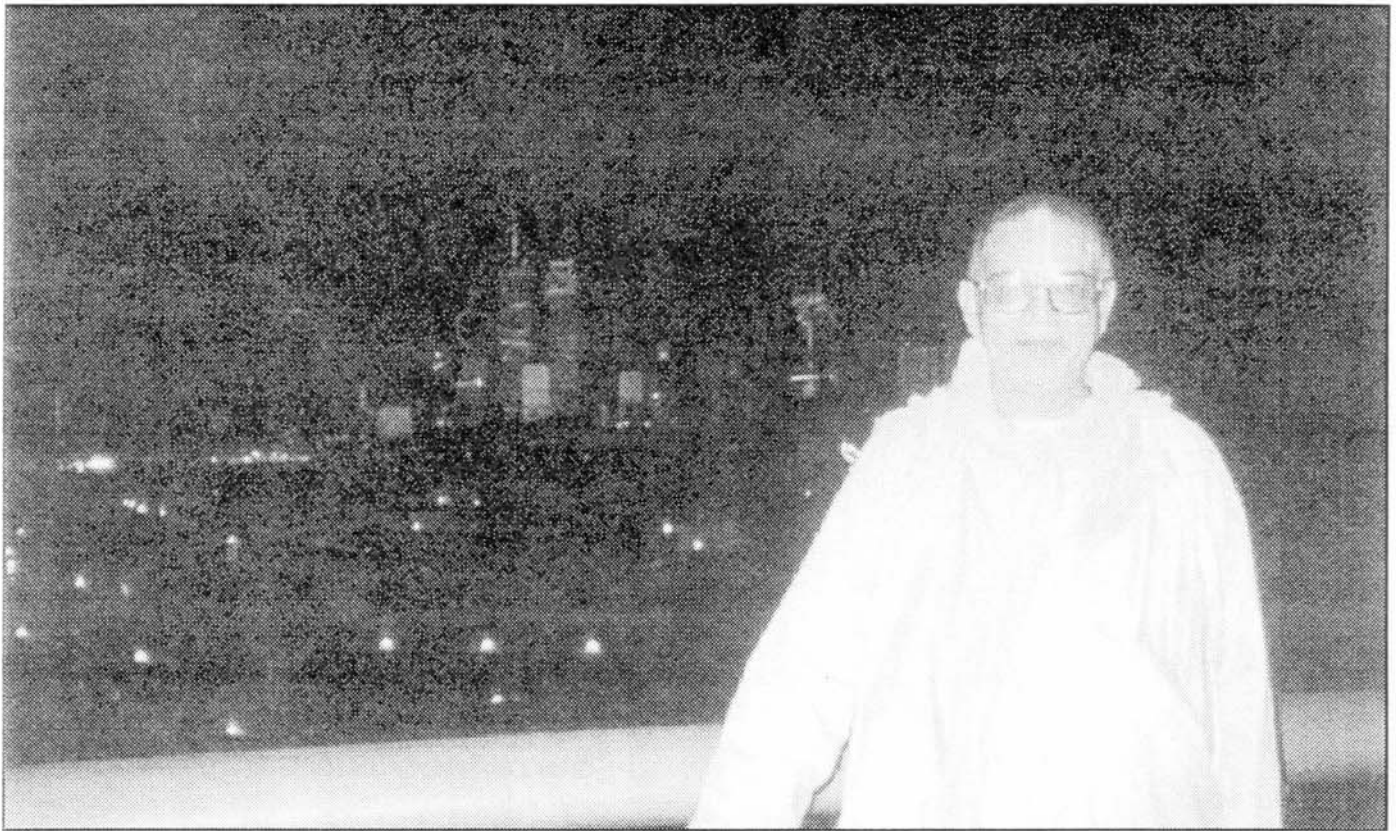
Surrender, surrender within the Lord's dear play.

It's there that we find service in every single way.

Surrender, blossoming surrender, one needs the holy name that comes forth from his necterean lips, the vaishnavas proclaim.

Surrender, sweetly surrender, first with baby steps.

Then in body, mind and words, we can't afford to rest.



Srila Govinda Maharaja against the Manhattan Skyline.

Surrender, surrender not to a foreign creed
of false sentiment and philosophy, with which you won't succeed.
Surrender, right surrender, for he protects the jewel
of every son and daughter, that studies in his school.
Surrender, now surrender, the creeper grows so fine
with transcendental fruits that ripen so sublime.

Surrender, surrender to the exalted, purest soul.
For who else can guide us, to life's glorious goal?
Surrender, true surrender, present every day.
One without a second the great devotees say.
Surrender, soul's surrender, does he have nothing for himself?
Oh, but the wise ones know that he has his master's wealth.

Surrender, surrender how can our friendship grow?
Thru his loving favor, where chanting and *gayatri* flow.
Surrender, gives surrender, are our *rasas* there?
From his sober pastimes we can get the fare.
Surrender, fortunate surrender, to reality is bliss.
Behold! *Sat chid ananda*, for all we are is this.

Lila Sundari Devi

Appreciation

Dear Srila Govinda Maharaja:

Thank you for stopping in New York City during your last tour.
It was a great privilege to be able to attend your lectures and to
witness the profound realizations and enlightening words which
you so graciously bestowed upon the fortunate souls in the
audience.

Although I am a most unworthy fallen soul, still, I am blessed
by the opportunity to come into connection with such divinity,
as is manifested in your holy form.

With admiration,

J. Herman

The Center of the Holy Name

Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev Goswami Maharaja

The following is a transcript of a lecture delivered on August 14, 1994 in Brooklyn, New York at The Center of the Holy Name. Sripad Kirtanananda Swami and his disciples were the generous hosts of Srila Govinda Maharaja on his first public lecture after arriving in the New York area.

All glories to the devotees of the Western world especially here in New York. I am very happy to be here now, as I was last year when I came for the first time. Actually, I am also happy that Sripad Kirtanananda Swami is here, it has been so long since I've had his *darshan*.

What is my duty? Why am I here? These things I am trying to remember at every moment. I joined the Mission in 1947 at the lotus feet of Srila Sridhar Maharaja. After joining I stayed at the



Calcutta math studying Sanskrit under Srila Sridhar Maharaja's direction. Sometimes Srila Sridhar Maharaja would have to leave Calcutta and on those occasions he ordered that I learn *Srimad Bhagavad-gita* from Srila Swami Maharaja (Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada). Srila Swami Maharaja also had two or three sons, who were my friends especially the middle son Mathura. Although we were friends we quarreled a lot. But I and another two students lived with Srila Swami Maharaja within his family. Srila Swami Maharaja had much affection for us, even though I was a very naughty boy, still his affection came to me.

“At the math we were only three or four brahmacharis serving all these great Vaisnavas.”

Srila Swami Maharaja had so much affection for Srila Sridhar Maharaja, and Srila Sridhar Maharaja had affection for me, so in this way Srila Swami Maharaja had affection for me.

Reflecting, I am thinking that from 1947 until 1985 Srila Sridhar Maharaja was trying to make me qualified. In 1964 Srila Sridhar Maharaja wanted to give me his *ashram*. Srila Sridhar Maharaja was always giving pressure to me to take *sannyasa*. He was always saying, “After taking *sannyasa*, then I will give you charge.” And I am telling, “I am not qualified. I am not feeling so qualified as a *sannyasi*. Please give me time.” But Srila Sridhar Maharaja was thinking that he would not live very long which made him draw up a will at a relatively early age naming me as the next *acharya*. But if I did not take *sannyasa* then I could not be the *acharya*



Srila Govinda Maharaja leading the Universal Kirtan.

according to the will. This document was called a deed of settlement and a deed of gift. The deed of gift gave all properties to the deities. The deed of settlement provided that from the time of Srila Sridhar Maharaja's passing I had five years to take *sannyasa* after which time the governing body could select another *acharya* to succeed Srila Sridhar Maharaja.

Unenthusiastic

But I was not so enthusiastic to take this position. Actually I was very unqualified. Of this I have no doubt. But some qualification must have come throughout the association of the great Vaisnavas like Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja and other godbrothers of Srila Sridhar Maharaja, who were very big personalities. Fortunately I'm getting their association. Many times during any given year so many advanced and august personalities would come to my Guru Maharaja's math to get his *darshan*. At the math we were only three or four *brahmacharies* serving all these great Vaisnavas, so in this way we got their association. Also we were hearing their discussions which were on a very high level.

Year after year I was getting the asso-

ciation of the *sadhus* and hearing from them. In this way some good qualities must come to the hearer. It was by this process of hearing from the *sadhus* that I realized that I was not qualified to be the *Acharya* of this math. The chair of Srila Sridhar Maharaja is a very heavy and high chair, and I am a very below-standard *brahmachari*. Knowing these things made me very unenthusiastic to take the chair but Srila Sridhar Maharaja said publicly in 1947, “I wish to make this boy my successor.” At that time three or four of his Godbrothers were very angry by his desire and so they left his math. But my Guru Maharaja tried in a variety of ways to make me qualified.

Don't Leave!

In 1964 Srila Sridhar Maharaja became frustrated that so many years had passed and I still had not taken *sannyasa*. During those 20 years my Guru Maharaja many times asked me to take *sannyasa* and each time I am thinking that if I take *sannyasa* my Guru Maharaja will leave this world. His only responsibility in this world was his mission, his Diety and his devotees. Although I knew I was unqualified he thought I was qualified and he wanted me to take charge of his responsibility.

And I knew his intention was to give me that responsibility and then disappear from this world shortly thereafter.

Asked Again

He was showing poor health, and all his godbrothers who he wanted to take over after his disappearance had already disappeared themselves. When the last of these godbrothers Srila Swami Maharaja disappeared Srila Sridhar Maharaja again asked me to take *sannyasa*. Seeing the situation, and still feeling unqualified, I didn't want to take *sannyasa* because now I knew that if I took it, he would definitely disappear like his godbrothers. So, although he tried to give me *sannyasa* at that time, I resisted, and avoided it.

“No, the day after tomorrow you will take sannyasa and if you say no I shall die now.”

One day in 1985 Srila Sridhar Maharaja called me to his room whereupon he said, “The day after tomorrow you will take *sannyasa*.” I told Srila Sridhar Maharaja, “Give me three months to take care of some things and on Gaura Purnima I will take *sannyasa*.” To which he replied, “No, the day after tomorrow you will take *sannyasa* and if you say no I shall die now.” Hearing that I knew that what Srila Sridhar Maharaja was saying was the truth. I knew his health was showing itself to be very bad, being that I was his doctor (homeopathic doctor) at that time. All the allopathic doctors could not treat Srila Sridhar Maharaja. So for 13 years, I was treating him. I knew his heart condition, and I knew that if I told him I could not take *sannyasa* then, no doubt,

he could have a heart failure. So I gave him this answer, “I am your goat, you can cut my neck or cut my legs as you like. I cannot say no today. That is you are determined to give me *sannyasa*.”

My Guru Maharaja then called for Puri Maharaja who came within two days at which time I was given *sannyasa*. Then two months later at Gaura Purnima time he declared me the *Acharya* of the Mission and that I was to fully take over his responsibilities. In this way, I became the *Acharya*.

The Promise

Still I am feeling unqualified. Service came to me and I am trying to serve. *Sannyasa* means serving bodily, mentally and verbally. At the time of *sannyasa* initiation I had to promise in front of the sacred fire to serve my Guru and my Garuanga. This is the real meaning of Vaisnava *sannyasa*.

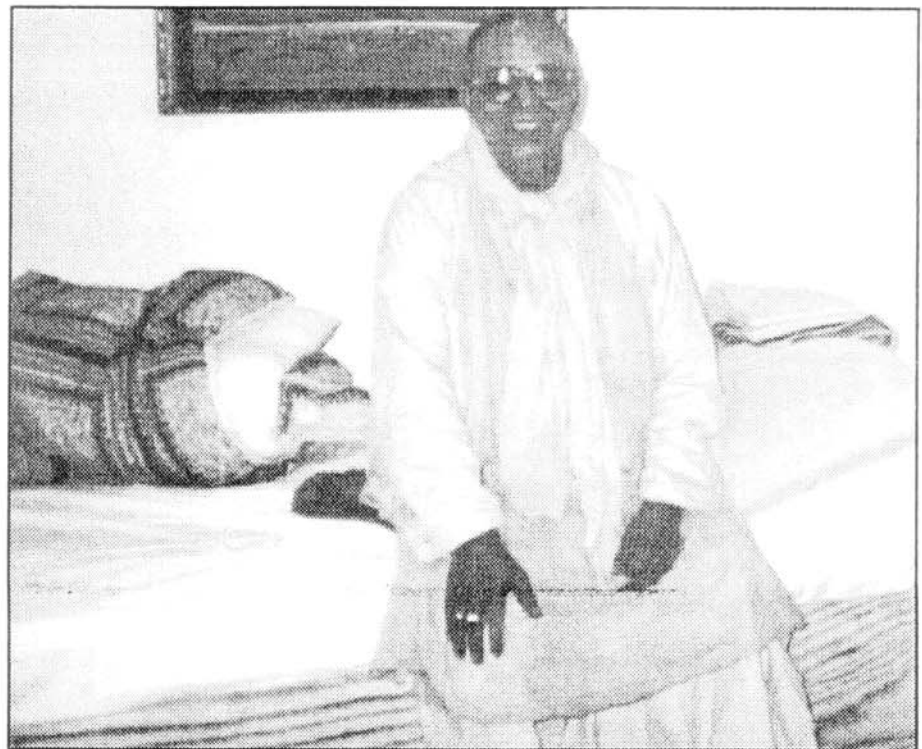
In the Kaliyuga, *sannyasa* is not possible. Actually it is restricted. According to the scriptures, *sannyasa* is useless in this *yuga*. Vaisnava *sannyasa* means that wholeheartedly I shall serve my Lord. And it was this promise that I

took in front of the sacred fire. In the *Srimad-Bhagavatam* it is stated that the best service to Krishna is the service to the Vaisnava. That is, 24 hours I am trying to serve my Guru and Guraunga and that is the *sannyasa* that I was given.

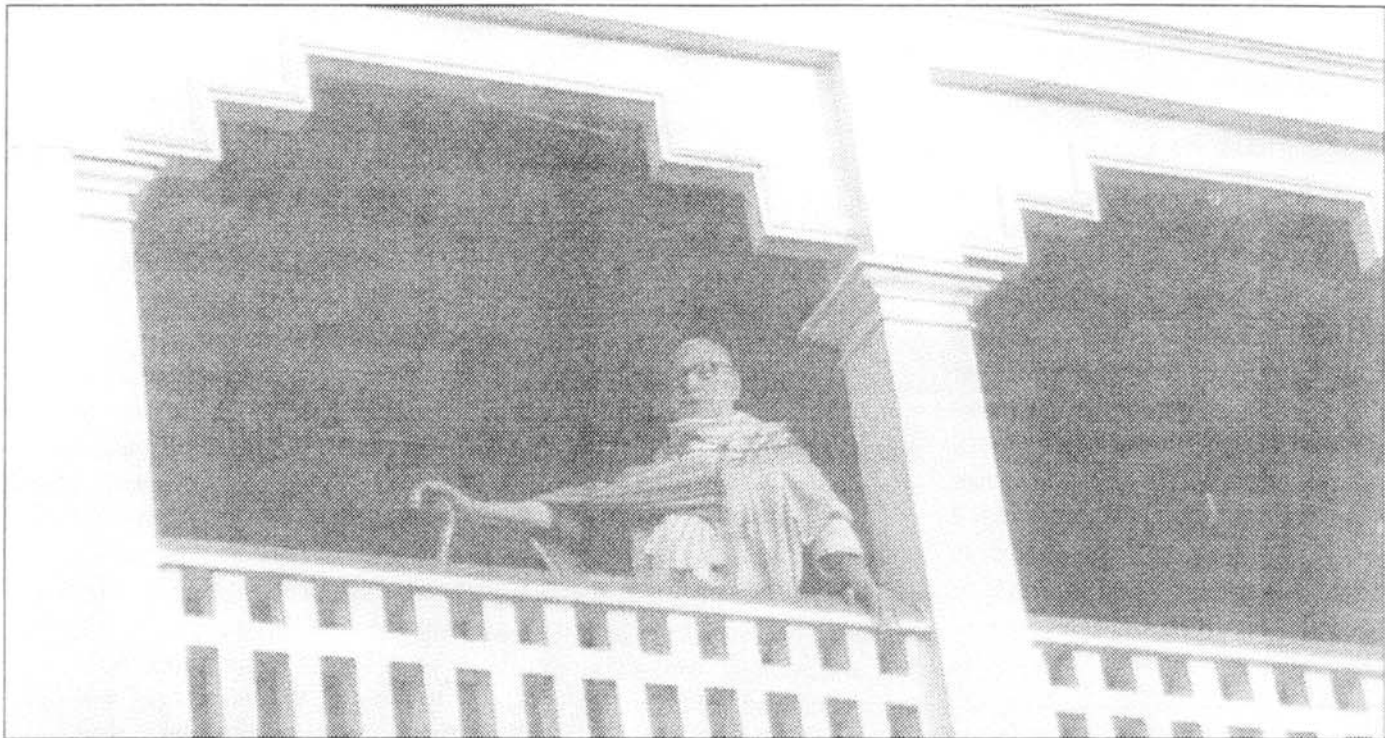
ISKCON Acharya

After taking *sannyasa* I got so much affection from the disciples of Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanata Swami Prabhupada. I would say 80% of his disciples are affectionate to me and so many of the *acharyas* in his mission as well. All the *acharyas* from Srila Prabhupadas ISKCON mission came to our math this year at Gaura Purnima time. We all met together and very happily talked. Also the *acharyas* came to our Navadwip math during the Navadwip *Parikrama*. So I am getting some good association from many of the *acharyas* of ISKCON.

To the disciples of Srila Prabhupada I am indebted 200%. I mean, today I am in the Western world. And by the grace of Srila Prabhupada who entered into this Western world and blasted a tunnel through maya, I was able to enter easily into the Western world.



Srila Govinda Maharaja - strength through simplicity.



Srila Sridhar Maharaja watches over his Mission through the form of Srila Govinda Maharaja

Before Srila Prabhupada came, a few Gaudiya Math *sannyasis* and *brahmacharis* tried to preach in America, England, Germany and France. They tried to preach but they could not preach in such an expansive and dynamic way. Whatever they preached, however, had no real noticeable effect or impact. But when Srila Prabhupada came alone to the Western world and after doing one year of intense *tapasya* or austerity, we can see what Nityananda Prabhu and Mahaprabhu have given through him. That is all of you here tonight are the evidence of that gift. And today the whole world is able to chant the name of the Lord through the Hare Krishna Mahamantra. If I was to not mention the name of Srila Prabhupada then it would be a great offense.

Straight But a Little Crazy

One disciple of Srila Prabhupada who is my very good friend, who often comes to see me and stay with me in Navadwip for a month, or sometimes more, once asked me a question. This man is very straight but a little crazy. He said, "Srila Prabhupada has given us so much about Krishna conscious-

ness and through that we are here in India practicing Krishna consciousness. And Prabhupada said that after my disappearance, if you want to know anything further about Krishna consciousness, you can direct all philosophical questions to Srila Sridhar Maharaja. So we came to Srila Sridhar Maharaja, and

"What was given to you by Srila Prabhupada and Srila Sridhar Maharaja, no one can give you more than that in this mundane world."

he gave more and more explanations about Krishna consciousness in greater and greater detail. But from you, Govinda Maharaja, we are not getting anything new. So what should I do? Why should I stay here with you?"

I was very happy to hear that. So I told him, "Maharaja, are you sure you have gotten everything from Srila Prabhupada and from Srila Sridhar Maharaja." He said, "Yes." Very strongly he said Yes. He said, "If you can't give us something new then we can leave the math." So I said, "Maharaja, I am very sorry. What was given to you by Srila Prabhupada and Srila Sridhar Maharaja, no one can give you more than that in this mundane world. What they were giving is the highest conception.

Rare in Every Case

Even in our *samprayada*, not many could give what they gave. Srila Prabhupada was empowered by Nityananda Prabhu. He spread Krishna Consciousness all over the planet. Srila Sridhar Maharaja rectified many of the devotees and imparted some deeper thinking to many of them. So what they have not been able to give you, I cannot give you Maharaja.

So please feel free to go somewhere else and search for that knowledge. If you can get that knowledge, that will be very nice. You can try to get it from

all the living disciples from Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura next to whom I am certainly unqualified. But if you can't find what you are looking for elsewhere then please feel free to come back. And we shall stay happily here in Caitanya Saraswat Math."

There and Back

Then he went to his room. After half an hour, he returned crying. He said, "I think what you said is right. Beyond what Srila Prabhupada and Srila Sridhar Maharaja gave cannot be given in this mundane world. That knowledge can only be given in more and more refined ways. And after half an hour of thinking about this I beg you to forgive my offences."

So the topic may arise why I have come to the Western world. What Srila Prabhupada has given is sufficient for the West. Why should it be necessary for me to come and try to give more? I am thinking that what Srila Prabhupada has given is sufficient: that is Krishna Consciousness. Those who are fortunate also got some association of Srila Sridhar Maharaja. So why am I coming here?

"I promised Srila Sridhar Maharaja that I would serve his Mission, his Deities and his devotees."

I promised Srila Sridhar Maharaja that I would serve his Mission, his Deities and his devotees. That was my *sannyasa*. My *sannyasa* is worthless but I made that promise. A promise you can make. Our Vasinava *sannyasa* is actually a promise. And with that I have no difficulty and I am trying heart and soul to continue my *seva*. I am



The need to chant the pure name of Krishna is fully realized upon seeing the Divine form of Srila Govinda Maharaja.

thinking that it is my service to the devotees of Srila Sridhar Maharaja and Srila Prabhupada to come here.

Complaints, Complaints

I am seeing some defficiency in the West. Here you are all chanting Hare Krishna Mahamantra for many years. But many have complained to me that they are not feeling much enthusiasm

in their hearts. And many have complained that the result that they were expecting, they were not seeing. So this is my service. I am thinking that all over the world I have many friends. They ask for my association but I am thinking, what should I give them?

The only gift I can give to my friends is remembrance. That is why we are all here today. Together we can remember

our previous devotional lives, our *gurus* and we can consult with each other why after so many years, we are not attaining the highest result. We are getting something no doubt, but why are we not getting the proper result. For that it is necessary to have some discussion. This discussion is not so important for the newcomer. When the newcomer comes he does not have so much offense. But after joining in the line of Krishna Consciousness we cannot but make many offenses. The ten kinds of offenses to the holy name are the cause. That is why Harinama is not revealing Himself within our hearts. We may be following the four regulative principles of spiritual life, namely no meat eating, no illicit sex, no gambling and no intoxication. But the main thing that Sriman Mahaprabhu and the previous Acharyas said, that we have forgotten. Actually we haven't forgotten it, we're just ignoring it.

Know the Nature

The nature of the transcendental world is if you get some good result which is like honey or some sweet then you want to give that to your friends and also that you will try to spread it. So you may know everything but why then are you not following?

*trnad api sunicena
taror apii sahisnuna
amanina manadena
kitaniyah sada harih*

"One should chant the holy name of the Lord in a humble state of mind, thinking oneself lower than the straw in the street, one should be more tolerant than a tree, devoid of all sense of false prestige, and should be ready to offer all respect to others. In such a state of mind one can chant the holy name of the Lord constantly."

Sri Sri Siksastaka, Mantra 3)

What result will follow the practice



Srila Govinda Maharaja is trying heart and soul to please his spiritual masters.

of this instruction of Sriman Mahaprabhu? That nobody will be your enemy. Actually everyone will be your friend if you are humble. Everyone will think, "He is a very humble person. He will not disturb me. Then why should I disturb him." Mahaprabhu said, to even

those who have no honor themselves, his disciples should show those persons honor and be tolerant. This is necessary in our Sampradaya. Sampradaya means society. If we can follow these things properly, at least 60% then we will definitely get some result.

For second initiation, there are some rules and regulations for the *gayatri* mantra. But for first initiation there is no rules and no regulations, only that one should avoid the ten offenses to the Holy Name. If you honestly try to avoid those offenses then you must follow Mahaprabhu's instruction *Trnad api sumicena...* Then you can chant the hare Krishna *maha-mantra*.

“Why should we wait life after life after life after life? It is possible in this life.”

You cannot chant the transcendental *maha-mantra* with your mundane tongue. It's like when I go into the temple of Jagannath Puri to see Lord Jagannath. I go there very unhappily because my Western friends cannot enter. They can live in Jagannath Puri but they cannot enter the temple. So every time I go to Jagannath Puri, I go to see the Deity. Every time I pray to Jagannath, “O Prabhu Jagannath, please see me.” Like a schoolboy replying “present” to his headmaster.

A Prayer

In that way I am praying to Lord Jagannath. It's like roll call. I pray, “I have not come to see you, my Lord. I don't have the capacity to actually see you. But I am present in front of you. That is, you are my honorable Lord here, living in the temple. If I neglect coming to see you I will make offense to your lotus feet. That is why I am coming to show myself in front of you, to show you that I am present here out of respect. But I have not come to see you.

Firstly, I cannot see you with my mundane vision. I cannot see your tran-

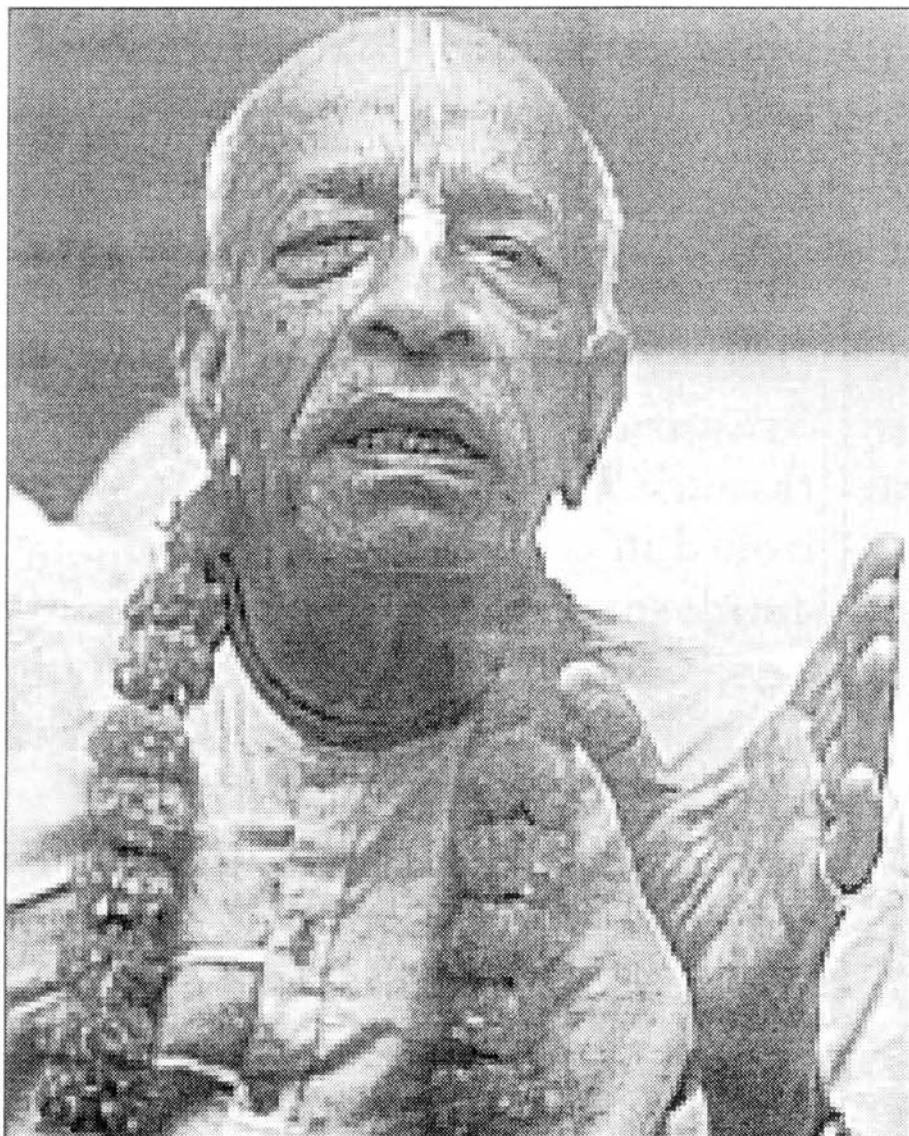
scendental form. Also I am unhappy that my friends cannot come into your temple. You will give them your *darshan*, no doubt, after a few years. At present they cannot come and that is why I'm unhappy. You are my Lord and therefore I must come to show myself before you.”

The Process Revealed

The Holy Name is like that. We cannot chant the Name properly when our mind is mundane and our tongue is mundane. The plane of exploitation is always our business and we are part of that mundane world. How then can we chant properly the *maha-mantra*? Of all the *mantras*, this *mantra* is the highest

and Krishna and our Guru Parampara are sending this *mantra* down, and through Srila Prabhupada you have got that *mantra* and through Srila Sridhar Maharaja I have gotten that *mantra*. But why are we not getting the proper result?

We must think and chant properly and then we will be happy. The *maha-mantra* will then reveal in our heart and Harinama will dance on our tongue. We must not stop chanting. Yet, we need the result quickly. Why should we wait life after life after life after life? It is possible in this life. I have the present-day in my hand. Tomorrow what will be I do not know, and yesterday what is past is nothing more than history in my life. I can learn from that past history



Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada: blasted a tunnel through maya

but I cannot repeat it again. Rather I want to follow the directives of my Gurudev and tomorrow and the day after tomorrow I shall make that service to Guru and Gauranga. And today I have within my hand. Chanting is service to the Harinama.

We Don't Want That!

Srila Prabhupada has given that *Maha-mantra* to you all. And Srila Sridhar Maharaja has given that *mantra* to you all. So now you should try to get the proper and good result. Through *Namabhasa* (impure chanting of the name or hazy conception) you can get liberation. But we are not interested in liberation. We are interested in the service to Harinama. The service to Harinama is non different than the service to Radha-Govinda. We should pray to our Lord for his mercy and think, "If you give me your mercy my Lord, I shall be very happy." But you can also give me a thunderbolt if that is your wish and I will not care. Srila Rupa Goswami has shown that the soul's position is like this.

Everything you hanker for will increase with the association of the *sadhus*. The *sadhus* are serving 24 hours a day their Lord Sri Krishna. They are always engaged in that service. So if you want that kind of service to Krishna then through their association, you can get it. In India there are many different religions. Everywhere, like in Christianity, like Islam, like Buddhism, like Sikhism there is the central point of chanting the holy name of their Lord. So if everybody is trying to chant God's Holy Name then everybody is not foolish and all the *Sampradayas* are not bogus. When the *Sampradayas* manifest in this world, it is of benefit to the living entities here.

Buddha Revealed

Like when Lord Buddha appeared. At that time, animal slaughter was going on regularly. And the *Vedas* were being used as justification. Buddha came and said, "Your justification is bogus. Throw

out these rules and regulations which promote the killing of animals. And learn from me the meaning of *dharma*." Buddha was also an avatar and an incarnation of the Lord. From time to time the Lord or his associates come down to instruct and save us. In many ways, the Lord wants to do good for us and in the varieties of religion in India I can see this.

All these religions are trying to chant and attain the Holy Name of the Lord. Mahaprabhu said that only by the chanting of the holy name will you get everything and without chanting the holy name, you won't get anything. There is no other alternative.

The Only Way

In this age of Kaliyuga, other *mantras* and processes are very difficult to follow, but chanting the Holy Name, you will be able to get piety and more inspiration. When the Harinama

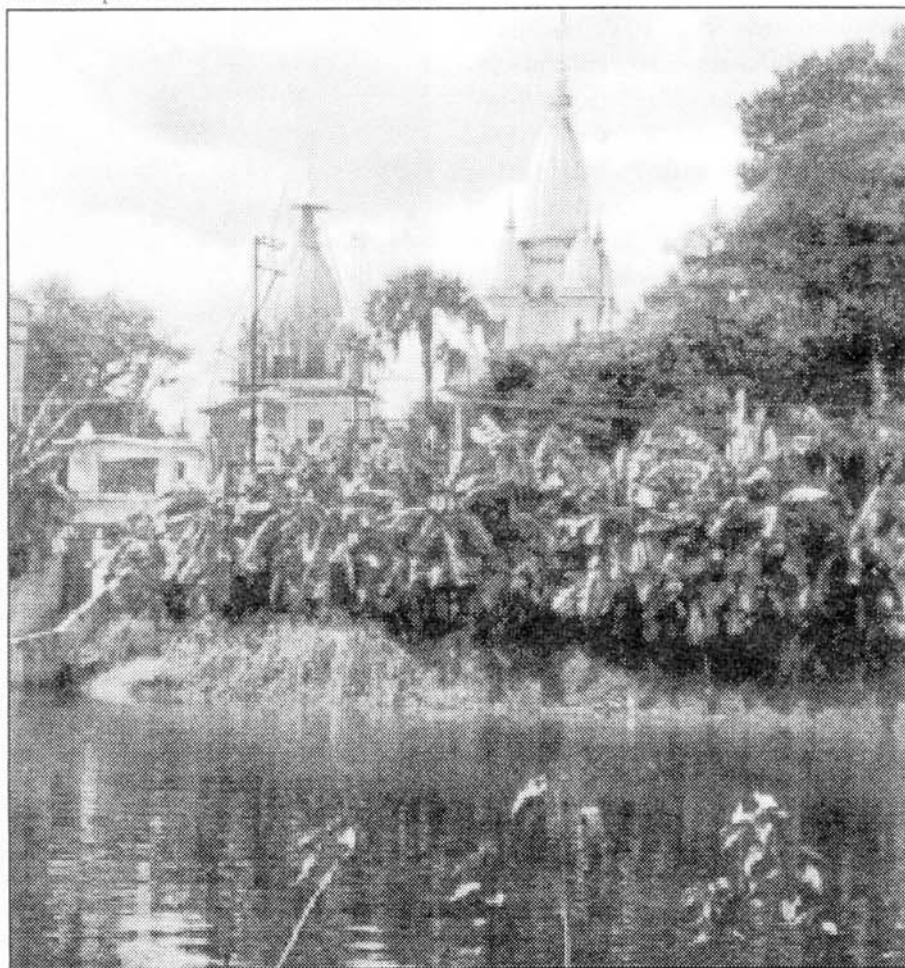
will reveal in your heart, everything will become transcendental and at that time, the Harinama will dance on your tongue. That means your mundane tongue, your vision, your body and your mind will become spiritualized.

This *mantram* has been given to us by our *gurus* and we will try to follow their directives in chanting it. It is the quality and qualification of Krishna that he can make us perfect by revealing himself in our heart. Srila Prabhupada said, "Chant Hare Krishna and be happy." Sriman Mahaprabhu said, "Chant Hare Krishna. There is no other alternative." Srila Sridhar Maharaja said, "Chant Hare Krishna and see their glories." So, now, let us chant Hare Krishna!

All Glories to Sri Sri Guru Gauranga!

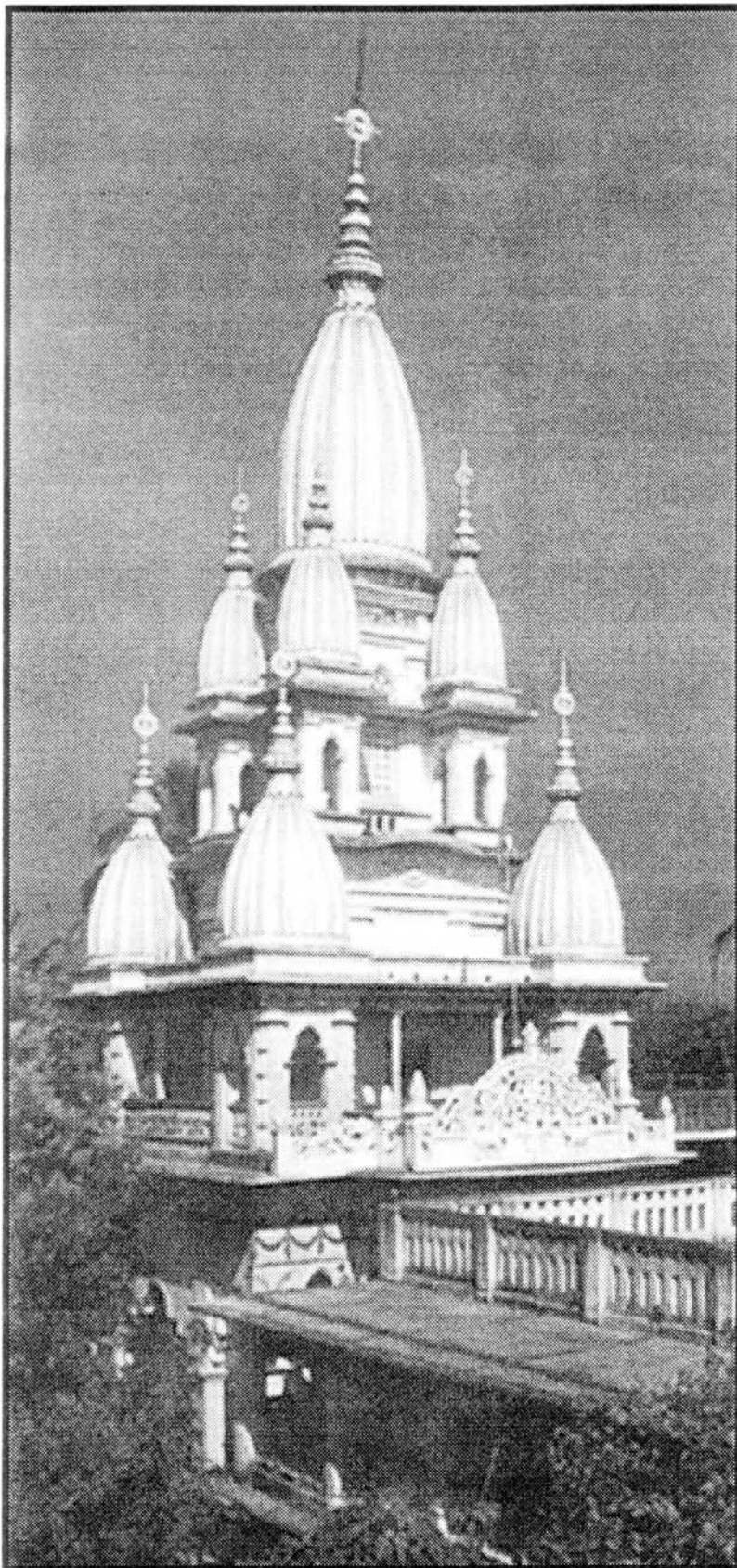
All Glories to the Assembled Devotees!

Gaura Haribol!



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