

OCT. 13, 1985

AN AFFIDAVIT

WHO IS ISKCON?

For those of you concerned to reestablish ISKCON in its pure and original form.

On Nov. 14th, 1977 the founder of the Hare Krishna Movement, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, passed away from this world. Just prior to that time he had instructed that his Society (ISKCON) was to be managed by a twenty-five member Governing Body Commission (GBC) made up of exemplary devotees. He stated, "They must be all ideal--acaryas (teachers by example). In the beginning we have done (with what we had) for working. Now (in my absence) we should be very cautious. Anyone who is deviating--he can be replaced." (unabridged May tape). Prabhupada wanted all of his disciples to preach cooperatively under an exemplary and watchful GBC. He appointed no successors to the post of spiritual master (guru). "It is not that I will appoint a successor. Rather all of my disciples will take the legacy." (BTG Dec. 1977). He stated in numerous letters that none of his disciples, particularly the GBC members, were realized enough to act as guru, "The GBC does not look after spiritual life. That is the defect. All our students will have to become guru but they are not qualified. That is the difficulty." (letter to Alanath Swami, 11/10/75)

Immediately after Srila Prabhupada's departure, however, a group of GBC men conspired to assume a status exactly comparable to that of Prabhupada himself. They lied to the general congregation of devotees in telling them that Srila Prabhupada had appointed them as his sole successors. In a nutshell the conspiracy was effected in two ways:

1) First they distorted the meaning of a short conversation with Srila Prabhupada entitled, The May Tape. This tape was tampered with, improperly transcribed, and then taken out of context to make it sound like Srila Prabhupada named eleven full-fledged gurus instead of just officiators. Due to its ambiguity, dubs, and many other discrepancies, this tape in no way substantiates their claim. One of the leading conspirators, Tamal Krsna, testified that they intentionally misinterpreted this tape in order to exploit the position of guru. He said, "Myself and the other GBC have done the greatest disservice to this movement the last three years because we interpreted the appointment of ritviki as the appointment of gurus." (Topanga Canyon interview, 12/3/80). Since then at least two other "gurus," Hridayananda and Panchadravida, have admitted to the fact that they were never appointed by this May tape.

2) This short and ambiguous tape was not sufficient in itself to completely fool the Society at large. So in March of 1978, a GBC delegation approached one B.R. Sridhar Maharaja of Navadvipa, India, to get his blessings. They declared him to be a "higher authority." Higher than whom, they dared not say, but they eaked out his advice and approval in direct defiance of Srila Prabhupada's clear instructions. Sridhar Maharaja had played the leading role in disrupting his own guru's mission, the Gaudiya Math, and so Prabhupada repeatedly warned his disciples to avoid his Godbrothers, and specifically Sridhar Maharaja; "Sridhar Maharaja is responsible for disobeying this order of Guru Maharaja...We must be very careful about them (his Godbrothers) and not mix with them. This is my instruction to you all. They cannot help us in our movement, but they are very competent to harm our natural progress" (Letter to Rupanuga, 4/28/74). A 1982 GBC paper entitled Purity is the Force confirms that the GBC knowingly acted against Srila Prabhupada's orders by accepting Sridhar Maharaja's advice. Factually, because of this disobedience, the GBC had cut all link to Srila Prabhupada.

So by these two devious means, the entire Society had been fooled into accepting a status for these eleven men that could not have been further from the truth.

By the time this conspiracy started surfacing and some organized attempts were being made to expose it (1979-80) the new "gurus" already had their strongholds and enough followers to keep in power despite growing dissention among the original disciples. These newcomers were of course attracted by Srila Prabhupada's books, his disciples, and his temples, but they were being told they had to become the sold-out servants of the local "guru" since he was being propped up as the completely pure and authorized representative of Srila Prabhupada. In other words, the new "gurus" used Srila Prabhupada's legacy, purity, and disciples, for their own personal aggrandizement.

Now, after eight years of this bait-and-switch preaching, the ISKCON properties are fully controlled by these false gurus who's "disciples" make up 95% of the Society. The original disciples of Srila Prabhupada have gradually been forced out of ISKCON as they became more and more aware of the conspiracy and thus reluctant to go along with this "guru" business. Removal of these dissident members was generally executed by means of subtle discouragement, i.e., denying one any respect, denying preacher status (shiksa guru), pitting wife against husband, etc. Those devotees who couldn't be discouraged in this way were sometimes blatantly told to leave the Society if they would not surrender to the new "guru." The more serious dissidents, like Jadurani dasi, were violently attacked and almost killed for opposing this imposition.

Since these new "gurus" were hardly qualified for the honor they demanded, as time passed they naturally fell further and further into delusion, some of them bordering on insanity. Several have already been exposed and ousted for illicit sex, drug use, violence, not following spiritual programs, etc. So in this way they are dragging the good name and reputation of ISKCON's founder, Srila Prabhupada, into their own mud; "I wish that all my disciples will have similar respectable situation in society. That will keep my name good. Like father, like son." (Letter to Caitiyaguru, 7/11/76). If Prabhupada's disciples continue to accept or tolerate this situation, making it appear that such degraded behavior is sanctioned in Prabhupada's books, then, as Prabhupada put it: "Everything will spoil very quickly and the whole show will become a farce." (letter to Rebatinandan, 2/2/72) He repeatedly warned whose fault it would be; "What will happen when I am not here, shall everything be spoiled by GBC?" (letter to Karandar, 5/4/72)

Recently (Sept. 16), in West Virginia, the GBC was forced to hold an international summit to try and rectify this potentially fatal situation. This was due to the confession of a "guru," Bhavananada, who admitted to engaging in homosexual relations, something which might be tolerated in a congregational member, but which is intolerable for someone in the post of guru, GBC, or sannyasa. Out of the few original disciples still active in ISKCON, not all attended this summit; in fact, for the most part, only the leaders and their supporters were given facility to attend. (New members were not allowed.) Out of those who did attend, many revealed that their main incentive was to be appointed "gurus" themselves. They agreed to turn a blind eye to the past eight years of corruption and exploitation provided they were let in on the action. ("If an active homosexual can be guru, why can't I?") The original eleven succumbed to this logic, knowing that otherwise they would be forcibly removed. The "guru" monopoly had run its course and it was obvious that the "gurus" would either have to humble themselves and admit the conspiracy, or allow everyone else to ascend a throne alongside them. Adopting the philosophy that hundreds of wrongs would make it right, they chose the latter. What was hoped by the majority of ISKCON members to be a housecleaning turned out to be just the opposite.

This meeting having failed to rectify ISKCON and remove the conspirators, we, the vast majority of followers of Srila Prabhupada's pure teachings, see no other recourse but to remove the corrupt members by force. There are only two methods of doing this; (1) Violence. (2) Court action. Court action means suing the GBC and it's "guru" subsection for the assets and properties that belong to ISKCON. Then a new GBC could be elected to manage the Society as it was originally intended--a cooperative movement centered around Srila Prabhupada with no appointed successors or gurus. "Whoever comes out

successful and self-effulgent" would be the future gurus. That is the understanding given by Srila Prabhupada (Rupanuga, 4/28/74). There is no reference in any of Srila Prabhupada's voluminous teachings to an "appointed guru." The reason court action is now necessary is because the current GBC refuses to debate or rectify themselves. We see no other means of returning the assets, properties, and the divine name ISKCON, back to the rightful owners, those who strictly adhere to the instructions so kindly given by Srila Prabhupada for the management of his Society.

A class action of this nature can only work if the affidavit below is filled out and returned by the majority of Prabhupada's followers, most of whom are living outside of ISKCON. Please also circulate this affidavit to the devotees in your area, initiated or not, for that would speed things up considerably. The only other option is violence.

As an option, on a separate sheet you could state your personal feelings toward ISKCON, its current leaders, if you left ISKCON, why?, etc. Please make your statement as concise as possible including any illegal activities by the leaders that you may know of. Be sure and specify if your name and/or any statements you make therein should be kept confidential. There is considerable evidence supporting the above statements. Those of you wishing copies, please send at least \$10 for 400 pages of Prabhupada's letters and relevant documents. Thank you.

I, _____, AGE _____, RESIDING AT,

_____ HAVE BEEN A FOLLOWER OF THE HARE KRISHNA MOVEMENT SINCE _____. I BECAME A FORMAL DISCIPLE OF _____ IN _____ AND RECEIVED THE NAME _____.

I AGREE THAT FOR THE KRSNA CONSCIOUSNESS RELIGION TO SURVIVE AND GROW IN ITS ORIGINAL AND PURE FORM, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE CURRENT CORRUPT GBC BE REPLACED. IF A COURT ACTION IS THE ONLY WAY OF ACHIEVING THIS ASIDE FROM VIOLENCE, THEN I SUPPORT SUCH ACTION.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

NOTARY _____

If/when ISKCON is reestablished in its pure form, I will be interested to () become, () resume the status of, () continue on as:

() A full-time, () part time, () or congregational member of a Prabhupada-centered temple/community.

() I support ISKCON's rectification, but I personally redirected my life to other goals.

() I would like more information. Enclosed is \$10 for specifics.