

AFTERNOON DARSHAN ON GURU TATTVA

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Translation at darshan: Ananta Krsna dasa brahmacarya Typists: Tulsi devi dasi and Premanidhi devi dasi

Srila Narayana Maharaja: If one's guru is not qualified, then, taking his permission, the disciple should at once take initiation from a higher rank of guru. This is not an offense. If that guru is not giving permission, he should at once be given up and the disciple should take proper initiation. This is because that guru is not a Vaisnava. If the guru is like a karmi, not duly chanting and remembering, he should be given up. Are there more questions?

Devotee: Harikesa was appointed by Srila Prabhupada. So when did his falldown take place? At what time did he fall down?

Srila Narayana Maharaja: Prabhupada made him a representative -- not guru. You should know that if someone is not qualified, if he has no qualities of guru, in some cases one acts as a representative for the time being. And he was like that. A real guru cannot fall. Never, never, and never. So he was like a representative. Prabhupada wanted to correct him, but he could not. So now this person has given up everything. Now he is a Vaisnava aparadhi and a guru aparadhi, an offender to his gurudeva. He has given up all chanting, remembering, and all other devotional activities, and he should therefore be rejected. The reason is this: If the disciple is now, even today remembering him, and thinking, "He is my gurudeva", then that so-called guru's bad activities and qualities will come in him -- all of them.

You can remember this sloka: '*nikunja-yuno rati-keli-siddhyai ya yalibhir yuktir apeksaniya tatrani-daksyad ati-vallabhasya vande guruoh sri caranaravindam.* Sri Gurudeva is always present with the *sakhis*, planning the arrangements for the perfection of *yugala-kisora*'s amorous pastimes (*rati-keli*) within the *kunjas* of Vrndavana. Because he is so expert in making these tasteful arrangements for Their pleasure, he is very dear to Sri Sri Radha and Krsna. I offer prayers unto the lotus feet of Sri Gurudeva.' A sad-guru is like this. Do you know the meaning of this sloka? What is the meaning of '*nikunja yuno?*' Do you know?

When you will meditate on that guru, however, you will meditate that he has left the mission, that now he is mad, that now he is engaging in sense gratification; and these bad qualities will come instead of '*saksad-dharivena samasta-sastrair uktas tatha bhavyata eva sadbhih.*' Also '*yasya prasada bhagavat-prasado yasyaprasadan na gatih kuto'pi.*' How can we meditate on him? If you are now meditating on a fallen guru, all his bad qualities -- every sense gratificatory activity that he is doing -- will come to you.

On the other hand, when you are meditating on your Prabhupada, Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja, you can meditate on how beautiful and how merciful he is. He is attracting the whole world with his qualities. He always serves Krsna in the nikunja (the secluded pastime groves of Sri Sri Radha-Krsna) and he is saksat hari-tvena. (He has qualities like Krsna; he has qualities of eternity, bliss, and knowledge.) All these slokas apply to him. If I meditate on him, then all his good qualities will come. This is the hidden meaning. You cannot apply this to any fallen person, or to a person who has not realized all these things.

Devotee: Gurudeva, he says that he wants to take hari-nama initiation from you. But he says that his hair cannot be shaved because he is working in gurukula and he has to go into offices to ask for donations for gurukula.

Srila Narayana Maharaja: But he will have to shave his heart. I want to shave his heart. I have a very sharp blade.

Devotee: He says that he was initiated in the eighties -- many years ago, but by mail. The guru sent a letter and said, "You are initiated."

Srila Narayana Maharaja: By who?

Devotee: Harikesa Maharaja.

Srila Narayana Maharaja: He should be rejected.

Devotee: Yes. But he says that now he feels that his enthusiasm in preaching in devotional service went very much down. So he is asking you if his enthusiasm again will go up after receiving initiation from you?

Srila Narayana Maharaja: If he is following all instructions, he will be very, very inspired, and then, realizing something, he can preach. Those who have no realization cannot preach. One can preach after realization and service to Krsna with some taste; otherwise he cannot.

Devotee: There is one 'saying' that when the guru gives initiation, what gets sanctified is not the beads but the process of chanting. The process of chanting becomes sanctified, not the beads. He says that some people say that when a disciple gets initiation from gurudeva, then it is not his beads that become purified and sanctified, but the process of chanting. If that is true, then what is the meaning of the ceremony when guru gives beads and chants on the beads?

Srila Narayana Maharaja: Who has made this ceremony ? Who has begun it? From where is it coming? Do you know? If it is coming from Srila Sanatana Gosvami, we should accept that process without any doubt. If it is not coming from Srila Sanatana Gosvami, Srila Rupa Gosvami, Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura, Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura, Srila Prabhupada Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, you should reject it. We should try

to accept all the processes they have given to us. If there is any doubt, you can ask your Gurudeva and he will clear your doubts. If your Gurudeva cannot remove your doubts, then please do pranama to him and try to accept another guru. He should be able to remove all doubts; then he is guru. In another case, we can accept any high rank of siksa-guru. He will remove all doubts and give that clear vision of bhakti. Has he taken initiation?

Urukrama: Not yet. But he is a very old devotee; one of the original devotees.

Srila Narayana Maharaja: What is the essence of his question?

Devotee: Eight years ago he was in Vrindavan and he developed taste for hari-katha and Krsna-lila. Then he went back to Russia. He was preaching these things, but some of the GBC leaders didn't like it. They started suppressing him, giving him much trouble, and he lost this taste. Now he is wondering if he can get this taste back. Is it possible or not?

Srila Narayana Maharaja: You have done some good activities for bhakti, and therefore you now want to develop your Krsna consciousness. If you can attain a real process by any real guru—siksa guru or diksa guru, very soon it will come again—more than what you had previously. At that time you were not qualified to preach what you were preaching, because you had no realization. But now, with realization, with so much inspiration, you can preach. Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Maharaja preached everywhere. How? He practiced and he totally followed Prabhupada Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura. He realized, and then he began to preach. Then all were bound to hear; otherwise it would have had no effect. So we should first realize and then preach the teachings of guru parampara.

Urukrama: I want to ask a question on behalf of some of the senior devotees. Today I have spoken with many of them and they have revealed their minds to me. Some are expressing that they have one fear in meeting you and hearing. They feel so much inspiration and they feel so much confidence that you are the real guru, and they want to accept your shelter and initiation.

Srila Narayana Maharaja: (In pure Vaisnava humbleness) I want to tell you all that I am not a real guru. But I am madhyama adhikari and I will help as much as I can. But I will give guarantee that I will not fall. I am not a guru like Narada who can tell you, "O, Krsna-bhakti should come", and at once it will come." I am not like him. I don't want to cheat anyone. I am a bhakti-sadhaka. I am practicing, and what I am realizing I will help you with my full faith and full energy. I like to practice bhakti-yoga so much, but will not give guarantee that I will surely take you to Krsna. I will not give a guarantee. However, if you follow my instructions, then I am bound to take you. It depends on the disciples to follow and practice bhakti-yoga in what process which I am explaining. There is one other thing I want to also clarify for you. A sad-guru never thinks of his disciples as his property. You are not my property. If you take initiation from me, you do not become my property; you are the property of Krsna. I may help you to clear the land of your heart a more smooth seed, and to ultimately offer you to the lotus feet of Krsna. I never think—

no bona fide guru ever thinks—that disciples are his property. He thinks that they are the property of Krsna.

Also, you should know that I don't want any position. I don't want that you should give me wealth, money, or anything. You cannot please me by giving any material things—wealth, reputation, or anything else. I do not want golden ornaments and diamonds; I know that they cannot give happiness. I only want to help you as Prabhupada requested me. That I can do.

Urukrama: They have this fear because previously, when they had another guru, they felt distance because he was never coming and they were not feeling closeness. They are afraid that if they accept your shelter and initiation.....

Srila Narayana Maharaja: I am not requesting them to take my shelter. I can never request this of you. If you like, and if you have faith in me, only then. I am not requesting anyone. I have not come to make any disciples. I know that the acceptance of disciples is a very heavy burden. So if you like, I can help you and you can accept me. Otherwise, I don't need any disciples or anything. I never think that you are my disciples. I think that you are like my friends, and I am helping you to go to Krsna and serve Him. I never think of myself as acarya.

Urukrama: But would they be able to feel very close and near and dear to you?

Srila Narayana Maharaja: It depends on them; not on me. They should think that their guru is always powerful enough to come in their heart—directly and indirectly—and that he can save his disciples. Then that disciple is a disciple, otherwise not. Guru is so powerful and he can come in their hearts. He can somehow, directly and indirectly, come and help them if they have so much faith in him, otherwise not. It is now time for class. Any other questions?

Devotee: I have one Giriraja-sila and I want to ask you for blessings to worship this Giriraja-sila.

Srila Narayana Maharaja: First be qualified and then worship. Without diksa you cannot serve. And if you are serving without diksa, then you are bound to commit so many offences. The sad-guru never allows any unqualified person to worship, because that person may keep the deity like a statue—not like Krsna Himself.

Urukrama: Some other devotee gave this to him. That is why he has it.

Srila Narayana Maharaja: If any person gives him poison, should he take it? Be very careful. Now it is time for class. Tomorrow you can come. If there are any doubts, you can tell me and I will remove them.