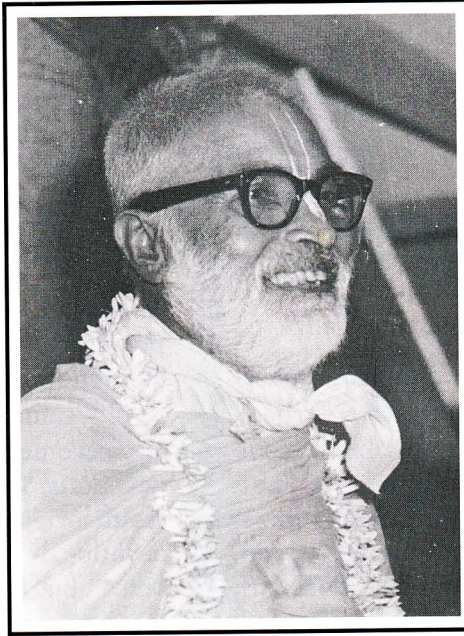


Last Instructions

The following lecture was delivered at the Calcutta Sree Chaitanya Gaudiya Math on the morning of Saturday 30 December 1978. Tridandi Swami Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Maharaj said to Srila Gurudeva, "A newly initiated devotee has come from Chandigarh in order to receive personal instructions from you. He has been here for several days, but since the doctor has forbidden you to talk excessively, he has had no opportunity to hear you speak. It would be nice if you could say something to him." On hearing this, Gurumaharaj called all the inmates of the Math to his room. Our Most Revered Srila Gurumaharaj then started to speak, directing his instructions to all.



give them the place that is due to the ultimate object of your devotion. I am giving you this instruction.

Take responsibility for it. Give this matter a little thought. You are a competent person, you are highly qualified, but you do not understand this tradition yet.

"In the Gaudiya sampradaya, in the line from Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, in the religious tradition of devotion to Krishna, dedicated devotees worship Krishna exclusively. If you put other gods and goddesses on the same level as Krishna, you are making a mistake. Not all gods and goddesses are equal, nor all incarnations of Vishnu. *Ete cāmśa-kalāḥ pūṁśaḥ kṛṣṇas tu*

bhagavān svayam. After discussing all the different incarnations, Matsya, Kurma, Rama, Nrisingha, etc., Vedavyasa says that none of these incarnations is Krishna Himself. Some of them are expansions, some are partial manifestations, but Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

jānī bhagavattā haite anyera bhagavattā svayam bhagavān śabder tāhātei sattā

"The epithet *svayam bhagavān* can only be used for Him from Whom the characteristics of Godhead are derived (*Chaitanya Charitamrita*, 1.2.88).

No one is equal to Krishna. Everyone should keep this in mind and worship Krishna exclusively and with dedication. Devotion will not increase by making a great sound and fury. Everyone should remember this. We will not condemn any other gods or goddesses, but will pray to them to give us the blessing that we remain fixed on our supreme object of worship, Krishna.

Exclusive Devotion To Krishna

"I am not well and the doctor has warned me not to speak too much. It is quite possible that I will not stay much longer in this world. I am telling you that to engage in the proper practice of devotional service, you must be fixed in the worship of your desired form of the Lord. When a woman is not faithful to her husband, when she loves someone else, she cannot give herself to his service. Infidelity and exclusive devotion cannot go together. For this reason, a faithful and devoted wife will never allow anyone to take the place of her husband, nor will she criticize anyone else. She will not condemn her brother-in-law, her mother-in-law or her father-in-law, nor anyone else who is related to her husband, but will rather give each of them his or her due respect. In the same way, if you wish to advance in devotional service, worship Krishna alone. Do not criticize the other gods and goddesses, but think of them as servants of Krishna and give them their due respect in that consciousness. But be careful to never