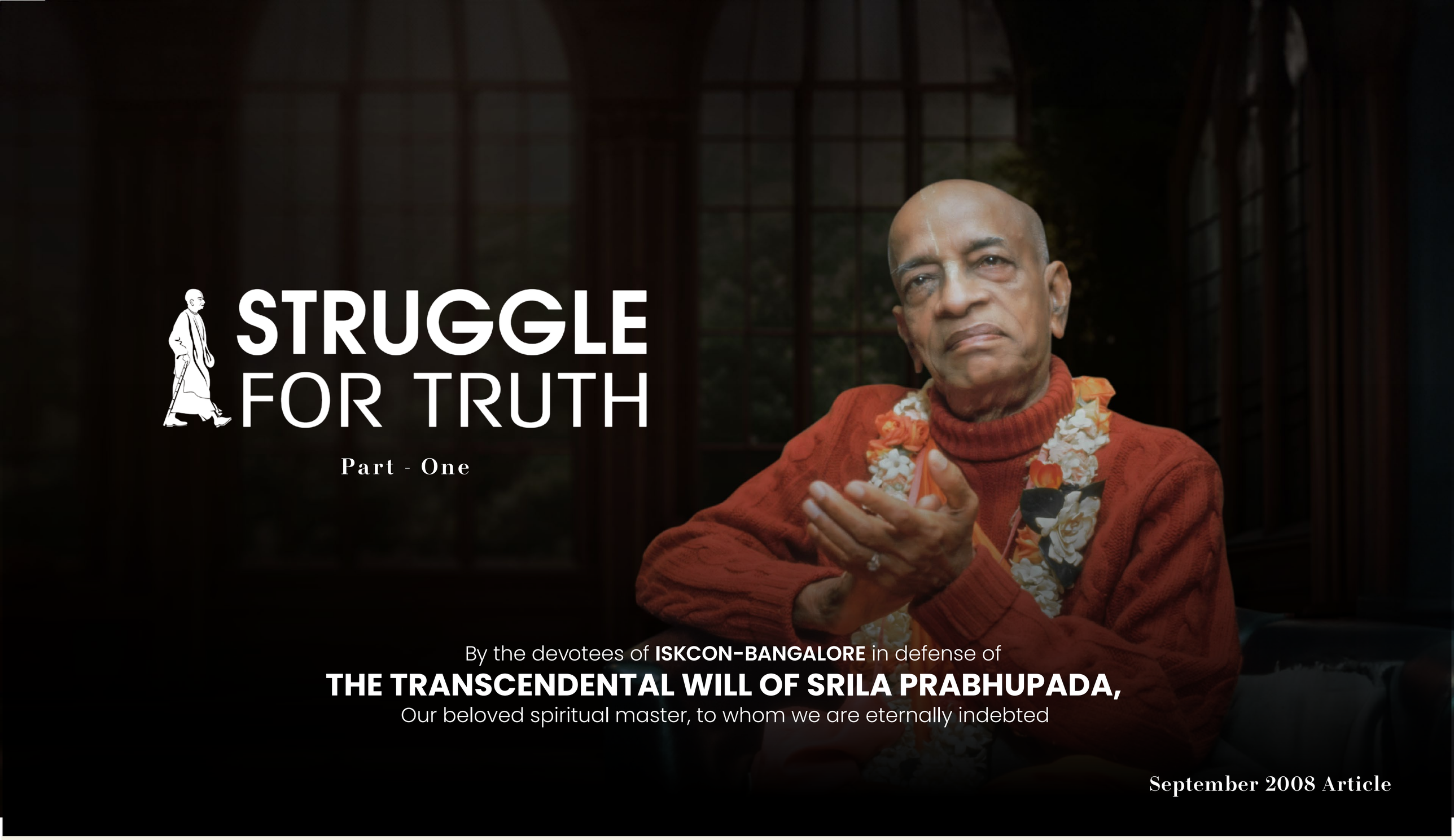

STRUGGLE FOR TRUTH

Part - One

By the devotees of **ISKCON-BANGALORE** in defense of

THE TRANSCENDENTAL WILL OF SRILA PRABHUPADA,

Our beloved spiritual master, to whom we are eternally indebted

September 2008 Article

The pains of this struggle for truth have been borne silently by the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore for the last nine years. So far we have been trying our best to contain this within the institution.

However, it has become necessary today, unfortunately, to disseminate the sensitive information of purely internal nature in this paper. Our adversaries are exploiting our silence by perpetrating false and maligning propaganda against the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore, even more vigorously than ever before, in order to demean our cause, and sidestep the real issue.

As supporters and donors of this organization, we believe it is your right to be informed by us of the real issues that have transpired in this matter.

ISKCON that Srila Prabhupada built >

Srila Prabhupada's plan for succession in ISKCON >

History of ISKCON-Bangalore Society >

Governing Council of ISKCON Bangalore >

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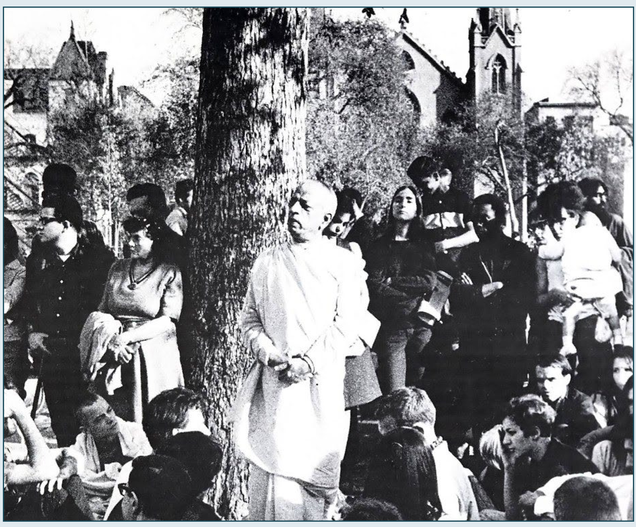
ISKCON that Srila Prabhupada built



In 1965, at the age of seventy, a simple Indian *sannyasi,* a pure devotee of Lord Sri Krishna, boarded the cargo ship, *Jaladuta,* to sail to America. Neither did he have the money to set out on such a journey, nor did he know what to expect at his destination. However one thing he was sure of. His mission.

As instructed by his *guru,* His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddantha Saraswathi Thakura, an *acharya* in the line of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (1486-1534), this stalwart disciple was taking a gigantic step to present to the world the message of *Bhagavad-gītā* and other Vedic scriptures. His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (reverentially called Srila Prabhupada) thus embarked on his monumental and historic service to God and mankind.

In July 1966, Srila Prabhupada established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in New York City. During the next 10 years, he relentlessly worked towards his mission. He traveled around the globe 14 times and established 108 Krishna temples, authored over 70 books and guided a worldwide movement of over 10,000 Krishna devotees from all continents of the world.

When Srila Prabhupada departed from this material world on November 14, 1977, the world lost a glorious soul, a genuine spiritual leader of modern days.

ISKCON after the disappearance of Srila Prabhupada

Just before his passing away, Srila Prabhupada was confronted with several issues of the institution he had founded. One of them was: Who would be the *acharya* or *guru* of ISKCON after his time? Who will initiate (give *diksha*) to the new entrants to ISKCON?

Srila Prabhupada's teachings about *guru* or *acharya*

One of the most significant lessons taught by Srila Prabhupada is about the position of *guru* or *acharya*. According to the Vedic tradition this subject is of vital concern to anyone who desires to pursue the spiritual path. To emphasize the importance of the *guru* or *acharya,* he repeatedly instructed this in his books, lectures, letters and recorded room conversations. He has quoted a verse from the *Padma Purana* in one of his books:

- *"The guru must be* ***situated on the topmost platform of devotional service.*** *There are three classes of devotees, and the guru must be accepted from the topmost class. The first-class devotee is the spiritual master for all kinds of people."* (*CC Madhya, 24.330, Purport*)

He has also taught how the *guru* or *acharya* has to be regarded by the disciples:

- *"The conclusion is that an empowered spiritual master is authorized by Krishna and his own guru and should therefore be* ***considered as good as the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself.***
  (*CC Madhya, 10.136, Purport*)
- *"It is recommended herewith that all the* ***acharyas be given the highest respect.***
  (*Srimad Bhagavatam, 3.29.17, Purport*)
- *"You are correct when you say that* ***when the Spiritual Master speaks it should be taken that Krishna is speaking.*** *That is a fact. A Spiritual Master must be liberated."*
  (*Letter to Mukunda - June 10th, 1969*)
- *"Therefore one is* ***strictly forbidden to think that the acharya is an ordinary human being*** (***guruṣu nara-matiḥ***) (*Srimad Bhagavatam, 7.7.14, Purport*)
- ***"If I can satisfy my spiritual master, then I understand that Krishna is satisfied.*** *And if I cannot satisfy my spiritual master, then I have no other way to approach Krishna."*
  (*SB Lecture - Feb 10th, 1971, Gorakhpur*)

In short, the position of *acharya* or *guru*, as taught by Srila Prabhupada, is a position of extraordinary spiritual advancement, respect and authority: the *guru* should be honored as good as God; his word *is* word of God; pleasing him, pleases God; and displeasing him, displeases God.

Srila Prabhupada's plan for succession in ISKCON

Just before Srila Prabhupada left this world in 1977, the worldwide movement he had established was only a little over 11 years old. His senior-most disciples were all Westerners and were exposed to Vedic culture only for the last 6 to 10 years. In 1977, his senior disciples were in their early- or mid-thirties and assisting Srila Prabhupada in managing the worldwide institution.

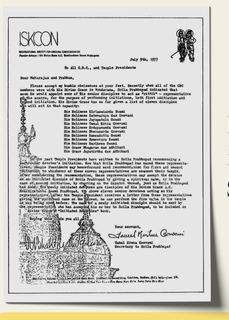
Srila Prabhupada was fully aware that his disciples did not possess the spiritual qualifications to be raised to the position of *guru* or *acharya*.

He was also aware that his disciples were very ambitious to become the *guru*. In fact two of his senior disciples were already acting as *guru* in his presence. Srila Prabhupada was furious and reacted strongly against it.[1] Srila Prabhupada emphasized that it is the Vedic tradition that one becomes a *guru* or *acharya* when authorised by his own *guru*.

- *"A* ***guru*** *can become* ***guru*** *when he's ordered by his* ***guru****. That's all. Otherwise nobody can become* ***guru****."* (*BG Lecture - Oct 28th, 1975, Nairobi*)
- *"Self-made* ***guru*** *cannot be* ***guru****, he must be authorized by the bona fide* ***guru****. Then he's* ***guru****. This is the fact. Nobody can be self-made anything." A medical practitioner, he cannot become self-made, that "I have studied all the medical books in my home." No. "Have you ever gone to the medical college and taken instruction from the bona fide teachers?" Then, if you have got the certificate, then you are medical practitioner. Similarly, bona fide* ***guru*** *means he must be authorized by the superior* ***guru****.* (*Lecture - Oct 31st, 1972, Vrindavana*)
- *"****Guru*** *cannot be self-made. No. There is no such single instance throughout the whole Vedic literature... You must be authorized."* (*Lecture - Feb 27th, 1977, Mayapur*)

Under these circumstances, for performing initiation and giving *diksha*, Srila Prabhupada appointed some of his senior disciples to act as *ritviks* or 'representatives of the *acharya*.' The task of the *ritvik* was to perform the initiation on Srila Prabhupada's behalf as a priest. The new candidates that the *ritviks* initiated would be direct disciples of Srila Prabhupada. Srila Prabhupada is thus the *guru* or *acharya* of each and every initiated devotee of ISKCON.

On July 9th, 1977, Srila Prabhupada signed his approval on an institutional directive to be sent to all the temple presidents and senior leaders of the movement. This clearly outlined the system of initiation Srila Prabhupada instituted through the *ritviks*, and also listed eleven senior disciples to act as *ritviks*.



ISKCON

July 9th, 1977

My dear Maharajas and Prabhus,

Please accept my humble obeisances at your feet. Recently when all of the GBC members were with His Divine Grace in Vrindavan, Srila Prabhupada indicated that He would appoint some of His senior disciples to act as "ritvik"--representative of the *acharya*, for the purpose of performing initiations, both first initiation and second initiation. His Divine Grace has so far given a list of eleven disciples who will act in that capacity:

His Holiness Kirtanananda Swami
His Holiness Satsvarupa dasa Gosvami
His Holiness Jayapataka Swami
His Holiness Tamala Krsna Gosvami
His Holiness Hrdayananda Gosvami
His Holiness Bhavananda Gosvami
His Holiness Hamsaduta Swami
His Holiness Ramesvara Swami
His Holiness Harikesa Swami
His Grace Bhagavan dasa Adhikari
His Grace Jayatirtha dasa Adhikari

In the past Temple Presidents have written to Srila Prabhupada recommending a particular devotee's initiation. Now that Srila Prabhupada has named these representatives, Temple Presidents may henceforward send recommendation for first and second initiation to whichever of these eleven representatives are nearest their temple. After considering the recommendation, these representatives may accept the devotee as an initiated disciple of Srila Prabhupada by giving a spiritual name, or in the case of second initiation, by chanting on the Gayatri thread, just as Srila Prabhupada has done. The newly initiated devotees are disciples of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the above eleven senior devotees acting as His representative. After the Temple President receives a letter from these representatives giving the spiritual name or the thread, he can perform the fire yajna in the temple as was being done before. The name of a newly initiated disciple should be sent by the representative who has accepted him or her to Srila Prabhupada, to be included in His Divine Grace's "Initiated Disciples" book.

Hoping this finds you all well.
Approved

Your servant,

Tamala Krsna Gosvami
Secretary to Srila Prabhupada

Yours servants,

Tamal Krsna Gosvami
Secretary to Srila Prabhupada

Institutional directive on initiation approved by Srila Prabhupada

ISKCON INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS
Founder-Acharya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

July 9th, 1977

To All G.B.C., and Temple Presidents

Dear Maharajas and Prabhus,
Please accept my humble obeisances at your feet. Recently when all of the GBC members were with His Divine Grace in Vrindavan, Srila Prabhupada indicated that He would appoint some of His senior disciples to act as "ritvik"–representative of the *acharya*, for the purpose of performing initiations, both first initiation and second initiation. His Divine Grace has so far given a list of eleven disciples who will act in that capacity:

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Hoping this finds you all well.
Approved

[Srila Prabhupada's signature appears on the original]
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Your servant,
[Tamala Krsna Gosvami's signature appears on the original]
Tamala Krsna Gosvami
Secretary to Srila Prabhupada

What happened after Srila Prabhupada's disappearance from this world?

Unfortunately, soon after Srila Prabhupada's disappearance his instructions on the *guru* system were totally disregarded. The Governing Body Commission (GBC) consisting of majority of *ritviks*, met in March 1978. They conspired to declare the eleven *ritviks* appointed by Srila Prabhupada as absolute successor *gurus* or *acharyas*. These *ritviks* stepped in to the elevated position of successor *guru* or *acharya*. They then declared themselves 'present *acharyas*' and occupied the *'acharya peeta'* (the sacred seat of *acharya*) as successors of Srila Prabhupada. They regimented the newcomers to worship, honor and revere them as *guru* or *acharya*.

Large and ornate vyasasanas, or the special seat of the *acharya*, were created in each temple for these 'new self-appointed *acharyas*'. The new entrants they initiated started offering elaborate daily *puja* to them with incense, lamps and flowers. Special Sanskrit verses were composed glorifying them and sung in public. They received special titles like Vishnupada, etc. to indicate that they now represent the lotus feet of Vishnu or they have taken the position of Vishnu to 'deliver their disciples from the material world'.

The newcomers were taught that they should see their self-proclaimed *'gurus'* 'as good as God'. They were asked to consider their 'spiritual master's' words as equal to God's words. The self-appointed *'gurus'* conveniently applied all that Srila Prabhupada had taught about a bona fide *acharya* to themselves. And instructed their 'disciples' to treat them as such.

This act of becoming *acharyas* or *guru* on their own, (by self-appointment) was in direct violation of what Srila Prabhupada had taught. He writes in one of the commentaries to a *Bhagavatam verse:*

- *"One should take initiation from a bona fide spiritual master coming in the disciplic succession, who is authorized by his predecessor spiritual master. This is called* ***diksha-vidhana.****"*
  (*Srimad Bhagavatam, 4.8.54, Purport*)

Please note the words: *who is authorized by his predecessor spiritual master*. And Srila Prabhupada had not authorized any of them to become the *acharyas*.

Thousands of disciples of Srila Prabhupada in ISKCON temples all over the world who witnessed this deviation opposed the act of disobedience. But the self-proclaimed *'gurus'* would not relent.

These self-appointed *'gurus'* have, for the past three decades, disobeyed Srila Prabhupada's instructions, taken hundreds of 'disciples' for themselves and amassed power, wealth and assets largely for themselves as *'guru dakshina'*. In course of time, many ISKCON temples were reduced to penury while the self-proclaimed *'gurus'* rose to wealth. Some of these *'gurus'* became fabulously rich and lived in opulence, served menially by meek, humble and unquestioning 'disciples'.

Hundreds of innocent souls fell into the trap of these self-appointed *'gurus'* and surrendered their faith to them. But time proved, again and again,the self-proclaimed *guru* system wrong. Over the years many of these self-proclaimed *'gurus'* have deviated from the spiritual path and fallen victims to the lowest of human weaknesses-illicit connection with women, drugs, etc. We are saddened to say this, however it is the unfortunate fact. The 'disciples' were left confused, helpless and angry. Yet the survivor *'gurus'* continue to doggedly convince their followers to remain faithful to the flawed *guru* system.

Websites abound with harrowing accounts of misconduct and fall downs of these ISKCON *'gurus'*.[2]

While this rampage has been going on for over thirty years, there have been thousands of devotees of ISKCON all over the world who raised their voices against these spiritual deviations. But the powerful, rich *gurus* and their fanatical followers have ruthlessly quelled these protests by driving these devotees out of the ISKCON temples. And have even sometimes put an end to those who opposed them, through criminal acts[3].

With time the roots of the flawed *guru* system took stronger and stronger hold in ISKCON. Now there are as many as about 70 self-proclaimed *'gurus'* in ISKCON worldwide. Every year a few *'gurus'* or *'acharyas'* fall from grace and few new ones surface up.

These self-proclaimed *'gurus'* have unauthorisedly assumed the unquestionable authority. Although they claim that ISKCON is being run by an international body of devotees, the Governing Body Commission, the fact is that this Body consists mostly of these self-proclaimed *'gurus'* themselves since March 1978. In effect, **ISKCON is being run by them, for them.** There is no place in ISKCON for sincere doubts, clarifications or debates on Srila Prabhupada's plan for succession. Any devotee seeking the truth is silenced unscrupulously.

This, in brief, is the unfortunate, sad and sordid state of affairs of the glorious movement established by Srila Prabhupada, after his passing away. Disobedience, deception, corruption, philosophical deviations, fall down from grace by the spiritual heads, compromise of spiritual purity, politically motivated cover-up, threats-all of this stemmed from the flawed *guru* system.

History of ISKCON Bangalore Society

Struggle by the devotees of ISKCON Bangalore

Since 1999, the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore took upon themselves to seriously question this faulty *guru* system and made an appeal that ISKCON embrace the system planned by Srila Prabhupada.

The devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore are not the first to make this attempt. Nor are they alone in this struggle. They are joined by thousands of sincere devotees all over the world. Unfortunately these sincere devotees, having been driven out of ISKCON temples due to their questioning of the *guru* system in the past, are no more within the walls of ISKCON temples. Having raised their voice of dissent against the *guru* system, they became victims of persecution by the *gurus* and have been driven away from the ISKCON temples'. They warned the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore, "Do not raise this issue, lest you be driven out of ISKCON by the *guru* mafia!"

The irreverent oxymoron '*guru* mafia'

For several years, the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore had also been misled to follow the self-proclaimed *guru* system. Being used to the wrong culture, the first time they heard the expression '*guru mafia*', they were alarmed. It sounded very irreverent and overstated. But as soon as they made an attempt to clarify their concerns about the *guru* system, and plead that the system set by Srila Prabhupada be followed, they had to face the wrath of the self-proclaimed '*guru*'. The Governing Body Commission (GBC, now consisting mostly of self-proclaimed '*gurus*') resolved to expel the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore and take over the Bangalore temple. There was no place in their system for doubts or inquiry. Anyone who 'dared' to raise a genuine question with concern for the Movement at large had to suffer such dire consequences.

Subsequently after seeing the various vicious devices that these self-proclaimed '*gurus*' have planned and executed to attack the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore, they now realize the expression '*guru mafia*' is not overstated.

Legal History of ISKCON-Bangalore Society

ISKCON-Bangalore was registered under Karnataka Societies Registration Act at Bangalore in May 1978 as a legally independent society with objectives similar to the objectives of the first society, International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Inc. that Srila Prabhupada founded personally in 1966 in New York. Since then ISKCON-Bangalore society is functioning in Bangalore as a member of the worldwide confederation of ISKCON temples.

ISKCON-Bangalore was registered by Shankabrit Dasa under the direction of Hamsadutta Swami, the then member of the original Governing Body Commission appointed by Srila Prabhupada, who was in charge of Bangalore.

In the year 2001, several hundreds of fanatic disciples of the self-proclaimed '*gurus*' made a vain attempt to physically storm Bangalore temple and throw out the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore and take illegal possession of the temple property. In defense of this ISKCON-Bangalore was obliged to file a suit being OS No.7934/01 seeking an order of injunction restraining ISKCON-Bombay Society and others from interfering with our possession of the temple property. The Trial Court did not grant the injunction, but an appeal filed before the Hon'ble High Court granted the injunction sought for. The said order was confirmed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The matter is pending adjudication.

When the matter stands thus, absurd propaganda is being made by the agents of the self-proclaimed '*gurus*' that Madhu Pandit Dasa 'created' the ISKCON-Bangalore society to grab the property of the temple on Hare Krishna Hill. This misinformation is indeed entirely false, baseless and ridiculous since Madhu Pandit Dasa joined ISKCON movement only in 1981, whereas the ISKCON-Bangalore society was registered as early as 1978.

It was the direction of Srila Prabhupada to register legally independent societies in the name and style of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) all over the world. In Dec. 1972, Srila Prabhupada wrote to one of his senior disciples, "Never mind there may be botheration to register each centre, take tax certificate each, become separate corporations in each state."(Srila Prabhupada's letter to Karandharta Das, Bombay, 22nd Dec 1972)

Accordingly, today, there are hundreds of ISKCON societies incorporated all over the world. It was on the basis of this worldwide practice, that the then GBC member in charge of Karnataka, Hamsadutta Swami, directed Shankabrit Dasa to register the ISKCON-Bangalore society in Bangalore.

Torment and test for the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore

ISKCON-Bangalore has always attracted well-educated full-time devotees from cultured backgrounds. These missionaries have given up promising and lucrative careers and bright futures to pursue the spiritual path taught by Srila Prabhupada. Since 1999, they are in the midst of the struggle, come what may, to question and sort out the wrong practices of the ISKCON *guru* system.

Much to the dismay and horror of the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore, they have had to face unimaginable trauma caused by the self-proclaimed '*gurus*' and their fanatical disciples who jumped into action. The self-proclaimed '*gurus*' tried to drive them away from the Bangalore temple, malign them within ISKCON and in public, challenged their right to serve in ISKCON. They even went to the extent of threatening some of their lives!

The years that followed 1999 have been years of intense torment and testing for the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore. The self-proclaimed '*gurus*' under the support of ISKCON-Mumbai (which is represented and controlled by the self-proclaimed '*gurus*'), have left no stones unturned in their ferocious attempts to destroy the lives and spiritual pursuits of the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore.

Self-proclaimed '*gurus*' twist to the struggle

The ISKCON Sri Radha Krishna Mandir at Bangalore was built by the donations of the people of Karnataka. And it is regarded as the richest ISKCON temple in the world. The self-proclaimed '*gurus*' naturally grew jealous of the wealth associated with this temple. They have been unable to tolerate that this opulence is not available for themselves. And over and above this, the devotees of this rich and popular temple were shaking the very foundations of their *guru* system! This became unbearable to the self-proclaimed '*gurus*'.

The self-proclaimed '*gurus*' have been making various attempts to get hold of the ISKCON-Bangalore temple and convert the good work being done by the devotees here to add to their following, wealth and assets.

The devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore have been taking shelter of the judicial system of the country in order to protect their services to Srila Prabhupada's movement and the society. Only the orders from the various courts have helped them in this matter. The self-proclaimed '*gurus*' and their disciples have been restrained, by the court orders, from interfering with the affairs of ISKCON-Bangalore.

When the grapes turned sour for the self-proclaimed '*gurus*', they quickly turned the tables around. They started projecting to the public, the struggle against the flawed *guru* system by the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore, as strife for personal gain.

Next, the self-proclaimed '*gurus*' began to malign the character of Madhu Pandit Dasa, who has been leading this struggle against the current *guru* system, in an attempt to discredit the position he advocates. They have described the struggle as a battle for "personal gain" and an attempt to "siphon off funds and assets to trusts of family members".) Damaging attempts have been made in the media, among our supporters, government officials and the general public to tarnish and taint the cause of the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore.

Ironically before 1999, the GBCs praised Madhu Pandit Dasa and others, for their service to the movement in developing the Bangalore temple project since 1984.

Until the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore started questioning the flawed self-proclaimed '*gurus*' system, and Madhu Pandit Dasa was regarded as "*an asset to our leadership in ISKCON,*" and appreciated for "*maintaining excellent standards ethically and morally.*"

- *"Madhu Pandit Dasa has been the President of the Bangalore center for the past 14 years. His dedication and contribution to the movement is laudable. He has maintained excellent standards ethically and morally. He is an asset to our leadership in ISKCON and is highly respected by other leaders of our society. He has contributed immensely for the growth of the movement in Karnataka."*
  - Letter by Gopal Krishna Goswami (GBC member and one of the self-proclaimed *guru*), November 4th, 1998
- *"I have known him (Madhu Pandit Dasa) for 18 years and I stand for his personal integrity in this matter. ...Hence it is unfair and unethical on the part of any one who is indulging in this personal vilification campaign."*
  - Letter by Jayapataka Swami (GBC member and one of the self-proclaimed *guru*), November 4th, 1998

This compliment was bestowed as late as in November 1998. But once the devotees ISKCON-Bangalore started questioning the flawed *guru* system post 1999, the impressions were turned around 180 degrees overnight! All of a sudden, Madhu Pandit Dasa became the black sheep.

The devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore were shocked and horrified to learn of an email correspondence among the self-proclaimed '*gurus*' revealing diabolical plans to suppress Madhu Pandit Dasa! The very same self-proclaimed '*guru*' whom Madhu Pandit Dasa had been misled to worship for over fifteen years as 'as good as God' (on his claim that he was appointed *guru* by Srila Prabhupada), was planning to fabricate false criminal cases against him to quell the deliberations that he and the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore had raised against the current *guru* system:

- *"By the way, our new legal advisors have given us some new ideas that civil route is very slow, but the criminal route is quicker. Madhu Pandit Dasa has good reputation, but it does not take long to lose it if we do criminal cases against him."*
  - Jayapataka Swami (GBC member and one of the self-proclaimed *guru*), (2001) email message TEXT PAMHO : 4259580.

Added to this, the self-proclaimed '*gurus*' are unable to come to terms with the stellar growth of ISKCON-Bangalore's activities all over India, especially through the Akshaya Patra program, which is feeding about ten lakh children everyday! This has been possible only by the blessings of Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Krishna-chandra and Srila Prabhupada. However, this growth is perceived by the self-proclaimed '*gurus*' as an implicit strengthening of the position advocated by the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore in the *guru* system debate.

The devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore are determined to stand together against all odds to see that ISKCON-Bangalore, a legally independent society registered in Karnataka, is dedicated unto Srila Prabhupada's service alone, and not for the self-aggrandizement of the self-proclaimed '*gurus*'.

ISKCON-Bangalore is Srila Prabhupada's society and only his will may prevail here.

Harassment to Life Patron Members of ISKCON-Bangalore

It was Srila Prabhupada's mandate that the Life Patrons enrolled by all the ISKCON centers be honored as guests in every other center all over the world, and provided with accommodation. This is the basis of the International Life Patron Membership program. Lakhs of Life Patron members have been enrolled all over the world under this scheme. Thousands of Life Patrons members from all over India and abroad have availed of the Guest House facility at ISKCON-Bangalore in the last ten years. Similarly thousands of Life Patron members enrolled by ISKCON-Bangalore have availed of the guest house facilities in ISKCON centers around the world, wherever available, over the last two decades.

Since the past few months, ISKCON-Mumbai and ISKCON-Tirupati have started denying guest house accommodation to the Life Patron members of ISKCON-Bangalore. This is yet another device to harass the Life Patrons enrolled by ISKCON-Bangalore. However, in ISKCON-Bangalore we continue to follow Srila Prabhupada's instruction, and continue to graciously offer guest house facility to the Life Patron members of other ISKCON centers in India and abroad.

In spite of the order of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka against interfering with the affairs of ISKCON-Bangalore, mischief is being created by ISKCON-Mumbai by misusing the list of life patrons of ISKCON-Bangalore by shooting out unsigned letters of allegations against Madhu Pandit Dasa to all the donors. This has necessitated clarifying our position to all of you through this supplementary issue.

Those patrons/donors needing accommodation in Mumbai, Tirupati and Chennai, are requested to call directly to 080 2347 1956 / 2357 8346 Extn : 4107 / 151. ISKCON-Bangalore has made alternative accommodation in these places for ISKCON-Bangalore life patrons/donors.

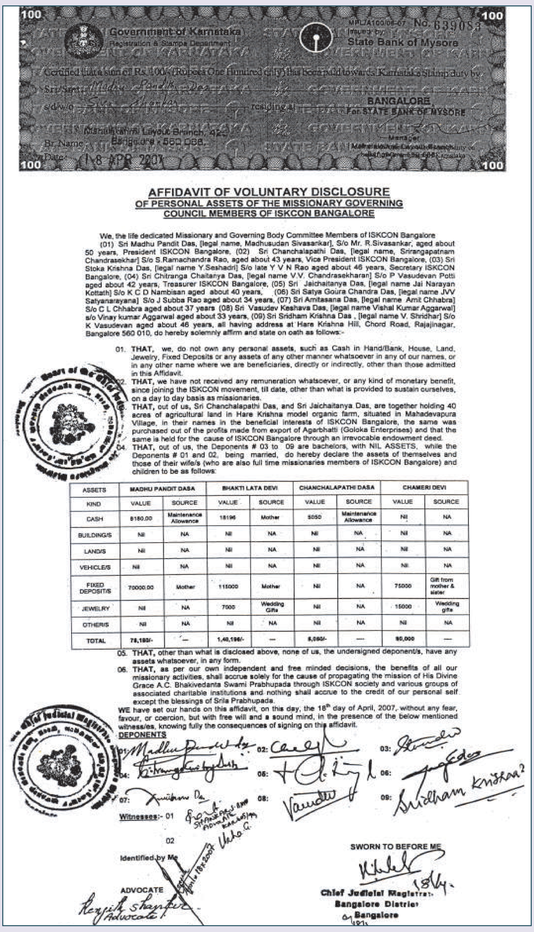
Why have the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore kept this issue away from public eye?

On the basis of utmost reverence and respect for their *Acharya*, Srila Prabhupada, the devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore have kept volumes of information about the atrocities that go on (in the name of spirituality) within ISKCON at large, away from the public eye. Their beloved spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada, struggled hard to establish a worldwide spiritual movement during the twilight of his life, and it deeply pains them to propagate the condition of the institution he left behind, to one and all. They consider his teachings as good as God's, and they never desired to associate his divine self with any foul play that is presently going on in the ISKCON movement. Hence they had remained silent on these issues publicly, hoping that time would cure these maladies.

However their silence has been exploited by the self-proclaimed *'gurus'* and is being projected as guilt. At this time, for protecting the very cause that had kept them silent, they are forced to expose the reality of ISKCON, post its Founder-*Acharya's* time, to the life members and donors. They are currently working on compiling this vast information and it will be made available shortly. Please visit the website dedicated to their struggle: www.struggle-for-truth.org

Is ISKCON-Bangalore a family controlled enterprise?

ISKCON-Bangalore is being managed and governed by dedicated, sincere followers of Srila Prabhupada, whose only desire is to follow his instructions and take the movement forward as per his desire. It is absolutely false to say that it is a "family controlled enterprise" as the agents of self-proclaimed *'gurus'* have been propagating. The members of the Governing Council of ISKCON-Bangalore are a group of educated, discriminating, independently thoughtful individuals from different parts of the country, who have chosen the spiritual path inspired by Srila Prabhupada's teachings. They wish to spend their lives in his service despite the barrage of untrue allegations and attacks. Further information on all the Governing Council Members is given at the end of this page. It may also be noted that all the Governing Council members are rendering voluntary services to ISKCON-Bangalore and are not involved in any activity for personal gain. A voluntary disclosure of the assets held by the Governing Council members and its source was published in news papers on April 19, 2007. You may find the same below.



Government of Karnataka — State Bank of Mysore — BANGALORE — For STATE BANK OF MYSORE

AFFIDAVIT OF VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE
OF PERSONAL ASSETS OF THE MISSIONARY GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS OF ISKCON BANGALORE

We, the life dedicated Missionary and Governing Body Committee Members of ISKCON Bangalore (01) Sri Madhu Pandit Das, [legal name, Madhusudan Sivasankar], S/o Mr. R.Sivasankar, aged about 50 years, President ISKCON Bangalore, (02) Sri Chanchalapathi Das, [legal name, Srirangapatnam Chandrasekhar] S/o S.Ramachandra Rao, aged about 43 years, Vice President ISKCON Bangalore, (03) Sri Stoka Krishna Das, [legal name Y.Seshadri] S/o late Y.V.N.Rao aged about 46 years, Secretary ISKCON Bangalore, (04) Sri Chitranga Chaitanya Das, [legal name V.V. Chandrasekharan] S/o P.Vasudevan Potti aged about 42 years, Treasurer ISKCON Bangalore, (05) Sri Jaichaitanya Das, [legal name Jai Narayan Kottath] S/o K.D.Nambisan aged about 40 years, (06) Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Das, [legal name JVV Satyanarayana] S/o J.Subba Rao aged about 34 years, (07) Sri Amitasana Das, [legal name Amit Chhabra] S/o C.L.Chhabra aged about 37 years (08) Sri. Vasudev Keshava Das, [legal name Vishal Kumar Aggarwal] s/o Vinay kumar Aggarwal aged about 33 years, (09) Sri Sridham Krishna Das , [legal name V. Shridhar] S/o K.Vasudevan aged about 46 years, all having address at Hare Krishna Hill, Chord Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560 010, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:-

01. **THAT**, we, do not own any personal assets, such as Cash in Hand/Bank, House, Land, Jewelry, Fixed Deposits or any assets of any other manner whatsoever in any of our names, or in any other name where we are beneficiaries, directly or indirectly, other than those admitted in this Affidavit.
02. **THAT**, we have not received any remuneration whatsoever, or any kind of monetary benefit, since joining the ISKCON movement, till date, other than what is provided to sustain ourselves, on a day to day basis as missionaries.
03. **THAT**, out of us, Sri Chanchalapathi Das, and Sri Jaichaitanya Das, are together holding 40 acres of agricultural land in Hare Krishna model organic farm, situated in Mahadevapura Village, in their names in the beneficial interests of ISKCON Bangalore, the same was purchased out of the profits made from export of Agarbhatti (Goloka Enterprises) and that the same is held for the cause of ISKCON Bangalore through an irrevocable endowment deed.
04. **THAT**, out of us, the Deponents # 03 to 09 are bachelors, with NIL ASSETS, while the Deponents # 01 and 02, being married, do hereby declare the assets of themselves and those of their wife/s (who are also full time missionaries members of ISKCON Bangalore) and children to be as follows:

ASSETS	MADHU PANDIT DASA		BHAKTI LATA DEVI		CHANCHALAPATHI DASA		CHAMERI DEVI	
KIND	VALUE	SOURCE	VALUE	SOURCE	VALUE	SOURCE	VALUE	SOURCE
CASH	8160.00	Maintenance Allowance	18196	Mother	5050	Maintenance Allowance	Nil	NA
BUILDING/S	Nil	NA	Nil	NA	Nil	NA	Nil	NA
LAND/S	Nil	NA	Nil	NA	Nil	NA	Nil	NA
VEHICLE/S	Nil	NA	Nil	NA	Nil	NA	Nil	NA
FIXED DEPOSIT/S	70000.00	Mother	115000	Mother	Nil	NA	75000	Gift from mother & sister
JEWELRY	Nil	NA	7000	Wedding Gifts	Nil	NA	15000	Wedding gifts
OTHER/S	Nil	NA	Nil	NA	Nil	NA	Nil	NA
TOTAL	78,160/-	—	1,40,196/-	—	5,050/-	—	90,000	—

05. **THAT**, other than what is disclosed above, none of us, the undersigned deponents, have any assets whatsoever, in any form.
06. **THAT**, as per our own independent and free minded decisions, the benefits of all our missionary activities, shall accrue solely for the cause of propagating the mission of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada through ISKCON society and various groups of associated charitable institutions and nothing shall accrue to the credit of our personal self except the blessings of Srila Prabhupada.

WE have set our hands on this affidavit, on this day, the 18th day of April, 2007, without any fear, favour, or coercion, but with free will and a sound mind, in the presence of the below mentioned witnesses, knowing fully the consequences of signing on this affidavit.

DEPONENTS

01: 02: 03: 04: 05: 06: 07: 08: 09:

Witnesses:- 01 02

Identified by Me

ADVOCATE

SWORN TO BEFORE ME

Chief Judicial Magistrate Bangalore District Bangalore

Notes

1. *'Cleaning House and Cleaning Hearts'* by Ravindra Svarupa Dasa.
2. A sample list is given below. These sites are not our websites, but their contents have been compiled by different groups of ISKCON devotees who have had close encounters with the flawed *guru* system over the years. It deeply pains us that we are now forced to divulge this disturbing information. This sensitive information, however throws some light on ISKCON's situation post Srila Prabhupada's disappearance.

https://iskconirm.com/
https://www.harekrsna.org/gbc/black/bogus4.htm
https://www.harekrsna.org/satsvarupa-hist.htm

3. Sulochana Dasa murdered in Los Angeles in 1986 as he was about to publish his book *'Guru Business'* that was an expose of the ISKCON *gurus*.
- Betrayal of the Spirit ~ 1986: The Year of Crisis (Ch. 15) by Nori J. Muster, University of Illinois Press
Also see *After the Absolute* (Ch. 17) by David Gold.
4. In 1999, the devotees of ISKCON Bangalore witnessed how Adridharan Dasa, a longtime president of Calcutta temple was expelled and falsely charged in fabricated cases of crime – all because of his dissidence of the *guru* system.

A Prayer

Dear Srila Prabhupada, on the occasion of your 112th birth anniversary, we earnestly pray to you, the *Acharya* of ISKCON, for your guidance and mercy to always follow your direction and take your shelter. Please give us strength to overcome the various sinister plans of the self-proclaimed *'gurus'* of ISKCON and their agents, in our struggle to follow your will. We only desire your service for ever.

Your humble servants,

The devotees of ISKCON-Bangalore.

Governing Council of ISKCON Bangalore

https://www.iskconbangalore.org/governance/

https://www.harekrishna-movement.org/governing-body-commission