**9 points re: The Bona Fide Spiritual Master**

from Çréla Prabhupäda's *Bhagavad-gétä As It Is*

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# 1. *Bhagavad-gétä As It Is,* 2.8 purport

#  “The conclusion is that a Spiritual Master who is *100%* Kåñëa conscious is the Bona Fide Spiritual Master, for he can solve the problems of life.”

**2. *Bhagavad-gétä As It Is,*** **2.7 purport**

“The *Vedic* wisdom therefore advises that in order to solve the perplexities of life and to understand the science of the solution, **one *must* approach a Spiritual Master who is** **IN the disciplic succession**.”

***Bhagavad-gétä As It Is,* 4.34 purport**

 "The path of spiritual realization is undoubtedly difficult. The Lord therefore advises us to approach a bona fide spiritual master in the line of disciplic succession from the Lord Himself. No one can be a Bona Fide Spiritual Master without following this principle of disciplic succession."

**3.** ***Bhagavad-gétä As It Is,* 7.14 purport**

 “Another meaning of *guna* is rope; it is to be understood that the conditioned soul is tightly tied by the ropes of illusion. A man bound by the hands and feet cannot free himself —he must be helped by a person who is unbound. Because the bound cannot help the bound, **the rescuer must be liberated. *Therefore*,**

***only* Lord Kåñëa, or His Bona Fide Representative the Spiritual Master, *can* release the conditioned soul**.”

***Bhagavad-gétä As It Is,* Introduction**

“The words spoken by the Lord are different from words spoken by a person of the mundane world

who is infected with four defects. A mundaner 1) is sure to commit mistakes, 2) is invariably illusioned, 3) has the tendency to cheat others and 4) is limited by imperfect senses. With these four imperfections, one cannot deliver perfect information of all-pervading knowledge.”

**4.** ***Bhagavad-gétä As It Is,* 18.75 purport**

 “This is the mystery of disciplic succession.

 **When the Spiritual Master is Bona Fide, then** **one can** ***hear Bhagavad-gétä directly*, as Arjuna heardit*.*** ...Actually, there is no difference in hearing directly from Kåñëa or hearing directly from Kåñëa via a Bona Fide Spiritual Master like Vyäsa.”

**5.** ***Bhagavad-gétä As It Is,* 4.10 purport**

 "So, by the slow process of devotional service, **under the guidance of the Bona Fide Spiritual Master, one can attain the *highest* stage."**

*[This quote is to answer some sannyäsés from the Gauòéya Math who preached to Çréla Prabhupäda's disciples that they were taking them to a more advanced postion than what Çréla Prabhupäda could give them.]*

**6. *Bhagavad-gétä As It Is,*** **2.41 purport**

 *“*One should accept the instruction of the Bona Fide Spiritual Master as one's mission in life*.”*

***Bhagavad-gétä As It Is,* 2.41 purport**

 cited in a lecture on *Çrémad Bhägavatam*, given on November 6th, 1976, Våndävana

 *"Yasya prasädäd bhagavat-prasädo yasya*. This is the injunction of the *äcärya*, Viçvanätha Cakravarté Öhäkura. He has described very nicely *vyavasäyätmikä buddhir ekeha kuru nandana* **[*Bhagavad-gétä* 2.41]**.

**The order of guru should be the *life and soul* of the disciple**, without caring for his personal salvation. This is the qualification of *çiñya. Çiñyas te 'ham çädhi mäà prapannam* **[*Bhagavad-gétä* 2.7]**, fully surrendered".

**7.*****Bhagavad-gétä As It Is,*** **18.57 purport**

 “When one acts in Kåñëa consciousness, he does not act as the master of the world. Just like a servant, one should act fully under the direction of the Supreme Lord..."

"One should, however, note that, after doing something whimsically, he should not offer the result to the Supreme Lord. That sort of ‘duty’ is not in the devotional service of Kåñëa consciousness. One should act according to the order of Kåñëa. This is a very important point.

**That order of Kåñëa comes *through* disciplic succession from the Bona Fide Spiritual Master*.***

***Therefore*** the Spiritual Master’s order should be taken as the prime duty of life***.*** If one gets a Bona Fide Spiritual Master and acts according to his direction, then his perfection of life in Kåñëa consciousness is guaranteed.”

**8.** ***Bhagavad-gétä As It Is,*** **18.60 purport**

 “**If one refuses to act under the direction of the Supreme Lord, then he is *compelled* to act by the modes in which he is situated**. Everyone is under the spell of a particular combination of the modes of nature and is acting in that way.”

**9.** ***Bhagavad-gétä As It Is*, 4.42 purport**

“**A Bona Fide Spiritual Master is IN the disciplic succession *from time eternal,* and he does not deviate at all from the instructions of the Supreme Lord as they were imparted millions of years ago to the sun-god, from whom the instructions of *Bhagavad-gétä* have come down to the earthly kingdom**.”

***Bhagavad-gétä As It Is,* Introduction**

THE DISCIPLIC SUCCESSION

“*Evaà paramparä-präptam imaà räjarñayo viduù*. **(*Bhagavad-géta*, 4.2)**

This *Bhagavad-gétä* As It Is is received through this disciplic succession:

1) Kåñëa, 2) Brahmä, 3) Närada, 4) Vyäsa, 5) Madhva, 6) Padmanäbha, 7) Nåhari, 8) Mädhava,

9) Akñobhya, 10) Jayatértha, 11) Jïänasindhu, 12) Dayänidhi, 13) Vidyänidhi, 14) Räjendra,

15) Jayadharma, 16) Puruñottama, 17) Brahmaëyatértha, 18) Vyäsatértha, 19) Lakñmépati,

20) Mädhavendra Puré, 21) Éçvara Puré, (Nityänanda, Advaita), 22) Lord Caitanya, 23) Rüpa

(Svarüpa, Sanätana), 24) Raghunätha, Jéva, 25) Kåñëadäsa, 26) Narottama, 27) Viçvanätha,

28) (Baladeva) Jagannätha, 29) Bhaktivinode, 30) Gaurakiçora,

**31) Bhaktisiddhänta Sarasvati**

**32) His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupäda.”**

***Therefore*:**

*nama oà viñëu-pädäya kåñëa-preñöhäya bhü-tale*

*çrémate bhaktivedänta-svämin iti nämine*

*namas te särasvate deve gaura-väëé-pracäriëe*

*nirviçeña-çünyavädi-päçcätya-deça-täriëe*

“I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupäda, who is very dear to Lord Kåñëa on this earth, having taken shelter at His lotus feet. ***Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O Spiritual Master***, servant of Bhaktisiddhänta Sarasvaté Gosvämé. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.”