**Questions & answers following Çréla Prabhupäda's lecture on *Bg* 17.1-3, given on July 4, 1974, in Honolulu**

**Sudämä**: There also is the position of or some question is raised as to how to actually follow the authority.

What is the authority between...?

**Çréla Prabhupäda**: Authority is your spiritual master.

***You do not know who is authority? Why this question is there?***

If one is initiated, then he accepted the authority.

***And if he does not follow the instruction of spiritual master,*** ***he is a rascal***.

***He is defying the authority***. That's all.

**Sudämä**: The question also is there: the authority is the spiritual master, but the via media to the spiritual master... The difference between, like we were discussing in the automobile of *çikñä* and *dékñä-guru.*

**Çréla** **Prabhupäda**: Then so *çikñä* and *dékñä-guru.*..

A *çikñä-guru* who instructs ***against*** the instruction of spiritual, ***he is not a çikñä guru***. ***He is a demon****.*

*Çikñä-guru, dékñä-guru* means... Sometimes a *dékñä-guru* is not present always.

Therefore one can take learning, instruction, from an advanced devotee. That is called the *çikñä-guru*.

*Çikñä-guru* does not mean he is speaking something against the teachings of the *dékñä-guru*.

***He is not a çikñä-guru. He is a rascal***.

**Woman Devotee**: People are instructing with these sessions?

**Çréla Prabhupäda**: (*Ignoring question*) Because that is offense*. Guror avajïä*.

First offense is *guror avajïä*, defying the authority of guru. This is the first offense.

So one who is offensive, how he can make advance in chanting? He cannot make.

Then everything is finished in the beginning. *Guror avajïä*. Everything is there.

If one is disobeying the spiritual master, he cannot remain in the pure status of life.

***He cannot be çikñä-guru or anything else. He is finished, immediately***.

*Guror avajïä çruti-çästra-nindanam, nämno baläd yasya hi*...

You do not study all these things. You become initiated. There are ten kinds of offenses.

***Do you have any regard for these things or not?*** You must avoid these ten kinds of offenses.

The first offense is to disobey the orders of guru. That is first offense.

So if you are offensive, how you can become advanced by chanting? That is also not possible.

**Woman Devotee**: Can we just have the chanting without instructions?

**Çréla** **Prabhupäda**: What is that?

**Sudämä**: She wants to know actually that should they just have the chanting without reading your books or without instruction or following the program.

**Çréla** **Prabhupäda**: But that chanting must be pure.

Your guru is writing books. ***If you think, "There is no necessity of reading books," that is guror avajïä!***

***Do you means to say I am writing these books whole night for selling and making money?***

What do you think like that?

**Woman Devotee**: So there should just be chanting and reading of the books.

**Çréla** **Prabhupäda**: Yes.

**Woman Devotee:** But how much comment?

**Çréla** **Prabhupäda**: Huh?

**Sudämä:** She says that how much comment should there be for reading the books. In other...

Actually the situation is that to be proper *çikñä*, means that one must give instruction as the spiritual master. He has to follow your program, rising early...

**Çréla** **Prabhupäda**: we have already sung. *Ära nä kariha mane äçä. Guru-mukha-padma*.

What is that? Read.

**Bhadrä-vardhana**: *Ära nä kariha mane äçä*.

**Çréla** **Prabhupäda**: Ah. Mean do not think otherwise. ***Whatever guru has said accept it, finally!*** *Ära nä kariha mane äçä*. Don't divert from this. This is the instruction. How you can divert from the instruction of guru?

**Woman Devotee**: So just read it, not comment.

**Çréla** **Prabhupäda**: Yes. You read it or not read it, but you have to realize.

Suppose one is illiterate. It cannot read. But he can ***follow!*** (end)