

The Importance of Situation and Place in Preaching

by Narasimha das

Srila Krishnadas Kaviraja mentions in *Sri Caitanya-caritamrita* that Lord Chaitanya did not manifest His spiritual potencies in Navadvipa Dhama but waited to go to South India to exhibit His potency. Thus He liberated everyone in South India. **(Cc. Madhya, 7.106)**

Srila Prabhupada remarks in his purport to this verse that the situation in Navadvipa at that time was not favorable for Lord Chaitanya's preaching to the masses due to the profusion of caste conscious Smarta brahmins and other disturbing elements.

Srila Prabhupada: **"By this it is to be understood that people are really interested in preaching in a favorable situation. If the candidates for conversion are too disturbing, a preacher may not attempt to spread Krishna consciousness amongst them. *It is better to go where the situation is more favorable.* The Krishna consciousness movement was first attempted in India, but the people of India, being absorbed in political thoughts, did not take to it. They were entranced by political leaders. We preferred, therefore, to go to the West, following the order of our spiritual master, and by the grace of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu this movement is becoming successful."** (Cc. Madhya, 7.106, Purport)

It may be assumed that Srila Prabhupada made the whole world more favorable for preaching Krishna consciousness. Nonetheless, situations greatly differ in various times and places. Due to the influence and offenses of many *sahajiyas* and *mayavadis* in and around *maya-iskcon*, in both the East and the West, the situation for trying to preach to iskcon-associated devotees is generally very difficult.

In this day and time, unlike when Srila Prabhupada wrote the above, preaching in India is generally more favorable than most places in the West. But much of India remains as a difficult field due to the profusion of *sahajiyas*, *mayavadis*, gross materialist, nationalists, political parties, and also pseudo Vaishnava camps that create further confusion by claiming some **monopoly** or false status as spiritual institutions.

The West, on the other hand, has become a hellish situation of rampant materialism and confusion fueled by unbounded lust, anger and greed. Although most of India is following the West in lock step, this trend is now being resisted by many born Vaishnavas and others who are spiritually inclined and disgusted with the direction India is heading. This fact of life helps open wide fertile preaching fields unmatched anywhere else in the world. Thus we see that what was true a few years back is not true today regarding the relative favorability or unfavorability of various preaching fields. Times and situations have changed.

One thing hasn't changed much, however. South India is still full of devotees who are receptive to Krishna consciousness. In all of South India, Karnataka is the best place due to the influence of Srila Madhvacarya, Srila Ramanuja, and especially Sri Chaitanya

Mahaprabhu and Sri Nityananda Prabhu, Who liberated all the forefathers of the Vaishnavas in this region.

Maybe it's about time for devotees serious about seeing great results from their preaching to start preaching to the highly intelligent people of South India. Eastern Europe is another ripe field. This may be more fruitful than our attempts to reform or redirect the misguided friends and followers of the *maya-iskcon* camp in the West.