

# GURU TATTVA

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# FUNCTION OF GURU

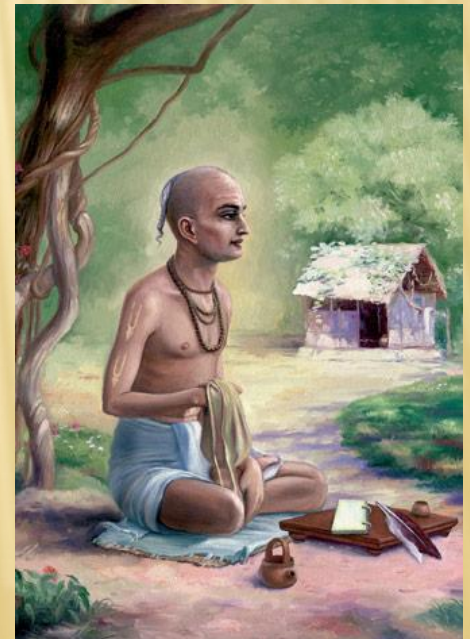
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To give mantra (diksa)

To give spiritual knowledge  
(siksha)

# QUALIFICATION OF GURU

- Surrender to Krsna
- He may be brahmana, sudra, grhastha or sannyasi, but this makes no difference in the ability of the guru to deliver the jiva.
- Renunciate should take a renunciate guru



# WRONG CONCEPTIONS MY GURU IS BEST BECAUSE

- ❑ He is a brahmana. Varna
- ❑ He is a sannyasi. Asrama
- ❑ He is Indian. Race
- ❑ He is senior. Age
- ❑ He is handsome. Appearance
- ❑ He dresses nicely. Appearance
- ❑ He has lots of money. Wealth
- ❑ He has a big zone. Power
- ❑ He has many disciples. Followers



# UNTENABLE CLAIMS

## MY GURU IS BEST BECAUSE

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- ❑ He is a nitya siddha.
- ❑ He is an uttama adhikari whereas others are only madhyamas.
- ❑ He is preaching raganuga whereas others preach vaidhi bhakti.

# POSITIVE REASONS FOR RESPECTING GURU

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- He gives teachings according to scripture.
- He practices what he preaches.
- He is attracted to chanting Krsna's names.
- He is loyal to ISKCON.
- He respects all devotees.
- He cooperates with all ISKCON authorities.

# GURU IS A SPIRITUAL POSITION NOT A MANAGERIAL POSITION

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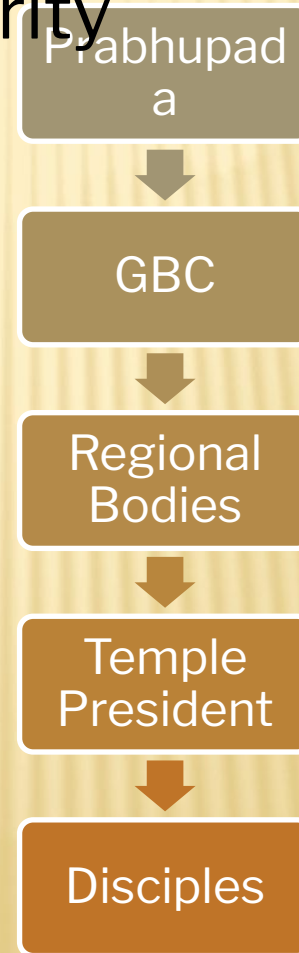
- Guru is expected to give spiritual advice, not material advice (though he may do this).
- His material advice may not be perfect. (Don't be disappointed.)
- Any advice that relates to managerial matters should be given in coordination with local managers.
- If a guru is also a manager (GBC for instance) the disciple should not confuse the two roles. Spiritual advice is absolute and managerial advice is not.

# GURU AND MANAGEMENT

Spiritual  
Authority



Spiritual/managerial  
Authority





# SRILA PRABHUPADA'S QUALIFICATION

- “I have not done anything personally, very wonderful. I am simply serving my spiritual master, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Maharaja, and all the acaryas in the disciplic succession.” (Letter, May, 16, 1974)



# QUALIFICATION OF HIS FOLLOWERS

- If you kindly follow my instructions and continue to push on Krishna consciousness, that will make me very happy. You must very strictly observe the regulative principles and chant sixteen rounds a day and Krishna will give you guidance.

# CHOOSING GURU --ISKCON LAW

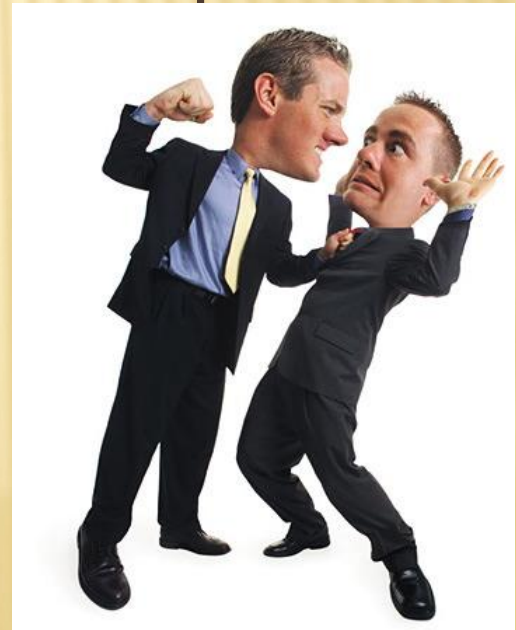
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- It is the personal responsibility of candidates for initiation to correctly decide, by the exercise of their own intelligence, to surrender to a particular devotee as spiritual master.
- Candidates for initiation should accept initiation from a spiritual master only after developing firm and mature faith in that devotee and in his ability to take them back to Godhead.

# NO CANVASSING

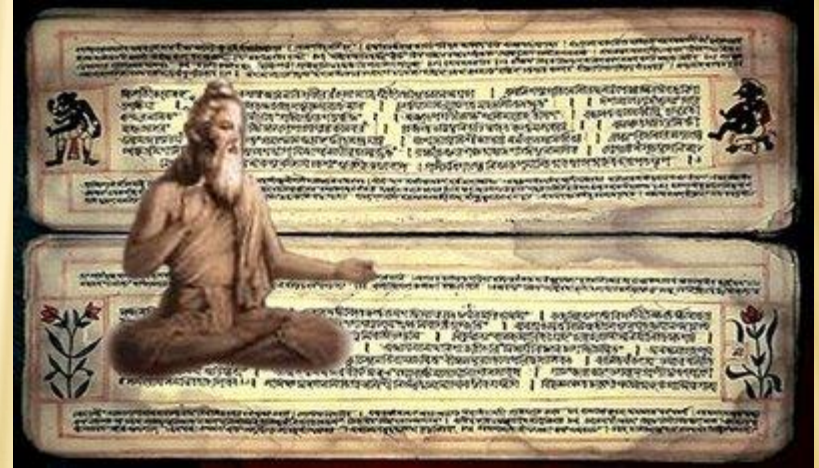
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- ❑ ISKCON members shall not compel or coerce new members to accept any particular siksa or diksa guru or to take diksa initiation at any particular point in time.



# HOW CAN A DEVOTEE JUDGE A GURU?

- Sadhu, sastra, and guru are the authoritative references to apply in ascertaining the level of advancement of a devotee.



# ISKCON RULE

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- All members of ISKCON have the right to accept diksa or siksa from the guru of their choice, provided that
- the guru is qualified and approved to initiate
- the candidate is eligible to accept initiation
- all the relevant procedures set forth in ISKCON laws have been strictly observed.

# TYPES: DIKSA GURU

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- Only one
- Gives Krsna mantra
- Should be knowledgeable of sampradaya teachings
- Should have good conduct

# MEANING OF DIKSA

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- divyam jnanam yato dadyat
- kuryat papasya samksayam
- tasmad dikseti sa prokta
- desikas tattvakovidaih
  
- ato gurum pranamyaiiva
- sarvasvam vinivedya ca
- grhniyad vaisnavam mantram
- diksapurvam vidhanatah



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Diksa is so-called by the wise because it bestows divya jnana and destroys sins.

Di (vya-jnana) + ksa (yam papasya)


Therefore one should offer respects to guru, offer him everything and accept Vaisnava mantra according to the rules while taking diksa.

# DIKSA

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Spiritual  
knowledge



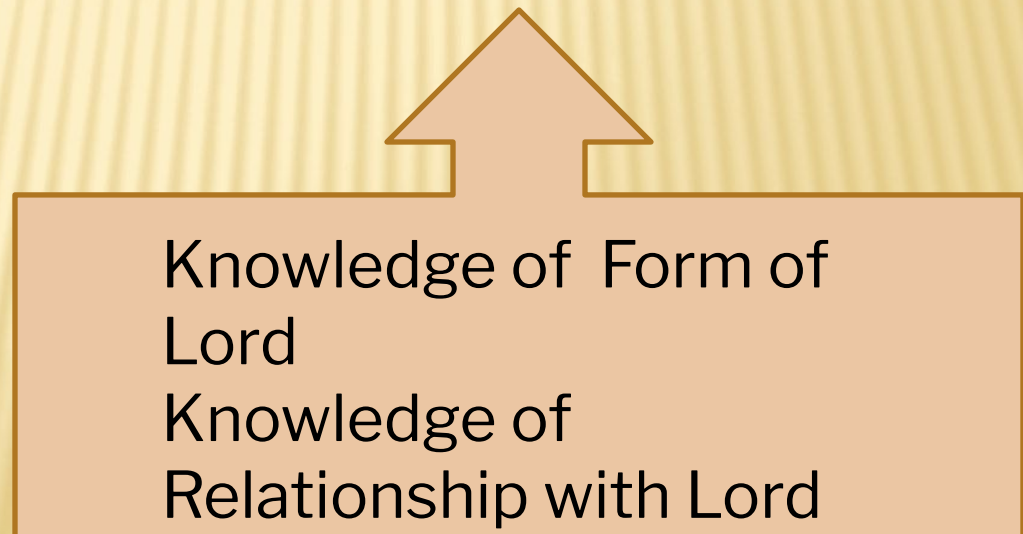
Destruction of  
sin, desires  
etc.

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- divyāā jīānāā hy atra çrémati mantre  
bhagavat-svarūpa-jīānāā, tena bhagavatā  
sambandha-viçeña-jīānāā ca | yathā  
pādmottara-khaēōādāv añōākñarādikam  
adhikātya vivātam asti ye tu sampattimanto  
gāhasthās teñāā tv arcana-mārga eva  
mukhyaū |

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- Divya jnanam is knowledge of the form of the Lord and knowledge of ones particular relationship with the Lord in that sacred mantra.
  - It is mainly for rich householders doing deity worship. Bhakti sandarbha


# DIKSA

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# NAMA HARE KRISHNA

Siksa guru  
Sambandha  
jnana

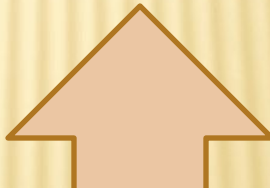


No diksa

Suddha Nama

Divya Jnana

Destruction of Sin



Knowledge of Form of  
Lord  
Knowledge of  
Relationship with Lord

# DIKSA AND NAMA

- Diksa: mantra, sambandha jnana.
  - Arcana marga



- Nama: no diksa, sambandha jnana
  - Bhagavata marga, yuga dharma



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**PANCARATRA  
MARGA**



**DIKSA**



**MANTRA**



**ARCANA**

**BHAGAVATA  
MARGA**



**SIKSA**



**NAMA**



**KIRTANA**



# REASON FOR ARCANA MARGA

- Because of the fickle mind of the devotee, arcana marga is often recommended along with bhagavata marga to engage all his senses in deity worship along with chanting the name.



# DIKSA PANCA SAMSKARA VAISNAVA DIKSA

- TILAKA
- TAPA (BRANDING)
- KRSNA DAS



- KRSNA MANTRA
- ARCANA



# VAIDIC DIKSA

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- UPANAYANA SAMSKARA
- SACRIFICE
- VEDIC GAYATRI MANTRA

# DIKSA PANCA SAMSKARA VAISNAVA DIKSA + VAIDIC DIKSA

- TILAKA
- TAPA (BRANDING)
- KRSNA DAS

- KRSNA MANTRA
- ARCANA

- VEDIC GAYATRI
- DVIJA SAMSKARA

First  
Initiation

n

Second  
Initiation

n

# PROCESS IN ISKCON

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- First Initiation in ISKCON has also become a commitment to bhakti, guru and ISKCON with fixed standards.
- Taking that guru as a main siksa guru.

# OTHER REASONS FOR DIKSA

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- Tracing parampara formally
- In line with tradition in other sampradayas and scripture
- Rupa Goswami gives more emphasis to diksa in Bhakti rasamrta sindhu by mentioning diksa-siksadi as the second anga of bhakti.

# SIKSA GURU

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- May be many Siksa gurus
- Gives spiritual instructions-sambandha jnana.
- All the devotees who are generating auspiciousness by distribution of the Holy Name may be regarded as siksa guru.

# ACCEPTING SIKSA GURU

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- One should take permission from diksa guru to take instructions from siksa guru.



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## Diksa guru

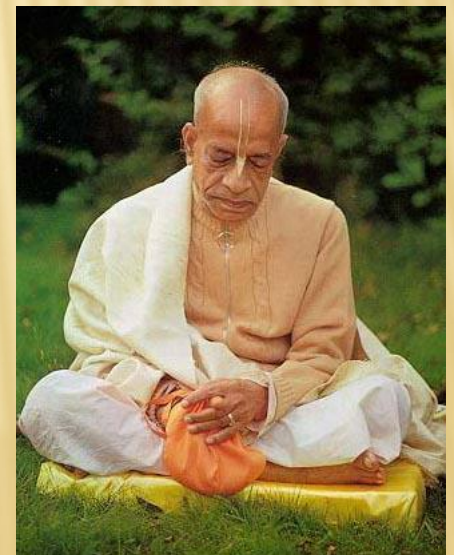
- Only one
- Gives mantra as well as name
- Gives knowledge

## Siksa guru

- Many
- Gives name
- Gives knowledge

# ACARYAS

- Founding acaryas and great acaryas are principle siksa gurus They are given greater respect
- Everyone in the sampradaya should follow founder's instructions and teaching and not accept teachings outside the sampradaya



# RESPECT FOR DIKSA AND SIKSA GURU

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- Equal respect to both
- Regarded as dear servants of Krsna
- Serve with great devotion
- Worship guru and with his permission worship Krsna

# RESPECT -- SERVICE TO GURU

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- Respect his asana and bed, his shoes, vehicle, water, shadow
- Follow his instructions
- Offer pranamas
- Respect his name
- Try to please him
- Chant



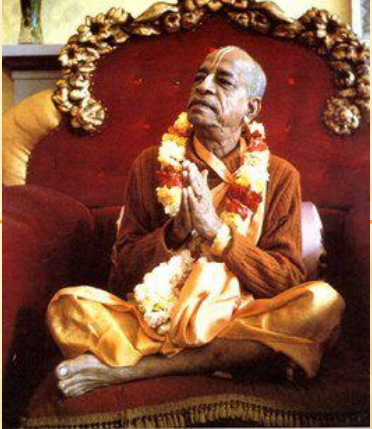
# PREEMINENT RESPECT FOR PRABHUPADA

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- ISKCON members shall be trained to place their faith, trust and allegiance first and foremost in the Founder-Acarya who is the preeminent siksa guru for every member of ISKCON.
- Srila Prabhupada is to be worshiped through his words, his murti, his picture, and his devotees.



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- Disciples of ISKCON diksa gurus other than Srila Prabhupada may worship their gurus according to the guidelines of ISKCON laws, and in keeping with the spirit of the standards for guru worship in ISKCON.



Prabhupad  
a

Guru

Guru

Guru

Guru

Guru

# FAULTS IN GURU -- HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?

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- Ideally a guru is at the stage of prema.
- This guru never has fault.
- This guru is very very rare.
  
- Most gurus are at the sadhana stage.
- Faults can appear in any person at the stage of sadhana or bhava.



# HOW TO RESPECT AND SEE FAULTS?

- If the spiritual master commits a wrongful act, breaking Vaishnava principles, one should privately confront him for his rectification
- using logic and appropriate conclusions from sadhu, sastra and guru
- , but one is not to give him up.

Krsna Bhajanamrta 59

# CONDITIONS FOR DISCIPLINING GURU

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- ❑ Improper conduct..
- ❑ Ignorance of philosophy.
- ❑ Bewildered by false pride.

Krsna Bhajanamrta 60

# CONDUCT OF THE DISCIPLE

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- Continue, as before, with one's prescribed devotional service.
- One may take guidance from the Vaisnavas, as all Vaisnavas are considered guru or spiritual master,
- Or one may use one's own intelligence, duly considering the relevant instructions from sadhu, sastra and guru.

Krsna Bhajanamrta 63

# CONDITIONS FOR REJECTION OF GURU

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- acts enviously towards the devotees (vaishnava aparadha)
- Rejects the Supreme Lord (Krsna aparadha)
- Rejects the process of hearing and chanting about the glorious pastimes of Lord Krishna (bhakti aparadha)
- Hopeless material habits.

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- If one's spiritual master does not have these qualities of a guru and is envious of advanced devotees, and thus refuses to allow his disciples to honor and worship other devotees, the disciple who leaves such a pretender spiritual master is not at fault. If the spiritual master hates Vaisnavas, he should be rejected.

Bhakti-sandarbha

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- One should serve a genuine exalted (maha-bhagavata) devotee instead of him. This exalted devotee, who should be equipoised and kind-hearted to his disciples, should be accepted as if he were one's spiritual master.

Bhakti-sandarbha

# REINITIATION

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- This is prescribed if one accepted a guru who was never a Vaishnava.
- In the case of fall down, this is not compulsory.
- In the case of rejection of guru, it is optional.

# REJECTION OF GURU

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- By asat sanga a guru loses his qualification, commits nama aparadha, and lose his knowledge
- Becomes hostile to vaisnavas, loses taste for the Name and develops desire for wealth and women.



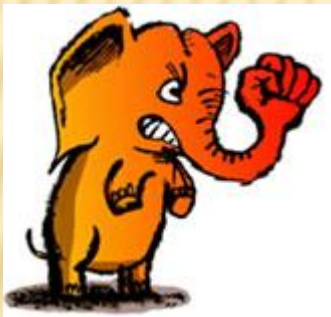


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- When this happens guru should be rejected, and one should accept qualified guru
  - Without rejection the disciple will fall from his devotion
  - To prevent this one should choose carefully ones guru

# DISRESPECT TO GURU GUROR AVAJNA

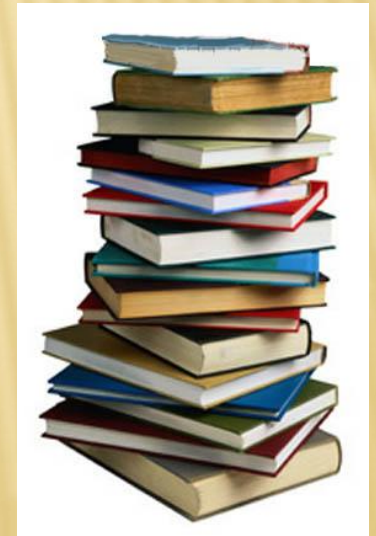
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- ❑ To reject a guru or disobey him when he is qualified is an offense
- ❑ This is an obstacle to devotion, as respect is a cause of advancement



# CAUSE OF THE OFFENCE

- ❑ bad association,
  - ❑ sinful persons
  - ❑ non devotees mayavadis
  - ❑ pretenders
  - ❑ atheists
  - ❑ devata worshippers
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- ❑ reading false literature



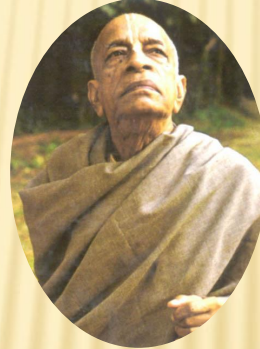
# REMEDY

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- ask forgiveness



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- yasya prasada bhagavat-prasado
  - yasyaprasada na gatih kuto 'pi
  - dhyayan stuvams tasya yaças tri-sandhya
  - vande guroh sri-caranaravindam
- 
- By the mercy of the spiritual master one is benedicted by the mercy of Krsna. Without the grace of the spiritual master no one can make any advancement. Therefore I should always remember the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.



Preeminent  
Siksa Guru

Diksa Guru

Siksa Gurus

Disciple



