

PHILOSOPHICAL EXAM FOR HH GOPAL KRISHNA GOSWAMI'S 1st INITIATION CANDIDATES

1. What are the qualifications of a bonafide spiritual master? It is said that once one accepts Harinam initiation from a bonafide guru one should accept further mantras from him only (so far he is present), and to accept other initiations from someone else is a great offence. Do you believe this?
2. Why does one worship the spiritual master like God? Is the spiritual master God? How does the bonafide guru see himself in relation to Lord Krsna and the disciple?
3. Do you believe that the spiritual master speaks the Absolute Truth? How is it possible that the same message spoken by Lord Krsna 5,000 years ago is represented by the spiritual master today?
4. Under what circumstances should the spiritual master be rejected?
5. What are the qualifications and responsibilities of a disciple?
6. What is the unique position of Srila Prabhupada in ISKCON? Why is he respected as Founder Acharya in ISKCON and primary Siksha guru for all of his followers? It is said that by accepting initiation one is connected with the guru parampara. Are you committed to serving according to Srila Prabhupada's instructions? Why?
7. Why do you accept Lord Krsna as the supreme personality of Godhead? Explain some of the glories of the holy name of Lord Krsna.
8. Why do we follow the four regulative principles?
9. Why do we chant Hare Krsna rather than other pious activities? What is the difference between chanting Hare Krishna and Punya Karmas?
10. What is the position of the GBC body?
11. Explain the difference between the body and the soul.
12. What is ISKCON and why should one remain in ISKCON.
13. It is said that at the time of accepting Harinam initiation the disciple is to follow the orders of the spiritual master in this life and even life after life. Do you believe this? Does one need to accept a spiritual master? Why?
14. If one makes a plan to make sinful acts and counteract them by chanting the holy name of the Lord, will this free one from the sinful reactions? Why?
15. After accepting initiation it is said that one should assist the spiritual master in spreading the Hare Krsna Sankirtan movement of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Are you convinced to do this? In doing this, may one preach the glories of the holy name forcibly to envious persons? Explain.
16. After accepting initiation what is the duty of a disciple in regard to increasing one's service and surrender to guru and Krsna? After initiation is it alright to chant less than rounds when there is a lot of service? If one misses completing 16 rounds, what should one do?
17. You may explain personally what has fixed or strengthened your faith in Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaja. Kindly also explain in which ways after initiation you intend to serve the spiritual master in his devotional service of fulfilling Srila Prabhupada's mission of spreading the Harinama Sankirtana movement all over the world. How do you intend to further develop and maintain a strong and proper relationship. Write an essay to the

spiritual master explaining why you want to take initiation from him and why you want him to accept you as his disciple as a disciple with him.