

A Forlorn Cry for Leadership

Devotees trying to do what they read in Srila Prabhupada's books but find themselves struggling alone without leadership. Why? Simple – ISKCON leaders do not want Varnashrama Dharma established.

Premada Das – A Russian devotee

Hare Krishna! Dear devotees, members of GBC, leaders of Krishna Consciousness Movement! Please, accept our respectful obeisances! All glories to Shrila Prabhupada! Let us express our gratitude for Your care about ISKCON. Several Russian, Ukrainian and Belorussian devotees are writing to You.

This letter is a call for help, which subordinates expect from a leader, children expect from parents and juniors from seniors. We suffer a lot here. We do not suffer from disorderliness in this world or from psychological discomfort (it is just a consequence), we suffer because of the reason that we can't serve completely Shrila Prabhupada's instructions. Please, let's describe the situation in general.

Most of devotees live in cities. And excepting just some devotees (living in brahmacharya ashram, own business, pension, working in a vegetarian cafe and etc.), they are obliged to get a karmic job that definitely impacts their sadhana consciousness. Weekly Sunday program and annual festival do not relieve the situation. Perhaps, it is possible to live like this just for some time if there is a hope that the situation will change. If the goal would appear, which is similar with distributing Shrila Prabhupada's books and which householders could dedicate their lives to. But years pass and this doesn't happen. At the same time psychology, social relations, family relationships, ajurveda, astrology, hatha-joga (all things, which help to feel comfortable in this world instead of planting renounce and the wish to come back to Krishna) start to prevail. By the way, modern economy with its outer glitter is very hopeless. At the same time the majority of devotees know Shrila Prabhupada's wish to create independent settles

and restore the varna-ashrama system. They know this, but mostly they can't change anything themselves. And, probably, it is natural.

Juniors expect from seniors that they will be directed. Some of them start acting. They buy a house in a village, land, cows or start business which is based on milk products. They also buy cows and try to care of them. Some of devotees come back to cities, some stay. As we know, there are five or six villages in Ukraine where devotees live. There may be more villages in Russia. There is a farm in Belarus. One Russian family has been living in the village for almost fifteen years. They left for the village at the end of 90-s. Perhaps, if at that time, when a lot of devotees changed brahmacharya ashram to grihastha ashram, the importance of country communities had been preached so active as the importance of Shrila Prabhupada's books distribution, most devotees would not be obliged to get a karmic job, sell pictures and etc. Probably, it is much more difficult now to inspire devotees for something. There are a lot of supermarkets, the Internet, different gadgets, social nets and etc. One more problem that children of devotees, who settled in the village, are obliged to go to karmic schools.

Anyway, we ask You for leadership, because we want to act authoritatively and we want to be engaged in serving Shrila Prabhupada's mission. Please, direct us. This is our humble request. If there was an opportunity to create although one experimental community in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus each and tried to realize all Shrila Prabhupada's wishes. There is growing cereals, work on bulls, care and milk cows, grow fruit and vegetables, make clothes, try to be self-realization, find a service for each devotee according to his abilities, preach by own example, cooperate with a café, travel by bull carts around villages, sing kirtans, speak of Krishna, perform dramas. And through this way to see by own eyes how Lord Chaitanya's prediction about distribution of Krishna Consciousness in every city and every village becomes true. There a lot of such places where devotees feet didn't step. Such activity would make happy so many people. Devotees, who lived in a temple, have an experience of complete occupation in Krishna Consciousness. This mood is for devotees who can live in communities. It is possible to find people who lived and ploughed on bulls, grew cereals, built houses, sew clothes. This knowledge hasn't been lost completely. And also there is a right in our countries that each citizen can take free several hectares of land for doing agriculture. If found an appropriate perspective place (perhaps, where devotees are living now), made an investment in building not expensive but comfortable houses, invited devotees, cared for them, let them know that they are participants of

implementation of the great Shrila Prabhupada's plan. Of course, may be not everybody will move to a village, because preaching in cities is also very important. It is important to distribute books, chant holy names, café. Someone has relatives, who they can't leave, someone has a job or children who go to school. To organize basic processes, such as joint morning programs, growing vegetables and etc. To make facilities for bulls and cows and then buy them, develop a community. According to Shrila Prabhupada's instructions it could succeed and sustain devotees who live in other villages. Perhaps, after some time those villages will also become self-efficient communities. ***But there is a dilemma. On the one hand, it is clear that it is necessary to do that, on the other hand, there is not a direct instruction from ISKCON leaders to do this. We are confused.*** Please, enlighten us what to do, if we can get a support and leadership in this. We apologize for not humble mood of this letter, but we tried to be sincere. Thanks a lot. All glories to Shrila Prabhupada!