

One of my Godbrothers who has lived in Moscow for many years has seen through the façade and has often pointed out that the emperor has no clothes. Here is an excerpt of his critique.

Jaya Madhava Dasa

Dear GBC's,

Did you ever hear about following Srila Prabhupada's Exact Instructions on how to manage ISKCON and its devotees? We know you have, but by your negligence it looks otherwise. Srila Prabhupada spelled it out LOUD and CLEAR to us. It's on the record. The exact Do's and Don'ts.

Here is what's wrong with ISKCON (a very short list):

1) Alienating, ignoring, banning, abandoning thousands of devotees who see through all the flowery words of this ISKCON News PR. Banning anyone who exposes deviations in ISKCON's Temples and GBC.

2) Not following Srila Prabhupada's direct request for the DOM (Direction of Management).

3) Allowing Srila Prabhupada's Temples to change, compromise their prime mission. Allowing great Mission Drift is a disease in ISKCON, from Gainesville, Florida to New York to England. For example, the Bhaktivedanta Manor was saved just to compromise itself to be a Hindu Temple for Indian money. To become a Mundane Religion... even selling Mayavadi books in the Temple! They outright disobey Srila Prabhupada's instructions on preaching in the UK/USA. They allow paid employees on all levels in the Temples and most Temples don't make local devotees anymore, but import 'green card workers', directly disobeying Srila Prabhupada's order on this matter. In the USA/UK they allow cars blessings, Hindi weddings, Hindu School, and call ISKCON "The Heart of Hinduism" -- another insult to Srila Prabhupada.

This is a rumor, you say? This is going on! Will you stop it?!

These deviations to make ISKCON a respectable Hindu religion has crippled preaching in the USA, Canada and the UK. Yes, men and money are more important than Prabhupada's words. The proof is seen in our Temples in the West... no more brahmachari ashrams, dead Bhakta programs, Sunday Feasts many places almost all Indian... No wonder locals have lost interest in ISKCON... it's become an Indian Club. Even older devotees don't come anymore to many ISKCON Temples because it's demoralizing to see these

compromises in Srila Prabhupada's temples by devotees who know it's wrong.

Many GBC's do as they damn well please and if it weren't for the Internet exposing them, there would be no hope of correcting ISKCON at all. You call it rumors... please cut us all a break, we are not so naive.

Seattle ISKCON openly worships demigods, while Utah ISKCON celebrates Holi and Shivaratri, and does Hindu rituals for donations, all under the name of Srila Prabhupada. This is not ISKCON anymore.

4) Some ISKCON gurus are seen in the association of women and live in plush homes – retired -- no less!!! This is no rumor, it's a fact. Do you think we all are blind? Thanks to the Internet, the GBC can't cover up its deviations and mistakes anymore.

5) The Bhaktivedanta Swami Gurukula is no better than a karmi Hindu school, and they are not representing Srila Prabhupada's instruction for ISKCON's gurukula.

6) Women and children are not really protected in ISKCON. It's just a show.

7) Older devotees have been banned, insulted, kicked out of ISKCON or abandoned, and this still goes on today. Do you have an EXECUTIVE FIX?

8) Not protecting Srila Prabhupada's books from unnecessary changes.

9) Covering up too many scandals. Not at all transparent. Not respecting devotee's complaints on deviations within ISKCON.

10) Using past GBC deviations as an example, if the GBC were so dedicated to following Srila Prabhupada's instructions, then why the ISKCON Mission Drift? The GBC went to Mission Drift long ago, prabhus. Sorry, this is no rumor. ISKCON is a boat off course, about to hit an iceberg. Answer me this on Mission Drift:

Why did they sell the New York ISKCON Temple on West 55th Street? (This is no rumor.) Disobeying Srila Prabhupada's order to never sell it, WHY? New York ISKCON never recovered! ISKCON Brooklyn owns and rents a bingo hall! Why do they make ISKCON centralized, directly disobeying Srila Prabhupada on this issue?

11) And why did they disobey Srila Prabhupada's instructions to have his disciples come to his side when he was about to leave the planet? WHY? The sad answer is..... MONEY. They had no faith in Srila Prabhupada's direct request. We were ignored.

There are so many other example issues. . . these are just a few.

Now they want Executive Management in a Centralized ISKCON. We have a GBC who appoints a yes-man, who assures us of new 'quality control in ISKCON'. Is it ISKCON, or the Coca Cola Company they're talking about? Is ISKCON now a product to be sold to the public, under strict quality control? Like Apple computers and Nike shoes?

If the GBC did reform ISKCON, it would have to be to follow Srila Prabhupada's instructions and really be transparent and accountable to all devotees in ISKCON, and not just label all who see things off [wrong] in ISKCON as rumor mongers.

You can't hide the truth about ISKCON's serious deviations and changes. The devotees don't buy it anymore, so stop selling this story to us. It does not matter how many executive management attempts you make to do this.

To **really** reform ISKCON, do this: once and for all time, start obeying Srila Prabhupada's instructions to NOT CHANGE ANYTHING in ISKCON, and reverse what's been changed.^[1]

Finally I present one devotee's explanation for why he is leaving ISKCON. I don't know Chaitanya das personally, but suspect that he is a younger devotee (based on his reference to "Prabhupada disciples" rather than "Godbrothers") who sees the deviations that the older and more experienced GBC cannot see. Incredibly, Chaitanya das gives the main reason for *leaving* ISKCON is that he doesn't want to waste the opportunity of human life! Clearly this devotee has learned something about Krishna Consciousness despite the leadership. He is but one of many hundreds, or even thousands, who can see how the leadership have abandoned Srila Prabhupada.