

## ISKCON and Gaudia Math

c/o mayesvara dasa, Ojai Ca. 93023 - May 2018

On Monday: May 7, 2018 - 6pm I hosted His Holiness Sripad Bhaktiswarupa Sridhar Maharaja to come speak at one of our regularly scheduled American Vedic Association gatherings. He was apparently born in Jagannatha Puri, was raised as a Vaishnava, and is renounce for a deep philosophical understanding of the Gaudia culture, tradition, and scriptures. His arrival was advertised via our bi-monthly AVA newsletter which included the following

### ***Honor & Respect All Magnanimous Souls***

The American Vedic Association is an humble attempt to carry on with the mission of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami. In the Bhagavad Gita Lord Krishna unambiguously states:

*udarah sarva evaite jnani tv atmaiva me matam  
asthitah sa hi yuktatma mam evanuttamam gatim*

**"ALL these devotees are undoubtedly magnanimous souls,** but he who is situated in knowledge of Me I consider to be just like My own Self. Being engaged in My transcendental service, he is sure to attain Me, the highest and most perfect goal." - *Bhagavad Gita As It Is, Chapter 7 "Knowledge of the Absolute", Text 18.*

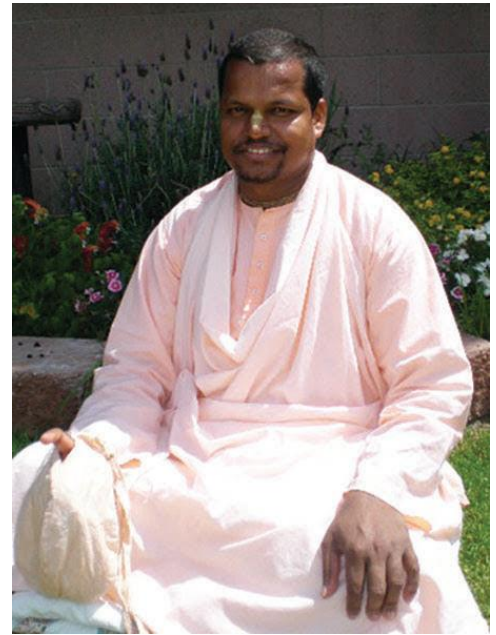
[LINK: http://bhagavadgitaasitis.com/7/18/en](http://bhagavadgitaasitis.com/7/18/en)

This mood is further clearly confirmed by Krishnadasa Kaviraj Goswami in the Caitanya Caritamrita:

*vande sri-krsna-caitanya- premamara-taroh priyan  
sakha-rupan bhakta-ganan krsna-prema-phala-pradan*

"I offer my obeisances to **ALL the dear devotees** of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the eternal tree of love of Godhead. I offer my respects to **ALL the branches of the tree**, the devotees of the Lord who distribute the fruit of love of Krsna. . - *Sri Chaitanya Charitamrita Adi Lila, Chapter 10. "The Trunk, Branches and Subbranches of the Caitanya Tree" Text 7" - LINK: <http://caitanyacaritamrta.com/adi/10/7/en>*

It is therefore clear that anyone who is properly trained in the science of Self-realization, as handed down in the Gaudia Vaishnav tradition is a *"Magnanimous Soul."* Therefore every Vaishnavas deserves **ALL our** respects. Based on this simple understanding, the American Vedic Association welcomes **ALL** Vaishnavas to participate in AVA events, regardless of which branch on Lord Caitanya's sankirtan tree they may have studied with or current doctrinal disputes.



## ***Damaghosa Prabhu of the Northwestern USA RtVik Congregation Objects***

This invitation caught the attention of Damaghosa Prabhu who became persuaded by the RtVik-Charade. *He wrote to me to express his grave concerns about accepting the association of Bhaktiswarupa Sridhara Maharaja. RtViks by doctrine are compelled to discredit the Gaudia Math because they considers the RtVik-Charade to be yet another concocted idea dreamed up by Srila Prabhupadas very neophyte Western Disciples.*

*Towards this end, Damaghosa alleged that Srila Prabhupad warned his disciples NOT to associate with members of the Gaudia Math. He reasoned that allowing him to speak to the AVA congregation would be very displeasing to Srila Prabhupada and counterproductive to Lord Caitanyas movement.*

In the early days Srila Prabhupada did have his concerns about his young disciples becoming distracted or confused by his Godbrothers, but his mood changed as after he became very ill and his health began to fail. By the summer of 1977 it was clear that His Divine Grace had completely revised his instructions regarding the Gaudi Math. At one point he even offered to build a residence in the Sri Mayapura Chandradoya Mandir for his godbrother the older Srila Shrdhara Maharaja of Navadwipa with the invitation for him to lead his disciples after his body finally failed.

### ***The Exchange Between Damaghosa & Mayesvara. May 2018***

#### ***Initial Response/Letter to Damaghosa, May 4, 2018***

***Haribolo Damaghosa Prabhu !***

***Please accept my respects. All Glories to Sri Guru & Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!***

Thank you for your thoughtful letter

Let me address each of the projected assumptions you have made the best I can.

***Why don't you promote the genuine article, your own guru, Srila Prabhupada, instead of all these wannabe gurus coming from India??***

***Answer:*** Why do you make the assumption that Srila Prabhupada is not being promoted and honored and that EVERY sanyasi is selfishly wanting to be a guru for their own gratification? Even if one accepts disciples, what is wrong with that? (Bg. 4.2)

***Who else has done what Srila Prabhupada has done or ever will do than Srila Prabhupada.***

***Answer:*** Nobody. That is universally understood. Only demonic individuals or those promoting impersonal conclusions would take issue with this.

***Most of these fellows only come to the west to get disciples, collect some daksine and go away, and for some, eventually, fall down with some cute little "mataji" because they are not empowered like Srila Prabhupada.***

***Answer:*** Yes I agree this is a disgrace which I wrote about elaborately in my article called: ***The Elephant In the Mandir*** which can be found here:

<http://jagannatha.com/category/vedic-viewpoint-commentary/>

However not ALL individuals who are working to spread Lord Caitanya's movement and Srila Prabhupada's glories are guilty of this so I approaching every sanyasi with this attitude is "prejudicial" and I do not feel it is appropriate for a Vaishnava to pre-judge other devotees.

I deal with many mayavadis and I am criticized for taking such a strong stand against their cheating but I believe that is not prejudicial because what they are teaching is openly published. They are NOT giving Krishna and, in many cases, they are trying to chase Krsna out of town etc. So in their case, your statement is 100% appropriate.

However, Krishna says "*ALL these devotees are magnanimous souls*" Bg. 7.18 So those engaged in Hari Katha must respect them accordingly especially if they are showing full respect and glorifying Srila Prabhupada. If they are cheating, or simply exploiting others, that soon shows up. Only then, after they misbehave, do we have some reason to be more discretionary. At that time we should be careful and speak up to those who may have the ear to hear it. That is why I wrote the articles above. Everyone must be dealt with as an individual.

*They can put on their show for a while, but because they are not empowered nor authorized, will fall down.*

**Answer:** If we all had to be as pure as Srila Prabhupada then NOBODY would be able to share Krishna Katha with others. I preach from my home much like you do. Some people accuse me like that. They Say: "I am not squeaky clean so I have NO business sitting on the vyasasana/preaching." In my experience here, most people who say that don't want to consider accepting KC principles themselves so they use that as an excuse to dismiss EVERYTHING I share on Srila Prabhupada's teachings.

Others are far more gracious and serious. They take what I am passing along and in some cases tell me I have saved their life and given them new directions that they could never thank me enough for. It is for those people I continue to go thru great difficulty to preach regularly in a town filled with mayavadis. (The infamous J Krishnamurti spend the last 20 years of his life spreading his nonsense poison all over this small town and it can still be felt today.) This is so widespread that even Srila Prabhupad's disciples are adversely impacted and this is how mayavadi teachings are creeping into ISKCON.

I was shocked to learn that one of Srila Prabhupadas disciples not only was promoting Karunamai, (Amaji), but was even the first one to come out and offer her arotik in front of 150 other followers! There are a handful of devotees here in Ojai who are actually discouraging people from hearing Hari Katha because they don't want to be publicly dismissed as Krishna eccentrics!

*Who is his guru and disciplic succession anyway??*

**Answer:** **Sripad Bhaktiswarupa Sridhara Maharaja** is a disciple of HH Bhakti Pramod Puri Maharaj.

I hope this meets you in good health and ongoing memories of The Supreme Personality of Godhead!

Thank You!

mayeresvara dasa

## Damaghosa Response May 6, 2017

Hari bol Mayesvara-pranams  
All glories to Srila Prabhupada

I guess the difference between you and my lowly self is that I take our spiritual masters words literally and verbatim.

Why make the same disastrous mistakes made by the Gaudiya matha and iskcon by opening the door to deviant people who preach deviant philosophy-not just outright mayavada but deviations specifically from the teaching of our guru, Srila Prabhupada.

Here is the first teaching/instructions....you probably didn't even read that file I sent to you previously.

LA July 13 1971—Prabhupāda: Unless one is prepared that "I am accepting somebody as my spiritual master. I must accept whatever he says," if there is any doubt, that "I cannot accept his words verbatim," then one should not accept him as spiritual master. That is hypocrisy.

When Srila Prabhupada tells us to take his instructions verbatim, that means without change, without adulteration, without compromise. And as they are, not how we want to hear them. This is something ISKCON has totally disobeyed for the past 40 years or more.

(NOTE: The following quotes express the points intended but have been truncated for brevity sake. Also note how all of them are personal letters dated to specific individuals prior to 1976! c/o mayesvara dasa)

Letter to Rupanuga 4/28/1974...

"Therefore we may not commit the same mistake in our ISKCON camp.

Letter: Acyutananda 06-08.1974

THEIR PROPOSAL FOR COOPERATION IS A MYTH... RATHER YOU SHOULD AVOID STRICTLY MEETING WITH THEM.

Letter to Pradyumna 02/17/1968

REGARDING BHAKTI PURI, TIRTHA MAHARAJA, THEY ARE MY GOD-BROTHERS AND SHOULD BE SHOWN RESPECT. BUT YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY INTIMATE CONNECTION WITH THEM AS THEY HAVE GONE AGAINST THE ORDERS OF MY GURU MAHARAJA. especially Madhava Maharaja and Tirtha Maharaja and Bon Maharaja

Letter to: Visvakarma 11/09/1975

Van Maharaja. So I have now issued orders that all my disciples should avoid all of my godbrothers.

And lastly, if you think these fellows are coming to America "just to preach" you are living in La La land prabhu. They ALL want something. So you either take the instruction from Srila Prabhupada verbatim right now and avoid future misery, or just do what you want. Krsna is giving us the choice all the time. After 40 years of nothing but deviations, I am very selective of whom I associate with.

damaghosa das

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## Inquiry about Damaghosa May 6th letter to AVA Congregations May 21, 2018

Prabhus;

First of all I would like to thank all of you for making such a nice KC presentation to the people of Ojai Monday evening. I believe it all worked out very nicely. I apologize for failing to be properly prepared to receive so many exalted individuals when you arrived. I was keeping the guests who had started to accumulate occupied with small KC discussion until you got here and then it all just unfolded very quickly. I am hoping we can do more of this in the future and I will have another chance to spend more time with each of you honoring you for what you are doing.

It should be of no surprise to you that when I send out an invitation to 1500 people on the AVA mailing list there would be a few who have their own ideas about the people I invite to speak at my temple home in Ojai. In this case I got a very strong condemnation from Damaghosa who is a well-known hard core RtVik that lives in his own like-minded community in Oregon. He is a prolific researcher and is regularly sending out his muses about what He has concluded Srila Prabhupada wants all of us to do.

In this case he openly challenged me by alleging I was in violation of Srila Prabhupadas definitive instructions to not have anything to do with his Godbrothers. I hope it is clear by now that I do not interpret these instructions the way Damaghosha does so that is not why I am writing.

I consider Damaghosh unsolicited condemnation of my attempt to honor all Vaishnavas as a ksatria like brahminical challenge that I have some obligation to address. I have little hope of persuading him to reconsider his current opinions... but in the process of responding I will better understand how he rationalizes what I believe is a fanatical attitude that is counterproductive to the Vaishnava mood.

I am therefor presenting this letter and invite each of you to share your comments if you wish to do so. I would like to send it to him withing the next few days while it is still current. So if you have any advice, suggestions or other references that I should consider prior to getting it out please contact me with that information as soon as possible.

### Posted Response to Damaghosh's May 6th, 2018 letter to mayeavara dasa.

**Haribolo Damaghosa Prabhu !**

***Please accept my respects. All Glories to Sri Guru & Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!***

Let me start by saying although I can't say I really know you, I appreciate your vigilance in researching the various subjects you regularly share via email. I have more than once snatched the series of quotes you send out and save them into my own library of quotes.

Now however I am confused by your email. You refer to yourself as being lowly, but then imply that you take the words of Srila Prabhupada more seriously than I do with a string of quotes to support your assertion. If we accept what His Divine Grace says in these references verbatim, the way you say Srila Prabhupada instructs us to do, then none of the quotes you provided this time apply to Bhaktiswarupa Sridhara Maharaja. He is obviously too young to be one of Srila Prabhupada's Godbrothers.

But what I am more concerned about is your research does not appear to accurately reflect the concluding mood of His Divine Grace. You may posture as a lowly self but this appears to be just false humility. Your humility ends when you suggest you are a better disciple of Srila Prabhupada than anyone who may have a different understanding of how we can best serve our spiritual master. Presenting a few quotes as examples of how vigilant you are about being such a good disciple is a self-deceptive facade. It all quickly crumbles when we look at other things Srila Prabhupada said that you give less urgency to. For example how well are you following the content of the Padma Purana which Srila Prabhupada cited in his Adi Lila purport:

“To blaspheme the great saintly persons who are engaged in preaching the glories of the Hare Krsna maha-mantra is **the worst offense at the lotus feet of the holy name. One should not criticize a preacher of the glories of the Hare Krsna maha-mantra. If one does so, he is an offender.** Then Nama-prabhu, who is identical with Krsna, will never tolerate such blasphemous activities, even from one who passes as a great devotee.” - [Adi 8.24](#)

To immediately assume that Bhaktiswarupa Sridhara Maharaja has “... *come to the west to get disciples, collect some daksine and go away, (to) eventually, fall down with some cute little "mataji..."*” is terribly presumptive and prejudicial! Others may have done this in the past but this attitude is not the mood of a Vaishnava who claims to be vigilant about studying ALL of Srila Prabhupada's instructions very carefully.

“So a devotee is always very understanding if there is some discrepancy behavior on the part of nondevotees, and even some devotees misbehave, **he is always very tolerant and understanding.** The point is that no one is actually qualified in this material world to approach Krsna, but if he makes the attempt through our inducing him gradually to give his energy to Krsna, by that attempt **Krsna will extend his mercy and deliver the fallen soul despite his so many disqualifications.** And such person or aspiring devotee, **he is to be considered the most exalted of men because he has given his life to Krsna...** - [Letter to: Dhananjaya -- Bombay 31 December, 1972](#)

Base on this, and numerous other quotes about Vaishnava Aparada, the prejudicial thinking you are clearly expressing is the very thing aspiring devotees are repeatedly warned not to fall into. (Bg. 5.18) So you too can either take these instructions from Srila Prabhupada verbatim right now and avoid future aparada or just do what you want.

What I perceive to be the difference is between you and myself is that you obviously feel you are the final sole arbitrator for determining who is deviating and who is not. You do not appear to be even a bit introspective about implying that you are more adroit about literally embracing our spiritual masters words verbatim that I am. Perhaps that is true, but if you understood the concept of humility you would be more prudent about making such bodacious statements. Posturing this way reveals a complete failure on your part to understand, the purport of Lord Caitanya's third shikhsastaka prayer. So I am confused by your opening comments that strike me to be as superficial as the ... **false humility of the impersonalist, who actually maintains a desire to be equal to God though adopting the external behavior of a meek and saintly person.** - [SB 11.2.7](#)

Based on what appears to be your inability to see this serious dichotomy, I expect you will now surely consider me to be another disciple who deviated and use that as a dastardly excuse to kick me to the gutter. That type of self-righteous “mode of goodness” conditioning sounds like the very thing Srila Prabhupada also warns us not to slip into.

“It is explained in Bhagavad-gita that the brahmana thinks, "Oh, I am so pure and learned. I am so this, I am so that." This is called contamination by sattva-guna. He is not thinking that he is part and parcel of Krsna. As long as we are affected by these

material modes of nature, our position is the same.” - [Dialectic Spiritualism=> William James \[1842-1910\]](#)

I request that you please consider these things carefully and not just retreat to your cloister where you surround yourself with others who apparently feel you alone have a hot line to Vaikunta for determining who is following and who is not. But that would then be another deviation from the instructions your spiritual master gave in regards to cooperating with those who may understand things differently than you do and might in fact be manifesting more visible symptoms of a devotee than you have yet to demonstrate.

“I am very glad to learn that **you are all working peacefully together. This is the most favorable atmosphere for cultivating our Krishna consciousness.** And if people see us working together nicely, they cannot criticize anything against our Krishna consciousness movement.” - [Letter to: Prabhavisnu: -- Bombay 3 December, 1974](#)

Striving for cooperation seems to be the challenge that eludes too many of us who done tilaka every day. I assume you would agree that if there are contradicting instructions, the more current one would supersede previous directions. That is what appears to have aroused your choler this time in regards to the various ways Srila Prabhupada thought of his God Brothers. In the early days he WAS concerned about his disciples becoming confused or getting caught up in Gaudia Math politics. That makes sense when we consider how immature, foolish and naive we were in our sophomoric attempts to grasp Krishna Consciousness.

However later towards the end of Srila Prabhupada's time with us here that mood clearly changed for equally good reasons. His Divine Grace could understand that Lord Caitanya's mission would be far more effective if all of those who claim to follow him could come together and cooperate for the benefit of the fallen conditioned souls. So being the great exemplary leader that Srila Prabhupada was, he reached out to his Godbrothers and requested them to accept his help in a mood of loving cooperation.

**Lokananta Swami:** After Gaura Purnima, **Srila Prabhupada invited his godbrothers in Mayapur to the Candrodaya Mandir.** They all gathered behind Radha-Madhava's altar in the temple room, because some of them were too old to climb the steps to Prabhupada's quarters. Prabhupada had the devotees put out backrests and mattresses covered with clean white sheets. His godbrothers arrived in twos and threes, and devotees greeted them and offered them these places to sit. Many devotees crowded around them.

**Jayapataka Swami:** **Srila Prabhupada began discussing how they could cooperate:** "By Krsna's grace, I have some money, books, and buses, but I have no preachers. It is my request that I give you buses and books and manpower, and **you be the group leaders and take them out and preach, and I will maintain your temples.**" Prabhupada really wanted the Gaudiya Matha to unite, and he gave his godbrothers good reasons to come together, but none of them accepted. He said, "Why are we all separate? We can form a governing body and work as our guru wanted. Srila Prabhupada said **we should all jointly preach the message of Rupa Gosvami and Raghunatha Gosvami.** Now I have enough followers and enough money. I can finish off the temples you have been trying to build for twenty years. I will help you finish them. I will give you a couple of foreigners for your temple so that you will have more preaching potency. - [Lokananta Swami 1975 Mayapura Festival - Godbrothers Decline to Cooperate](#)

There are numerous other supporting references that confirm Srila Prabhupada wanted us to receive his Godbrothers with proper Vaishnava etiquette and respect.

**Raghunath das:** Prabhupada invited all of his godbrothers from the surrounding mathas to come and have a group get-together. The different Gaudiya Math leaders and many of

their disciples also came. Of course, for a long time they were sitting in Prabhupada's room talking and laughing and speaking in Bengali, we couldn't understand. *But then later on he brought them all out onto the veranda and had them all sit down and gave them all leaf plates, and he had his devotees serving them prasad and Prabhupada was personally directing the serving.* March 1974: MAYAPUR, INDIA – Gaura Purnima Festival

As with all the things he did, His Divine Grace also taught us how important it was to NOT commit Vaishnava aparada. He demonstrated how we could do that by apologizing to his Godbrothers for any harsh things he may have said during moments when he was being very protective of his very neophyte disciples.

Very often his godbrothers would come to visit him, to say farewell, and *Prabhupada would exhibit extreme humility and apologize for saying things that perhaps offended his godbrothers and he would ask for their forgiveness*, saying that in the course of preaching perhaps he was sometimes too strong. And his godbrothers invariably would say, "No, there is no offense taken," that Srila Prabhupada has gloriously served their spiritual master and they took him as their leader. October – November 1977: VRINDAVAN, INDIA – Arrival, Parikrama & darshan, Translation, Final pastimes.

Srila Prabhupada felt so strongly about wanting to heal wounds and work together with the Gaudia Math he even pleaded with his Godbrother Sri Dhar Maharaja to move into the Sri Mayapur Chandradoya mandira and guide his disciples when he was not there to do so.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes, they are already coming. And in that house I will make arrangements for an elevator so that you (Sri Dhara Maharaja ) won't have to go through the difficulty of walking up and down the stairs. You won't even have to move a step yourself. I'll make arrangements for a car and a lift. Jayapataka Maharaja is telling me that he will build a house for me. So both of us will stay in that house. Most of the time I am just traveling around, so if you are there, then they can get some guidance. So Maharaja, please-give me the order and I will make all the arrangements for you. <https://gvssanga.com/srila-sridhara-maharaja-srila-swami-maharaja-conversation-march-1977/>

One of the most dramatic examples of how serious Srila Prabhupada was about demonstrating how we should cooperate with the Gaudia Math was how he arranged for his own burial. He specifically requested Narayan Maharaja to instruct his disciples on the proper way to honor his disappearance after he departed. There are many photos of Narayan Maharaja personally placing him in the ground and covering his body with salt that confirming this historic event.

There are many more examples like this that contradict the instructions you claim to be following verbatim. What I have observed is that this type of absolutism is a dangerous trend that has only succeeded in driving all of Srila Prabhupadas disciples further apart. I do not see how could that possibly be pleasing to His Divine Grace so I am requesting that you please refrain from such an uncooperative attitude.

I have no interest in volleying quotes back and forth in an attempt to convince you of how I understand Srila Prabhupada wanted us to behave. I have provided enough here to make my point if you are able and willing to consider it. You will either appreciate the sincerity I am expressing in the contents of this letter or not.

I observe that there is too much suffering in this world for the messengers of Lord Caitanyas movement to be quibbling over specific details that anyone competent in the Vedabase can easily justify. It is my hope you will give what I am taking the time to share with you here careful consideration and hopefully develop a more collaborative mood. Of course you are also free to reject everything I present in this letter and use it to confirm I am a heretical deviant and



with no further delay return to you bhajan kutir in Oregon and condemn me. I believe that would just be symptomatic of the type of religious fanaticism that our guru clearly referred to as dangerous.

*“So we should not become religious fanatics, nor dry mental speculators. Both these classes of men are dangerous. They cannot make any advancement. – Bhagavad Gita: Lectures 31-5 Los Angeles December 20, 1968*

All I am trying to do Damoghosh is to share Hari Katha with whomever is ready to hear it. I will accept any help in doing that from anyone who has been trained in Lord Caitnyas sankirtan movement. If we look closely enough, we can find numerous possible deviations in everyone, but the example Srila Prabhupada set was to leveraged the good he found in others and forgave their shortcomings.

In this regard Jesus Christ made it very simple. *“ Let he who is with out sin cast the first stone!”* This invitation is also extended to you as well. If you every come to Ojai you would be welcome to speak if you agree to simply glorify Krishna without allowing any ulterior political agendas creeping in. That is the policy I have with everyone. Rest assured if Bhaktiswarupa Sridhara Maharaja were to violate this condition, he would not be welcome to come back and preach at my Nama Hatta Sanga. This is how I am attempting to set the example of how we can all cooperate together under the banner of Lord Caitanyas mission. It is incumbent on us to strive for that despite all the other issues we can find to divide over. This is what both Krishna and Srila Prabhupada have clearly asked us to strive for. You can be a rare soul and either join in this challenging objective, or do the more common, easier thing and just condemn me.

I wish you well in your Krishna Consciousness progress.

Thank you,  
mayesvara dasa

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mayesvara dasa never received a response from Damoghosh

## **See Also:**

***Well-received apology to Swami Prabhupada’s Godbrothers and other Vaishnavas c/o Jagadananda Prabhu extensive report about how nice godbrothers were!***

**Srila Prabhupada left funds specifically to assist the Gaudia Math fix up their temples as a gift of cooperation.**

<https://gvssanga.com/srila-sridhara-maharaja-srila-swami-maharaja-conversation-march-1977/>