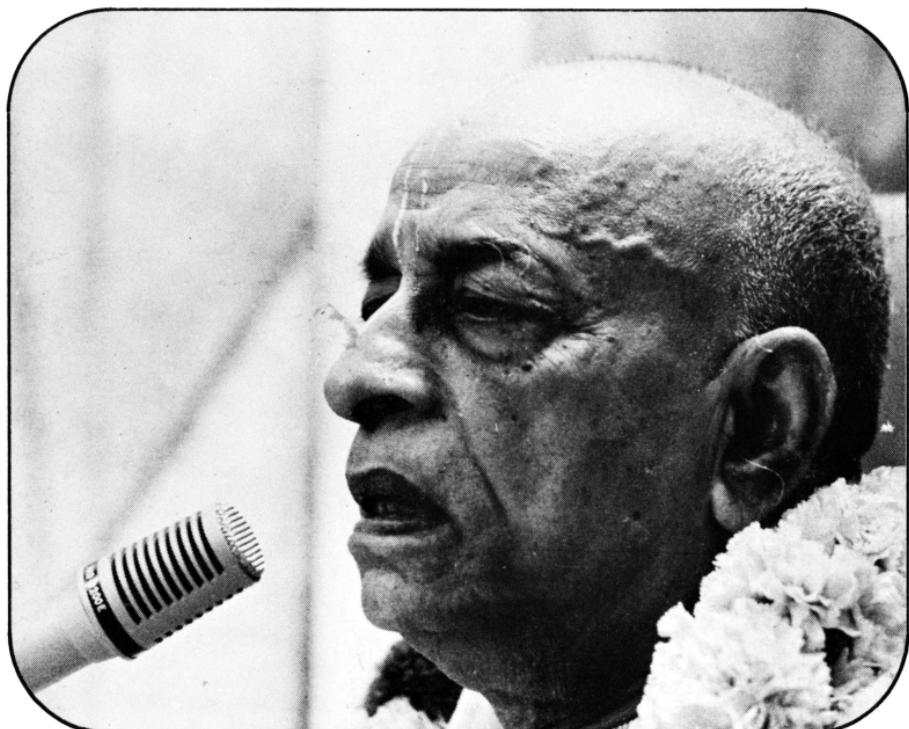


TRANSCENDENTAL BROADCAST

a television interview



**His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupāda**

Founder-Ācārya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

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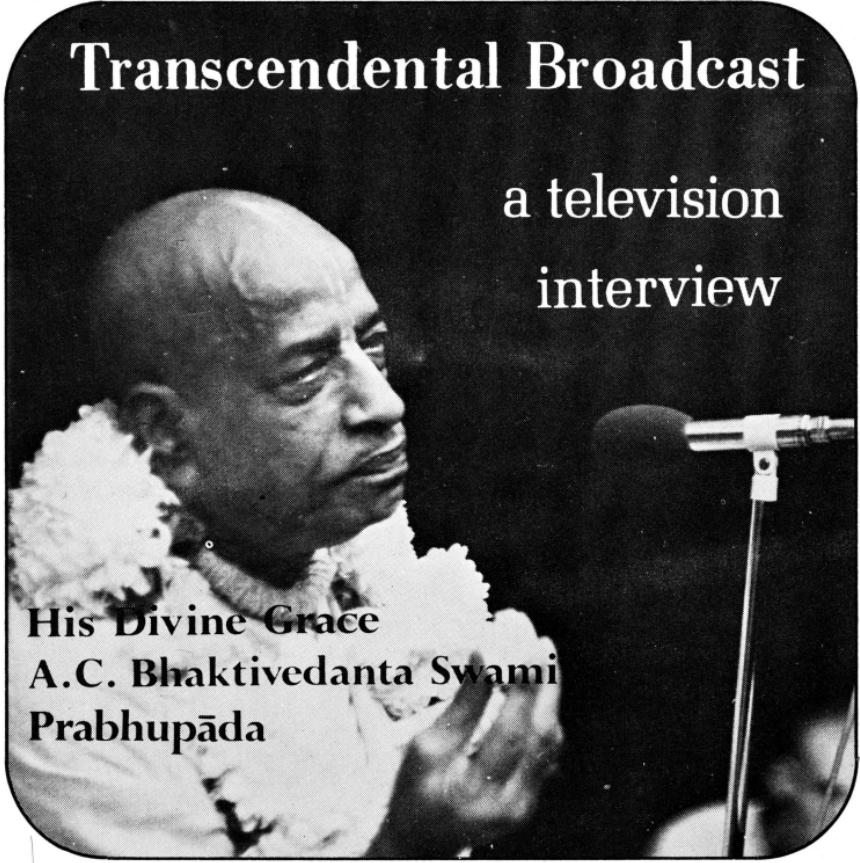


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**His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami
Prabhupāda**

Newton Minnow, former director of the F.C.C., described the world of T.V. viewing as a "vast wasteland." But when a pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa (God) appears on television, the whole performance becomes surcharged with bliss. When television, with its complex technological set-up for reproducing a picture in thousands of T.V. sets, is used for the purpose of glorification of the Supreme Lord by a pure devotee, it becomes spiritualized. Whoever sees and hears a pure devotee talking about the nature of God and the eternal soul becomes liberated from all misery.

Transcendental Broadcast

This is an actual fact and can be investigated by any inquiring philosopher or scientist.

On July 29, 1971, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami, the author of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, arrived in Gainesville, Florida, to speak at a large student gathering at the University of Florida. Taking advantage of his presence in Gainesville, which His Divine Grace described as "a remote corner of the world, thousands of miles from the birth place of Lord Caitanya" (the incarnation of Kṛṣṇa who appeared 500 years ago in India to teach the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra*), the local T.V. station arranged for this interview.

Lord Caitanya predicted that His philosophy of the Absolute Truth would be spread to every town and village in the world. As clearly taught in the Vedic scripture *Bhagavad-gītā*, it will reveal to us that our real self is not the body but an individual spiritual soul and that Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Spirit, the Soul of all souls. The nature of the spirit soul is eternally fresh. It cannot be destroyed, broken or contaminated. Because he is a pure devotee, Śrīla Prabhupāda can speak from the transcendental platform of Absolute Truth.

We have prepared the text of this interview so that the serious reader may repeatedly read it and study the spirit soul in action. As we have stated, this was not an ordinary television performance. A serious man wants to know the Absolute Truth in order to solve the problems in his life. Thus *Bhagavad-gītā* advises him, "Just approach a spiritual master." Who will not be eager to listen for his own benefit, when God reveals Himself through the words of a pure devotee?

TRANSCENDENTAL BROADCAST

a television interview

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupāda

Founder-Ācārya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Interviewer: Lord Kṛṣṇa is the Absolute Truth, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. As confirmed by all the Vedic scriptures and by the great sages of the disciplic succession, He has a body made of eternity, bliss and all knowledge. God has infinite forms and expansions, but of all His forms, His original transcendental form is as a cowherd boy, a form which He reveals only to His most confidential devotees. Such are the teachings of Kṛṣṇa as laid down in the Vedic literature. And of the sages in the disciplic succession which I mentioned, one is our guest for this conversation today. He is **His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda**, founder of the **International Society for Krishna Consciousness**. He is the foremost teacher in the West of the Kṛṣṇa philosophy, which, moreover, he teaches not only by word, but by example. He came to this country in 1965



on the order of his spiritual master. As a Kṛṣṇa disciple, he is presently the most prominent human exponent of a line of succession going back 500 years to the appearance in India of Lord Caitanya, and beyond that to a time 5,000 years ago when Lord Kṛṣṇa Himself was on this planet and His words were recorded. Welcome, sir. What is Kṛṣṇa consciousness?

Srīla Prabhupāda: Kṛṣṇa consciousness means that every living being is part and parcel of Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa has many expansions. They are called personal expansions and separated expansions. We living entities are His separated expansions. Although we are very intimately connected with Kṛṣṇa, somehow or other we are now separated because of our contact with material nature. We have practically forgotten that we are part of Kṛṣṇa. Actually that is a fact. We are spoiled, just like a rich man's son: somehow or other he has forgotten his father, and he is loitering in the street as a poor man. But actually that is not his position. He has simply forgotten. The Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is



trying to invoke in all people the original consciousness that we are part and parcel of Kṛṣṇa. Why should we remain in this material world and suffer the threefold miseries? We want to revive that original consciousness. The original consciousness is Kṛṣṇa consciousness. For example, a man born of a large wealthy family should enjoy the title of his family, but unfortunately he may forget his own home and accept a menial task. The whole Vedic literature is meant for this purpose: to revive our original consciousness. *Aham brahma smi*: I am not this body, I am spirit soul.

Interviewer: You came, sir, to this country in 1965, as I said, on the orders or instructions given you by your spiritual master. Who was your spiritual master?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: My spiritual master was Om Viṣṇupāda Paramahāmsa Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Gosvāmī Prabhupāda.

Interviewer: Now in this line of succession that we were talking about earlier, which goes way back, all the way back to Kṛṣṇa Himself—was your spiritual master the previous one before you?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. The disciplic succession began from Kṛṣṇa, 5,000 years ago.

Interviewer: Is your spiritual master still alive?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: No. He passed on in 1936.

Interviewer: So you are at this particular time, then, the head spiritual master in the world of this movement? Would that be correct?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: I have many other Godbrothers, but I was particularly ordered to do this from the very beginning. I am trying to please my spiritual master, that's all.

Interviewer: You were sent to this country, to the United States of America. This is your territory—is that correct?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: My territory? What he said was, "You go and speak this philosophy to the English speaking public."

Interviewer: To the English-speaking world.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes, especially to the Western world. That is what he told me.

Interviewer: Then you came, sir, to this country about five or six years ago. You came to this part of the world. As such, you did not come to a part of the world where religion was lacking. In the United States of America we have many religions, and I think people in this country like to believe, in the great majority, that they are religious people, people who believe in God, who devote themselves to some form of religious expression.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes.

Interviewer: And I wonder what your thinking was. What do you think that you could add to the already

living religious expression in this country by coming here and adding your own philosophy to it?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: When I first came to your country, I was guest of an Indian friend at Butler, Pennsylvania, so although it was a small county, I was very glad because there were so many churches, and I spoke in many of them. My host arranged for that. But I did not come with the purpose to defeat any other religious process. That was not my purpose. Our mission, Lord Caitanya's mission, is to teach everyone how to love God. That is all.

Interviewer: But in what way, sir, may I ask, did you think and do you think right now that the teaching of the love of God which you are preaching is different and perhaps better than the teachings of love of God which already were being conducted in this country and have been conducted in the rest of the world for centuries?



Śrīla Prabhupāda: This teaching is the most authorized.

That is a fact. We are following in the footsteps of Lord Caitanya. He is accepted by us, according to the authority of Vedic religion, to be personally Kṛṣṇa Himself.

Interviewer: Which Lord is that?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Lord Caitanya.

Interviewer: He is the one who came 500 years ago?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes.

Interviewer: To India?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. He is Kṛṣṇa Himself, and He teaches how to love Kṛṣṇa. Therefore His process is most authorized. For example, you are the expert in this establishment. If someone is doing something under your guidance, and if you personally teach him, "Do like this," that is very authorized. So when Lord Caitanya taught God consciousness, God Himself was teaching. Similarly, in *Bhagavad-gītā*, Kṛṣṇa is accepted as God, and He speaks about Himself. In His final instructions He said, "Just surrender unto Me. I will take charge of you." But people misunderstood. So Kṛṣṇa again came, as Lord Caitanya, to teach people how to surrender. We are following in the footsteps of Lord Caitanya, and the method is so sublime that even foreigners who never knew Kṛṣṇa surrender. The method is so potent. So that was my purpose. We don't say that this religion is better than that religion, or my process is better. We want to see by the result. In Sanskrit there is a saying, *phalena pariciyate*: a thing is judged by the result.

Interviewer: A thing is?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Judged by the result.

Interviewer: Oh, yes.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: I can say my method is very nice, or you can say your method is very nice, but we have to judge by the result. The *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* says that that process of religion is very good by following which one becomes a lover of God.

Interviewer: Yes, but of course you know your religion is not the only one which teaches that particular precept.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: I have already explained that it is not the only one. There may be many, but this is actually effective.

Interviewer: If I understood your philosophy and your history correctly, this particular philosophy and this particular belief originated in the Eastern part of the world, in India. Right? Is it successful there? Do you have a large following?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Oh, yes. Recently I was in India. I held two meetings daily for ten days, and from twenty to thirty thousand people attended each day. India's position is that they are naturally Kṛṣṇa conscious, but at the present moment the so-called leaders want to replace this Kṛṣṇa consciousness with material consciousness.

Interviewer: Is the Kṛṣṇa consciousness belief or philosophy compatible with the Hindu religion?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: It is compatible with any religion, because God is one. It is a science of God. If two plus two comes to four, it is understood by everyone. It is not that it is to be understood by the Christian and not by the Hindus. Two plus two





equals four is a fact for everyone. Similarly, God is a fact for everyone. Now how to love God—this is the only process.

Interviewer: Do you claim, then, that your way of loving God is the way to love God?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes, at least for this age.

Interviewer: For this age? You mean for Kali-yuga?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes.

Interviewer: For the times that we live in right now?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Because the method is authorized.

Kṛṣṇa prescribes this—Kṛṣṇa Himself and Lord Caitanya. They say that this is the only method for self-realization or God realization or learning how to love God. Kṛṣṇa says this. Therefore, it is authorized, and it is actually happening. Otherwise, these boys and girls are foreigners; they never knew Kṛṣṇa. Now I have sixty centers, and at each center there is an average of 100 devotees, and they have dedicated their lives. How is it happening unless it is authorized?

Interviewer: You say they never knew Kṛṣṇa, and you are of course right, but different people name their Gods in different ways. You name your God Kṛṣṇa. In the Western world many, many people name their God Jesus, Jesus Christ. There are other people in different parts of the world who have different names for the Gods which they

Śrīla Prabhupāda: We say that if you have a name which is actually referring to God, that will also do. We are chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. According to Vedic literature, *kṛṣṇas tu bhagavān svayam*: Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme

Personality of Godhead. He has many thousands and millions of names. This is the original name. Lord Caitanya does not say that you have to chant Kṛṣṇa, but if you have a name for God, you can chant that. We are not asking that you chant Kṛṣṇa. If you actually have a name for God, then you can chant that. We are requesting that you chant God's holy name.

Interviewer: Now you came here in the middle of the 1960's, less than a decade ago. What was it—this is what I am trying to find out from you—what was the motivating force behind your coming to the United States?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: That I have already explained. Caitanya Mahāprabhu wanted this propaganda to be made all over the world and accepted. So my Guru Mahārāja said, "You go and try to do this." So I came with this purpose, and it is happening.

Interviewer: There must have been an element, though, of dissatisfaction on your part with the way Godhead was being professed in this part of the world before you came. Otherwise, there would have been no sense in your being here.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: It is not just this part. Practically every part of the world has very little interest in God. They have more interest in dog.

Interviewer: You are in general, then, trying to increase the interest in God. Is that correct?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: That is the only interest we must have in human life.

Interviewer: And you are not particularly interested in what particular name this God has.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: No, our mission is that people be given a chance to become God conscious, and the process in this age is the chanting of the holy name of God. If you have any name of God which is actually a name of God, then you will be successful by chanting that name.

Interviewer: The chanting of Kṛṣṇa's name, the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra*, seems to play a very important role in the profession of your religious belief. In fact I think I will ask you and some of your followers who are sitting here with us tonight to chant the name of Kṛṣṇa a little bit later. That would probably be the proper ending for this particular program. However, I am still wondering about some of the aspects. In reading a little bit about your beliefs and your writings and your magazine. . . .

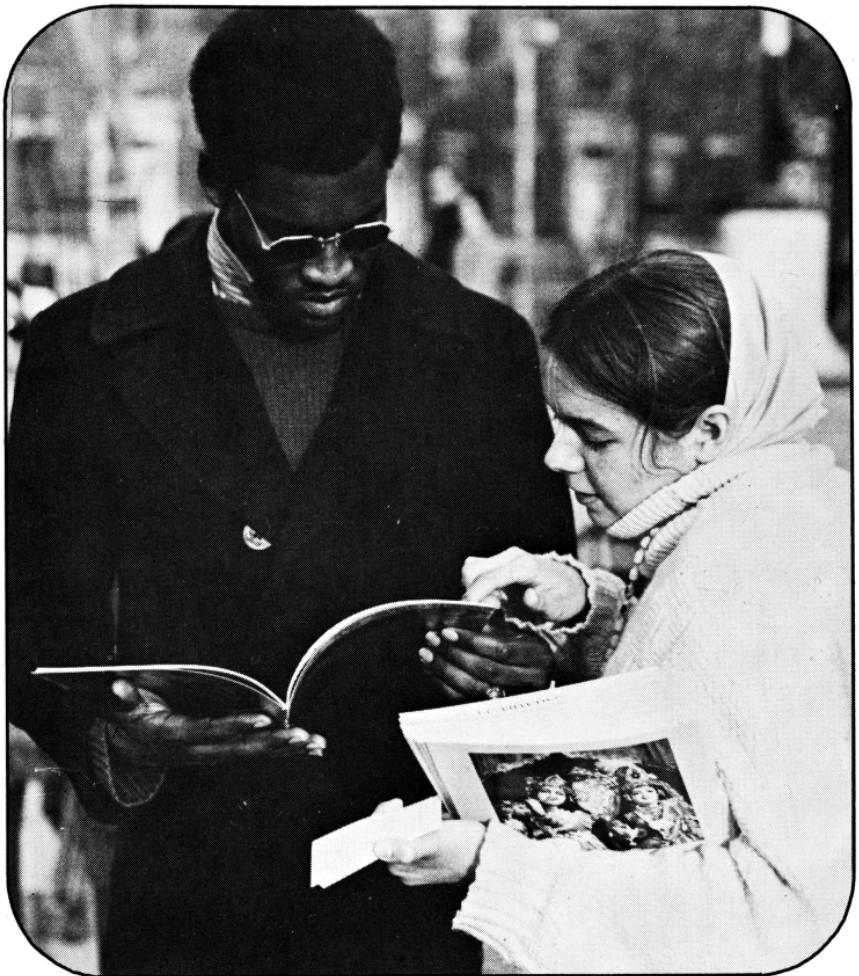
Śrīla Prabhupāda: If I may correct you here, Kṛṣṇa consciousness is not a question of my beliefs.

Interviewer: Well, as you interpret it in your writings. Let me put it that way. It seems to me, sir, that there is a very high emphasis placed on the relationship between the individual and God.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. That is found everywhere.

Interviewer: Yes, but you place more emphasis on that relationship than on the relationship between one individual and another individual. Am I right in that?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: We have to establish, first of all, our lost relationship with God. Then we can understand what is the relationship between one individual and another. If the central point is missing, then there



is practically no relation. You are an American, and another is an American, and both of you feel American nationality because the center is America. So unless you understand God, you cannot understand who I am, nor can I understand who you are.

So first of all we have to reestablish our lost relationship with God. Then we can establish talk of universal brotherhood. Otherwise, there will be discrimination. In your country, or any country, a citizen means a man born of that land. Is it not? But people do not take the animals as citizens. Why don't animals have a right to be considered citizens? Because there is imperfect knowledge, there is no God consciousness. Therefore, people think that only humans born in this land are citizens, not others.

Interviewer: That is not necessarily based on the religious principles, of course.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: No, that is a philosophical principle.

Interviewer: Right.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Religion without philosophy is sentiment.

Interviewer: Don't you think that there are very good reasons for the existence of these rules and regulations in this respect?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. Rules and regulations must be established on philosophy. Otherwise it is sentiment. Defective. Religion without philosophy is mental speculation. They should be combined—philosophy and religion—then it is perfect.

Interviewer: I think that in this part of the world, in the Western world, at least as much as I am aware of it, we place a great deal of emphasis on religion in the ways it gets one man to deal with another man—the ethic of religion. Now, in the Kṛṣṇa conscious movement. . . .

Śrīla Prabhupāda: We are not concerned with how one man deals with another man.

Interviewer: Isn't that part of your Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: No, this is not important, because we



know as soon as one understands how to deal with God, he will automatically deal very nicely with others.

Interviewer: But, let's take the Christian religion for an example. You know the ten commandments? There is a heavy emphasis in the ten commandments on the relationships between one human being and another: "Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not kill." You know, that sort of thing.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: But I say that Jesus Christ never said and never meant that "Thou shalt not kill" refers to only human beings. Where is that evident? Jesus Christ never said that "Thou shalt not kill" refers only to human beings. Thou shalt not kill any animal.

Interviewer: Any life.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Any life. That is religion.

Interviewer: It has never been interpreted that way.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: You have interpreted it differently, but he said, "Thou shalt not kill." He never said, "Thou shalt not kill amongst human beings." Why do you interpret it that way?

Interviewer: How would I recognize a true follower of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement by his behavior? What would his traits be? What would his outward expressions be?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: He'd be a very perfect gentleman, that's all. You could not find any fault in him. That is perfect Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Therefore, I prohibit my disciples to eat meat.

Interviewer: To eat meat?

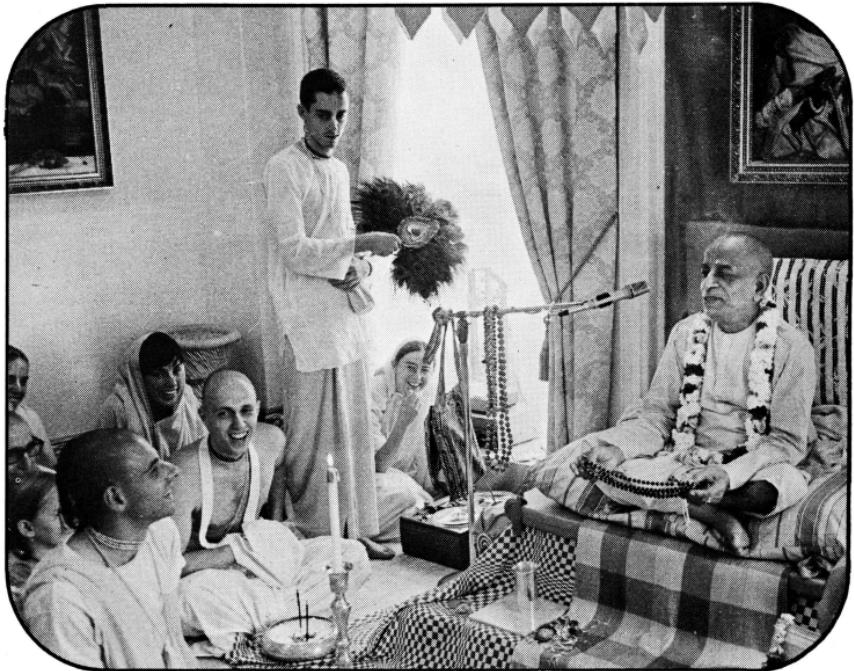
Śrīla Prabhupāda: Yes. And therefore I prohibit illicit sex life. Therefore I prohibit intoxication. They do not even smoke, what to speak of other intoxication. And therefore I prohibit indulgence in gambling. If they can observe just these four rules and regulations, they will become perfect men. It is simple.

Interviewer: Or women, I presume.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: All manner of men.

Interviewer: Or women. . . .

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Anyone.



Interviewer: There's a place for women in the religion, too, I presume.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Women and men have the same rights. Boys and girls are getting married, and they are following the same principles. So these are the four pillars of perfect life. If we indulge in these things—then they become four pillars of sinful life. And if we take them away, then these prohibitions become the pillars of perfect life.

Interviewer: Now, I would like to ask you one more question, and then I would like to ask you to end the program by chanting the Hare Kṛṣṇa *mantra*. One more question though. In the six years you have been in this country, in the United States, have you been encouraged or discouraged?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: I am encouraged.

Interviewer: Encouraged. Why?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Because there are so many devotees coming daily.

Interviewer: Why do you say so many? We have maybe two dozen people sitting here, but of course there are 205 or 210 million Americans.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: When you sell diamonds, you cannot expect that everyone will purchase. There must be the right customer for a diamond. You cannot expect a diamond to be widely sold amongst the mass of people. You cannot expect that.

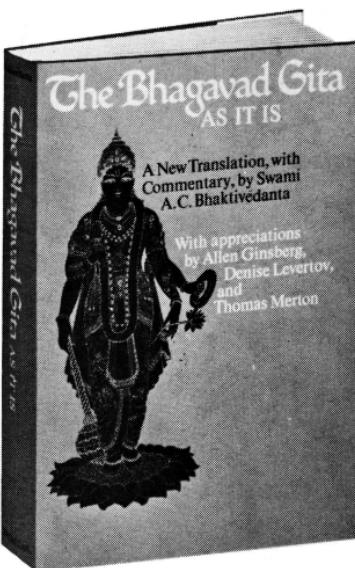
Interviewer: Do you in general approve of or do you have major complaints about the American society that you now live in?

Śrīla Prabhupāda: I have no complaint. These boys and girls are very nice. I am, rather, encouraged that these boys and girls are hankering after something nice. They are frustrated. So now, since they have the best thing, they are coming.

Interviewer: I would like to thank you very sincerely for giving us a very brief insight into the teachings and the beliefs of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. May I ask you to ask your followers who are present here with us tonight to join you in the chanting of the *mantra* for just a minute to close out the program please.

Śrīla Prabhupāda: Oh yes, we can chant.

END



BHAGAVAD-GĪTĀ AS IT IS

Bhagavad-gītā has long been appreciated as a scriptural literature of sublime importance by thoughtful men throughout the world, for its eighteen chapters shower upon man the immortal nectar of the wisdom of the Absolute. The aim of this edition of *Bhagavad-gītā* is to present the ancient science of *yoga*, as presented by the speaker Himself, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, without adulteration or interpretation. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda has accepted the *Gītā* to be perfect and complete, and he has prepared his *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* with that understanding. Thus the message of this timeless classic is transmitted in its purity and fullness. By reading this book one can attain the perfection of human life.

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