

# ISKCON

FILE GRC  
INSTRUCTIONS



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS LTD.

FOUNDER — ACHARYA. His Divine Grace, A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Hare Krishna Land, Gandhi Gram Road, Juhu, Bombay 400 054. (Ph : 579373)

Nellore, South India  
January 6, 1976

To

All Governing Body Commissioners

Re: Examinations for awarding titles of Bhaktishastri,  
Bhaktibaibhava, Bhaktivedanta and Bhaktisarvabhaua.  
Your response is requested immediately by Srila Prabhupada.

Dear Prabhus,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. Srila Prabhupada has requested me to write you in regard to the above examinations which he wishes to institute. Here in India many persons often criticize our sannyasis and brahmins as being unqualified due to insufficient knowledge of the scriptures. Factually, there are numerous instances when our sannyasis and brahmins have fallen down often due to insufficient understanding of the philosophy. This should not be a point of criticism nor a reason for fall down, since Srila Prabhupada has mercifully made the most essential scriptures available to us in his books. The problem is that not all the devotees are carefully studying the books, the result being a fall down or atleast unsteadiness.

His Divine Grace therefore wishes to institute examinations to be given to all prospective candidates for sannyas and brahmin initiation. In addition he wishes that all present sannyasis and brahmins also pass the examination. Awarding of these titles will be based upon the following books:

Bhaktishastri - Bhagavad Gita, Nectar of Devotion, Nectar of Instruction, Ishopanishad, Easy Journey To Other Planets, and all other small paperbacks, as well as Arcanapaddhati (a book to be compiled by Nitai Prabhu based on Hari bhakti vilas on Diety worship)

Bhaktibaibhava - All the above plus the first six cantos of Srimad Bhagavatam

Bhaktivedanta - All the above plus cantos 7 through 12 of Srimad Bhagavatam

Bhaktisarvabhaua - All the above plus the entire Chaitanya Chaitamrita

Anyone wishing to be initiated as a brahmin will have to pass the Bhaktishastri exam and anyone wishing to take sannyas will have to pass the Bhaktibaibhava examination as well. This will prevent our Society from degrading to the level of so many other institutions where, in order to maintain the Temple, they accept all third class men as brahmins. Any sannyasis or brahmins already initiated who fail to pass the exams will be considered low class

'Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare.



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examinations

or less qualified. Anyone wishing to be <sup>2nd</sup> initiated will sit for examination once a year at Mayapur. Answers will be in essay form and authoritative quotations will be given a bigger score. During the exams books may not be consulted.

Srila Prabhupada wishes to begin this program at this year's Mayapur meeting. He requests that you all send your opinions and comments here immediately so that everything may be preped in time.

Hoping this meets you in the best of health and Krishna Consciousness.

Approved:

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami

Your servant,

*Tamal Krishna Goswami*

Tamal Krishna Goswami  
Personal Secretary