

Who Is A Bona Fide Guru (2)?

A Ready Reckoner from Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura

*prākṛta-rasera śikṣā-bhikṣā śiṣye cāya nā
rati binā jei rasa tāhā guru deya nā*

The true disciples never desire to ask their spiritual master for instructions regarding material mellows. The genuine spiritual master never gives his disciples any such material mellows, which are devoid of *rati*, transcendental loving attachment to the Lord.(2)



*nija-bhogya kāme bhakta ‘prema’ kabhu bole nā
‘rase ḍagamaga acho’ śiṣye guru bole nā*

Selfish enjoyment of one’s own senses in mundane lust is never called *prema* (love of Godhead) by the genuine devotee. A bonafide spiritual master never tells his disciple, “You are absorbed in the mellows of divine *rasa*.”(8)



*‘rase ḍagamaga āmi’ kabhu guru bole nā
jaḍīya rasera kathā śiṣye guru bole nā*

The genuine spiritual master never claims, “I am absorbed in the mellows of divine *rasa*.” The *guru* never talks idly with his disciples on subjects of gross worldly mellows.(9)



*nāme-rase bheda āche, guru śikṣā deya nā
rasa lābha kori’ śeṣe sādhanā to’ haya nā*

The bonafide spiritual master never teaches that there is a difference between the holy name of Kṛṣṇa and *rasa*. Even after attaining actual *rasa*, the regulative principles of devotional service are never concluded.(12)



*rati yukta rasa chāḍā śuddha-bhakta bole nā
sādhanete rati rasa guru kabhu bole nā*

The pure devotee of Kṛṣṇa never speaks of anything other than *rasa*, transcendental mellow, that is endowed with *rati*, loving attachment. The *guru* never claims that *rati* and *rasa* are present within the practice of preliminary devotion (*sādhanā bhakti*). (15)



*rūpa hoite nāma-sphūrti, guru kabhu bole nā
guṇa hoite nāma-sphūrti, guru kabhu bole nā*

The genuine spiritual master never asserts that the revelation of the Lord's holy name is separate from His form. The genuine spiritual master never claims that the revelation of the Lord's holy name is separate from His qualities.(32)



*rasa āge, rati pāche, rūpānugā bole nā
rasa āge, śraddhā pāche, guru kabhu bole nā*

The true followers of Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī never say that the stage of realizing transcendental mellows (*rasa*) precedes the development of loving devotional attachment (*rati*). The bonafide spiritual master will never profess that the realization of such mellows precedes the development of pure faith (*śraddhā*). (34)



*guru-mahājana-vākye bheda kabhu haya nā
sādhanaera pathe kāñṭā sad-guru deya nā*

There can never be any difference between the explanations of the bonafide spiritual master and the teachings of the great devotees (*mahājanas*). The pure spiritual master never puts thorn-like deterrents on the path of one's execution of practical devotional service (*sādhana*). (54)

— *Prākṛta-rasa-śata-dūṣiṇī*