

Understanding Śrīla Prabhupāda’s Mood

My Spiritual Master Is Always with Me

Bhakti Caru Swami: When Prabhupāda first went to Māyāpura with his American disciples, they drove straight to our ISKCON land there without stopping at the Gauḍīya Maṭha, Caitanya Maṭha, or Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura’s *samādhi*. Some of Prabhupāda’s god-brothers commented, “He didn’t even stop at his spiritual master’s *samādhi*.” When Prabhupāda was told that they were speaking like that he commented, “Do they think that I am ever separated from my spiritual master, even for a moment? My spiritual master is always with me.”

That is how a disciple should be conscious of his spiritual master. The spiritual master is the external manifestation of the Supersoul. When a devotee attains perfection, he always considers his spiritual master to be present with him by his words of instruction. Śrīla Prabhupāda felt that his spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, was always seeing his activities and was guiding him within his heart by his words. Similarly, the more we become Kṛṣṇa conscious, the more we make spiritual advancement, the more we will hear Śrīla Prabhupāda’s guidance. The benefit of being in ISKCON is that everywhere we can feel Śrīla Prabhupāda’s presence. We can see Prabhupāda in the temples he established or inspired, in the Deity worship he guided, in his books, or in his followers. Everything has come from Śrīla Prabhupāda’s instructions and personal example, and that’s what is protecting us from the onslaughts of illusion and is pushing us towards our ultimate destination, Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet.

“He lives forever by his divine instructions, and the follower lives with him.”

– Śrīla Prabhupāda’s *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* dedication to
Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura.