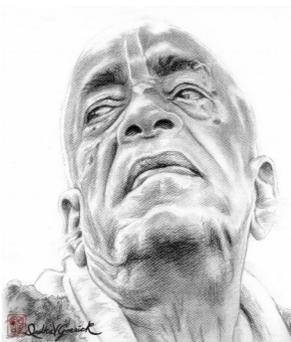


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## ISKCON Sannyasa Ministry Newsletter

*"In regards to your question about how the relationship between a sannyasi and the temple president should be, my hope is that you will all be able to cooperate together. The temple president is in charge and the sannyasi should not contradict the instructions. Although if he does see something wrong or if he sees a fault or defect he should bring it out directly to the temple president. And then work it out in a Krishna conscious way. Not that he will try to over-ride the temple president's authority. I want that you all work together cooperatively. Please continue your programs there with great enthusiasm and try to strictly follow all of my regulations without any deviation. Keep yourself always fixed in Krishna's service. Don't let even a split moment go by being engaged in the service of maya" (SPL to Sukadeva, 28th December, 1974)*



### **From the Sannyasa Minister:**

This is Issue Number Eight of the Sannyasa Newsletter. Revealing one's mind in confidence is one of the six loving exchanges between devotees that nurture the creeper of bhakti. I hope that this sannyasa katha inspires in you a deeper sense of commitment to the mission of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu under the guidance and example of Srila Prabhupada and his sincere followers.

Your servant,  
Prahlanananda Swami

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## PROFILE: KRISHNA KSHETRA SWAMI

Krishna Kshetra Swami was initiated by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada in 1972. From 1973 to 1975 he distributed Srila Prabhupada's books around western Europe and served as a pujari in Amsterdam and Schloss Rettershof, Germany. Between 1977 and 1979 he traveled and preached with Bhakti Tirtha Swami, Harikesha Swami, Bhakti Sudhir Goswami, Dvarakesha Prabhu and Devamrita Swami throughout Eastern Europe. From 1982 to 1985 he oversaw Lord Nrisimhadeva's worship in Simhacalam, Germany.

While he continued serving the mission in Europe as a brahmachari, in 1987 ISKCON's GBC body appointed him as an initiating guru. Then, up to 1995, he helped compile and publish Pancaratra-pradipa, ISKCON's manual for temple worship. He also served ISKCON's GBC as the minister for Deity worship until 2005.



In 1995, being encouraged by senior ISKCON leaders, Krishna Kshetra Swami resumed formal academic study which he had interrupted in 1972. He completed a B.A. in Religious Studies (University of California, Santa Barbara), an M.A. in the Study of Religion (Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley), an M.St. (Master of Studies) in the Study of Religion (University of Oxford, U.K.), and a D.Phil. (Ph.D., University of Oxford, U.K.). Based on his doctoral dissertation he then published "Attending Krishna's Image: Chaitanya Vaishnava Murti-seva as Devotional Truth" with Routledge Hindu Studies Series (now available through Bhaktivedanta Library Services, Belgium). He has co-edited and co-authored, with Radhikaramana Dasa, two books on the Bhagavatam, published by Columbia University Press. Krishna Kshetra Swami is a Research Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies and a Research Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. He also acts as the dean of studies at Bhaktivedanta College in Radhadesh, Belgium, where he has been teaching since 2002. He is currently writing an academic book on cow protection, to be published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Krishna Kshetra Swami accepted the order of sannyasa on Janmastami 2014, and continues to travel extensively for teaching, counseling, and to support ISKCON's spiritual communities across the globe.

## SANNYASA TRAINING SEMINAR 2018

The Ministry for Sannyasa Services began formal Sannyasa Candidates Training (SCT) in 2012. A similar program was conducted in 2017. This year, from February 14th-16th, the third Sannyasa Candidates Training took place at ISKCON Mayapur. Twenty out of the current twenty-seven candidates participated this year.

The SCT program aims to increase the knowledge of the candidates and equip them with skills and values to enable them to practice sannyasa within the unique cultural situations they will face. A further objective is to give them an opportunity to associate with senior sannyasis and inquire from them on the topics of renunciation. A third objective is to provide a forum for the candidates to associate together and develop deeper relationships, understanding and trust amongst each other.

When asked about the benefits of the training, His Holiness Prahladanada Swami, Minister of the Sannyasa Ministry, expressed,

*"ISKCON sannyasis should be respected as learned and renounced preachers who serve selflessly in Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu's mission. In the Bhagavad Gita (Bg 16.1), Lord Krishna mentions three essential qualities that enable a sannyasi to advance spiritually and distribute Krishna consciousness to others—fearlessness, purity and transcendental knowledge. Sannyasa candidate seminars are important because they help train the sannyasa candidates in transcendental discrimination and expertise so that while they perform practical devotional service they will develop such spiritual qualities. Empowered with such transcendental qualities, they will make rapid spiritual advancement and with great spiritual potency will distribute Krishna consciousness to others."*

The GBC meetings were simultaneously in session. Being in the holy dhama in the association of so many senior devotees made this program exceptionally potent. The morning program in Sri Sri Mayapur Chandrodaya Mandir was filled with devotees. The darshan of Sri Sri Radha Madhava, Sri Sri Panchatattva, and Sri Sri Prahlad Nrsimhadeva enlivened everyone.



On the first day of the seminars His Holiness Vedavyasa Priya Swami addressed the candidates on the topic of Srila Rupa Goswami's Upadesamrta. He focused on the first verse, which emphasises the importance of sense control.



On February 15th the program began with a special Srimad Bhagavatam class on the Song of the Avanti Brahmana: "I shall cross over the insurmountable ocean of nescience by being firmly fixed in the service of the lotus feet of Krishna" (11.23.57). This was given by His Holiness Lokanath Swami.



His Holiness Bhakti Gauravani Swami presented two topics: "Using Sannyasa for Service", and "Becoming Alive through Civil Death."



On February 16th, His Holiness Bhakti Vidya Purna Swami presented the 6th chapter of Manu Samhita which offers clear instruction on the duties, lifestyle and desired consciousness of one in the sannyasa ashram.

On February 18th, His Holiness Bhakti Rasamrita Swami presented “Proper Dealings with Women” and “Abandoning False Designations and Accepting Real Designations.”

All the candidates offered positive feedback and expressed their anticipation to attend the training seminars in 2019, hoping the training will deepen their understanding even further.

Our senior most candidate, His Grace Premadatta Prabhu (75 years old), originally from Italy, and now serving in Agartala, India, said: *“Sannyasa is the last part of the life. It is to dedicate ourselves cent percent to Krishna. It will enable us to follow the instruction of Srila Prabhupada and encourage all living entities to give total priority to Lord Krishna. The Sannyasa Candidates Training is a wonderful initiative and very much necessary. Now it is up to us to put into practice what we have learnt from Srimad Bhagavatam and from the senior devotees.”*

His Grace Vanamali Das, based in Mira Road, Mumbai, shared a realization he gained from the exemplary behavior of one of the teachers: *“On the first day, the first speaker had to unexpectedly cancel. Instead, we got the benefit and darshan of His Holiness Vedavyasa Priya Maharaja. Maharaja was not scheduled, and he was only given 15 minutes notice. Yet, seeing the urgency, he immediately got ready to do the needful. A sannyasi is always ready to do the needful for Srila Prabhupada, and the mission. Wherever there is the need, immediately, he will reach.”*

His Grace Vrindavan Chandra Das, based in Sri Vrindavana Dham expressed: *“We learnt of the potential difficulties we may face. In this way, the mind is being prepared to achieve the goal of sannyasa life.”*

His Grace Puspashila Shyama Dasa from Bangladesh expressed his appreciation: *“I was greatly benefited by participating in the seminar. It was inspiring and instructive.”*

His Grace Sankarshan Nitai Das from Sri Dham Mayapur, offered his realization, *“Srila Prabhupada always stressed training and education, saying we should continue learning till our last breath. If we stop learning, it means we are dead. Sannyasa is a very serious commitment for this movement, and for the individuals as well. Thus, candidates need the guidance of the sannyasis and senior members of the society. We pray that the sannyasa candidate training continues so that we can all benefit from this wonderful arrangement by the Sannyasa Ministry.”*

His Grace Ekalavya Das, a candidate from USA, said: *“The importance of simplicity for Sannyasis was stressed again and again in the seminars. A Sannyasi is getting ready to wind up his activities in the material world and does not plan to come back again. Simplicity will help him avoid giving trouble to others by making unnecessary demands on them, and thus minimizes his karmic accrue ment.”*

His Grace Sundara Lala Das from Mauritius shared a realization from the etam sa asthaya

paratma-nistham verse: *“This sannyasa verse gives me lots of inspiration and hope. Although we are not fully qualified candidates, there is hope. The Avanti brahmana says “I shall cross over the insurmountable ocean of nescience by being firmly fixed in the service of the lotus feet of Krishna.” One who works devotedly for the satisfaction of Krishna is a sannyasi. The dress is not sannyasa, but the attitude of service to Krishna is. By following the footsteps of previous acaryas one can surely cross. Just like sometimes we see some footpath in the forest. The footpath means some people have gone through it before and if we take to this path we shall also reach the other side. This is humility. By following in the footsteps of our acharyas we shall crossover this material world.”*

The Ministry for Sannyasa Services would like to express their deepest gratitude to the Sanyasis who presented seminars, the management of ISKCON Mayapur for providing wonderful facilities, and the candidates who took time from their busy schedules to come and participate in the training.

The training was organized by Ministry for Sannyasa Services Secretaries Brajsunder Dasa, Dharmatma Dasa, and Ekalavya Dasa under the guidance of His Holiness Krishna Kshetra Swami and His Holiness Prahladananda Swami.

Audio and Video recordings from the seminars are still being compiled. Audio and Video from previous seminars can be found here:

[https://sannyasacandidates.com/?page\\_id=717](https://sannyasacandidates.com/?page_id=717)



## 2018 Sannyasa Waiting List

As of the GBC Meetings 2018, the following are the candidates for sannyasa along with their respective waiting periods:

Adi Purusa Dasa (Bhubaneswar, India)	<b>Sannyasa this year</b>
Adhokshaja Dasa (Russia)	4 years
Ananda Vardhana Dasa (Baltics/Finland/Europe)	<b>Sannyasa this year</b>
Asim Krishna Dasa (India)	2 years
Bhaktipada Dasa (New Vraja Dhama, Hungary)	1 year
Deva Deva Dasa (South America)	1 year
Eklavya Dasa (India/Middle East/North America)	1 year
Gaura Chandra Das (Mayapur)	<b>Sannyasa this year</b>
Gopendra Dasa (Vrindavan, India)	4 years
Govindananada Dasa (West Bengal, India)	5 years
Kamalalochan Dasa (Mumbai, India)	3 years
Madhu Sevita Das (Italy/France/Benelux)	<b>Sannyasa this year</b>
Mahaprabhu Dasa (Hungary/Romania)	<b>Sannyasa this year</b>
Navadvip Dvija Gouranga Dasa (Bangladesh)	1 years
Premadata Dasa (Italy/India)	2 years
Pritivardhana Dasa (Mayapur, India)	1 years
Puspashila Shyama Dasa (Bangladesh)	1 year
Radhashyamsunder Dasa (Vrindavan, India)	3 years

## 2018 Sannyasa Waiting List

Raghava Pandit Dasa (Delhi, India)	1 years
Santa Nrisimha Dasa (Jaipur, India)	1 years
Sankarsana Nitai Dasa (Mayapur, India)	4 years
Sundarlala Dasa (Mauritius)	2 years
Sutapa Dasa (United Kingdom)	4 years
Vanamali Dasa (Mumbai, India)	3 years
Venudhari Dasa (Mayapur, India)	2 years
Vishvvasu Dasa (Germany/Baltics/Russia)	3 years
Vrindavanchandra Dasa(Vrindavan India)	1 years