Param Gati Letter to Disciples #1

Letter 1 to Disciples by Param Gati Swami

Dear disciples

Please accept the blessings of Srila Prabhupada through me.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I'd like to humbly apologize to all of you for what happened recently. Sri Krishna showed me how careful we must be in our personal dealings. Right now I'm going through a period of deep introspection, praying intensely to Srila Prabhupada and Sri Sri Gaura Nitai, that the fire of repentance in my heart burns. My mission is the same as Prabhupada, that means take you to the spiritual world and puts you at the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha-Krsna and it is to that final goal of life that I'm dedicating myself. My only reason for existence in this world is to serve Prabhupada through helping you in your personal service to Krsna. I am with you always in my heart, praying to Srila Prabhupada and Sri Krsna for protection and happiness of each one of you.

Your eternal well-wisher, who really loves you, Param Gati Swami

Param Gati Letter to Disciples #2

Letter 2 to Disciples by Param Gati Swami

Dear devotees, Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

In the past thirty-three years I have endeavored, in my capacity, to serve my spiritual master and Founder-Acharya of ISKCON. My flaws are countless and I prefer not to take your precious time by listing them here. During my visit to New Gokula in January, I found myself involved in a situation that, by Krishna's grace, did not materialize in a break of principles. Although this was a moment of weakness, which is not the normal pattern of my character, yet I accept full responsibility for my actions and I am ready for any consequences. Within ISKCON, Srila Prabhupada and the devotees in general expect and clearly deserve leaders of unblemished character. Therefore, due to this slide, I, in consultation with leaders of ISKCON Brazil and Srila Goswami Hridayananda decided to keep away from my responsibilities as a GBC and stop initiating. As Srila Prabhupada wrote, "... the main point to satisfy-Him is described in the Bhagavatam, and it is the veracity. The basic principle of religion is to the veracity." Purport, SB 1.17.33 I also accepted the case be brought to the body of the GBC for its consideration and decision. I honestly believe that this is the way that His Divine Grace would wish I act in such a situation. Although I currently do not know what is the decision of the GBC, one thing I can assure all of you. I will always continue to serve Srila Prabhupada within ISKCON to the last gasp of this mortal body. To my disciples and disciples I ask for your patience and maturity. Know that you can continue to count on me. ISKCON is like a huge tree with a gigantic dome. This huge tree is the home to all of us.

I am just a leaf on this tree. If you continue to sincerely serving in ISKCON, as I will do, you will never be unprotected. By the invitation Srila Hridayananda Goswami I made my base in Gainesville, living and serving in the local temple. I help training the devotees participating in the famous program of Food for Life, with more than 1,000 meals served daily. Nothing happens by chance. I am sure that the Supreme Lord has a plan for me. Thank you for your attention. For devotees who wish to communicate with me, you are welcome. I hope this finds you very well.

Your humble servant, Param Gati Swami

Param Gati Letter to Disciples #3

Letter 3 to Disciples by Param Gati Swami

Dear disciples, Please accept my humble obeisances.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I would humbly like to beg for your forgiveness for my recent inappropriate behavior of which you are all aware. The intense years of extensive travelling and managerial responsibilities generated a circumstance which misled me in such a way that eventually manifested in inappropriate physical exchanges with a young man of around 19 years. This incident took place in January this year. In order to clear up some misunderstanding regarding the incident mentioned above, I would like to confirm that in fact I embraced a 19 year old man for more than 5 minutes, and this act developed to more intimate gesture, namely a kiss. I became involved in the situation up to point that I realized that I was losing myself and stopped it. I want to make it clear to all of you that the GBC statement is accurate and reveals the truth as it happened and I was simply too embarrassed to admit at first to my disciples and therefore in personal conversations with some of my disciples I chose not to reveal the details of the incident. I now understand that omitting the facts can put doubts in the minds of some of my disciples in relation to the GBC statement.

The incident made it clear to me and to the GBC Body that a change of service for me would be the best for my own spiritual welfare as well as the Society. Consequently, I decided to step down from my GBC duties and stop giving initiations in order to invest more time and energy towards my spiritual studies and increase my worship of Lord Krishna. Sri Krsna showed me that we should all be very careful in our personal rapports 2 and at this current moment of time I am taking the opportunity to go through a period of deep introspection. I am intensely praying to Srila Prabhupada and Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai that I can quickly recover from this state of utter exhaustion. I will also be taking a spiritual break in several Holy Places in India and I will take the personal association of some of my senior Godbrothers. My ultimate duty to you all remains the same, to help you in your loving service to Srila Prabhupada and his mission. I now have the opportunity to dedicate more time towards my spiritual life and I see this as the mercy of Lord Krishna and His representatives. Many of you have been urging me for years to take time for my own spiritual practices, and I feel that Lord Krishna has now shown me that this is what I should do. I thank you all for the service you have rendered to Srila Prabhupada's mission. I am sorry if I have disappointed you and I pray that you continue to find inspiration from the many siksha gurus that ISKCON provides.

That will help me to get the time to recover spiritually. As for my aspiring disciples and disciples they are free to seek and take guidance from another spiritual master.

With all my sincerity,

Param Gati Swami

Param Gati Letter to Disciples #4

Letter by Param Gati Swami to a Disciple February 2009 Dear (*),

Please accept my blessings.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Thanks for your message. I hope you and your family are well. As for me, by the grace of Krsna I'm fine, recovering from trauma, speaking to us in confidence. Thank you for your words. Basically I sent two important messages, which I transcribe below for you. I ask you not to print them or publish them because they were sent all over Brazil in the form of personal message. A message is directed to those responsible for the Temples and the second is for the disciples. (*), you know me for many years and knows how I have this nature of being familiar and close to devotees in order to create a fraternal environment within the Movement. But with this Krsna showed me that I have to be very careful in my personal dealings.

Thanks again.

Your well-wisher, Param Gati Swami