

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

Founder-Acarya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Center: _____

Date: _____

COUNSELOR/AUTHORITY RECOMMENDATION FOR SECOND INITIATION

To (Name of Diksa Guru): _____

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I _____ confirmed the following:

- The candidate adheres to all the necessary qualification mentioned on the initiation process.
- Brahmin qualification checklist filled in by me scrutinizingly.
- Personally marked/checked the philosophical test (Oral or Written).
- Observing candidate for at least a year on the above-mentioned criteria.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to recommend: _____ for Brahmin initiation by you. I'm fully responsible as a counselor for any kind of mistake by him/her.

Your servant, _____ (Name) _____ (Designation) _____ (Date)
_____ (Contact number) _____ (Place) _____ (Signature)

General and Spiritual Information

Spiritual Name: _____ Date/Place of 1st Initiation: _____ / _____ / _____

First Name: _____ Family Name: _____

Date of birth: _____ / _____ / _____ Male Female Age: _____ Nationality: _____

Devotional services: _____ Occupation (if working): _____

Present Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ Phone No's: home: _____ office: _____ Fax: _____

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ Phone No's: home: _____ office: _____ Fax: _____

Email (personal/contact) _____

Marriage status Single Seeking Engaged Married Separated/ divorced Widow;

Name of spouse (if applicable): _____ Spouse KC Status[_____]

Name of children and their birth year / age: _____

Is child of ISKCON Devotee Yes No Devotee relative name: _____

Is in contact with Krishna consciousness for _____ years/months. Doesn't live in a temple

Yes, lives in a temple or temple community. Yes, is connected to a temple? _____

Did you get Harinama from another Guru? Yes; No. If Yes then give name: _____

Siksa Guru(s): _____

Guiding devotee(s): _____

NAME: _____ DATE OF 1ST INITIATION: _____ PLACE OF 1ST INITIATION: _____

Preliminary Qualifications for Being a Brahmana:

<i>Notes for making a 2nd initiation checklist:</i>	OK'D	DATE
PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE & BEHAVIOR:		
1. Attend the temple a minimum number of times per week (unless there are approved reasons for not being able to).		/ / /
2. Being a good example of enthusiasm for offering to render and rendering service in the Temple or Nama Hatta or other authorized ISKCON activities.		/ / /
3. Has read as a minimum the following books the required number of times <i>[the books and number of times should be discussed and finalized]</i>		/ / /
• BG -		/ / /
• Srila Prabhupada biography		/ / /
• ISHOPNISAD		/ / /
• Nectar of Instruction		/ / /
• Nectar of Devotion Part -1		/ / /
• Other books =		/ / /
4. Avoids degrading and non-devotional activities including the following, but not limited to them alone:		/ / /
• Watching mundane television without KC reason;		/ / /
• Going to mundane Movies w/o KC reason;		/ / /
• Being negligent in KC activities and other related responsibilities like one's asrama's duties;		/ / /
• Domestic violence or other unauthorized violence;		/ / /
• Excessive arguments without KC cause;		/ / /
• Dishonesty or failure to tell the truth to devotees;		/ / /

• Rumor mongering or tendency towards kuti-nati;		___/___
• Political or offensive activities against spiritual authorities;		___/___
• Other degrading and non-devotional activities for which one doesn't have previous permission from the Spiritual Master and local authorities.		___/___
5. Shows an interest in and tendency for preaching Krishna consciousness and accepts training to give devotional classes.		___/___
6. Is one or more of the following:		___/___
• Resident in good standing of a temple or temple community.		___/___
• An active member of the congregation who regularly attends and offers service at the temple.		___/___
• Is an active member in good standing of an authorized Nama Hatta group or Nama Hatta Bhakti Branch Group.		___/___
• Has a program which is not one of the above which is previously authorized by local spiritual authorities and the Spiritual Master (where possible in writing).		___/___
7. Is known to chant his/her 16 rounds daily and follow all the regulative principles sincerely.		___/___
8. Hasn't had a major fall down in the past 2 years or broken any regulative principle in the past year.		___/___
9. Passes the philosophical examination with 66% minimum mark.		___/___
10. Passes the practical examination (prayers, parampara, vaisnava etiquette, and basic knowledge of practices) with 90% minimum mark;		___/___
11. Has the recommendation of the local Temple President or in case of congregational members the local Nama Hatta leaders designated for this purpose and the local Temple President or Regional Director of Nama Hatta.		___/___
12. Has completed ISKCON Disciple Course		___/___
13. Has completed Bhakti Sastri Course.		___/___

Bhakti Ashraya Vaisnava Swami's 2nd Initiation Philosophical Examination

A. About the material nature

1a) Explain in a general way the three modes of nature. Include a specific description of the qualities found in the three different modes?

2a) Is the living entity controlled or free, or is he a combination of both? Explain how free will and predestination exist simultaneously in the material life of the conditioned soul.

3a) What is action (*karma*), prohibited action (*vikarma*), and inaction (*akarma*)?

4a) What are the 8 material elements?

5a) Describe the five senses for acquiring knowledge, their objects, and the five working senses.

6a) What is the function of the mind, the intelligence, and the false ego?

7a) Explain the basic structure of the universal egg in terms of its different planetary systems and the covering layers of universe. How is the earth situated in this system?

8a) Describe the different species of life. What are they and how many are they? How does the spirit soul travel through the forms lower than the human form?

9a) How does the human being change his body at the moment of death?

10a) Explain karma. How is the law of karma affecting the living entity?

11a) What are the reactions which occur when one performs pious and impious activities? Give some examples of pious and impious activities and their resultant reactions.

12a) Explain what are *devas* or demigods. What are the names, qualities and activities of at least five of them?

13a) What is *varnasrama*? What are the duties of each *varna* and *asrama*. What do you think is your natural position within this system and why? What is the proper *asrama* for each *Varna* and therefore what do you think is your best situation within the *asrama*?

14a) Write something about the Vedic conception of time in terms of the lifetime of Brahma. How would one calculate a day of Brahma according to our conception of time? Explain the yugas and their duration, as well as a description of spiritual processes to be performed in each one.

15a) What are the special qualities of *Kali-yuga*? Who is the personality of Kali (yuga) and what does *Srimad Bhagavatam* tell about him? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this *Kali-yuga*?

B. Topics on soul and Supersoul

1b) Write as many qualities of the soul as you know. Explain how these qualities are different from the qualities of the material body.

2b) Explain totally the significance of the Bhagavad-Gita verse *dehino 'smin yatha dehe*, "As the embodied soul continually passes, in this body ..." etc.

3b) What is the function of the Supersoul in reference to the verses *isvara sarva bhutanam*, *sarvasya caham hrdi sannivistho*, and *upadrstanumantas ca*? If you don't know the Sanskrit verses, write an answer explaining about the Supersoul.

4b) How does the Supersoul regulate the karma of all the conditioned living entities?

5b) What is the example of the two birds in the tree, and what is its explanation?

C. Questions about Krsna and the Absolute Truth

1c) Who is Krsna? Why is He described as Isvara, Purusa, Bhagavan, Adidevam? What other qualities of Krsna can you think of? Try and answer in the context of the verse, aham sarvasya prabhavah.

2c) What is the purport of the verse, ye yatha mam prapadyante, "As they surrender unto Me I reward..."

3c) What is the ultimate goal or highest perfection of life? How can one achieve it?

4c) What are the qualities of the personal forms of Krsna and Visnu?

5c) Explain as many characteristics as possible about the ten incarnations of Godhead. How many incarnations of Godhead are there? Explain the different kinds of incarnations of Godhead.

6c) Describe the Panca-tattva. Who are they and Who are they in Krsna-lila.

7c) What are the symptoms of an actual incarnation of the Lord and what are those of a rascal claiming to be one and how would we challenge him to show he is God?

8c) Describe the three manifestations of the Absolute Truth. Also, explain the specific yogic process by which one realizes each manifestation.

9c) Out of the three realizations, i.e. paramatma, Bhagavan, or Brahman which is more complete? Which path of

self-realization is more appropriate for today?

D. About the disciplic succession

1d) What is the disciplic succession and why is it important? What is the name of our sampradaya and the other vaisnava sampradayas? If you can, name the main sampradaya acaryas.

2d) Name the sampradaya acaryas in our sampradaya from Srila Jagannatha dasa Babaji to today? If possible, list the whole succession from the time of Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Also list from Krsna to Madhvacarya.

3d) What is the purport of the verse, *tad viddhi pranipatena*, just try and learn the truth from a ...

4d) What is a diksa guru, a siksa guru, and a vartmana pradarsaka guru? What is the difference in dealings with the above gurus?

5d) What is the special import of the words, 'Founder-acarya'? What relationship does Srila Prabhupada have with ISKCON devotees?

6d) Describe how Srila Prabhupada came to the West and started the movement of Krsna consciousness?

E. Related to Krsna Consciousness

1e) What is the function of desire in spiritual life?

2e) What is sanatana-dharma?

3e) Lord Caitanya compares devotional service to sowing a seed (bhakti-lata-bija) in the heart. The devotional creeper is watered by hearing, chanting, and other devotional service. Kindly mention the two types of dangers that Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu warns

against. How is a devotee to protect his devotional creeper from these dangers?

4e) What are the nine qualities of a Brahmin?

5e) Give three examples of how three of the above qualities of a Brahmin may be used internally and externally in devotional service?

6e) "Who am I?" is the basic question of self-realization. Kindly explain "Who you are?" according to Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu's teachings.

7e) Can a human being become God? If yes, explain the process. Is Lord Krsna's descent into the material world like a human beings? By what potency does he descend into the material world?

8e) Why is a brahmin called "dwija" or twice-born? A brahmin must be more careful as he will be held more responsible for his actions? What are the additional benefits which make it worthwhile to accept 2nd initiation?

9e) Since one can easily achieve liberation from devotional service, why does a devotee want to spread Krsna consciousness considering all the risks and troubles?

F. Questions about our personal lives

1f) What are the regulative principles? Why is it bad to break them?

2f) Describe the importance of chanting 16 rounds every day and the effects of not chanting.

3f) What are the important things to remember to do before and after eating?

4f) When is one contaminated and must take a bath? Explain different levels of contamination and how to purify oneself for each level.

5f) What is the acceptable form of cleanliness for a brahmana or in a temple?

6f) What is the correct mode of interaction between the men and women in different asrams or in a temple? Answer in regards to temple interactions and other interactions non-service oriented.

7f) What is the importance of sankirtana?

8f) Explain why this movement is called the sankirtana movement. What is the importance of a temple in this regard?

9f) Who are the Deities and what are some important points in Their service?

G. Extra important points to be answered

1g) Explain the processes of karma yoga, mystic yoga and bhakti.

2g) What is impersonalism? Why is this concept inferior and who originated this system?

3g) What is the philosophy of voidism, why is it false and who started it?

4g) Explain the dissatisfaction of Vyasadeva and what was done to correct it.

5g) Explain the circumstances around the speaking of the Bhagavad-Gita.

6g) Write out in Sanskrit and your own language (or English) as many verses as possible, but no less than 15 verses.

HH Bhakti Ashraya Vaisnava Swami's 2nd Initiation
Uneducated Candidates

Simplified Philosophical Exam (Oral or Written)

I. ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS {Both must be answered correctly to pass}

- A. Describe the three manifestations of the Absolute Truth (Param Satya) in detail.
- B. Also, explain the specific yogic process by which one normally realizes each one of the three manifestations of the Absolute Truth mentioned above in "A".

II. Additional Questions (Give the Percentage of Correct Answers):

1. Out of the three realizations, i.e. paramatma, Bhagavan, or Brahman which is more complete? Which path of self-realization is more appropriate for today?
2. Lord Caitanya compares devotional service to sowing a seed (bhakti-lata-bija) in the heart. The devotional creeper is watered by hearing, chanting, and other devotional service. Kindly mention the two types of dangers that Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu warns against. How is a devotee to protect his devotional creeper from these dangers?
3. What are the nine qualities of a Brahmin?
4. Give three examples of how three of the above qualities may be used internally and externally in devotional service?
5. "Who am I?" is the basic question of self-realization. Kindly explain "Who you are?" according to Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's teachings.
6. What is the highest perfection of life? How can one achieve it?
7. Since one can easily achieve liberation from devotional service Why does a devotee want to spread Krsna consciousness considering all the risks and troubles?
8. Who are the Panca-tattva? Explain who each of the panca-tattva are representing.
9. Can a human being become God? If yes, explain the process. Is Lord Krsna's descent into the material world like a human beings? By what potency does he descend into the material world?
10. Why is a brahmin called "dwija" or twice-born? A brahmin must be more careful as he will be held more responsible for his actions? What are the additional benefits which make it worthwhile to accept 2nd initiation?

Essay for Second Initiation

"Why I want to take second initiation."

Write an essay to the spiritual master explaining why you want to take second initiation from him and why you want him to accept you as his second initiated disciple. You may explain the significance of second initiation and the greater commitment it brings with it. Kindly also explain in which ways after second initiation you intend to increase/improve your service to the spiritual master in his devotional service of fulfilling Srila Prabhupada's mission of spreading the Harinam Sankirtan movement all over the world as a second initiated disciple. Why do you think accepting second initiation will help in enhancing your relationship as a disciple with him. You can use the space below or write on a separate sheet of paper.

INITIATION ACCEPTANCE OATH

It is my sincere, voluntary and loving desire and request to be accepted by His Holiness Srila Bhakti Ashraya Vaisnava Swami (disciple of His Holiness Srila Bhagwatpad Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaj) as his initiated disciple. To clarify what this signifies to me and to all concerned, I make the following declarations, and I HEREBY SOLEMNLY MAKE THE FOLLOWING VOWS:

1. I accept Srila Bhakti Ashraya Vaisnava Swami to be my initiating (diksa) and instructing (siksa) spiritual master (Guru) forever, even life after life. It is my desire and commitment to help Srila Bhakti Ashraya Vaisnava Swami in his devotional service to His Holiness Srila Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaj, His Divine Grace Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and the previous acaryas in the guru-parampara.
2. I vow to follow throughout my life the instructions, etiquette, and principles prescribed according to Srila Prabhupada's instructions, Bhagavata-dharma sastras (Bhagavad-gita, Srimad Bhagavatam, Caitanya Caritamrta, etc.) and ISKCON Law in my dealings with my spiritual master Srila Bhakti Ashraya Vaisnava Swami.
3. I vow to follow the four regulative principles of avoiding the following sinful activities:
 - (a) Eating meat, fish, eggs, onion, garlic and any non-vegetarian food products.
 - (b) Taking all forms of intoxication including alcohol, drugs, tobacco, caffeine, coffee, tea, etc.
 - (c) Doing gambling, highly speculative business investments and frivolous sports.
 - (d) Engaging in illicit sex in any form.
4. I vow to chant 16 rounds (16×108 mantras) of Hare Krishna Maha-mantra Japa every day.
5. I vow that I shall follow the general and specific individual instructions given to me by my spiritual master His Holiness Srila Bhakti Ashraya Vaisnava Swami. I accept these instructions as representing Srila Prabhupada's Lord Krishna's will.
6. As an initiated disciple I understand that I am accepted as a member of and under the eternal shelter of the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya-(ISKCON) disciplic succession coming through His Divine Grace Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and I vow to accept my further spiritual instructions and initiation from Srila Bhakti Ashraya Vaisnava Swami and in such circumstances where he is not present in this world to give them I shall accept the same only from bona fide ISKCON spiritual master representing Srila Prabhupada.
7. I shall always remain loyal to ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) as an extension of Srila Prabhupada and I shall avoid doing anything detrimental to the mission of my spiritual master and to ISKCON.

Name of Initiate: _____

Signature of Initiate: _____

Place of Initiation: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Witnesses:

(1) _____ (2) _____

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

Founder-Acarya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Center: _____

Date: _____

OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION FOR BRAHMIN INITIATION

To (Name of Diksa Guru): _____

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. It is my pleasure to recommend:

for Brahmin initiation by you. I find that he/she has fulfilled the necessary qualifications for initiation to the best of my understanding. Specifically, for the last twelve months he/she has been engaged in favorable devotional service, has chanted sixteen rounds of Japa daily, attending temple program (hearing lectures attentively at least 1 hour), and has adhered to the four regulative principles. He/she is sufficiently knowledgeable in the philosophy of Krsna consciousness and the structure and purpose of ISKCON for initiation, as evidenced by passing an examination as prescribed under ISKCON Law. It has been more than one year since he/she received first initiation. He/She will be directly engaged in temple deity worship and cooking for temple deities.

These qualifications have either been observed by me personally or I have confirmed of them from faithful counsellor preacher _____ in my temple/zone.

Your servant,

(Name)
(Title)
(Place)
(Date)

Note*: The above letter should be on ISKCON letterhead.