

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

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

Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **COUNSELOR/AUTHORITY RECOMMENDATION FOR HARINAMA 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.
- Comprehensive checklist filled in by me scrutinizing.
- Personally marked/checked the philosophical test.
- Observing candidate for at least a year on the above-mentioned criteria.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to recommend: \_\_\_\_\_ for first 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**

**FIRST NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAMILY NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_; Gender: Male/ Female; Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Devotional Services: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (Personal/contact): \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email

(Personal/contact): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Marriage status:** Single / Seeking / Engaged / Married / Separated / divorced / Widow;

**Name of the spouse** (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_; Spouse KC Status: [\_\_\_\_\_]

Name of children and their birth year/ age: \_\_\_\_\_; Is

child of ISKCON Devotees: Yes / No; Devotee relative name: \_\_\_\_\_;

Is in contact with Krishna consciousness for \_\_\_\_\_ years/months; Doesn't live in a temple/lives in a temple or temple community. Is connected to a temple? Yes / No; Temple: \_\_\_\_\_ Is a member of a

Namahatta? Yes/No; Follows 4/\_\_\_\_ regulative principles for \_\_\_\_ years/months.

Chants Hare Krishna japa for \_\_\_\_\_ years/months & 16/\_\_\_\_ rounds for \_\_\_\_\_ Months/Years

**Siksa Guru(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Guiding devotee(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

## **COMPREHENSIVE CHECK-LIST FOR 1ST INITIATION CANDIDATES**

Note: Sheltered Candidates may study the check list to understand the requirements for the 1<sup>st</sup> initiation and should prepare themselves for the same by taking help and guidance from their Siksa/Senior Disciples.

This check list is to be filled in by the recommending authority scrutinizing and should write their comments.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Shelter** \_\_\_\_\_ **Place of shelter** \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE &amp; BEHAVIOR:</b>	<b>Yes</b> <b>No</b>	<b>Date</b> <b>(dd, mm, yy)</b>
1.	Taken shelter from the guru practicing KC for the last 3 /6 /9 /12 months		/ / /
2.	Following the four Regulative principles for the last 6 / 9 / 12 / 24 / 36 / 48 months		/ / /
3.	Has been regularly chanting the 16-rounds of Hare Krsna maha mantra japa for the last 6 / 9 / 12 / 24 / 36 / 48 / 60 months		/ / /
4.	Regularly attends/perform Mangal Arati everyday rising early (can be at own home)		/ / /
5.	Knows the mantras and procedure for offering bhoga to Lord Krsna.		/ / /
6.	Knows guru's & Srila Prabhupada's name & pranam mantras.		/ / /
7.	Can recognize and give proper names of guru-parampara on altar.		/ /
8.	Knows places & mantras for applying Vishnu tilaka and wears tilaka.		/ / /
9.	Regularly attends temple or nama hatta meetings or does Krsna-seva.		/ / /
10.	Has demonstrated steady commitment to devotional service for 12 months+		
11.	Regularly baths early in the morning and otherwise maintains cleanliness.		/ / /
12.	Read Srila Prabhupada's small books _____ & his biography (small)[if not literate he should get general knowledge of these topics]*		/ / /
13.	Read Life comes from life book [if not literate they should get general knowledge of these topics]*		/ / /
14.	Read Science of self-realisation book [if not literate they should get general knowledge of these topics]*		/ / /
15.	Read Raja-vidhya & Perfect question and perfect answer Book [if not literate they should get general knowledge of these topics]*		/ / /
16.	Read Beyond birth and death Book [if not literate they should get general knowledge of these topics]*		/ / /
17.	Passed an approved philosophical exam for First Initiation with 60%+ grade. [Otherwise they should complete 90% of philosophical check list.*]		
18.	Avoided offending vaisnavas and un-constructive criticism of devotees.		/ / /
19.	One's cook is properly initiated, or at least a vegetarian.		
20.	Avoids eating anything but Krishna prasadam (except in emergencies)		/ / /
21.	Doesn't have occupation or activities which are contrary to vaisnava principles. (selling non-vegetarian items or intoxicants, prostitution, gambling activities etc.)		/ / /
22.	Only listens to ISKCON authorized spiritual lectures & preaching.		/ / /
23.	Knows guru-puja, "samsara davanala" kirtans and tulasi pranam mantra.		/ / /
24.	Has kept in communication with spiritual master at least once in three months either through writing or personal contacts.		/ / /
25.	Has received written recommendation from local Temple President for first initiation.		/ / /
26.	Has completed a vaisnava etiquette course (wherever available).		/ / /
27.	If other than grihastha knows rules of renounced asram and is personally trying to follow them appropriately.		/ / /
28.	If grihastha: knows the rules of grihastha life and is personally trying to practise them and is raising minor children in a Krishna conscious manner.		/ / /
29	Observes all Ekadasi Days and vaisnava festivals mentioned in ISKCON Vaisnava Calendar		/ /
30	Have completed ISKCON Disciples' Course		/ / /

	<b>NOTE → Who writes the philosophical test need not answer this. PHILOSOPHICAL CHECKLIST (those who are not competently literate need to answer 90%-100% accurately to the following questions.)</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Date</b>
1.	What are the qualifications of a bonafide spiritual master?		/ /
2.	After accepting Harinam initiation from a bonafide guru from whom should one accept further mantras?		/ /
3.	Why does one worship the guru like God? Is the guru God?		/ /
4.	How does the bonafide guru see himself in relation to Lord Krsna and the disciple?		/ /
5.	Do you believe that the spiritual master speaks the Absolute Truth? How is it possible that the same message spoken by Lord Krsna 5,000 years ago is represented by the spiritual master today?		/ /
6.	When should the spiritual master be rejected according to sastra?		/ /
7.	What are the qualifications and responsibilities of a disciple?		/ /
8.	What is the unique position of Srila Prabhupada in ISKCON? It is said that by accepting initiation one is connected with the guru parampara. Are you committed to serving according to Srila Prabhupada's instructions? Why?		/ /
9.	Why do you accept Lord Krsna as the Supreme Godhead?		/ /
10.	What are some of the glories of the holy name of Lord Krsna? Why do we chant Hare Krishna maha-mantra?		/ /
11.	Why do we follow the four regulative principles?		/ /
12.	Why do we chant Hare Krsna rather than other pious activities? What is the difference between chanting Hare Krishna and Punya Karmas?		/ /
13.	What is the position and responsibilities of the GBC body?		/ /
14.	Explain the difference between the body and the soul.		/ /
15.	What is ISKCON and why should one remain under its shelter?		/ /
16.	It is said that at the time of accepting Harinam initiation the disciple is to follow the orders of the spiritual master in this life and even life after life. Do you believe this? Does one need to accept a spiritual master?		/ /
17.	Can you explain the ten offenses against the holy name?		/ /
18.	Why are you convinced to assist the spiritual master in spreading the Hare Krsna Sankirtan movement of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu?		/ /
19.	After initiation is it alright to chant less than 16 rounds when there is a lot of service? If one misses ones rounds, what should one do?		/ /
20.	What is your "goal in life" which you finally want to achieve at life's end?		/ /

\*Note: Those who are illiterate (class 4 and below are absolved from compulsory reading, but should in that case hear the sastra as far as possible and can answer simplified tests verbally. They should know the basic philosophy properly.

The candidate is expected to answer in detail covering all the basic philosophical points. The examiner should grade as A,B,C,D,E or F. A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2 E=1 and F= 0. against each question and give final %.

**Comments By the Examiner :**

**Name of the Examiner**

**Signature:**

**Designation :**

**Date:**

**PHILOSOPHICAL EXAM FOR HH BHAKTI ASHARAYA VAISNAVA SWAMI'S**  
**1st INITIATION CANDIDATES**  
**[INCLUDES THE GBC MADE QUESTIONNAIRE]**

1. What are the qualifications of a bonafide spiritual master? It is said that once one accepts Harinam initiation from a bonafide guru one should accept further mantras from him only (so far he is present), and to accept other initiations from someone else is a great offence. Do you believe this?
2. Why does one worship the spiritual master like God? Is the spiritual master God? How does the bonafide guru see himself in relation to Lord Krishna and the disciple?
3. Do you believe that the spiritual master speaks the Absolute Truth? How is it possible that the same message spoken by Lord Krishna 5,000 years ago is represented by the spiritual master today?
4. Under what circumstances should the spiritual master be rejected?
5. What are the qualifications and responsibilities of a disciple?
6. What is the unique position of Srila Prabhupada in ISKCON? Why is he respected as Founder Acharya in ISKCON and primary Siksha guru for all of his followers? It is said that by accepting initiation one is connected with the guru parampara. Are you committed to serving according to Srila Prabhupada's instructions? Why?
7. Why do you accept Lord Krsna as the supreme personality of Godhead? Explain some of the glories of the holy name of Lord Krishna.
8. Why do we follow the four regulative principles?
9. Why do we chant Hare Krishna rather than other pious activities? What is the difference between chanting Hare Krishna and Punya Karmas?
10. What is the position of the GBC body?
11. Explain the difference between the body and the soul.
12. What is ISKCON and why should one remain in ISKCON.
13. It is said that at the time of accepting Harinam initiation the disciple is to follow the orders of the spiritual master in this life and even life after life. Do you believe this? Does one need to accept a spiritual master? Why?
14. If one makes a plan to make sinful acts and counteract them by chanting the holy name of the Lord, will this free one from the sinful reactions? Why?
15. After accepting initiation, it is said that one should assist the spiritual master in spreading the Hare Krishna Sankirtan movement of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Are you convinced to do this? In doing this, may one preach the glories of the holy name forcibly to envious persons? Explain.
16. After accepting initiation what is the duty of a disciple in regard to increasing one's service and surrender to guru and Krishna? After initiation is it alright to chant less than rounds when there is a lot of service? If one misses completing 16 rounds, what should one do?

# Essay for First Initiation

## **"Why I want to take initiation from HH BHAKTI ASHRAYA VAISNAVA Swami"**

Write an essay to the spiritual master explaining why you want to take initiation from him and why you want him to accept you as his disciple. You may explain personally what has fixed or strengthened your faith in him. Kindly also explain in which ways after initiation you intend to serve the spiritual master in his devotional service of fulfilling Srila Prabhupada's mission of spreading the Harinama Sankirtana movement all over the world. How do you intend to further develop and maintain a strong and proper 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 HARINAMA INITIATION

To (Name of Diksa Guru): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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for first 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. The candidate has accepted your shelter for at least six months.

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.