

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS
Founder-Acarya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Center/Place: _____

Date: _____

Photograph

OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION FOR GURU-ASRAYA (SHELTER)

To (Name of Diksa Guru): _____

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

for being accepted by you for "Guru Asraya" (Shelter). I find that he/she has fulfilled the necessary qualifications for shelter to the best of my understanding. Specifically, for the last six months or more he/she has been engaged in favorable devotional service, has chanted sixteen rounds of japa daily, 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 shelter, as evidenced by passing an examination as prescribed under ISKCON Law. Where applicable, the candidate has accepted Srila Prabhupada Ashraya for at least six months. These qualifications have either been observed by me personally or I have heard of them from sources I know to be reliable.

Your servant, _____ (Name) _____ (Title)

_____ (Place)

_____ (Date)

General and Spiritual Information

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: Home: _____ Office: _____ Fax: _____

Permanent Address: _____

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

Country: _____ Phone No: Home: _____ Office: _____ Fax: _____

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? _____

Is a member of a Nama Hatta? 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): _____

E-mail (COM) Internet services

E-mail (personal/contact): _____

EXAMINATION TO QUALIFY FOR TAKING SHELTER OF AN INITIATING GURU

1. What are the qualifications of a bona fide spiritual master?
2. Why are you convinced to follow the orders of the spiritual master in this life, and even life after life?
3. Why does one worship the spiritual master like God?
4. Do you believe the spiritual master speaks the absolute truth? If so, why?
5. Under what circumstances should the spiritual master be rejected?
6. What are the qualifications and responsibilities of a disciple?
7. What is the unique position of Srila Prabhupada in ISKCON?
8. Why do you accept Lord Krsna as the Supreme Personality of Godhead?
9. Why do we follow the four regulative principles?
10. Why do we chant Hare Krsna?
11. What is the position of the GBC Body?
12. Explain the difference between the body and the self.
13. What is ISKCON, and why should one remain in ISKCON?
14. Have you read the paper "Harmonizing ISKCON's Lines of Authority"? What have you understood as the most important points of the "Harmonizing ISKCON's Lines of Authority" paper? **(Ref. http://www.jayapatakaswamioffice.com/?page_id=3206)**
15. Have you read GBC Resolution 303/2013: GBC Statement on the Position of Srila Prabhupada? **(Ref. http://www.jayapatakaswamioffice.com/?page_id=3206)**

N.B. These questions are to be answered and duly checked and marked by the local temple president, BV/yatra leader, authorized initiation coordinator from the local ISKCON temple. However you can also send a copy to the office for reference.

Only the first page (recommendation with biodata) is to be sent to JPS office to this email id <jpsofficedatabase@gmail.com>

Jayapataka Swami

Guru-Asraya Questionnaire

(A PRACTICAL QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE COMPLETED BY JAYAPATAKA SWAMI'S CANDIDATES FOR TAKING SHELTER OF THE SPIRITUAL MASTER.)

{Note to Temple President: This can be submitted in writing or verbally with answers written down by someone else. Local leaders can help in explaining the points. This is to help candidates understand the meaning of shelter and to help Jayapataka Swami understand the candidate's realizations and attitudes better.}

Note to Shelter Candidate: You have requested shelter from Jayapataka Swami desiring to accept him as your Spiritual Master. Jayapataka Swami would like to know you better and thus what help you need in your spiritual life. He also wants to insure that you are clear about what it means to accept a Spiritual Master since it is a serious decision. For these reasons kindly answer the following questions as best you can from your own understanding and realizations. This is not a graded exam and is used only for reference and information.

1. Do you understand that accepting Guru-Asraya or Shelter from Srila Jayapataka Swami signifies preparing to accept him as your Diksa (initiating) Guru and formal Siksa Guru? Were you previously an "aspirant" or "siksa" disciple, if yes since when? Is this your own personal desire to accept shelter and prepare for initiation? Why is this an important decision for you?
2. Does your local authority know about your decision to request shelter and given approval for your request for shelter and to chant the guru's pranam mantra? Were you under the shelter of another guru prior to this? If so, have you sought his blessings for changing to Srila Jayapataka Swami?
3. Why do you desire to accept the spiritual shelter of Srila Jayapataka Swami? What inspires your faith most to accept his guidance and to establish an eternal guru-disciple relationship?
4. Why do you believe that accepting shelter of a spiritual master and preparing to accept initiation is an authorized process? Kindly explain why if possible giving any sadhu, sastra or guru reference.
5. What is the goal you want to achieve through devotional service and by accepting shelter of a guru? How strong is your desire for obtaining your desired objective? How do you feel the Spiritual Master can help you?
6. Do you accept His Divine Grace Jayapataka Swami as a bona fide representative of Srila Prabhupada and link to Lord Sri Krishna Caitanya Mahaprabhu's disciplic succession? If yes, explain why you personally believe this.
7. What are the Bhagavad Gita's instructions in regard to the proper manner of approaching and dealing with a spiritual master? How do you intend to follow these instructions?
8. How often should a disciple chant the pranam mantra of the spiritual master every day? When do you intend to chant and pray to the Spiritual Master? Do you know or have both mantras of the pranam mantra (obeisance prayer) of His Divine Grace Srila Jayapataka Swami?
9. A disciple should worship the Spiritual Master daily and beg forgiveness for any offenses and for blessings. Are you able and determined to do this? What arrangement do you have for this?
10. Maintaining and increasing one's faith and devotion towards the Spiritual Master is an essential aspect of devotional service. Yet, practically a Spiritual Master may often not be in the same physical location as the disciple. How do you intend to maintain and increase your faith and devotion towards your Spiritual Master and enhance your remembrance and appreciation of the Spiritual Master when he is physically distant? How confident are you of maintaining a strong faith in and relationship with the Spiritual Master?
11. By what means and how often do you intend to keep the spiritual master informed of your spiritual progress, personal sadhana, well-being, activities? (In person, email, letters?)
12. Clearing away doubts is essential for spiritual advancement. Initially devotees try to clear up doubts from senior god-brothers/god-sisters/devotees and local spiritual authorities. However, if there is a

- doubt which you cannot resolve through inquiry from your local spiritual authorities what will you do? When would you ask the spiritual master for guidance and how will you contact him?
13. Initiated devotees and devotees who have accepted shelter of the Spiritual Master are to offer their devotional service to Lord Krishna through the Spiritual Master and through him, the disciplic succession. Are you prepared to do this? If yes, how do you intend to do so practically?
 14. Sometimes the spiritual master directly trains a disciple, but usually basic training is given through the Temple President, Nama Hatta leaders or another senior devotees. What is your realization regarding this? What do you want to learn from the instructing spiritual master? Are you prepared to be tested by the spiritual master?
 15. Is it proper Vaishnava etiquette to first consult with the spiritual master and take his permission prior to making a serious final decision in one's life (leaving or joining a temple, marriage, etc.)? Kindly explain. If yes, do you intend to follow this?
 16. Kindly explain your feelings or realizations on the importance of being dedicated to serving Srila Prabhupada and being in His Divine Grace's branch of the disciplic succession. Why is being a part of ISKCON important?
 17. Someone under shelter of a Spiritual Master has an important relationship with the guru. However it is a trial and preparatory period until one decides to accept initiation which is a permanent commitment. Are you prepared to follow the etiquette with the Spiritual Master? If something ever negatively affects your faith in guru or Krishna are you committed to discussing this with the Spiritual Master prior to making any decision which would affect your devotional service? Why should one do this?
 18. What is the correct attitude one should have with ISKCON's spiritual authorities (Temple Presidents, etc.)? Do you know the process for resolving any disagreements with the local authorities through his superior authorities?
 19. Is it important to maintain spiritual association with Krishna conscious devotees? If yes, why do you believe this? How will you stay in association?
 20. Explain when you chant your rounds of Hare Krishna maha mantra in the day? What is your normal daily schedule of spiritual and practical activities? Do you live in the Temple or in your house? If outside temple, do you belong to a Nama Hatta? How often do you visit the temple and attend Nama Hatta meetings? In what ways do you intend to improve your devotional service, if any?
 21. Do you believe that one should be fully absorbed and involved in Krishna consciousness? If yes, why is it important for you to render devotional service upto your maximum capacity? How fully are you engaged now and kindly explain if you intend to improve your involvement in any way?
 22. Is preaching Krishna consciousness an important service? If so, how can you benefit spiritually from preaching and helping others to be Krishna conscious? What preaching do you do at present or intend to do?
 23. Krishna consciousness is a combination of Bhakti (devotion and spiritual emotion) and Vedanta (transcendental knowledge). To what extent do you get inspiration from the Bhakti and to what extent from the Vedanta aspects of devotional service? How satisfied are you with your Krishna conscious experience? How hopeful do you feel for the future? What obstacles challenge you the most?

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