

PRABHUPADA SAGDE, AT VERSENE FRA BHAGAVAD-GITA SKULLE FORBLIVE, SOM DE OPRINDELIGT VAR

Locanananda Dasa:

“On December 24, 1969, Srila Prabhupada met in Boston with a group of devotees who were working on his publications at ISKCON Press. During the meeting, he gave his disciples guidelines for writing articles for Back to Godhead magazine and then took the opportunity to discuss his plans for publishing the complete Bhagavad-Gita As It Is. Present at that meeting were Satsvarupa, Pradyumna, Hayagriva, Kirtanananda, Jayadvaita and Brahmananda. An excerpt from the transcript of their discussion shown below reveals how Srila Prabhupada reached the decision to use the same verses exactly as they appeared in the abridged MacMillan Gita to produce the complete, revised and enlarged edition of the Bhagavad-gita As It Is.

When the subject of the Bhagavad-gita is raised in the conversation, Hayagriva first notes that the wording of the verses had been touched up by MacMillan’s own professional editors to improve their readability. Srila Prabhupada then suggests that to prepare the complete edition of the Bhagavad-gita, they should use the verses just as they appeared in the abridged MacMillan Gita. He clearly does not recommend any further editing of the verses. He and his staff seem to be very satisfied with the translation of the verses already in print. Then, whatever purports had been left out of the abridged edition would be added back, and, to make it complete, Pradyumna, his Sanskrit editor, would add the transliteration of the verses and their word meanings. In a nutshell, this was Srila Prabhupada’s plan to assemble and publish the much awaited complete edition of the Bhagavad-gita As It Is.

Conversation of December 24, 1969 with BTG and Book Production Staff in Boston

HAYAGRIVA: I know the translations themselves, they were somewhat changed in Bhagavad-gita As It Is as it came out in MacMillan (the abridged edition). Did you like those translations?

PRABHUPADA: Whichever is better, you think. That’s all. You can follow this MacMillan.

HAYAGRIVA: They’re good. I think they’re very good.

PRABHUPADA: Yes. You can follow that translation. Simply synonyms he can add, transliterations.

HAYAGRIVA: And we have all the purports. We can include everything. Nothing will be deleted. Everything will be in there.

PRABHUPADA: That’s all right.

Having settled the issue, Srila Prabhupada would thereafter never recommend that the verses of the Bhagavad-gita be changed in any way.”