

# GBC Does Not Mean to Control a Center

BY: MAHESH RAJA

**Jan 20, UK (SUN) — Hearing from Srila Prabhupada on the incorporation issue.**

**February 14, 1972 Letter to Hansadutta:**

Please accept my blessings. I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 29 January, 1972, and I am very pleased to note that you are so enthusiastic to push on Krishna Consciousness and follow yourself very faithfully the regulative principles chalked out by our great predecessors. If you simply go on in this way, everything will come out successful, that we are seeing practically. So as GBC you must see to it that the highest standards of routine work are maintained throughout all the centers, and that chanting, rising early, cleansing, and all other aspects of our regular program may not be neglected. That is our first business. **GBC men should not dictate very much, simply supervise and see that the standards are maintained.** The individual presidents should be more managerial, more individual, and you can supervise, and if some defect is detected, you can make suggestions how to correct it. But if we lose individuality and simply become mechanical, what is the point?

**August 12, 1971 Letter to Giriraja:**

**GBC does not mean to control a center. GBC means to see that the activities of a center go on nicely. I do not know why Tamala is exercising his absolute authority.** That is not the business of GBC. The president, treasurer and secretary are responsible for managing the center. **GBC is to see that things are going nicely but not to exert absolute authority. That is not in the power of GBC.** Tamala should not do like that. The GBC men cannot impose anything on the men of a center without consulting all of the GBC members first. A GBC member cannot go beyond the jurisdiction of his power. We are in the experimental stage but in the next meeting of the GBC members they should form a constitution how the GBC members manage the whole affair. **But it is a fact that the local president is not under the control of the GBC.** Yes, for improvement of situations such as this I must be informed of everything.

**May 18, 1976 Letter to Gurukrpa:**

Please accept my blessings. I have spoken with Sukadeva das Adhikari, the Honolulu Temple President. It appears that because you had made some derogatory racial remarks against him in the presence of other devotees here in the temple, it has become difficult to manage and win the respect of this devotees. **If the GBC undermines the efforts of the temple presidents how will things go on smoothly.** This situation could have been avoided by sober dealings in a Krsna Conscious manner. I do not want that Sukadeva be removed from his position as I can see that he is sincerely following the principles at present. **The GBC can not whimsically change the temple president, there is a resolution to this effect. Why have you threatened to remove him and unnecessarily created this situation? Please be very sober in your dealings with these temple presidents, they are undoubtedly rendering a valuable service and are worthy of respect and encouragement.**

**May 19, 1976 Letter to All Governing Board Commissioners:**

So I request you to relieve me of management responsibilities more and more so that I can complete the Srimad-Bhagavatam translation. If I am always having to manage, then I cannot do my work on the books. It is document, I have to choose each word very soberly and if I have to think of management then I cannot do this. I cannot be like these rascals who present something mental concoction to cheat the public. So this task will not be finished without the cooperation of my appointed assistants, the GBC, temple presidents, and sannyasis. **I have chosen my best men to be GBC and I do not want that the GBC should be disrespectful to the temple presidents.** You can naturally consult me, but if the basic principle is weak, how will things go on? So please assist me in the management so that I can be free to finish the Srimad-Bhagavatam which will be our lasting contribution to the world.

**March 27, 1975 Room Conversation, Mayapur:**

Prabhupada: Just like... **But the thing is, if the GBC and the president is the same man, that is not good. That is not good. The president should be separate. So the president, treasurer and secretary, they will deal directly, and GBC should inspect book, account, that it is done very nicely. That's all. You can question, "Why you have done this?" That's nice. Otherwise, in the..., it will be difficult to manage.**

**November 7, 1974 Letter to Rupanuga:**

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N.B. Regarding replacing Abhirama and Damodara **I refer to the "Direction of Management" as follows: "Removal of a Temple President by GBC requires support by the local Temple members."** Therefore you should take a vote of the Temple members and do the needful. A. C. B.S.