



ISKCON - DUTCH NATIONAL COUNCIL

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Stichter-acarya: Zijne Goddelijke Genade A.C.
Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

DNC meeting September 26th 10.00
Zoom Meeting ID: 875 9161 3037. Passcode: 536016

Present: HG Madhu Sevita pr, HG Hrdaya Caitanya pr, HG Narayani dd, HG Janakinatha pr, HG Sri Krishna pr, HG Sandhya dd, HG Toshna Krishna pr, Saraswati dd

Guest: HG Arcita dd

Absent: HG Vidjay pr

1. 10.00 Start meeting, prayers
2. 10.05 Caitanya Caritamrta
3. 10.10 Notes previous meeting

We did not have them on hand although they actually had been sent, but they will be dealt with during the next meeting

4. 10.15 Chanting at Events

Objections had been raised by Saraswati dd to the chanting during a demonstration called Samen Nederland which was a protest against the Corona measures imposed by the Government. Her argument, which was supported by several other devotees was that this program certainly had the potential to influence how people perceive us on a national level seen all the press present and should thus have been discussed with the DNC and Communications first.

This proved to be true as a newspaper article put our name on the headline of an article in a big local newspaper called Het Parool.

She also complained about the lack of willingness to communicate on this topic by HG Janakinath d

The devotees who organised the chanting, Toshna Krishna and Janakinath prabhus, said their only aim really had been to reach so many people. and that this is justified by Caitanya Caritamrta. Janakinath prabhu said he did not avoid communicating but prefers if communication will go through Rati Manjari concerning Harinamsankirtan.

After more discussion HG Madhu Sevita prabhu gave the following advise:

I will speak about a few principles: The principle that we have to chant anywhere and everywhere has to be taken with a grain of salt. Because Prabhupada himself sometimes said we should not go there. For example: Prabhupada wanted us to participate in certain events

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but if we are not the Prima Donna we do not go there. Also in other circumstances we were told not to go there. We have two divisions:

1. The intention of the devotees (which is good)
2. The perception by the people. For example if there is a demonstration for abortion; we may be seen by people as pro abortion.

So we have to exercise discrimination. If our presence could be seen as supportive of what people demonstrate for we should not go. We have to be careful. And on certain occasions we cannot go. Prabhupada did say that. As far as the article; Krishna's Name was there, yes but it is like if someone spits on Krishna's picture and we say but it is Krishna's picture. But would not it be better if it was an appreciation of Krishna and not a sankirtan like in Harinam Cintamani. Would not it be better if the article was something that could not be misunderstood.?

Prabhupada was angry when some articles came out in India like that. We want to use discrimination. We want to optimise time and energy and get best results.

The final point: if you are going to do something that you are a little doubtful about: what will the others think? Just like in a family: you are going to buy a refrigerator. What will the others think? If it is something that may concern others; it is education. Cooperation is a big word now here. It is education. Politeness. It does not take much to be harmonious all together. On the other hand one should not go with the machine gun; Bhavagrahijanardana; the intention is important. On the other hand, others may have some concern, let's do it. And don't assume anyone that you understand the philosophy so perfectly that I can say: This is a principle and I work on this principle and that's it. As I mentioned, it is not: Prabhupada told us not to go places. So it is not a good enough principle. We have to be careful. That's all. Hare Krishna.

5. 10.45 Proposal Mantrini dd Dutch Initiation Course

HH Kadamba Kanana maharaja requested us to arrange for an online Initiation course in Dutch. Anupam Krishna prabhu was approached by Mantrini dd to give this course but he himself declined. Also certain certificate is required to give the course. It was decided that we will ask HG Premanjana das and HG Subhadra dd to give this course online. They will come to Holland in November.

Narayani mataji requested us to plan these courses ahead of time so people can plan to take it.

6. 11.15 Complaint Bhakti Nieuwsbrief by Tarunyamrita dd and proposal Benelux meeting

A letter of complaint came from HG Tarunyamrita mataji who is the editor in chief of the Bhakti Newsletter online. Rasa Manjari dd who is the editor of the newsletter some years ago requested the newsletter to be an independent publication under the flag of ISKCON which already at that time had not been granted. The GBC wanted it to remain under the National Council. For quite some time it however continued under the supervision of HG

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Tarunyamrita dd and HG Guru Padma prabhu. However, they now complain that Rasa Manjari dd does not hear them when they ask for something to be taken out or changed or when they want something published. They want Rasa Manjari to be removed as the editor.

Hrdaya Caitanya prabhu explained that the present situation is not desirable at all because we cannot have an independent newsletter that bears the name of ISKCON. Fortunately no very bad article has appeared yet that we would have to fight over.

The question arose: What do we want with the newsletter? What are the options?

Janikinath suggested we could have a page on HareKrishna.nl where devotees can write what they wish to express after some editing if they do not write so good. At the same time we could look for devotees who are good writers and publish that on the website as well. In that case there would be no more need for a newsletter. One problem now is the articles sent in by devotees are not published or only partly published as in a professional newspaper.

Sandhya dd suggests that we can come up with a list of people who can write from our own group that we could then choose from. They could send in their CV. We could communicate in our community that we are looking for writers and they can apply.

Narayani dd: We can temporarily stop the KBN until the website can function well in this matter. It is good for Communications to come with a solution. There are a lot of devotees who can write. If we cannot find a short term solution then we should skip until the end of the year.. Temporarily no newsletter. We have to communicate with each other that is the main thing.

Toshna Krishna: I think we should first write a letter to Rasa Manjari mataji and explain what our stand is from the DNC and maybe that she will decide to listen to Tarunyamrita dd and Guru Padma prabhu. To tell her what is requested by the DNC I think that should be the first step before the next one.

Saraswati dd: In the letter we read that she has been asked several times already to comply but she refused.

Janakinath also agrees this should be the first step.

Narayani: We can send the letter but do not let it drag again for several months.

Madhu Sevita prabhu: Let's go through proper procedure Let's inform her that we have had this complaint, that after evaluation we find it is valid, grounded, let her give feedback on it and if she does not want to comply, then Hare Krishna. We follow the procedure otherwise people will say that they kick people out so easily.

It was decided that the chairman will write a letter to first be seen by the other members before it will be sent.

7. 11.35 Evaluation program Haastrecht and proposal new program

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This agenda point was postponed to the next meeting because of lack of time.

8. 11.45 Introduction Arcita dd apprentice Communications for Social Media

Arcita dd introduced herself; she is a 3rd year Communications student and will spend 5 months full time working on making a Social Media plan etc. which will be of course presented to the National Council as it unfolds.

HG Madhu Sevita prabhu leaves the meeting.

Time for questions:

Narayani mataji proposes for bhakta Sharma Badal to be initiated by HH Lokanath swami.. There are no objections. Recommendation letter will be written.

Janakinath pr: Gangadhara prabhu is at the end of his life, he is in a hospice. He received a letter from the gbc that he is reinstated in ISKCON as was his desire. Please keep him in your prayers.

Narayani dd: Statuten van de stichting ISKCON zijn klaar. Kunnen we die behandelen? The statutes of stichting Iskcon are ready. Can we proceed with that?

Hridaya Caitanya prabhu . We first need to have a pre meeting with Anupam, Saraswati and myself to see if there are any obstacles left. Then we can determine how much time we will need for a meeting. It is decided that we will first hold that meeting and then report back to the DNC.

Toshan Krishna pr: Volgend weekend zaterdag en zondag zijn er twee activiteiten; Een symposium van Parliament World Religions waar we kirtan houden en prasadam verzorgen. Zondag is er een Dharma walk georganiseerd door de eigenaar van de zaal waar Janmastami was gehouden. Beide activiteiten worden gedeeld op de DNC app. Next weekend Saturday and Sunday there are two activities planned; 1 is a symposium of the Parliament of World Religions where we will chant and preparee luch prasadam. 2 is a Dharma walk on Sunday. This has been organised by the owner of the hall where we held Janmastami.

Saraswati dd: Please share both activities on the DNC app. These are interesting activities to share on the website and I hope that Arcita dd will help us take a big step towards sharing and inetraction etc so that we can move forward in unity in diversity.

Hridaya Caitanya prabhu: Charity starts at home; If we give the good example of cooperating nicely as leaders then that example will be followed.

Jaya!

The next DNC meeting is on the 31st of October.

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