

March 8, 2020
Śrī Gaura Pūrṇimā

Bhaktivedanta Book Trust International, Incorporated
Directors and/or Board Members and/or Trustees

Jaya Śrī Śrī Guru Gaurāṅga!

To Whom It May Concern:

Late last October, I informally requested, via a brief email without any explanation, access to the original sources for the *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* from which any BBT editor has ever worked for producing later versions. And just yesterday, your secretary informs me that "the BBT trustees" voted on whether or not to grant me access, and received the following words:

"The BBT trustees discussed Garuda Prabhu's request on 29 October 2019. The majority were not in favor of sharing the Caitanya-caritamrita original transcripts."

I apologize for not making it clear why I requested access. And thus I'm writing to you now to have you reconsider, given that I'm being clearer and disclosing my purposes and motives fully in doing so.

The purpose of this email-letter is to make a more formal request to access the original sources from which any BBT editor has ever worked for the editing or revising or making any changes whatsoever to Śrīla Prabhupāda's *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta*, published by the BBT in 1975.

My need for access to these original sources is two-fold: It is for both personal-devotional and scholarly-theological purposes. Speaking to the personal-devotional purpose, it is important for you to know that as a disciple of Śrīla Prabhupāda for forty-eight years, the *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* has been and continues to be my most precious Vaishnava scripture from which I have constantly drawn personal inspiration since its original publication. I read from it constantly and take shelter of its words. I feel closest to Śrīla Prabhupāda when I read it, and thus it is an essential part of my *sādhana*.

As a trained textual scholar in classical and medieval bhakti texts, and as one who has and continues to be involved in publishing others' books and my own with some of the finest academic and trade publishers, I urgently need to know what Śrīla Prabhupāda's original gift of the *Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta* is, without any modifications or editorial alterations whatsoever. I want to refer to the authentic sources for my academic

research, writing, and publishing. I've been studying the nature of Śrīla Prabhupāda's writing for many years, and have written on his writings and published professional articles on it since 1998. I was especially looking at Śrīla Prabhupāda's works when advising Tamal Krishna Goswami during his doctoral work at the University of Cambridge. And for completing the requirements for my first of three master's degrees, I wrote a master's thesis based on Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami's great work, which was sent directly to Śrīla Prabhupāda in August of 1977 for his blessings.

I share some of this history with you to make it abundantly clear what my interests and motives are. And to allay any concerns or fears that may exist otherwise on your part, I am prepared, if need be, to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely and with my respectful pranamas,



Graham M. Schweig, PhD / Garuda Das

Distinguished Research & Teaching Faculty

Senior Editor, *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*

The Mira & Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies

The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

Professor of Religion

Director of Studies in Religion

Department of Philosophy & Religion

Christopher Newport University, Virginia

Director of Theology

Avanti Schools Trust Schools

Edgware, United Kingdom