

# The Avanti PRE Curriculum

## Exercise Sheet 7.4.3c(2)

### “What Srila Prabhupada Taught”

Srila Prabhupada based his own teachings on Lord Chaitanya’s philosophy (and the instructions of his own guru) . Here are some things he taught:

#### **(1) God is a person**

The Supreme Person on Krishna, along with his consort (girlfriend) called Radha. Srila Prabhupada did not agree with belief in a God that is only non-personal, a kind of all-pervading energy. (You might remember a previous lesson, last half-term, on this very same subject).

#### **(2) Everyone can know God, especially through:**

- (a) Chanting the Hare Krishna mantra
- (b) Worship of the deity (murti), in the home and temple

Like Chaitanya before him, Srila Prabhupada did not agree with the Hindu caste system; nor did he believe that you must be born a Hindu. He therefore accepted students were not from a Hindu background. He often reminded people that “I am not this body”. For this reason, he considered everyone to be equal, despite differences in age, race, species, gender, religion, ability, nationality and so on.

#### **(3) The guru (spiritual teacher) must have integrity.**

The genuine guru “practices what he/she teaches” .

Srila Prabhupada taught that the spiritual teacher should love Krishna and be free of selfish habits. His disciples (students) followed four rules;

- (a) Eat only vegetarian food
- (b) Do not gamble
- (c) Take neither drugs nor alcoholic drink
- (d) Have sex and children only inside marriage

He taught that all religious teachers should follow these or similar rules.

If you have time, you might also learn that Srila Prabhupada taught:

#### **(4) Krishna is everyone’s best friend** (we tend to create our own unhappiness)

#### **(5) All religions are good** if (a) they aim to know/love God (2) people actually follow them.