**Are You Ready for Initiation?**

*If you would like to be initiated, the following will serve as a checklist.*

**For at least the past year, you have been:**

- Generally steady in your *sādhana* and service.

- Completing your sixteen rounds daily (or if not, making them up the next day).

- Following the four regulative principles well.

- Making an effort to avoid the Ten Offenses while chanting *japa*.

- Rising early enough to have sufficient time for *sādhana* before your day begins (exceptions may be that your work starts very early, but then you dedicate another time of the day to your *sādhana*).

- Regularly attending classes, programs and/or festivals (if you don’t live near a temple, these can be done online).

- Regularly listening to classes by Mahātmā Prabhu, and regularly listening to classes by Śrīla Prabhupāda.

- Doing service, either at home or at your local center (unless circumstantially you are too busy with school or work, handicapped, etc.).

- Having a ‘spiritual guide’ (mentor) with whom you are in regular contact (could be your spiritual master, Bhakti-Vṛkṣa leader, temple authority, or mentor in person/online).

**In addition:**

- You have read all the books Mahātmā Prabhu requested you to read in the documents you received when you first asked to be a disciple.

- You have listened to/taken the courses Mahātmā Prabhu requested you to take in the documents you received when you first asked to be a disciple.

- You are determined to uphold the principles and practices of Kṛṣṇa consciousness through the ups and downs of your life.

- Your relationships with other devotees are good.

- Your faith in Śrīla Prabhupāda is deepening.

- You are helping make ISKCON better despite its problems.

If you have any emotional issues, addictions, psychological/mental problems, or other material issues or circumstances that would pose a problem in properly following the above practices, we would recommend you get help to resolve these issues.

**Conclusion**

If you cannot follow all of these, either for internal or external reasons, then please discuss with your mentor and/or with us to see how this can be dealt with. Before taking initiation, you should have been following these practices for a long enough period of time that makes you confident that you can stick to these practices fairly well throughout your life. In other words, initiation is not just to be taken as an impetus to follow your principles and practices, but more so it is a confirmation that you are following the above principles and will continue to do so throughout your life.