



Is Lord Jesus Christ an Incarnation of God?

So we, Vaisnavite, we respect Lord Buddha as incarnation, incarnation. So do not think that the Hindus, they have got disregard for Lord Buddha or for Lord Jesus Christ. No. They have all regard. Anyone who comes as representative of God, or as God, as powerful incarnation, they are all welcome. According to time, according to place, according to the audience, they may speak, speak something which is, which may be different from the Vedic conclusion, but they are accepted as powerful incarnations.

And then there is sakyavesa-avatara. Sakyavesa-avatara, they are counted just like Lord Buddha, Jesus Christ. They are counted amongst the sakyavesavataras. They are also incarnation of sakyavesavataras, powerful. In this way the Supreme Lord manifests all over the universes. There are innumerable universes, and some of His incarnation are working always.

So therefore, by that symptom, we accept Lord Jesus Christ as sakyavesa avatara, or Hazrat Muhammad, he's also. Because these two religious leaders of the world, they preached about the glorification of the Supreme Lord. And they sacrificed everything for preaching the glories of the Lord. Therefore... And their influence and their followers, there are... These are the symptoms by which we can understand that Jesus Christ and Hazrat Muhammad was, were sakyavesa avataras.

Lord Buddha is Krsna, Lord Jesus Christ was Krsna incarnation, but they were preaching to a different type of people. Therefore you'll find difference of Lord Jesus Christ teaching, Buddha's teaching, Krsna's teaching.

Guest (1): May I ask a question, Prabhupada? Something that I've wondered about, perhaps you could explain it briefly. I believe that Krsna is the Supreme God, so don't get me wrong, but since you mentioned Christ, was he an incarnation of Krsna? Was Jesus Christ sent here by Krsna from...

Prabhupada: He says that he is son of God; that is accepted.

Guest (1): Krsna was Christ's father then.

Devotee: Yes.

Prabhupada: No, Krsna is father, and Christ is the son.

Guest (1): I understand it now. I just wondered.

Prabhupada: He said "I am son of God." Yes.

Guest (1): And when he spoke of his father in heaven, he was speaking of Krsna.

Prabhupada: That is, yes.

Guest (1): I understand. It all fits together now.

Indian man (7): Swamiji, how could you convince these Christian people that Christ was the son of God, or Krsna was the...

Prabhupada: Christ says himself that "I am the son of God." (laughter)

Indian man (7): Many Christians, they do not...

Prabhupada: Many Christians also... There are so many Christian editions. That is another thing.

Bali-mardana: We have accepted.

Prabhupada: But all these Christians, they all my students, they are coming from Christian. How they accept Krsna as the father?

Guest (1): Prabhupada, did Christ return to the spiritual planets then, when he left the earth, to be with Krsna?

Prabhupada: He is coming from spiritual planets. He is authorized representative of Krsna, we accept him as saktyavesa-avatara. So I was invited in some priestly meeting in Melbourne, they asked me the question, "What is your opinion of Christ?" So I said "He's our guru." (laughter) Actually, we accept him as our guru. He's preaching God's message; he's Vaisnava. Anyone who accepts God, he's Vaisnava. He was explaining kingdom of God, God. So according to time, circumstances, audience... Now we can just imagine what kind of people he had to deal with, that his commandment is "Thou shall not kill." Then understand how much they were accustomed to killing. So what kind of men they were? And not only that, in spite of hearing his instruction "Thou shall not kill," they killed him first. So what kind of men they were, just imagine. He said, "Thou shall not kill," and they decided, "We shall kill you first." So this class of men he had to deal with.

Guest (1): What would happen to the people that killed Christ on the cross? Very bad, it seems.

Prabhupada: :Christ cannot be killed, but they killed themselves.

Devotee (3): So we read that Christ said "I and my father are one," so they say therefore Christ is Krsna, so therefore Krsna can't be God.

Prabhupada: "One" means in quality. And in the Vedic literature we say aham brahmasmi. That means we are one in quality. Brahma-bhuta prasannaatma. So now we are material-bhuta, jiva-bhuta. When we realize that "I am not this body. I am spirit soul, I am part and parcel of God," that is brahma-bhuta. Then bhakti begins.

1) Yes, the message of Jesus is universally applicable. Why not? Jesus says, 'Thou shalt not kill.' This is applicable to all. But all Christians are violating this law. So where is a Christian? In my opinion there is not a single Christian. Do they follow all ten commandments? 2) We accept Jesus Christ as saktyavesa-avatara, an empowered incarnation of God. 3) The Bible should be accepted literally and not symbolically. There is no symbolical meaning of the sacrifice on the cross. The people were so rascal. They attempted to kill him because he was speaking of God. We can understand the position of that society. He had to deal with such rascals. He preached 'Thou shalt not kill,' and they killed him. The argument that Jesus died to redeem us of sins is simply another sinful argument. That Jesus has taken contract to redeem your sins is simply a plea of the sinners. They continue sinning and expect Christ to take the contract to freedom. It is most sinful. Instead of actually stopping sins, they contract with Jesus Christ. These people should be immediately hanged. That way our..., they say, 'That way our religion is very good. We cannot stop sinning, but it is okay because Christ has taken contract to save us.' It is the same as saying 'I am chanting Hare Krsna now. I can do any

nonsense.' That is known as nama-aparadha, offenses to the holy name of the Lord. 4) Regarding Christ coming again, for the time being, you follow his instructions. Then if he comes it will be all right. Regarding the position of our movement if Christ were to come again, that we shall see when he comes. `The end of the world' means that the world will be devastated. Just like you have a body and it will be finished, similarly the whole world body will be devastated. Creation, maintenance and annihilation. Nasa in Sanskrit means devastated. 5) There is no difference between a pure Christian and a sincere devotee of Krsna. 6) Everything is accurately described in the Bhagavata Mahapurana. Love of God means God's mercy. If God is pleased, He will do anything. The pleasure of God can be awarded by God. In Sanskrit it is described krpa-siddhi, perfection out of mercy. One must follow the four regulative principles-no eating meat, fish or eggs; no intoxication; no gambling; and no illicit sex life. Repent of all sinful activities and depend on Krsna's mercy. Hoping this meets you well, your ever well-wisher, A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami."

Giriraja: Very nice. Actually, about two years ago there was a propaganda in the West that if you are afraid of sinning, then it means that you don't have full faith in Jesus Christ. Because he has promised to accept your sinful reactions. So therefore if you sin, then it means that you have full faith that he will accept the reaction.

Tamala Krsna: Prabhupada said those people should be hanged immediately.

Prabhupada: When the Bible has said, that after death one goes to hell or heaven? If Jesus Christ has taken a contract, then where is the question of going to hell?

Tamala Krsna: Well, that is for people who don't sign the contract with him. That is what they say. As long as you say that you accept Jesus, then you are going to heaven for sure.

Prabhupada: So then Jesus Christ accepted sinful reaction of a certain class of men. He is not universal.

Tamala Krsna: Only those who accept him.

Giriraja: That means the Christians.

Tamala Krsna: Right. And anyone who was born before Jesus, he is doomed.

Prabhupada: Just see. This is their great philosophy.

Tamala Krsna: Great philosophy.

Giriraja: So this point was an embarrassment for the Christian theologians, because people would say, "Well, what about great philosophers like Socrates and Plato who lived before Jesus? They are also damned to suffer in hell?" So this question was very perplexing. It was hard for them to condemn that they are all burning in hell. I mean, actually they have no philosophy at all.

Prabhupada: All nonsense.

Tamala Krsna: That is why we rejected our so-called religious heritage. We could see that there was no substance to it. And the leaders were just like normal debauchees of any other groups. They weren't spiritual. I used to remember seeing the priests and the rabbis getting drunk, smoking cigarettes, talking nonsense just like everybody else. There was no difference except for the dress.

Prabhupada: This is everywhere. In India also.

Prabhupada: That I am realizing, that Krsna pushed, dragged me through all circumstances, that "These are useless." Niskincanasya bhagavad-bhajanonmukha... That is required. Just like Jagai and Madhai. They were made to promise, "No more." "Yes sir, no more." "Then I accept you. That's all right." "No." And they made it, kept their promise. They became faithful.

Tamala Krsna: Actually you also demand of us that promise. "Now whatever you have done, never mind, but no more. Follow these four principles." That means if the devotees don't follow, then they will not make advancement.

Prabhupada: They are breaking their promise. Before accepting them, I make him promise. They promise it. If they break, what can I do?

Tamala Krsna: Then the connection, the contract is finished.

Prabhupada: This should be the principle. "No more this." Then he becomes fit. Ara nahe vakya.

Tamala Krsna: Therefore accepting initiation is a serious matter.

Prabhupada: Initiation means seriously take up the...

Tamala Krsna: Vow.

Prabhupada: And if you make it a fun business, then I become implicated, you become implicated.

Tamala Krsna: In what way does the spiritual master become...?

Prabhupada: Well, this is then something.(?)

Tamala Krsna: He has to work very hard on behalf of the disciple...

Prabhupada: No. To accept his sinful reaction.

Tamala Krsna: He does that?

Prabhupada: It is not easy job to become a spiritual master. Yes. Then when it is overloaded, you'll suffer.

Tamala Krsna: Krsna transfers the sinful reaction unto the spiritual master from the disciple.

Prabhupada: Yes.

Tamala Krsna: Why? Is it because there will be such a heavy...?

Prabhupada: Krsna says... That is the principle. This is, aham tvam sarva-papebhyo moksayisyami. "You have to take all the sinful reactions." This is the principle, that Krsna is God. He can nullify everything. But I am not God. When it is overloaded, I have to suffer. This is the principle that the Christian idea that Christ takes.

Tamala Krsna: The trouble with the Christians is that they never relieved Christ. They go on sinning. That's not love.

Prabhupada: Yes. The principle is that the spiritual master takes all the resultant sinful action, but the disciple also says that "Now, stop it. Otherwise my spiritual master..." That is gentleman. And "Now use that thing, go on taking our sinful reaction. We will go on with our own business."

Tamala Krsna: That's not loving at all. That is taking advantage.

Prabhupada: That is cheating.

Tamala Krsna: Cheating.

Prabhupada: The same cheating. And he is not liberated because he continues cheating.

Tamala Krsna: Frankly, though, we can see by Christianity that some defect is there. Either it's probably not there on the part of Jesus. He could have given them a way to purify themselves, but they...

Prabhupada: One chance, that "You have accepted me, I take your all sinful reactions." But these rascals continue.

Tamala Krsna: His point was that "Now you must continue to follow my instructions."

Prabhupada: Yes. Otherwise why ten commandments? And these rascals took it that "I shall not follow any of you. You take our sinful reaction. It is very good religion."

Tamala Krsna: And therefore they say no one is more merciful than Jesus.

Prabhupada: Yes.

Tamala Krsna: Even if... We are doing anything, but he still forgives us.

Prabhupada: This is going on. Therefore according to history, he retired. That is resurrection. He went to Kashmir. "It is hopeless."

Tamala Krsna: He didn't die on the cross.

Prabhupada: It is not possible to kill him. Such a great personality, representative of God, he is not killed. That is not possible.

Tamala Krsna: Simply by putting some wounds.

Prabhupada: He made a show that "I am killed." That is resurrection. And when you finished your business, then he will go (indistinct).

Tamala Krsna: Yeah, they say that when he got down they rubbed his body with oils.

Prabhupada: He was a great yogi and so on.

Tamala Krsna: You remember in that book you were reading, The Aquarian Gospel. It mentioned how he learned yoga when he came to India.

Prabhupada: We admit. Guru Maharaja said saktyavesa-avatara, powerful incarnation. Therefore whenever there was question of Jesus, I never disrespected Jesus. Never criticized him, because I know that he is powerful representative of God. We took it from Guru Maharaja.

Tamala Krsna: Your Guru Maharaja would sometimes...

Prabhupada: He said that Christ is saktyavesa-avatara, as Buddha. How he can be otherwise? He sacrificed everything for God. He cannot be ordinary man.

Tamala Krsna: You want (indistinct)?

Prabhupada: Hm. That Melbourne meeting, it was... You were present?

Tamala Krsna: No, I heard about it. With the monks, I think.

Prabhupada: They very much appreciated. Because they saw that I have got full respect for Christ and his real disciples. And actually we have. Why not? He said, "Thou shalt not kill," and they are interpreting killing. This is going on. And they are Christians. Just see how much cheating. It is clearly written, "Thou shalt not kill." And their only business is killing, and still, they are Christians. How much cheating it is. Whatever little success is in our movement, the cause is I have not tried to cheat. Honestly, what I knew, I heard it from Guru Maharaja and scripture, I took it. There was no cheating.

Your next question, ``Is a pure devotee eternally liberated and if so is he at any time a conditioned soul? We are eternally conditioned, but as soon as we surrender to Krishna do we then become eternally liberated? When Lord Christ appeared he seemed to be conditioned in his growth. Was he a specific incarnation or a conditioned soul who became liberated?" You are not eternally conditioned. You are eternally liberated but since we have become conditioned on account of our desire to enjoy materialistic way of life, from time immemorial, therefore it appears that we are eternally conditioned. Because we cannot trace out the history or the date when we became conditioned, therefore it is technically called eternally conditioned. Otherwise the living entity is not actually conditioned. A living entity is always pure. But he is prone to be attracted by material enjoyment and as soon as he agrees to place himself in material enjoyment, he becomes conditioned, but that is not permanent. Therefore a living entity is called on the marginal state, sometimes this side, sometimes that side. These are very intelligent questions. And I am very glad that you are putting such intelligent questions and trying to understand it. It is very good. But best thing is that one should know he is in conditioned life and try to cure it. When a man is in diseased condition he should try to get out of diseased condition without harassing his brain when the disease has begun. But it is to be understood that the disease is not our constant companion, it is temporary. So the best thing is to cure the disease, and not waste our time to find out the date when it began. Forgetfulness of Krishna is the disease, so let us keep ourselves always in Krishna Consciousness, and get out of the disease, that is healthy life. Yes, Lord Jesus was jivatattva. He is not Visnu tattva. When a jiva tattva becomes specifically empowered by the Lord, he is called saktyavesa avatara. Lord Buddha and Lord Jesus Christ were in this group of saktyavesa avatara.. But they were not in conditioned state when they appeared; they came to teach here.

I am very glad that the Queen has consented the Redundant Churches Bill, and there is good chance of getting one church for our temple. There are many redundant churches because the Christian people are gradually deviating from their religious beliefs on account of stereotype presentation of the Bible by sophisticated priests. Modern youths are educated in advance, so they are no more interested in repetition of the same static mottos. They want something dynamic, progress in spiritual understanding, but the Christian priests could not satisfy them. In comparison to all these dogmatic principles, our KC movement presents everything in the right perspective, even from scientific and philosophical point of view. So if you can secure one church in England for utilizing in our movement, I think we shall be able to secure many such churches all over the world. We have great respect for Lord Jesus Christ. We accept him as powerful incarnation of Krishna, as much as we accept Lord Buddha. We can adjust the Buddhists, Christians,

and even the Mohammedans to our KC movement, so if the religious heads of these faiths try to understand our philosophy, certainly there will be great impetus in the matter of spiritual rejuvenation of the world. So try to convince the Archbishop of Canterbury and implore him to give us this chance of spreading God-Consciousness in the world's greatest city, London.

Regarding your question about Lord Jesus Christ, we accept him as saktyavesa avatara. Lord Buddha is in the same category also. Lord Buddha is mentioned specifically in Srimad-Bhagavatam as incarnation of Godhead, and yet Vaisnavas do not accept his philosophy, which is classified as atheism. Similarly, even if we accept Lord Jesus Christ as saktyavesa avatara., it doesn't mean that we have to accept his philosophy. But we have all respects for him without fail. Regarding books like Aquarian Gospel or even the Testiments, we cannot accept them as authorities because sometimes it is learnt that the words are not actually spoken by Christ, but they are so set up by the devotees. For example, in the Ten Commandments it is clearly stated ``Thou shalt not kill'', but some Bishop in Boston has changed it to ``Thou shalt do no murder''. This means the Bishop wants to keep hold for animal slaughter. So don't bother about all these literatures. We have all respect for these great preachers, but we do not require to study books save and accept for some reference. We must push on our philosophy how to love God. Our process is simple. We have got volumes of books also, so it is better for us to mind our own business than to divert our attention in the studies of other books. This was definitely forbidden by Lord Caitanya.

After all, Krishna Consciousness philosophy is as old as 120 million years at the least. So nothing can be compared with our philosophy either in the matter of antiquity, philosophy, ethics, science, morality, etc., all in correct vision and approved by great stalwart acaryas. So far others are concerned, they cannot be compared even. For example, if Lord Jesus Christ said ``Thou shalt not kill'', or ``Thou shalt do no murder'' to the people, it does not reflect very good social structure of the audience. Our philosophy is above all these things. Just like we prescribe to our students no illicit sex-life, no meat-eating, no intoxication, no gambling, but they are not ends in themselves. The real end is how to serve Krishna and sacrifice everything for Him. And to learn this transcendental art we have got so many volumes of books. So the summary is that instead of diverting our attention to read such unauthorized books, better pay our attention to more authorized Vaisnava literature. These scriptures of the Buddhists and the Christians may be the words of God, but still they are not always applicable to us. It is just like a king may give some rules and regulations for some criminals in prison; but for the good citizens out of the prison these rules are not necessarily applicable. So these Christian and Buddhist scriptures were delivered for a different class of men, and we needn't spend our time in studying their doctrines. You should read our own books over and over again and as far as possible do not try to enter into controversy. We do not concern ourselves with any other religion. Our religion is to become the servant of the servant of Krishna.

Who is authority? Authority is Krsna and, or God, or His representative. Just like Lord Jesus Christ, he's representative of God. So he's authority. Similarly, any authorized incarnation. But that incarnation will never say that "I am God." "I am servant of God"-that is his representation. He'll never say, "I am God." That makes confirmation that he's representative of God. So he is authority, who does not say that "I am God," but he says, "I am servant of God. I am son of God. I am devotee of God." He is representative, real representative. So we have to hear from him.

This is the sentiment of Vaisnava. They cannot see the suffering humanity. They always try to reform them and to get them as... Not only the devotees; the Lord also, He is so compassionate He sends His son, His most confidential son, Jesus Christ. He comes Himself, He sends His incarnation, He sends His knowledge. Just like this Bhagavad-gita is knowledge. He speaks Himself about this knowledge. His representatives are there by disciplic succession. So we can take advantage of all these things. Still, there is Krsna.

Still there is speaking Krsna and His representative, and everything is there. Simply we have to take advantage. That's all. But the spell of maya is so strong that it does not allow.

So we, Vaisnavite, we respect Lord Buddha as incarnation, incarnation. So do not think that the Hindus, they have got disregard for Lord Buddha or for Lord Jesus Christ. No. They have all regard. Anyone who comes as representative of God, or as God, as powerful incarnation, they are all welcome. According to time, according to place, according to the audience, they may speak, speak something which is, which may be different from the Vedic conclusion, but they are accepted as powerful incarnations.