

RtViks Concur: Prabhupada DID NOT Say he was Poisoned!

Opening Statement

The theory that Srila Prabhupada was deliberately and fatally poisoned has been propagated mainly on the strength of the words 'someone has poisoned me', spoken by Srila Prabhupada during his final weeks in Vrindavan. So important is this alleged revelation from Srila Prabhupada that this emotive phrase has been used as the title for a book on the entire subject. To use Srila Prabhupada's own words is a powerful and convincing approach since every devotee knows the strongest possible evidence are the words of the acharya. Such directly revealed evidence is conclusive since it is beyond the four defects. Even supposedly water-tight forensic evidence has to take second place to the words of the acharya, since so called scientific evidence will naturally fall prey to those four defects.

Conversely if it can be shown that Srila Prabhupada did not directly confirm the fact that he was deliberately poisoned, then this will mean depending on less reliable sources such as ordinary witnesses and scientific analysis. These other less dependable sources might still validate the theory that Srila Prabhupada was poisoned, but that is not the subject of this paper.

The purpose of this paper is to study the actual words of Srila Prabhupada only on the subject of his poisoning. Naturally, we can only rely on the actual words Srila Prabhupada spoke on this issue to determine whether he himself believed that he was deliberately poisoned. Thus the views and opinions of others who were in the room with Srila Prabhupada are of no relevance to us. Neither do we need to consider other subjects Srila Prabhupada discussed that were not directly to do with the issue of his poisoning.

We must stress that this paper does not prove, nor even attempt to prove, that Srila Prabhupada was not poisoned. Nor are we saying that the issue should not be investigated. The GBC themselves felt the available evidence was sufficient grounds on which to launch a detailed investigation. We fully support such an investigation. Our only point here is that we must deal with facts rather than feelings brought on, quite understandably, by this highly charged subject. Thus we shall carefully look at what Srila Prabhupada himself said, rather than what feelings or suspicions his words might invoke in devotees minds and hearts.

Please note, there are in fact only 4 separate exchanges where Srila Prabhupada himself discusses the subject of his poisoning. The first 3 of these take place at different points in the same conversation, on the 9th of November, and the last exchange takes place the next day on the 10th November. (Note: The above chronology is taken from the book 'Someone Has Poisoned Me'. The folio actually has all 4 exchanges taking place in the same conversation on the 8th November.)



3 out of the 4 exchanges involve Srila Prabhupada speaking in Hindi and Bengali. For the relevant Hindi and Bengali translations we will use those supplied by His Grace Naveen Krishna prabhu in the book 'Someone Has Poisoned Me'. We will refer to each of these exchanges as Exchange 1, 2 etc., with the appropriate translation from the book given directly underneath the transliteration in Hindi or Bengali.

As stated at the outset of this paper, Srila Prabhupada's words have currently been used as the main evidence to push the poisoning theory. Other evidence such as the presence of arsenic in Srila Prabhupada's hair, witnesses etc., has been mooted, but not yet produced. Until it is we have no actual evidence on which to comment. The so called 'whispers' can only be used as supporting evidence once poisoning has itself been proven. Thus they have no role to play yet. (It is also worth noting that in any case the poison proponents themselves admit that the forensic tests on the whispers have a margin of error of up to 20%. Please note that in standard scientific tests that can be put forward as any sort of proof, such as DNA testing, the margin of error is usually as low as 0.0001%, or one chance in a million).

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Final Conclusion

On the currently available evidence:

1. Srila Prabhupada never himself confirmed that he was being poisoned.
2. Srila Prabhupada only stated that **someone else**' had stated that he was showing the symptoms of someone who had been poisoned.

Therefore there is no evidence from the infallible source of the acarya that he was being deliberately poisoned.

Final Words

We do not hold the author of the book '**someone has poisoned me**' responsible for deliberately perpetrating falsehood, even though the mis-translation reported makes a significant difference to the strength of the case for deliberate poisoning,. The author appears to have genuinely relied on the translation work of others, even though it was made clear to him that the translation provided to him was not to be taken as accurate. All we would say is that the title of his book should have been '**It's Possible**', for these are the only words Srila Prabhupada himself offers on the subject of his poisoning.

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Thus in essence, unless some other evidence has yet to be revealed, there is no case on the present available evidence. As already mentioned, in this regard it may be instructive to translate all the Hindi and Bengali conversations which are on the tapes in the archives, to see if there is any evidence to support the poisoning theory.

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