

(Part 2: Where Is the Poison?)

## 2 Dhira Govinda Critiques the Book DECEPTION (Oct14, 2021)

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### **KEYS: For origin of comments in this dialogue.**

Black = mayesvara dasa commentary

Sky Blue = Scriptural & other documented evidence.

Small Dark Blue = URL links to supportive external sources

Green = Dhira Govinda & other P-Con propaganda

(Like: Kill Guru Become Guru (KGBG))

### 2.1 Muddled Subtitle & Rehashing Nov 9<sup>th</sup> Conversation

Dear Mayesvara Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

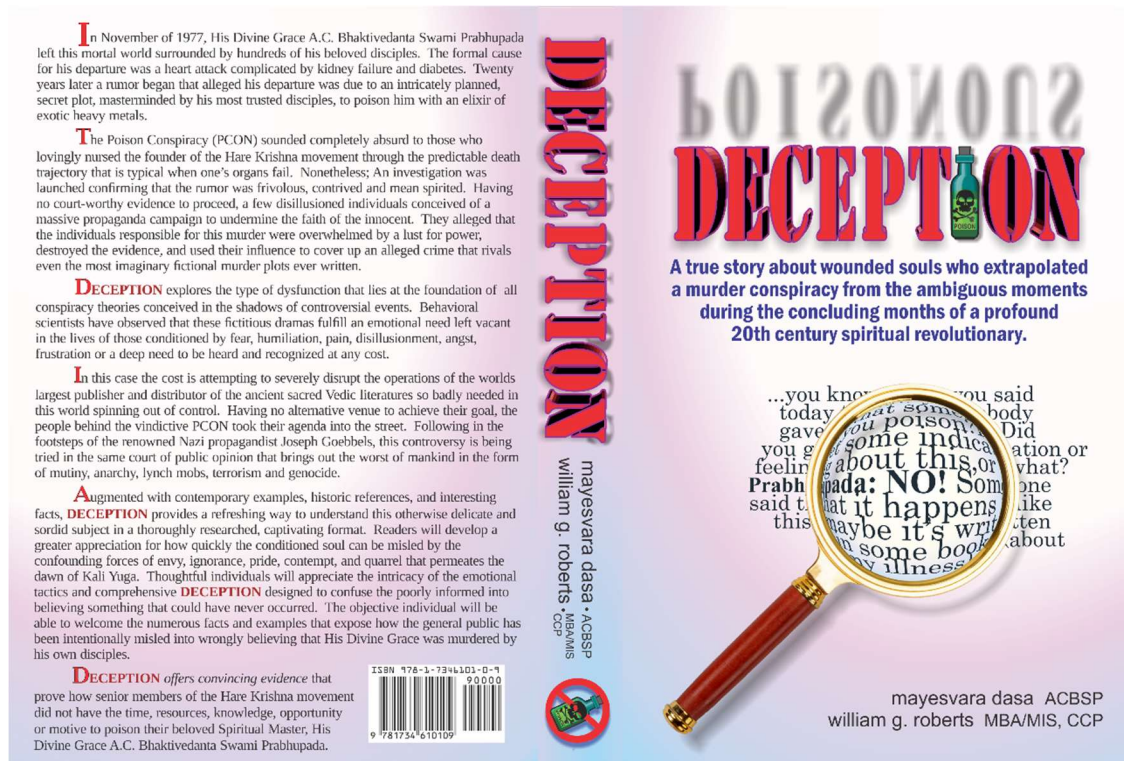
Hare Krsna. Thank you for sending me a copy of Deception. I have read the book. Actually, I'm not really certain what the subtitle is (or, subtitles are; or, what the title is...). On the front cover there is a 29-word description (“A true story about wounded souls...”), placed where a subtitle is generally placed, though 29 words seems quite unusually long for a subtitle. Then on the inside cover it is written “Poison CONspiracy (PCON) Exposed The Venom of Deception” (and then again the 29 words), and, at the bottom, “Contradictions, Hypocrisy, Deceit & Intentional Fraud”. And then, at the bottom of each page, “The Venom of Deception”. So actually, I'm not really certain whether The Venom of Deception is the full title, or....anyhow, as you can see, the title/subtitle stuff, the way it's arranged, for me comes across as very muddled. Hare Krsna.

While I was still in Israel- late 80s/early 90s, I began reading, and relishing, Conversations with Srila Prabhupada, starting with Volume One. Into the 90s, as I get to Volume Thirty-six, I read the conversations from November 1977. My straightforward impressions from that reading were, and continue to be, after reading your Deception, that Srila Prabhupada was clearly concerned that he was being given poison with homicidal intent, and those, or at least several of those, who were with him at the time, knew for certain that Srila Prabhupada was concerned, (transcendentally) distressed, that he was being given poison with murderous intent.

Again, I have read your Venom of Deception cover to cover, including the section entitled “*What Was HDG Communicating?*”

Yes, I've read what you've written regarding amphiboly, misleading punctuation (page 199), misattributed quotes, gaslighting, etc., etc. I'll mention that, actually, paralinguistics, including the word emphasis aspect of it, as depicted in your Deception on page 199, with “She said she did not take his money”, is a topic with which I'm at least somewhat familiar, as I've been conducting classes, workshops and seminars on that topic, internationally, for more than forty years. Our professional coach training courses, for example, emphasize the importance of

noticing paralinguistics, and use just the sort of examples you utilize in your book.



And I'll emphasize here that, for me, conditioned soul that I am, it is clear that Srila Prabhupada was expressing concern that he was being given poison with homicidal intent. That is, from what I can tell, the mukhya-vrtti, the clear, direct meaning of Srila Prabhupada's expression.

I've several times read pages 197-225- that is, the section entitled What Was HDG Communicating, of your Deception. My conclusions of what Srila Prabhupada was expressing, in important ways, do not align with what you write. For example, you write (page 221), "Based on prior portions of this dialogue, BCS was confirming that Srila Prabhupada was still concerned that his disciples had misunderstood him and they might think he was accusing someone of poisoning him." My understanding from several times reading Conversations with Srila Prabhupada Volume 36, the Room Conversation in Vrndavana on Nov. 8, 1977, as found on pages 354 – 372, and confirmed from listening to recordings (eg., at prabhupadavani.org) of these conversations, is that Srila Prabhupada clearly was concerned, experiencing distress, that someone or perhaps more than one person, was giving him poison with murderous intent. Herein I cite an excerpt from that conversation, as found on pages 367-368 of Conversations with Srila Prabhupada-

Kaviraja: (Hindi with Prabhupada)

Bhakti-caru: Saturn is having its effect like at times when he was looking at Srila Prabhupada then having some trouble. When he was (indistinct) something else than when the Saturn looks higher from him...

Tamāla Kṛṣṇa: But what did Prabhupada just say?

Kaviraja: (Hindi)

Bhakti-caru: He said how can you define it? How can you explain it? Like the condition couldn't have improved by ten medicines also, (indistinct) one medicine it become perfect.

Tamala Kṛṣṇa: What did Prabhupada just say?

Bhakti-caru: Prabhupada just said that I mean, this morning his condition was bad, not now.  
Bhavananda: Prabhupada was complaining of mental distress this morning also.  
Bhakti-caru: Srila Prabhupada?  
Prabhupada: Hm?  
Bhakti-caru: Srila Prabhupada?  
Prabhupada: Hm?  
Bhakti-caru: (Bengali) ...mental distress?  
Prabhupada: Hm, hm.  
Kaviraja: (Hindi)  
Prabhupada: (Hindi—mentions word "poison")  
Kaviraja: (Hindi)  
Devotee: Someone gave him poison here.  
Kaviraja: (Hindi long explanation)  
Tamala Krsna: Prabhupada was thinking that someone had poisoned him.  
Adri-dharana: Yes.  
Tamala Krsna: That was the mental distress.  
Adri-dharana: Yes.  
Kaviraja: (Hindi)  
Tamala Krsna: What did Kaviraja just say?  
Bhakti-caru: He said that when Srila Prabhupada was saying that, there must be some truth behind it. (People all speaking at once)  
Tamala Krsna: Srila Prabhupada, Sastriji says that there must be some truth to it if you say that. So who is it that has poisoned? (pause)  
Kaviraja: (Hindi with Bhakti-caru and Prabhupada)  
Woman: What did he say?  
Bhakti-caru: He said that it's quite possible that mercury, it's a kind of a poison...  
Bhagatiji: That makaradvaja. (Hindi with Kaviraja and Bhakti-caru)  
Bhakti-caru: He was referring to a big murder case in Calcutta, the husband poisoned the wife.  
Bhavananda: Oh yes. Our lawyer is the...  
Tamala Krsna: Bhagatiji doesn't think the...  
Kaviraja: (Hindi with Bhakti-caru and Prabhupada)  
Tamala Krsna: No poison is strong enough to stop the hari-nama, Srila Prabhupada.  
Kaviraja: Yes. (Hindi))))))

I understand that there may be slightly different versions of the transcript. Notwithstanding that, for me it's clear that several of those who are around Srila Prabhupada are clear that Srila Prabhupada is experiencing mental distress because he is concerned that someone is giving him poison with malicious intent.

As far as the contention that Srila Prabhupada and those around him were only speaking and concerned about the sometimes toxic effects of some medicines, that stance, for me, doesn't at all hold up. I say that because in that same conversation they are speaking about a case of poisoning by murder, and previously they were speaking about a case of murder by poison of an acarya in a Sankaracarya math (Page 359- Tamal Krsna Goswami- "Jayapataka Maharaja was telling that one acarya, Sankaracarya, of the Sankaracarya line...he was poisoned to death...")

So, Srila Prabhupada was expressing and concerned about being given poison with murderous intent, and those around him were clear about that. That is clear to me from reading Conversations with Srila Prabhupada, and from hearing audio recordings from Srila Prabhupada's conversations from that time period. To me, the interpretations you give in your book, to a significant extent, sound and seem quite twisted, strained. So, I guess we get to agree to disagree on what Srila Prabhupada was communicating.

Further, simple-minded as I may be, when I read, at the top of page 368 of Volume 36 of Conversations, Tamal Krsna Maharaja say, “Srila Prabhupada, Sastriji says that there must be some truth to it if you say that. So who is it that has poisoned?”- my understanding is that Tamal Krsna, at this time, is clear that someone has attempted or is attempting, to give poison to Srila Prabhupada, with homicidal intent; or at least, Tamal Krsna Gosvami is clear that Srila Prabhupada clearly believes or at least is concerned, that someone is giving to him (Srila Prabhupada), or has given to him, poison with murderous intent. Tamal Krsna Gosvami isn’t asking whether someone has poisoned Srila Prabhupada. He is asking, “who is it that has poisoned”. Thus, for Tamal Krsna Gosvami, the question of whether Srila Prabhupada was poisoned, or at least whether Srila Prabhupada thinks that someone has been giving him poison, is already decided in the affirmative. That’s my assessment, after closely studying Conversations with Srila Prabhupada, and applying my mind and intellect to your Deception.

On page 324 of Deception you cite Occam’s razor- “Of two competing theories, the simpler explanation of an entity is to be preferred.” Applying this to the conversations with Srila Prabhupada from November, 1977, it’s clear to me that the simpler explanation, compared to what you attempt to present in your Deception, is that Srila Prabhupada was worried that he was being given poison with murderous intent, and those around him knew for certain that he was distressed that he was being given poison with homicidal intent. And of course, when we use terms such as “worried” and “distressed”, in relation to Srila Prabhupada, we understand that all of Srila Prabhupada’s emotions and thoughts are completely on the transcendental platform, devoid of any mundane trace of material anxiety or stress. Jaya Srila Prabhupada. Hare Krsna.

In your book on pages 436-438 you include statements from various devotees related to the pastime of Srila Prabhupada’s disappearance. Bhakti Caru Svami writes, “It is an absolutely absurd allegation that Srila Prabhupada has been poisoned by his disciples. If anyone intentionally poisoned Srila Prabhupada Srila Prabhupada, then it must be me.....” And Bhavananda Prabhu writes, “The entire poison issue is ludicrous and beyond absurd...”

So, for me, it’s not clear how, in the late 90s, when Bhakti Caru Swami and Bhavananda wrote those statements, the idea that Srila Prabhupada was given poison with murderous intent was absurd, and ludicrous, whereas in November, 1977, as per the transcripts included above, both of them were, from my perspective, quite clear that Srila Prabhupada was given poison with malicious intent, or at least they were clear that Srila Prabhupada was very concerned and distressed that he was being given poison with homicidal intent.

Actually, in 2004 I wrote to Bhakti Caru Swami and inquired about this, though I didn’t receive a reply from him. And I’ll share here that, over the years, Bhakti Caru Swami and I did have several exchanges, in-person, and via phone and correspondence, sometimes for hours at a time, on topics such as child protection, the transformative communication seminars I conduct, etc. And, in regards to my letter to him about Srila Prabhupada’s disappearance pastime, I didn’t receive a response to that.

Quoting from a letter I wrote a few years ago- “Similarly, I have questions for, for instance, Bhavananda Prabhu- ‘Bhavananda Prabhu- Based on the recorded conversations from November 8, 1977, it’s clear that you knew that Srila Prabhupada was experiencing mental distress because he thought, or knew, that he was being given poison with malicious intent. Why, then, a little over 20 years later, did you state in writing that the idea that Srila Prabhupada was given poison with homicidal intent is “ludicrous and beyond absurd”?”

Are they saying that Srila Prabhupada was joking, or not in his clear mind, or....what?



## 2.2 Psychoanalyzing “Wounded Souls”

Mayesvara prabhu- In Deception you devote a lot of effort to psychoanalysis, right from the very title, or subtitle, of your book (“wounded souls...”). In my attempts to get to the essence of what you’re doing there, my sense is that you’re asserting that the psychological disturbances, frailties, prejudices, woundedness and pathologies of those whose stance is that there is a reasonably strong possibility, or at least there is reasonable cause to suspect, that Srila Prabhupada was given poison by persons with murderous intent, are much greater and more severe than those who believe that there is zero or practically nil chance that Srila Prabhupada was given poison with homicidal intent. My perceptions and analyses, present and over the decades, do not support your assertion.

As I’ve shared above, to me it’s clear that Srila Prabhupada expressed that he was concerned that one or persons were giving him or had given him poison with malicious intent. That is true regardless of what one makes of the “Ravana” thing. I don’t mean to make much of it. Still, since you do address it in your book- eg., page 187, I’ll mention that for me, in that part of the conversation, Srila Prabhupada is indicating that there is a metaphorical “Ravana”, there where he is staying. In reading what you wrote about the Ravana thing, for me your logic really isn’t clear, in regards to how Srila Prabhupada could have been referring to Tamal Krsna Goswami as Rama. And I’m open to the possibility that perhaps I’m just not seeing something. And again, whatever one’s perception of the Rama/Ravana/Sita/Marici part of those conversations, it is clear, to me anyway, that Srila Prabhupada experienced distressed due to concern that he was being given poison, and that those around him, or at least several of them, were well aware of that.

On page 378 of Volume 36 of Conversations With Srila Prabhupada, Srila Prabhupada, as far as I can tell, specifically states that he wants to go on parikrama, and that the parikrama represents the much more auspicious (Rama-like) option, and to stay where he is represents the more inauspicious (Ravana-like) option.

Conversations With Srila Prabhupada, page 378-

Tamala Krsna Maharaja: This seems like suicide, Srila Prabhupada, this program. It seems to some of us like it's suicidal.

Srila Prabhupada: And this is also suicidal.

Tamala Krsna: Hm. Prabhupada said, "And this is also suicide." Now you have to choose which suicide.

Srila Prabhupada: The Ravana will kill and Rama will kill. Better to be killed by Rama. Eh? That Marici- if he does not go to mislead Sita, he'll be killed by Ravana; and if he goes to be killed by Rama, then it is better.

Tamal Krsna: Who is this Prabhupada's talking about?

Devotees: Marici.

To me it sounds clear that Srila Prabhupada is saying that there is a metaphorical Ravana, or more than one of them, in his midst, and that this Ravana, or team of them, is acting in Ravana-like ways- that is, in ways that are deceptive and wicked. That’s what it seems to me. So, for me, a natural question is, who is this “Ravana” to whom Srila Prabhupada alludes? And again, I believe that I understand and appreciate the viewpoint that, “There’s really nothing substantial here, with this ‘Ravana’ statement from Srila Prabhupada. Don’t try to concoct something out of nothing”. Okay, still, it’s clear from these conversations that Srila Prabhupada was experiencing mental distress due to concern that he was being given poison with murderous intent. And, yes, I do have curiosity in regards to who the Ravana is, to whom Srila Prabhupada refers. And I don’t regard it as ridiculous that I maintain such a curiosity.

## 2.3 Rehashing Whispers & Creditability of Audio Forensic Engineers

In regards to whispers- it seems to me that there are several audio and audio-forensic professionals who assert that, in the background of conversations with Srila Prabhupada during November, 1977, there are whispers that include the word “poison”, including the statement “The poison is going down”. In your Deception you endeavour to attack their competence and motivations. These professionals include, for example, Tom Owen, Helen McCaffrey, Jack Mitchell and James Reames.

Studying what you’ve written, for example in the chapter of Deception entitled Being Told What To Listen For, beginning on page 131, still I’m left with the clear conception that audio forensic professionals confirm that people in the background of those conversations are whispering about “poison”, including the statement, “The poison is going down” (or, perhaps, “The poison’s going down”). So, while Srila Prabhupada is lying there, a few days before the closure of his disappearance pastime, some of his caregivers are in the background whispering about “poison”, saying things like “The poison’s going down”. Yes, I tend to wonder why they’re speaking in whispers about poison. That, combined with what I consider to be the fact that Srila Prabhupada also, during the same recorded conversations, expressed his concern, maybe his knowledge, that he was being given poison, does not lead me to the conclusion that there is no evidence that Srila Prabhupada was given poison with homicidal intent, but, rather, to the conclusion that there is ample and substantial evidence that Srila Prabhupada was given poison with murderous intent.

Of course I understand that these audio professionals are, almost surely, conditioned souls, subject to the defects of material senses. Still, while naturally I don’t place godlike, superhuman, divine trust in them, I do basically believe and trust what they say and their conclusions, in their fields of expertise. Yes, I understand, that your assaults on their competence and motivations may, for example, move a jury to consider that perhaps their statements are not to be regarded as absolutely perfect, and that could cast doubt in the minds of jury members or a judge seeking to determine whether the evidence is beyond a reasonable doubt.

*From my perspective, though, if the evidentiary standard is, say, at 96% rather than 99.999%- that (96%) doesn’t lend itself, for me, to the conclusion that there is no evidence. 96 does not equal 0.* My viewpoint, based on my study of the matter, including your Deception, is that the forensic audio data does lend itself to the conclusion that there definitely is substantially reasonable cause to suspect that Srila Prabhupada was given poison, with malevolent intent.

*Tom Owen, from Owl Investigations,* writes, regarding the whispers in the background of conversations with Srila Prabhupada in November 1977, “The word poison is clearly audible....There is conversation about poison and the use of it. In my opinion there is certainly a basis for further investigation....A forensic toxicologist and homicide investigator should be consulted...Based on my training and experience, the word poison is clearly audible and intelligible in several instances.”

Yes, I’ve closely read and carefully considered what you’ve written regarding Tom Owen on pages 141 and 142 of Deception. And my conclusion is that Tom Owen, conditioned soul that he may be, who is a highly respected audio-forensic professional, determined that there are people in the background, while Srila Prabhupada is lying there, speaking about poison, and Tom Owen is seriously concerned that these people may be speaking about and involved in an attempt at homicide by poisoning.

James Reames served the FBI for over thirty years as an audio-forensic analysis expert. Reames, imperfect as he may be, confirmed that in the background of the conversations in November 1977, there is whispering, and one of the whispers states, “The poison is going

down”. I understand that on page 142 of your Deception book you attempt to minimize Reames’ findings. For me, Reames’ findings and statements add to the body of evidence that indicate that it’s highly possible that those in the role of Srila Prabhupada’s caregivers endeavored to murder Srila Prabhupada by giving him poison.

Similarly you attempt to discredit, with regards to credentials, competency and motivation, Jack Mitchell, Helen McCaffrey, and others. I understand that some may place heavy weight on your attempts at discrediting them. My view, based on carefully studying the relevant materials and documentation, is that McCaffrey and Mitchell are respected professionals, who gave sincere effort, and concluded that people in the background are whispering and using the word “poison” in their whispers, while Srila Prabhupada is lying there. Yes, I understand, as you describe on page 143 of your book, that Dr. Helen McCaffrey’s specialty is hearing disabilities, and not forensics. That for me doesn’t erase credibility in regards to her efforts and findings, which do confirm the findings of others, who are audio-forensic specialists.

About Dr. McCaffrey you write (page 143 of Deception), “All she really did was sit back and listen to the enhanced audio tapes presented to her by Mr. Mitchell after he.....Dr. McCaffrey was basically contracted to confirmed what Mr. Mitchell told her she was supposed to listen for. Her participation was deceitful used to pump up the witness list with one more name....” Okay, well, perhaps your conjecture regarding “All she really did...” is accurate. My tendency, faulty as it may be, is to regard your conjecture as unduly, and unsoundly, cynical and critical. I mean, maybe Dr. Helen McCaffrey is a sincere lady, and an honest, professional expert in the field of audio, and she earnestly applied herself, and found, consistent with the findings of other audio and audio-forensic professionals, that in those conversations in November, 1977, there were persons whispering about “poison”.

## **2.4 Ignoring “external contamination could confound hair analysis”**

And, similarly with Dr. Robert Morris, and his cadmium findings in Srila Prabhupada’s hair.

I’ve read Chapter 8, pages 227-275, The Problems with Hair Analysis, of Deception. I understand that flaws in Morris’ procedure can be found and analyzed, and that at least some of those defects or apparent defects could be regarded as valid considerations in regards to assessing the credibility of Dr. Robert Morris’s findings in relation to the cadmium levels in Srila Prabhupada’s hair during parts of 1977.

My view, which is informed by study of Chapter 8 of your book, is that Morris’s findings, while not to be regarded as infallible, are definitely not to be taken lightly. My viewpoint is that Dr. J. Steven Morris, at a high degree of professional scientific competence, followed rigorous procedure in his analysis and presentation of the results of Srila Prabhupada’s hair samples. To quote an excerpt from a letter I wrote a few years ago, “He does this, for example, by providing a statistically calculated 95% confidence interval for a range of values. Yes, ... if there were a greater mass of hair the measurements would be more accurate, and perhaps even Dr. Morris would have chosen a different method of measurement. Considering the mass of hair he had to work with, he chose Neutron Activation Analysis (NAA), the best method available for that mass. And he gave the margin of error, showing that we can be at least 95% confident that, even if the lowest value amongst the ranges for the three hair samples of Srila Prabhupada were true, then, still, on average, Srila Prabhupada’s hair contained about 216 times above average, or about 21,500% above average. (Calculated as  $[(14.9-3.8) + (19.9-2) + (12.4-1.2)] / 3 = 13.4 / .062$  (average ppm cadmium in human hair)).

“We understand of course that such measurements are subject to error. So, for example, if the

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Ignoring “external contamination could confound hair analysis”

measured amount of cadmium in hair is, say, 30%, 60%, or maybe even 200%, above normal, then that’s not necessarily an indication that the body has a significantly elevated cadmium level. But, we’re talking here 21,500%.”

## End Part Two : Where Is the Poison?

### Next Episode: Dhira Govinda Continues His Critique of DECEPTION

- 3.1 GBC’S LATENCY IS VERY SUSPICIOUS’!
- 3.2 GBC REJECTS DECEPTION!
- 3.3 THE P-CON GLORIFIES HOW MAGNANIMOUS SRILA PRABHUPADA IS!
- 3.4 GBC’S STATEMENT: “*NO P-CON EVIDENCE*” IS PREJUDICIAL
- 3.5 PERPETRATORS OF P-CON WERE MALICIOUSLY BRILLIANT AGAINST ALL ODDS!
- 3.6 **DECEPTION** MIGHT CONVINCE A JURY... *BUT NOT ME!*
- 3.7 IT SEEMS TO “ME” THE GBC CONCEALING THE TRUTH!

Next Episode: Response to Dhira Govinda’s Critique of DECEPTION