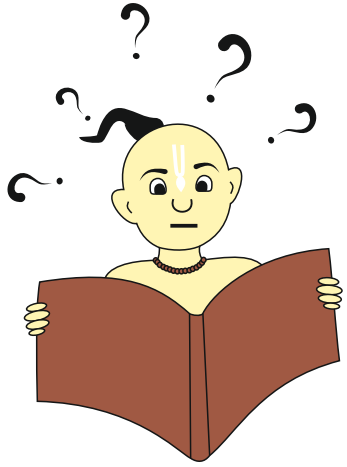


Wanting to understand and explain a statement from sadhu-sastra-guru



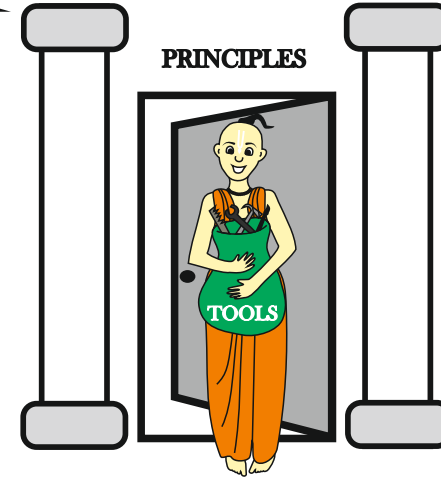
Engaging in sadhana-bhakti to gain the mercy of good character and qualities



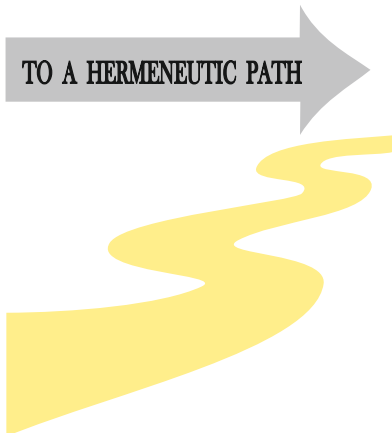
Studying and imbibing the principles of Vaishnava hermeneutics



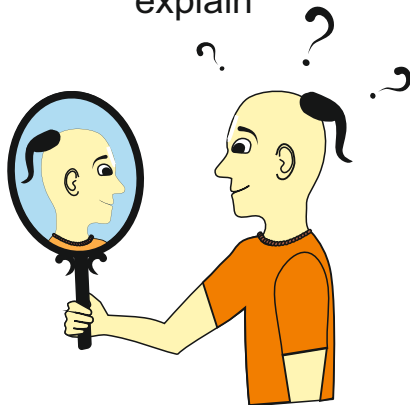
Learning hermeneutics tools based upon Vaisnava principles



With good qualities, principles, and tools, embarking on a hermeneutic path



Step one on the path: assessing one's own mood, mentality, purpose, and qualifications in relation to the statement one is trying to understand or explain



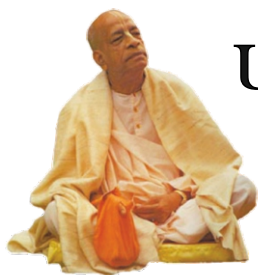
Step two on the path: using principles to compare the statement one is trying to understand to siddhanta



Step three on the path: choosing the appropriate hermeneutic tools



Gaining understanding and clarity



Understanding sadhu-sastra-guru

ISKCON Hermeneutics

Sastric Advisory Council

International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta

Swami Prabhupada

By ISKCON hermeneutics we refer to the discipline and methodology that considers *how* to appropriately study, assimilate, apply, explain, and perpetuate the teachings of guru-sadhu-sastra. ISKCON hermeneutics is grounded in its original Vaiṣṇava tradition

Hermeneutics embraces theory and method, underpinned by values.

For Vaiṣṇavas, proper understanding and teaching are contingent upon character and realization.

Purposes of ISKCON Hermeneutic:

1. To promote:

- Respectful and constructive śāstric conversation
- Authentic understanding and explanation of śāstric conclusions
- Resolution of philosophical controversies within ISKCON
- Proficiency in addressing difficult or contentious sastric statements

2. To enhance:

- For Individual members: Fulfillment within personal spiritual life
- For ISKCON leaders: Unity in diversity within ISKCON
- For the general public: Relevance and appreciation of ISKCON

3. To support ISKCON leaders by helping to:

- Maintain organizational purpose, ethos, and policy congruent with Srila Prabhupada's teaching
- Prepare the ground for authentic, brahminical dialogue with the broader society and within ISKCON
- Ensure the dynamic continuity of parampara, as relevant to contemporary contexts and with fidelity to Srila Prabhupada, the previous acharyas, and ISKCON's broader heritage

The Vision



ISKCON courses in the discipline and methodology of hermeneutics as part of sastra and leadership training, creating....



Regional and local groups of hermeneutically trained brahmanas who can give sastric and practical advice, thus creating a major step towards Srila Prabhupada's vision of varnasrama, that leads to....



The flourishing of a culture of respectful devotional discussion in our multi-guru international organization, providing an example for other Vaishnava societies and society at large

