

# Different Paths

Extract from a letter by Svami Sadananda Dasa  
to Vamandas, Hella and friends December 30, 1960.

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Dear Vamandas, Hella and friends,

Yes, there are *different* paths to *different* goals, but *each* path involves a *strict* discipline and there isn't any yoga in the Shastrams leading to the union with God like a *rocket*.

It is a fact, however, that *cheap* folk wish for and seem to need cheap things. – Belief in miracles, superstition and expectation of quick solutions through psychological tricks – these inspire most people of *all* races and social classes: panaceas for problems. Only a few have the *strength* to receive grace and tread the path of the noble.

I have already indicated this when Vamandas so often encountered such positive response in people's hearts; the human heart is fickle and after the first sweet tasting comes the sobering down and the distinct, steep path. Krishna is *noble* and wants those who are *noble* and wants to make them His Own. It is not so easy to become noble and godlike in this sense. Seva-ananda [the joy of serving God] is infinitely higher – and more difficult – than bhoga-sukha [taking pleasures in enjoying, experiencing], and the latter is what most people desire.

*Krishna* Himself never interferes with man's *freedom*. Everyone is *free* to be on the wrong track, to go astray or to make a detour, and I don't see how *we* could be so presumptuous to maintain that we could or should prevent others from wandering on the wrong track, going astray or making a detour, when they actually *insist upon it*. But you can very well tell Mrs. E that I am very sad to hear that she desires trinkets and will forsake the gold.

Your Sadananda