

Emotional ties to a person

Extract from a letter by Sadananda
to Hella and Vamandas in 1961

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Dear Hella, dear Vamandas,

Moreover, in a letter¹ last year to D. and others I made it very clear that one should imagine oneself to be like in a desert, *without* Vamandas, Hella and Sadananda, and *without* emotional ties to any person try to stick to what the *Shastrams* say and we only are passing on. But no one seems to have paid attention to this. Emotional ties to a person are like death, and that is why genuine gurus withdraw, over and over again, or else they send their disciples away in order for them to learn right from the start to develop through the power of bhakti. As soon as we, Vamandas, Hella and I, let us be admired and worshipped, or if it pleases us the least when people praise and worship us, our bhakti is gone – as is the case with thousands of swamis!! Gurudeva's power vanishes and we are wretched muddleheads. There is always a risk for this and it results in our playing to the gallery.

Kana, kamini, pratishtha – money, the sexual-erotic, name and honour – are the three greatest dangers, and then to accept too *much* seva of others where it is *not* necessary, conveying the impression of being a bhakta – because one deals with bhakti – and that one must give others the possibility to do seva. Every decent person is able to feel where he should and is able to “help”, to serve. If a person has an ounce of bhakti, he understands where to serve – because Krishna grants him *buddhi*-yoga (intelligence!).

I know this is obvious to the three of us, but we are misunderstood by those who actually do not want bhakti, those who are dissatisfied with other kinds of escapism and now turn to a new escape from reality, bringing and wanting to keep all rubbish in their heart. Every word to those people must be upsetting, shocking; sometimes expressed in a tender and diplomatic way, sometimes coarse and direct – as a doctor dealing with a mentally ill person. The power of bhakti, God's Own knowledge, is clear, bright as Narayana's sudarshana-chakra. [...]

Your Sada

¹ “Dainyam”, sadananda.com.