

You are not Mahaprabhu

Letter from Sadananda 12 November 1954

Into English, within square brackets and

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Dear Vamandas, dear Hella,

In addition to my letter from yesterday [“Who is Krishnadasa?”]: Trust me, it does not serve either the West or the dissemination of bhakti or Yourself if You try to present a transition from “worldly” religion and piety to bhakti. Just as little as animus, the psyche, “the man in the soul” is related to nirguna-atma, just as little is mysticism and the noblest piety related to nirguna bhakti. Nirguna-bhakti has nothing to do with the Indian, the East, it is beyond *every* human feeling, beyond every soul, Eastern or Western. Bhagavatam and bhakti imply something which is *completely un-Indian*, and it requires a *complete* break with the Indian *and* Western.

I do not know where You yourself stand inwardly. Your misfortune was that together with Shri [Vamandas’ first guru] You could not learn what *jnana* and Shankara’s advaita-vada actually is or could come to shraddha, a true, free acceptance, a “Yes” to the teachings of the Bhagavatam and Caitanyadeva. You always tried to read Your own thoughts into the Bhagavatam, and opposed where Caitanyadeva teaches something which seems to be in contrast to what *You* read in a distorted translation of the Bhagavatam.

I do not know how much this has changed during this long period of time. I often feel that if You both do not come to India or I cannot come to Sweden, neither Your readers nor You yourself will come to the goal – to attain bhakti. I do not know how I will be able to stay here in the world; with great care and diet, and to a great deal, I have been able to eliminate the gall attacks etc. during the last 3 years, and I had hoped I would be able to write down my manuscript, so that I do not come to the West with empty hands. But it seems to be hopeless. Those who want to help, they cannot – and those who can, they do not want to; they *fear* the bhakti. Since I do not know if we

ever can come to a personal conversation, I have to call Your attention to some essential points. [...]

Why I write this? First of all, You must give yourself and the people a *clear*, distinct “psychology” and “philosophy” – as *foundation*. You are *not* Mahaprabhu, Who by His mere command “say Krishna!” bestowed bhakti-shakti upon the atma-s, so that the disciples immediately grasped and could discern what the atma, the cittam, the world, God, Brahma, Krishna and their mutual interrelation is. If nothing but “Hare Krishna etc.” were enough, then there would not have been any need for Shuka to instruct Parikshit in the philosophy of the Bhagavatam etc. for 7 days and nights! [...]

From my heart,
Always, *Sadananda*