

Bhakti is for those who are Atmically Disordered

Letter from Svami Sadananda Dasa (still in India),
to Vamandas 4 January, 1961

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My dear, dear Vamandas,

May Krishna give you strength! [...] You must not feel too sad when poor people like this “Maharshi” catch the foul fish from the surface of the water, when the idiotic worship of the so-called Indian has gone so far that the poor souls are stupid enough to think and believe that a so-called *mantra* without shakti [can lead to Bhagavan], without any notion of *who*, *what* and *how* Bhagavan is, and *who* it is that is to be led to Him. They do not realise that this cannot be more than a curiosity, like when foreigners in India get souvenirs in the form of tiger claws and relics from the Taj Mahal.

We want *serious people*, who *have the true ability* to search, to understand and to believe. Initially, all kinds of neurotic characters probably must turn up at your lectures – the faster they drop off the better. *Bhakti* is for those who are *atmically* disordered, for those who are in want of knowledge of the atma and the Paramatma, because they cannot serve Bhagavan, for those who understand that all kinds of exploitation are nothing but delusion – not for those who are *mentally* disordered and people who first should consult a psychiatrist to become decent, normal people, so that they later could long for bhakti. [...]

It is so enormously important that people come to Krishna *through* you, and do not stick to *you* for *your* sake, instead of proceeding further. Your strong, noble personality is a danger [...]

Hella seems to fret over the fact that Prabhupad's [Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati's] "disciple" failed. Prabhupad *knew* this and raised a finger of warning, anticipating that nothing of this large group as such would remain after his departure. It is surprising, though, how many noble and good individuals there are, who carry deep in their hearts his power and message, people who seem to be nothing more than ordinary citizens. *Strength* in *crises* and a clear answer to the deepest questions, *these* are the signs of true Grace.

The modern malady consists of the perpetual thirst for activity: restlessness. There are many things that *we also would like to do* but which are not possible to do, like puja, serving of the Murti [God's Image form], partaking of sacramental meals [prasadam], and many other things, whose neglect or violation make us feel that we have failed. But Krishna sees it differently. It is about inner honesty and the right decision, carried by pure love and true knowledge, about our attitude, our world view, our focus, our heart. Pragmatism is the death of all true life and culture! You must help *those* who need it, to find a *meaning* in their lives again. You must set the stone in motion – HE will do the rest (?). [...]

Blessings, love, strength, and thanks to everyone! [...]

Shri Shri Guru-Gaurangau jayatah!