Bhakti in a Nutshell

Svami Sadananda Dasa

Old, brownish, typed sheet of paper

From German into English and

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Bhakti is Bhagavan's Own shakti (potency, power, ability) of proper knowledge and transcendent experience, a power that is entirely independent of Maya. This potency works in the bhakta as untainted, serving love. It gives complete and precise knowledge of Bhagavan, of the world, of the atma as a spark of the Divine power, of the Shastras (the Word Revelation), of bhakti as seva (selfless service of God), of ananda (the joy of seva), and the understanding that Brahman is merely the aura of Bhagavan's cit form.

Bhakti-shakti gives the power to serve with body, mind, word and atma, i.e., to think correctly, by the Shastras and put these thoughts into words. This actual knowledge of Bhagavan, world, atma, bhakta and bhakti, given by bhakti-shakti, is the indispensable expression of love for Bhagavan, love for His sake, for the sake of giving Him joy, and not for the sake of our . Bhakti-shakti makes both mind and heart aglow, makes them dynamic, and frees them from Maya's gunas (qualities).

Bhakti is neither the noblest form of the holiest power of man's purged heart nor the most developed form of an unheard-of bold, clear, and pure intellect. Bhakti is independent of mind, heart, and intellect. Still, it attracts heart and intellect and makes them feel, think, and know through bhakti-shakti, the serving love of pure realisation, untainted by any selfish motive, however noble.