

# In the World, in Spite of the World, Through the World, Beyond the World

Letter from Sadananda  
To Vamandas, Hella and friends  
12 December, 1957

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Dear Vamandas, dear Hella, friends,

Regarding an earlier question: “Karunamaya” is pandit Karunamaya Sarasvati, a Sanskrit scholar, who belongs to the school Karmakhanda or as they are called in Bengal, the “Smarta” school. They worship the five (panca-upasaka): Surya, Vishnu, Ganesh, Shiva and the Shakti. They are practically Shaktas, who worship the form of Kali as *the Shakti*. He has got the title “*Vidya-vacaspati*” from the assembly of Pandits of his school.

It is not so easy to find a relatively unknown man in this Babylon of Calcutta. I am completely isolated, and it is impossible for me, even physically, to mix with “people” (?). Furthermore, is the Indian month in December–January always the most difficult. I can only work a little, little. The first work I will do for you is the Sarvabhauma episode, which you will get already this month. Life hardly gives me any joy anymore; my *only* joy is you, Hella, and everyone else there. How many times do I not say to myself: It *must* work – for Vamandas’ sake.

I don’t know if Hella understand the meaning of my words about the worship of Sarasvati. From correct and clear insight and knowledge of the tattvas, the main principles, which is an effect or side effect of the right inner direction of the heart and bhakti, the power is given to spontaneously express this insight. Krishna gives this *power* as a *gift*. [...] Thus:

1. Correct knowledge, given by *God*.
2. The right power to express this knowledge, given by *God*. [...]

I am *well* aware of your difficulties there, because you *miss* many important details, but not the many important outlines and the contours of the metaphysical landscape. I know how difficult it is when I read how you have tried to battle through the desert of the English CC translation and avoid its pitfalls. This translation is a masterpiece when it comes to misleading the serious reader [...]

But how shall I manage to do this? If I had a little strength only, you would have a new CC within three months. From the world's restless ocean of sin, unfortunately, a few counter-currents also reach my island near the railway station. The freedom of thought that Don Carlos asked Philip II for, seems to be over soon. Or will the "robot-man", the thinking machine, later do Hari-Kirtan? Many years ago, when I gave lectures, I was told: "First, India must be *free*, then, free from foreign influence, we will be able to practise *our* Hindu religion etc." And now one reproaches me: "The Hindu religion is the cause of our poverty and the reason why we do not have any machines and sputniks!!" The Hindus are ashamed of their religion before the advanced West; now, one spits at it, and Sadananda represents "the Middle Ages" for them.

I have suppressed feelings of deep concern about all of you there. If Prabhupad could give you the power to be *one*, i.e., Walther *and* Vamandas, a whole bhakta, and Vamandas no longer had to be at loggerheads with Walther – how wonderful this would be! [...]

For Christmas? Vamandas – we have no message of "peace on earth"; the earth laughs at the rulers who fight for her, and of whom only their names remain. Still, everything has to go through combat and death. Think of what Arjuna saw: the kings etc. are dead even before the fight. There has hardly been any religion that has taken reality as seriously as Vaishnavism, that has seen its tragic nature without the desire to sweep it aside or idealize it; that has wished to endeavour for the realm of freedom – in the world, in spite of the world, through the world, beyond the world.

How could there be peace, humanity, without perceiving and acknowledging the atma in all beings, and the Paramatma, whose indirect presence in all beings guarantees infallible justice, and whose function ceases when Krishna enters the heart through the ear and thereby makes the atma a citizen in the realm of freedom, the realm of true knowledge and serving love?

Oh, all of you, you don't know how close you are to my heart. [...] It is now 20 years since Prabhupad disappeared – and 15 years since Vamandas came so close to me (in the hospital in the internment camp in 1942).

Hella, don't "look back"! All of you already walk in the light, but you don't experience it yet. Courage, joy and endure!

From my whole heart,

Your Sadananda