

# Man, as Such is a Misunderstanding

Extract from a Letter from Svami Sadananda Dasa

to Vamandas, Hella, Maitri

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*Man, as such is a misunderstanding*, because in himself, he is nothing but filth, consisting of Maya's gunas, which the atma identifies with. To be a human being, in the real sense, has *one* value only – *when he has put himself under the command of the Shastras* – to cancel himself, to sacrifice (yajna) himself, to clear the way for the atma in him. The Shastras *curtail* man and his physical, mental, 'spiritual' being as a human that wants to enjoy, to exploit all gross and subtle things to satisfy his lust.

- **Karma-yoga** *circumscribes* man, everything human, physical, mental, 'spiritual', seeking gross and subtle lust.
- **Jnana-yoga** *cuts off* man – with all idealistic cultural nonsense – from the atma. This cutting off is *an end in itself*.
- **Bhakti-yoga** makes enjoyment *impossible*, because through bhakti everything is used in His service, and it completely burns up all that is called man – except the atma.

It is only when you hide away this meaning that there will be something left that *delights, enthuses, etc., man*. If you give the Shastras fully unveiled, people will stone you, not invite you. This is also one of my worries, if I could come *physically*. From your words, etc., people there have not yet understood that they, together with their so highly valued mental-spiritual depths, simply are to be cremated, burned up. They will be terrified when I open my mouth.

Forgive me, my hard but dear words – that which belongs to seva, I have to do.

Always, Sada