

God's three Modes of Being

The second letter from Svami Sadananda Dasa 22.4.55

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Last modified 30.6.13

Dear Vamandas, dear Hella, [...]

God *is* (eternally) in 3 modes of His Own self-expression:

1. BRAHMA, (by time and space) unrestricted and unbounded *being* (sat), fully consisting of pure *knowledge* (cit = jnana) and pure *joy* (ananda), *without* expression of shakti or power (eternal, *quiet* being), “it”, formless, shapeless, inactive;
2. PARAMATMA, (by time and space) *living*, unrestricted and unbounded *being* (sat), fully consisting of pure *knowledge* and pure *joy*, *with* expression of shakti or power. God as fundamental maintainer and terminus of the cosmos, with expression of a) *maya-shakti*, which can manifest something that is actually not in *Him*, i.e. the possibility of the seeming negation of Himself – as mahamaya; with expression of b) *cit-shakti* (yoga-maya), which manifests only partially and helps the worlds of maya to their existence, to a *life* which *is* life, even if it is only a *shadowy* existence; Paramatma = Vishnu, *HE* (with shape, form, with 4 arms, as an expression of absolute greatness and majesty); with expression of c) *tatastha-shakti* or the power on the border, the power of transition from which the infinite number of jiva-atma-s originate, who are subjected to the influence of maya- *and* cit-shakti.
3. BHAGAVAN (by time and space) *living*, unrestricted and unbounded *being* (sat), fully consisting of pure *knowledge* and pure *joy*, with expression of the *unbounded fullness* of the cit-shakti (yoga-maya), directly and indirectly only experiencing Himself, without direct connection with the maha-maya and the worlds stemming from it and the beings living in them, (with shape, form; secondarily with 4 arms, as an expression of absolute greatness and majesty, primarily with 2 arms, as an expression of absolute beauty and loveliness).

Always from my heart,
Sadananda