

# Different Paths

Extract from a letter by Svami Sadananda Dasa  
to Vamandas, Hella and friends 30 December 1960

Into English, within square brackets and

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Dear Vamandas, Hella and friends, [...]

May Vamandas succeed in introducing *the true* message of the knowledge and love for Krishna in the West – wider and deeper. [...]

Yes, there are *different* paths leading to *different* goals, but *each* path involves a *strict* discipline and there is no yoga [-path; yoga from the Sanskrit root *yunj*; yoke] in the Shastram-s which leads to connection with God at the speed of a *rocket*. It is a fact, however, that *simple* folk wish for and seem to need cheap things: belief in miracles, superstition and expectations of quick solutions through psychological tricks; panaceas for the problems, this inspire most people of *all* races and social classes. Only a few have the *strength* to receive grace and tread the path of the noble.

I have already called your attention to this, when Vamandas so often encountered a positive response in people's hearts; the human heart is fickle and after the first sweet taste comes the sobering down and the distinct, steep path. Krishna is *noble* and wants those who are *noble* and wants to make them to His Own. It is not so easy to become noble and godlike in this sense. Seva-ananda [the joy of serving God] is infinitely higher – and more difficult – than bhoga-sukha [taking pleasure in enjoying, experiencing], and the latter is what most people desire.

Not even *Krishna* interferes with man's *freedom*. Everyone is *free* to be on the wrong track, to go astray or to make a detour, and I don't see how *we* could be so presumptuous to maintain that we could or should prevent others from wandering on the wrong track, going astray or making a detour, when they actually *insist upon it*. But you can very well tell Mrs. E that I am very sad to hear that she desires trinkets and will forsake the gold. [...]

Your Sadananda