

Who is Mahaprabhu?

Letter from Svami Sadananda Dasa
to Vamandas, Hella and all friends
20 and 27 July, 1956

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Dear Vamandas, dear Hella and all friends,

Mahaprabhu (Caitanya) is the Fullness of God, in Whom *all aspects of Godhead*, generally called Vishnu (all-encompassing, all-pervading, boundless), from Krishna and Radha (in Goloka-Vraja), and always together with the corresponding shakti. Furthermore, Mahaprabhu – Whose divinity must be covered in kali-yuga – takes over the function of the yuga-avatar, which in other yugas is held by an avatar in the form of a rishi. – And then He appears as bhakta again. He is God, thinking and feeling that He is His Own bhakta, and *at the same time* He is God Himself. All forms and waves of *prema*-bhakti are incessantly alive in Him, and it is the same with the bhakta, who is only bhakta and not God.

In Caitanya-Bhagavata one can find the expression *advitiya*, i.e., when He performs a lila, He plays like no one else (*advitiya*). Rama (Raghupati Rama) for instance, Who is a true king representing the extreme of justice and abidance by the law. Or Krishna in Vraja, Who is the pinnacle of exuberant charm and loveliness.

The bhaktas who are together with Him in Navadvipa, in seva, pure loving service, who experienced all the manifestations of His divinity together with Him, they are well aware of the fact that when He takes sannyas, a new unheard-of tragic lila of God in the role of a bhakta commences, and that this is a lila behind which He hides Himself. And Nityananda broke His staff, because it is unbearable for him to see HIM play the role of a wretched sannyasi.

As God's otherworldly feature is *prohibited from being* displayed openly in kali-yuga, He cannot use His club and disc to destroy those who are turned away from Him: the pashandis and the asuras. He must find out other ways of destroying their asuric and rebellious nature.

All this is secondary, however. – He is Krishna, Who once again in the bodily form of a bhakta, as Radha, is searching for Krishna and serves HIM in separation.

The supreme bhakta is Radha. In this role He also embraces the role of the ideal bhakta, which He is merely indicating when He finds Himself among people.

I am deeply worried about you all. Why this long stillness? *You* are my hope in the West. May Gopinatha guide you!

Always Sada