

Svāmī Sadānanda dāsa

(Ernst Georg Schulze)

Curriculum Vitae

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- 1908 Āvirbhāva (he became visible) on the 3rd of January in Zittau (Germany). Only child of the fiscal officer F. C. E. Schulze (deceased 1919) and his wife Dr. med. Anna Schulze-Jochem (deceased 1946).
- 1928 Graduation (Abitur).
- 1928–32 Study of Comparative Theology and Philosophy at the Universities of Leipzig and Berlin (Germany) and attendance of the Oriental Seminar in Berlin.¹
- 1932 Doctoral thesis on “Das Prajñā-Paramita-Hṛdāya-Sūtra und seine Bedeutung für die Entwicklung der Śūnyatā-Spekulation” (The Prajñā-Paramita-Hṛdāya-Sūtra and its impact on the development of the Śūnyatā-speculation).
Rigorosum: Main subject: Comparative History of Religions.
Minor subjects: Sanskrit and Philosophy.
- 1933 Independent scholar in Berlin.
Preparation of a work on Śāntideva’s Bodhicāryāvātara (buddh. Sanskrit-text) and acting as scientific foreign consultant for the “Gemeinde um Buddha” (Buddha’s community) in Berlin.

Winter: Invitation to a guest lecture at the University of Tokyo and preparation for the final emigration to Japan (also due to the nazi-terror against himself personally²).

¹ Studies and additional examinations in ancient languages: Latin, Hebrew, Greek. As a preparation for his works on Mahāyāna-Buddhism: Classical Chinese, Japanese and Tibetan.

² Sadānanda had defended Prof. Theodor Lessing in public against assaults from racists and saved his life, when he was attacked during a seminar. Moreover Sadānanda’s doctoral thesis wasn’t printed, because his friend and teacher Prof. Joachim Wach became disqualified by dint of the new racial laws.

Gets the book “Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya”³ (written by Prof. N. Sanyal) from friends in London as a present. Contacts the author and his teacher Bhakti Siddhānta Sarasvatī, who lived in Māyāpur (Bengal).⁴

Following his recommendation to get accustomed to the Indian way of life and thinking before leaving for India, he stays in London together with Bhakti Siddhānta’s disciples.

1934–35 London. Collaborator of the “Society for Promoting Spiritual Understanding between East and West”.⁵

In the colony of the Indian monks he becomes acquainted with Svāmī B. P. Tirtha and assists him in translating an ancient commentary on the Gītā. Accompanies Svāmī B. H. Vana (Svāmī Bon) on his journey of lectures on the Continent.

1935–61 Staying in India. Studies in philosophy and Sanskrit under the guidance of his teacher Bhakti Siddhānta Sarasvatī in Bengal, study trips to North-India, lectures and essays on Indian philosophy. Initiation into Hinduism (Vaiṣṇava) and receiving the name “Sadānanda” (always joyful).

1937 After his teacher’s tirobhāva (becoming invisible) in January 1937, he travels all over India as a mendicant, from the very North to the very South.

After his return to North-India, prominent men from the University of Allahabad invite him to found a monastery and scientific institute in Allahabad, where teachers and students could get the opportunity to study the interrelations between modern science and ancient culture.

1939 At the beginning of the Second World War, internment due to German citizenship.

1942 A sergeant, rousing him violently from his yoga-exercises, causes him a bent in his rectum (ileum). The following operation fails and

³ An extensive work in English, where Sadānanda finds interesting hints on an Indian theological school, unknown in the Occident till then, founded by Jīva Gosvāmī (middle of the 16th century), the author of the “Sat-sandarbhā”, a kind of Indian “summa theologiae”.

⁴ A famous Hindu monk, propagating Jīva Gosvāmī’s philosophy and theology.

⁵ President was Lord Zetland, former Governor of Bengal.

further operations create additionally a chronical infection with penicillin-resistant staphylococci.

In the camp he meets the Austrian poet Walther Eidlitz, who is also interned. Sadānanda dictates him translations from ancient Indian Sanskrit-texts.

- 1945 Release from the military hospital and the camp.
- Inspite of his illness, further study trips to Assam, Nepal and North-India. He collects and copies old and almost decayed Sankrit- and Bengali-manuscripts of the Middle-Ages, owned either by privat gentlemen or temples. He assists his friend, the scholar Haridās dās (former professor of Sanskrit in Chittagong, East-Bengal) in publishing various manuscripts.
- 1950 Becomes an Indian citizen.
- 1956 Due to his detoriating state of health, friends in Sweden set up a “Sadānanda-fund” to ensure a necessary medical treatment in Calcutta. But even a long-term treatment in the best hospital of Calcutta, initiated by Pandit Nehru personally, cannot restore his health.
- 1961 A small group of Swiss realises Sadānanda’s difficulties and offers him a flight to Basel. In Basel an oral surgery operation heals his fever, that had lasted for many years.
- 1961–62 Stays with friends in Sweden.
On account of his poor health, he is unable to give his originally planned lectures at the University of Stockholm.
- 1962–77 Lives in Basel with periodical visits to Sweden in the summers. Translates and dictates his translations to his Swedish and Swiss friends.
- Among other things he helps Walther Eidlitz with the publication of his doctoral thesis: “Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya – Sein Leben und Seine Lehre” (Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya – His Life and Precepts), Stockholm 1968.
- 1969 Prostata-operation and heart-attack.

1975 He suffers a stroke, which almost disables him to read and write.

1977 Tirobhāva (he becomes invisible) on the 11th of April, Easter Monday, in Basel.