

# Who is Mahaprabhu?

Letter from Svami Sadananda Dasa  
to Vamandas, Hella and all friends

27 July 1956

Into English and © Kid Samuelsson

17 March, 2023

Last modified: 18 March, 2023

Dear Vamandas, dear Hella and all friends,

Mahaprabhu (Caitanya) is the fullness of God, in Whom *all aspects of God* – generally called Vishnu (all-encompassing, all-pervading, boundless) – from Krishna and Radha (in Goloka-Vraja), always together with the shakti in question. Furthermore, Mahaprabhu – Whose divinity must be covered in kali-yuga – takes over the function of the yuga-avatara, which in other ages [yugas] is held by an avatara in the form of a rishi. And then He appears as bhakta again [once in every kalpa]. 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-Bhagavatam one can find the formulation, that when He performs a lila, He plays like no one else (advitiya) can play. Rama (Raghupati Rama), for instance, a true king representing the extreme of law and justice. Or Krishna in Vraja, Who is the extreme of exuberant charm and loveliness. The bhaktas who are together with Him in Navadvipa, who experienced all the manifestations of His divinity together with Him in seva, pure loving service, are well aware of the fact, that when He takes sannyas, a new, unheard-of, tragic lila of God in the role of the 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 playing the role of a wretched sannyasi. As God's otherworldly feature is *not* to be displayed openly in kali-yuga, He cannot destroy those who are turned away from Him (the pashandis) and asuras with His club and disc. 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 the bhakta, as Radha, searches for Krishna and serves HIM (Krishna) in separation. The highest bhakta of all is Radha. With this role, He connects the role of the ideal bhakta, which He is merely indicating when He is 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