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The Immutable In Metamorphosis "An Exploration Of The Essential Self In The Gaudiya Vaishnava Tradition"



Synopsis

Immutable In Metamorphosis is a book composed during the study of Gaudiya Vaishnavism under the guidance of my diksha guru Srila Bhaktivedanta Narayana Maharaja and his disciple (my siksha guru) Sripad Premananda Prabhu. The book seeks to discover the source of the individuation of the innumerable entities that live in our shared world. In order to accomplish this a study of the energies of Bhagavan is undertaken as explored in the corpus of Gaudiya Saints such as Srila Vishvanatha Chakravarti Thakur, Srila Krishnadas Kaviraja Thakur, Srila Rupa Gosvami, Srila Bhaktivinode Thakur and other great saints. The thesis is that individual souls emanate from the lila of the Divine Couple Sri Sri Radha and Krishna constantly and without end. All that is created and eternal is manifest from this play of the Divine. I was only able to corroborate parts of the book with my teachers as it is a discourse involving a complex analysis of the energetic aspects of divinity (sat, cit ananda, internal, external and marginal etc.) a dialogue that was very difficult to translate (I don't speak Hindi or Bengali) especially when it was coming from an author known more as a comedian. It is a very technical piece of writing and the style is a bit dense. It is recommended for those with an understanding of the tradition but someone with a real desire to understand the source of existence could, with careful reading, understand the ideas presented. The book grew out of a need to understand the source of the soul which is eternal but somehow blended with the physical body. The final source of the soul has always been said to be ultimately mysterious and unfathomable and will remain so after the reading of the book. What I have attempted in is an uncovering of the mystery. Srila Bhaktivinode Thakur was the most revelatory in the exploration of the soul but left much to discover. His exegesis is the starting point of this book. The book was a natural outgrowth of my need to understand one of the most interesting aspects of my tradition- the way that the Gaudiya Vaishnavas understand the soul's source, its substance, present state and its future. The approximately 100 footnotes have been placed into the text as Anglicized Sanskrit because the diacritic program used to render Sanskrit was difficult to use in kindle. There is no active table of contents and the book is about 100 printed pages. The diagrams I used at the end to illustrate some of the ideas in the text are illegible but they can be understood by careful reading. The cover art of the book was painted by Charlotte Biancucci (Vishakha dasi) and is a representation of the mysterious connection between the soul and her source. The book is presented in the form of modern presentation of scholarly work with invocations to my gurus and homages to the great saints of our tradition and the book was intended to be in the form of a spiritual exegesis within the canon of Gaudiya-Vaishnavism. I hope you enjoy the book as it was a great pleasure to write.

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