

The Half-young and Half-old Fallacy

*Instructive Stories from the teachings of
Srla Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur*



***Under extreme poverty, a non-Hindu person
once took his hen to market for sale.***



**I think if I declare
the hen to be an ancestral one,
then I can fetch a very high price
because usually an old variety of
rice, tamarind and ghee is more
expensive in the market.**



As such he started proudly praising in the market about his hen.



He continued to do so for about a year; unfortunately not a single buyer was interested in buying such weak and disabled hen at any price.



Seeing his condition an elderly man advised...



What are you doing man? Buyers will be reluctant to buy your hen as you have been declaring it to be an old one. Naturally the buyers will be interested if you could present it as a young virgin.

Upon this good advice, the hen - owner conjectured that he had already presented the hen as very old for several months. So he decided to present the hen in the market as halfold and half-young to attract customers. However, when he did that he was ridiculed by everyone in the market and of cause no one came forward to purchase it.



Purport :

Those who are impersonalists speculate similarly advocating that Brahman is both formless and as well as with a form. In fact, the realization of completeness of Brahman is greatly affected unless its eternal and transcendental potency is accepted.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu thus says -

brhad-vastu 'brahma' kahi-'sri-bhagavan'
sad-vidhaisvarya-purna, para-tattva-dhama
tanre 'narvisesa' kahi, cic-chakti na mani
ardha-svarupa na manile purnata haya hani

“Brahman, who is greater than the greatest is the Supreme personality of Godhead. He is full of six opulences, and therefore He is the reservoir of ultimate truth and absolute knowledge.”

contd.

“When we speak of the Supreme as impersonal, we deny His spiritual potencies. Logically, if you accept half of the truth, you cannot understand the whole.” (Cc,Adi. 7/138,140)

Those who glorify Sri Gaurasundara, but not Lord Sri Nityananda, or glorify Lord Sri Nityananda without glorifying Lord Sri Gaurasundara or offer obeisances to Lord Sri Krsna, but not to Lord Sri Gaurasundara; or pay respect to Lord Sri Gaura but not to his spiritual master, or accept Supreme Godhead, neglecting His devotees or honour His devotees without honouring the Supreme Lord simply speculate on the basis of the fallacy of the half-old and half-young hen.