

## **"What is the intended meaning behind Srila Prabhupada's use of the word 'Godhead'?"**

- HG Ravindra Svarupa Prabhu

If you look up the contemporary definition of the English word "Godhead", you will find out that it means "the Divine nature or essence", and that is in a way an abstraction of God.

Nonetheless, there is another aspect to the English definition of the nature of God as it relates especially to the Christian concept of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The similar word in German is "Gottheit", which is used 'in the same vein'.

For Srila Prabhupada, our Trinity is Brahman, Paramatma and Bhagavan. In our Trinity, Bhagavan is the one with whom we are mainly concerned - for 'the sake of' Krishna.

Moreover, Bhagavan also includes the Paramatma aspect of our Trinity, as well as the all-pervading Brahman. They are all a part of Godhead.

The other phenomenon, which distinguishes us from the Christian theology, is the belief that all that exists emanates from the energy of God.

There are different potencies, of course.

Sometimes Paramatma and Bhagavan are more prominent because they are in one sense a part of Godhead.

There exists Paramatma, which deals with individual souls. Furthermore, Paramatma deals with Brahma himself as well.

Thus, they should, to some extent, be comprehended within the scope of Godhead.

Being the ultimate source from which everything originates, and the principle generative force of all energies, Godhead is beyond the reach of the established Christian definition of the Trinity.

That said, in the case of Lord Caitanya, nothing is different from Krishna, nevertheless Krishna is different from everything else.

We actually see that in Bhagavad Gita, but Lord Caitanya brings it out and allows it to see the light of day.

The famous expression of Srila Prabhupada "the Supreme Personality of Godhead" refers specifically to that aspect, who is Krishna. And then of course, Krishna Himself has further aspects – how He deals with the material world, and how He is His own internal energy.