

(Translated from Bengali )

To Swami Ramakrishnananda

[C/o Lala Badri Shah]  
ALMORA,

The 28th July, 1897.

Dear Shashi,

I got the news that your work there is going on very well. Read thoroughly the three Bhâshyas (commentaries), and also study European philosophy and allied subjects well — do it without fail. To fight others one requires sword and shield — this fact should never be forgotten. I hope Sukul has reached there by now and is attending to you well. If Sadananda does not like to stay there, send him to Calcutta. Also, do not forget to send a report of the work, including income and expenditure every week to the Math.

Alasinga's brother in law left [Almora], having borrowed four hundred rupees from Badri Shah, promising to send it back as soon as he reaches [Madras]; inquire from Alasinga why he has not sent it back yet, and tell him to send it quickly, because I am leaving this place the day after tomorrow — whether for Mussoorie Hills or somewhere else, that I shall decide later.

Yesterday there was a lecture in English circle, and all were very pleased. But I am very happy with the lecture in Hindi that I delivered the day before — I did not know before that I could make an *oratory* in Hindi.

Are there boys joining the Math? If so, then carry on the work in the same manner as it is being done in Calcutta. At present don't use up your brain too much, lest it becomes exhausted — you can do that later on.

Pay particular attention to your health, but too much coddling of the body will, on the contrary, further spoil the health. If there is no strength of knowledge, nobody would care for your bell-ringing—this is certain—keep this firm in mind and work accordingly.

Please accept my heart's love and blessings to you and convey the same to Goodwin and others.

Yours,

Vivekananda.