

## ISKCON AND VIVEKANANDA

*No, this is not the first time. Prabhupada, the founder of ISKCON said about Vivekananda, "he is a rascal and he had no knowledge." But that was before the age of social media. And hence there was no backtracking then. Fast forward to the present. Amogh Lila banned from all public appearances for a period of one month. I would call it a damage control exercise.*

*I don't have much to say about Amogh Lila's opinion about non veg food. Our scriptures do talk about Sattwik food (including the Gita) but nowhere do they say that a person who has non veg is not eligible to be a saint. Saintliness is not about what you eat, but about WHAT YOU ARE. For the record, Jesus ate non veg and drank wine. God doesn't believe in the "One size fits all" formula like his followers do. That much is obvious.*

*But the rant of Amogh Lila about Ramakrishna's famous declaration "Joto mat, tato path" is unpardonable. He maintained that if someone wants to go to Australia, there was only one way to go. If each took his own way, someone would land up in Antarctica or in Alaska. Now Amogh Lila should have known by this time that God is not a geographical location. God is an inner dimension for which you are not required to travel anywhere outside in the world. Buddha achieved Nirvana sitting under the Bodhi tree. By going inside.*

*And even if we want to play the game of logic and rhetoric - yes, there is only ONE way for an Indian to go to Australia. He would have to go south-east. That is the Indian "mat". But the one having the American "mat" would have to go south-west. The one having the Antarctic "mat" would have to go north and the one having the Alaskan "mat" would have to go south. The "mat" depends on where YOU are located. Accordingly, as the "mats" would differ, the 'paths' would differ too. So geographically too, Amogh Lila's logic falls flat.*

*And the body language that Amogh Lila displayed while speaking on this subtle point, was downright obnoxious. He looked like a cheap,*

*motivational speaker bordering on the clownish. My point is, preach your own ideology and attract people if you can. Don't attack others.*