

Satyanusaran

Satyanusaran (The Pursuit of Truth)

By Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra.

[In 1910 A.D when Thakur was only twenty two years old then in one spontaneous outpouring, in the course of one night, Sri Sri Thakur wrote down these messages unfolding everlasting life and light.]

The degeneration of humanity began at that moment when the unseen god was made infinite and, ignoring the Seers, the worship of Their Sayings began.

Oh Mankind! If you desire to invoke your good, forget sectarian conflict. Be regardful to all the past Prophets. Be attached to your living master or God and take only those who love Him as your own. Because all the past Prophets are consummated in the divine Man of the present.

Weakness

First of all, we must wage war on weakness. We must be bold and brave; for weakness is sin incarnate! Drive it away at once – this depressing, blood-sucking vampire! Say – you are bold, the offspring of Might; believe - you ARE a son of Father the Supreme! Before all else, be daring, be sincere. Then it is clear you have the right to enter the kingdom of heaven. With the least weakness you cannot be truly sincere, and so long as your thoughts and words do not agree, the dirt within shall not be touched. Once word and thought become alike, the dirt cannot collect within.

The hidden rubbish floats up in words and sin cannot remain within. Failure need not be weakness; to fail to try is weakness. If, despite your all-out effort in anything, you fail to succeed, no harm; carry on; don't stop! That unblemished effort must carry you toward the goal. Weak minds are always suspicious. They can never trust. Their faith has been lost; so they are generally sickly, tricky, sensually inclined. For them, all of life is a burning. Ultimately joy and sorrow are dissolved in despair. What is pleasure, what is pain, they cannot differentiate. If asked, they sigh, "What's the difference!" Ever restless, their lives deteriorate in dullness. Love and regard has no place in the weak heart. To be anxious about one's own distress, suffering or death on seeing that of others and to be broken, bewildered and distraught thereby is weakness. But the eyes of those who are strong are always seeking for a remedy in everything they do and in such a way that no one is shattered while in that condition. To find the remedy with love, as did Lord Buddha, is the sign of a courageous heart.

Say not you are timid! Say not you are a coward! Say not you are evil-minded! Look towards Father! Speak fervently, "Oh, I am Your son. Within me there is no more dullness, no more weakness. I am no longer a coward! Never again forgetting You will I run towards hell with my back towards Your light crying, 'Darkness, darkness, darkness!'"

Repent

Repent, but see that you have not to repent again. When you will be repentant for your misdeeds, at that very moment you will be pardoned by the Supreme Father, and you will understand it by the heavenly consolation you find in your heart. That will make you courteous, peaceful and cheerful. It should be understood that he who repents but commits the same blunder again, must fall soon into deadening misery. To repent in words only is not repentance at all. It is rather an obstruction to feeling repentance at heart. When real repentance comes, all its signs express themselves in varying degrees.

Kamini Kanchan

Almost all the miseries men have in the world come from the addiction to 'Kamini-kanchan' (women and gold). It is better to remain as far away as possible from these two. Lord Ramkrishna enjoined on everyone to remain far, far, far away from Kamini-kanchan. If 'Kam (lus) be dropped from 'Kamini', 'ini' (shi) becomes Ma. Poison becomes elixir. And Ma is always Mother – never 'kamini'. To add 'gi' to Ma is catastrophe. Beware! Don't lose thyself taking Ma as 'Magi' (fallen woman). Everyone's Mother is the Mother of the world. Every woman is another form of one's own Mother. Think in this fashion. If filial thoughts be not heartfelt, one should not touch woman. The farther away from them one remains, the better. Not to look upon their faces is better yet. He who only wails, "My passion and pride do not go, do not go," will find they never go. One should become habituated to those activities and thoughts which have no scent of pride and passion; then the mind forgets them. If thoughts of passion and pride do not arise in the mind, how can they show up? The way out is to remain always absorbed in higher thoughts and activities. Investigation into the science of creation, mathematics and chemistry controls lust. Any kind of enticing conversation on 'Kamini-Kanchan' can bring attraction for them. So, the farther one stays away from such talks, the better.

Misery

Contraction is dejection. Expansion is delight. There is a lack of happiness in that which brings weakness and fear in the heart and that is grief. Desire unfulfilled is misery. Don't expect anything. Be prepared for every situation. What can grief do to you? Nobody is miserable by nature. If one wishes, he can drive it out. Pray to the Supreme Father: "Thy will is good. I don't know what will make me good. Let Thy will be fulfilled in me."

And be ready to accept that. Joy will remain and sorrow will not touch you. Be not the cause of another grief; none will be the cause of your grief. Misery and happiness are both modes of mind. To lack the thoughts and deeds befitting the desire is misery. You may serve the world in a thousand ways, but you cannot destroy its misery until the sense of inadequacy be removed from the heart. Dharma alone can do that.

Hypocrisy

If you want to prosper in Sadhana' (avowed activity), give up hypocrisy. With the hope of getting a good name from others, the hypocrite mainly deceives himself and due to his little faith, he deprives himself of the real gift of others. You may speak volumes, but you can never find real happiness unless you become truly elevated. The inner feeling does not come out in the words of hypocrites; so their faces remain cold even with words of joy. What can words do? The spirit does not throb within the heart. The sea of bliss is bitter-salty to the hypocrite. Though he go to the ocean, he cannot quench his thirst. The simple man, like a swallow, has eyes turned upwards. The hypocrite, like a vulture, has eyes always downward. Be little, no matter, but keep your eyes turned upward. What is the use of being big, but like a vulture with eyes always looking down from on high. Be not a hypocrite! Don't be deceived and don't deceive others.

Tendency

This is very true: whenever the tendency grows to see another's fault, then that fault has made its home in you. Then and there, without delay that evil tendency should be smashed and swept away! Then you are safe. Otherwise, all will be destroyed. If your eyes see only other's evil, you will never be able to love anyone. **And he, who cannot see truth, can never be true.** Your eyes will be as unclouded as your mind and so clear the world will appear before you. At first, try with all your might to find good in what you see, and breed this habit in your very bones! If your tongue be always slanderous – unable to speak good of others, never pass an opinion on anyone. Try within to hate your own habit and grimly determine to be rid of that hell of slander in the future. To vilify others is to defile oneself with their defects. To spread good of others makes one's own nature good unconsciously. But one should not praise others with a selfish motive. That is flattery. Generally, in such cases, thoughts and words do not agree. This is very bad and the faculty to express one's independent opinion is lost thereby.

Dharma

The stay of all existence is Dharma, and He is the Supreme Fulfiller. **Dharma never becomes many.** It is always one. There is no variety of it. View may be many – even as many as there are people. Still, Dharma cannot be many. In my opinion, to speak of Hindu Dharma, Christian Dharma, Mohammedan Dharma, Buddhist Dharma, etc. is wrong; rather, they are so many views. In fact, there is no opposition in the views – different views, the same way – feeling One in many forms. Each faith is for the expansion of avowed activity. That can be in many forms and as much as is gained by the expansion, so much the realization – wisdom. So Dharma is based upon realization – to be ‘real’ in nature.

Knowledge

If you long for good, give up conceit of knowledge. Listen to everyone and do whatever helps to expand your heart. No other passion creates such a hindrance to knowledge as does conceit of knowledge. If you want to teach, think not you are a teacher only. “I am a teacher”: this ‘teach-conceit’ hinders one from learning. As far away as you keep pride, so far your vision or wisdom expands. When the ego dissolves, then and there, the soul becomes the possessor of all qualities – the Absolute.

Pride

If you go with pride to examine a true Master, a loving Sage or Saint, you will only see yourself in Him and will come away deceived. The test is to feel blessed in the race of a true Master by approaching Him without prejudice or preconception, with a loving heart, humility and as little pride as possible. He can never be tested on the touchstone of pride, but as if torn by the horns of a ram, He can be rent into pieces by real humility. As the sparkle of a diamond, which remains in coal and dirt, can only be seen after thorough cleansing, so also, He Who lives in society as an ordinary man can illumine the world with His sparkle only by the washings with love. The lover alone can know Him; so keep the company of lovers and worshipers of Existence. He may manifest Himself. A proud man can examine proud man. How can he fathom one whose pride is dissolved? He is as strange and queer to him as a wise man is to a stark illiterate.

Opinion

After taking the shelter of a true Master, think independently and express your own opinions respectfully. Reading books don’t become like a book. But try to breed its essence in your bones. “Pull the husk to draw the seed.” Don’t pass any opinion on or give up anything after only superficial study. No real knowledge is gained about a thing until it has been seen thoroughly, and what opinion can you give if you have no knowledge about it? Whatever you do, try to see the truth in it. To see the truth in a thing means to know how it exists, and that is wisdom. About the things you do not know give no advice to others.

Selflessness

If you are unable to give up your defect even after knowing it, do not ruin others by supporting it in any way. If you be good yourself, thousands of people will be good seeing your example. If you be bad, you will find no one to sympathize with you in your distress because being bad, you have made your environment bad. Know this for certain: **You are responsible for the present and future of yourself, your family, your environment and your country.**

It is not right to start any activity with hope for name and honor. But to the extent you do any work unselfishly, name and honor must serve you. What is done for the self is selfish. What is done for others is selflessness. Merely to ask nothing for self or others is not selflessness. Give away! Desire nothing for yourself, and you will see that everything is becoming yours.

Help others

Try to give others as you desire to have. To proceed with this understanding much is enough. Everyone will like you and love you spontaneously. Being just, try to make everyone happy in an honest way. You will find that many are trying to make you happy. Be careful – don't try to make anyone happy at the cost of your 'self'; then your troubles will know no end.

Fate

Work on, but be not enslaved. If a change of circumstances brings an undesirable change in your heart, know for certain you have enslaved yourself by your work. Do not be confined by any kind of prejudice. Except those of the Supreme Father, all prejudices are bonds. Your fate is what is just beyond the range of your vision and knowledge – the not-seen, the not-known – hence is fate as you say. Throw off your proud, stupid, Satan 'I'. Move on the will of the Supreme Father. Fate can do nothing. The will of the Supreme Father is fate. In your every condition just try to understand His blissful will. You will see, grief can't touch you; rather, strength will come in your heart and even in sorrow you will find bliss. Don't break down thinking about fate. Work on! Don't be idle! For just as you work, so is your fate unfurled to your vision. The doer of good never fares ill. He gets his rewards sooner or later. With eyes on the Supreme Father, work on! His Will is fate. Don't sit foolishly making fate anything else. Many people leave their rudder, sit non-plussed and think they are without a destiny. Having no reliance, they ultimately pass their whole lives in distress. That is foolishness. When your 'you' leaves, fate is finished. Then there is no seeing, so no unseen.

Move forward!

But don't try to measure how far you have gone, lest you fall back again. Feel, but be not overwhelmed, lest you be unable to proceed. If overwhelmed you must be, be so with love for God. Serve as much as you are able. But take care you have no desire to be served. Request, but do not seek to order. Never speak ill of others, but indulge in no untruth.

Be patient, but in being so, don't become an idle procrastinator. Be swift, but don't spoil everything by your unwise annoyance. Be brave, but not like a tiger or bear – cruel. Be firmly resolved, but do not become obstinate. Bear all yourself. Help him who cannot bear; hate him not but encourage and sympathize. Be miserly to praise yourself, but for others be lavish. First embrace him with whom you are angry, invite him to eat in your own home, send gifts, and until you can speak to him with an open heart, pray with repentance for his good to God; for from hatred you will gradually become narrow, and narrowness is sin.

If anyone do an injustice to you and you must at all take revenge, behave with him in such a way that it may make him repentant. There is no revenge like that repentance – the fire made of husks. It is blissful to both. Do not abolish friendship; otherwise, in your distress you will get neither sympathy nor consolation. Even if your friend be dishonest, do not give him up; rather give up his company if necessary. But with affection in your heart help him in his distress and danger, in thought, word and deed. And embrace him when you find he has become repentant. If your friend has gone astray and you do not try to bring him back, or if you give him up, its punishment will not forsake you either.

Do not spread scandal about your friend. Don't speak ill of him in any way. But also, do not indulge him in any of his faults. Be not arrogant to a friend, but punish him with love and affectionate dignity. Bear no expectation from a friend, but receive with love whatever you may get. Give, but hope not for any return. For anything received, try to reciprocate.

Pain

As long as you feel pain in your body and mind, keep trying to remove the pain of even an ant. If you don't do this, who is there more deficient than you? If you get a slap on your face and can say, "Who is beating whom?" then say that for another. Well and good. But beware! If you can't think like this in your own case, don't talk like this in the case of another. If you become secular at the time of your own difficulties, don't feign to be spiritual at the time of others'. Rather, be spiritual at the time of your own difficulties and secular at that of others'; even such a pretension is good. If you be a man, you'll laugh at your own grief and weep at that of others. If you dislike your own death, never say 'die' to others.

Laugh, but not in ridicule.

Weep; not from self-addiction but from love, devotion. Speak, but for neither self-aggrandizement nor fame. Do not hide from a man any example of your character if it be beneficial to him. Let your goodness roll out in deeds. But see that it does not come out in words. Attach your inclination to good; you will become good unconsciously. Be absorbed in good ideas in your own way. Your feelings will bloom accordingly to your attitude. As evil thoughts are revealed through eyes, words, dealings, behavior etc., so too good thoughts express themselves in the same way.

Be out-spoken but sweet.

Consider before you speak, but having spoken, do not evade. If you have spoken wrong, beware! Do not do wrong. Speak the truth, but don't bring destruction. It is good to speak good, but better to think and feel it. Surely it is better to speak enlivening words than deadening ones. But what is the use if they are not carried into action and feelings at the same time? The violin and guitar play well by the grace of player but cannot feel anything themselves. He who speaks much of realization but shows no indication of it froths only. All his big talks are imaginary. The deeper you dive, the more unrecognizable you are. As the pomegranate bursts open just as it ripens, so the honest thought within you when mature will burst forth of itself. You need not show it by words.

Pursue only that whim which follows conscience

– you must achieve bliss. Merge yourself in expansion, but don't be extinguished. Expansion is life! Expansion is love! The work which brings expansion or growth in the mind is honest work. That which brings superstition, prejudice, etc. in the mind – in a word, that which brings narrowness – is evil work. Don't do that work which makes your face gloomy when you speak of it to others. Usually, where there is concealment out of hatred, shyness or fear, there weakness is, there sin is. Do that avowed activity which brings love in your heart, and don't go near what brings cruelty, harshness and violence, even though temporarily profitable. Though you have gained such powers that you can move the sun and the moon from their courses, can break the earth into pieces or make all people wealthy, but if you have no love in your heart, you have achieved nothing.

Out for one don't ask for ten.

Try perfectly for the one; you shall get all. Surely you will gain life in the manner in which you give it. He who gives his life for love gains a life of love. Be inspired by your purpose and with serene mind forbear all. Then only shall your purpose be fulfilled.

Give your heart.

You need never retreat. Rely, and you shall never be frightened. Believe. You shall master the world within. Encourage, and try not to arouse fear. Have patience, danger will be crossed over. Be not vain. You shall not have to remain humiliated in the world. Confess your fault in anguish before you are accused. You shall remain untarnished, an object of affection to the world. Be restrained but fearless. Be simple but not foolish. Be obedient, but for that don't be weak-hearted.

Remain steady, but don't become rigid.

Don't pose as a holy man; try to become one. Don't compare yourself with a Great Soul, but try to follow Him always. Call others 'mine' if there is love in you, not out of selfishness. Just love before you speak of love.

Taking Him as the Ideal

To be blind is unfortunate indeed but to be without a staff is even worse; for the staff does much of the eyes' work. Going to school only doesn't make a student, and taking initiation only doesn't make a disciple. The heart should always be kept open to carry out the orders of the Master or Teacher. Have firm faith within. Whatever He says must be done and that without objection or excuse – rather, with the greatest pleasure. The student or disciple who gives his all in carrying out the orders of the Master with pleasure is never disappointed. The disciple's duty is to materialize the commands of his Master and to move on, taking Him as the Ideal. Whenever you find that on getting any command from his Master the disciple is pleased and his face blooms, you will know that strength has come in his heart.

The Master is the materialized form of Bliss

Be on your guard and do not serve your Master through servants or by ordering anyone else. Don't be deprived of bliss. Disregard for children never appears in the mother's heart because she cares for them with her own hands; hence her love is so great. In serving the Master with one's own hands pride becomes light, conceit goes away and love grows. The Master is the materialized form of Bliss, and He is the Absolute. One must take the Master as one's own. When one thinks of mother, father, son etc., His face should also appear in the mind. It is better to fear His love than His scolding – if I do any wrong, He will be pained in His heart. Always try to follow Him. Obey carefully what He says, and try unceasingly to plant that by practice in your character. That is Sadhana.

Follow, without hesitation

Be zealous for self-elevation and devote yourself to the Master or Truth. Be not attracted to what others are saying about you; otherwise, you will become attached to it and fail to have self-elevation. A selfish spirit often induces one to blame the Ideal, to doubt and to lose faith. Don't look for faults in the Ideal from a selfish spirit and don't doubt and don't lose faith. If you do, there'll be no self-elevation. But if being free of selfish spirit you find faults in a person, that person is no Ideal. Don't follow him. If you do, there'll be no self-elevation. He in whom infatuated pride, selfish thoughts, a lack of love exist is no Ideal. And he in whom doubt, faithlessness, and a selfish spirit exist is no follower. Follow, without hesitation, Him who is the possessor of love. You shall surely achieve your good! Follow Him alone who doesn't cause grief to anyone in any way, yet doesn't indulge evil. You shall achieve your good!

The Guide is the Regulator of hearts

Don't conceal anything in your heart from Him whom you have chosen as your Guide. To conceal is to disbelieve Him and that disbelief brings downfall. The Guide is the Regulator of hearts. If you believe it rightly, you will be humble to do evil. And if you have already done evil, you will confess it surely! But if you want to conceal, be sure that weakness has come in your heart and you are already attacked by disbelief. Be careful, or it may carry you far far away. If you conceal, your true Guide will also hide Himself. If you express the thoughts in your heart – become open – then for sure He also will be open before you! If, with the intention of concealing from your Guide, you use the trick: You regulate my heart and you know everything, you will fail and be surrounded by miseries. Exchange of hearts is a sign of love. If you conceal your heart, it is sure, you possess selfish desires. You love Him only in words. There is concealment in lust but there can be nothing concealed in love! The true Guide has a light ego. He will never assert His own strength to you by Himself, and so will follow you according to your thought. This is the characteristic of a true Guide. If you really have a true Guide, whatever you do, no fear. You cannot be destroyed. Only keep prepared for sufferings.

To be humble does not mean to be untidy.

- Display does not imply eagerness. Rather, it is excessive unrestrained expectation of the heart.
- Selfishness is not self-dependence or independence, rather, its opposite.
- The more you serve people, the more you become the master of all they have.
- To be spirited does not mean to be in a fury. Rather, it is firmness coupled with modesty.
- A holy man is no magician; rather, a renunciator, a lover.
- Does a devotee mean a fool? Rather, a wise man with humble pride.
- To forbear does not mean to retreat, but to embrace with love.

Pardon, but with the heart

Filled with rage, don't forgive out of incapacity. Do not judge and punish on your own. But place it wholeheartedly before the Supreme Father; that will be good. If you punish anyone for his misdeed, surely the Supreme Father will mete out the punishment proportionately to you both. Suffer for the Supreme Father, for the Truth; you will enjoy eternal peace. Do dwell in Truth, try to forbear injustice and resist not what you have to forbear. You shall soon achieve good in the highest.

Do not suppress narrowness or sin

If you have committed any sin, confess it in anguish. You shall be consoled soon. Be careful! Do not suppress narrowness or sin. If you do, it will increase gradually and quickly lead you to extreme degradation. Whatever of evil you suppress within will increase.

Give with kindness

Give, but with humbleness and without expectation. Let the door of kindness in your heart be open. To give, counting it to be kindness, is a patron of vanity. Be grateful to Him who, as Master, receives your gift with humility to awaken the feeling of kindness in your heart. Encourage, console, and sympathize with him to whom you give, feeling his grief. Then according to your ability, give with kindness. Love will be achieved. Your gift will be effective. The less you drum about your giving, the better. You will be saved from vanity. Don't refuse anyone who wants. Money, sympathy, encouragement, consolation, or sweet words: give any you can. The heart will become soft. The desire for the good of others is the mother of one's own good.

It is better to die at toil than on the toilet

He who does as he speaks is a first class worker. He who speaks less and does more is a second class worker. He who speaks more but does less is a third class worker, and he who, out of laziness, neither speaks nor does is of the worst type. Run, but don't pant, and watch you don't stumble. Should you feel aversion or anger in doing any work, know for sure, it is on the verge of failure. Be ready against the difficulties that arise at the time of executing a work. Don't be dissatisfied or impatient. Success will be your servant. Try and don't be gloomy; don't be sorrowful! Success must come! Delirium of distress is not a sign of the skilful. Haughty brain and vain, pompous thoughts are both signs of unsuccess. Gain success by avoiding or defeating misfortune, and see that difficulties do not cheat you of success. If neither joy nor sorrow hinders your movement, you shall without doubt reach your goal.

Be wealthy, No harm

But be humble and charitable. If a rich man be proud, he becomes downed with distress. A rich man, arrogant and proud, generally lacks faith, and the doors of heaven do not open in his heart. A proud rich man is a slave to impurities; so he ignores wisdom.

Give up what is against existence

Forgive, but do not harm by indulging. Love, but be not addicted. Love deeply, but mix not too familiarly. Bubbling is not the sign of fullness. If you are contented and free from anxiety yourself, try for others. The more the mind is overwhelmed by being attached to the cause of grief, the more will fear enter within and weaken the heart. If you wish to be saved, have no fear – no weakness. Be absorbed in enlivening thoughts and deeds. Addiction to evil begets fear, grief and sorrow. Give up what is against existence. Have faith is 'Sat' (Sadguru). You shall be saved. Be immersed in enlivening thoughts; enlivening deeds will be your helpers, and your surroundings, being enlivened, shall surely always save you.

What upholds the existence of an object is Dharma

To know Dharma is to know the root cause of anything, and to know that is wisdom. Attachment towards the Source is devotion, and wisdom is in proportion to the degree of devotion. Devotion and wisdom will be as much as is gained through that attachment. As much as you are attached to a subject, so much wisdom do you have about that subject. The purpose of life is to drive away 'want' completely, and that is possible only by knowing the Cause. Exhausted in want, the mind seeks Dharma or the Supreme Being; otherwise not. "What will remove 'want', and how? From this thought the question of the Supreme Being arises at last. What upholds the existence of an object is Dharma. So long as that remains unknown, nothing is known exactly.

Deep faith can do anything

The conception that cannot be affected or overwhelmed by contradictory conception is Faith. If there be no faith, how can there be vision? Work follows faith. As the faith, so the work. Believe! But beware that pride, impatience or irritation do not come in. You shall achieve what you want. It is faith alone that can bring expansion and responsive consciousness. And doubt brings in sluggishness, irresponsiveness and depression. Faith is above reason. If you have faith, all reasoning shall support you. As you believe, so will reasoning and arguments support you.

Faith is beyond the range of intellect

Feeling is the foundation of faith. Arguments and reason can never bring faith. The lighter the feeling, the shallower the faith, the less the constancy. Faith is beyond the range of intellect. Intellect is according to faith. There is 'yes' or 'no' in intellect – there is doubt. In faith, there is no 'yes' or 'no' – there is no doubt.

He who has no Faith has no realization

The less the faith, the more undeveloped and blunt the intellect. You may be a learned man; but if lacking in faith, surely you are no better than a gramophone record or an ox carrying a load of words. He who has no unquivering faith has no realization. And how can he who has no realization be wise? As much one's realization, so much one's vision and wisdom, and in wisdom is the firmness of faith. If you don't believe, you neither see nor realize, and if you see and realize, it ripens your faith.

Follow the faithful

As is the Ideal in whom you place faith, so will your nature be formed and your vision too will be like that. Follow the faithful. Love him. Faith will embrace you too. "I have no faith": with this idea man only shrinks his faith. There is not a man who has no faith. As deep and lofty the faith, so high the mind, so profound the life. He who believes in goodness becomes good. He who believes in delivery becomes devilish.

The effort to remain constantly attached to Sat is bhakti

Whenever faith is invaded by contradictory ideas, doubts arise. As soon as faith is overwhelmed by doubts which are again supported by the mind, depression sets in. If one gives up contrary ideas, hears and accepts arguments favouring faith, doubts vanish and depression cannot stand. No contrary thoughts can shake the faith after it has ripened. What can doubts or lethargy do to a true believer? Once doubt is indulged, it attacks the mind like a weevil, and ultimately it begets an extremely worn-out, dirty state of disbelief. To remove doubt and establish faith is to attain knowledge. If you have firm truth, no contrary idea, no incantation, no power other than that of your own faith can overwhelm or bewitch you. Know this for sure. As far off as faith will leave your mind, so much the world will doubt you and lose faith in you, and so much too will distress attack you; it is sure! The kingdom of distress and misery is in the land of disbelief. The land of faith is so fertile. Take care! If you find doubt-like sprouts of the weeds of disbelief, pull them out at once! Otherwise the immortal tree of devotion will not be able to grow. Devotion and faith are twin brothers. If one comes, the other follows. Remove doubt! Place devotion on the throne of faith! Let the kingdom of Heaven be established in your heart! The effort to remain constantly attached to 'Sat' (the Source of Existence Incarnate) is 'bhakti' (devotion). The devoted is the really wise man. Wisdom without devotion is merely verbal learning. You may say, "He is I", or "I am He, the Absolute", but hold on the devotion; then only, that attitude will stand in you. Otherwise, you can achieve nothing by it. As the faith, so the love, and so the wisdom also. First try to be free from vanity; then say, "He is I". Otherwise, the "He is I" may drag you down more. If you try to keep adhered to enlivening thoughts, your thought, behaviour, habits etc. will become broad and true gradually. These are the signs of a devotee. The mind becomes narrow when it moves to the narrow; when it moves to the expansive, it expands. So, when it goes to a devotee, it broadens, and as much broadness as there is, so much peace there is.

Concentration of devotion is love

When the mind is fastened to worldly things, it is addiction. When it is attached to the Divine, it is devotion. Love is the gradual development of devotion. Concentration of devotion is love. The thinner the pride, the bigger the place for devotion. How can one succeed in avowed activity without devotion? Devotion alone can bring success. As faith is never blind, do devotion is never stupid. In no way, at no time, is there weakness in devotion. Imbecility and weakness often appear in the garb of devotion. Beware of this.

Sign of the Sattvic state

Exciting oneself in bouncings and pouncings or a little weeping on the impulse of dancing or singing is sometimes taken for devotion. But this is not devotion at all. Momentary excess of emotion and outburst is not the sign of a devotee. There must be some sign of thin ego, sign of faith, signs of honest thought, good behaviour and broadness etc. in the character and conduct of a devotee; otherwise, devotion has not come. If there is not faith, there can be no adherence, and without adherence there can be no devotion! Vacillating, excessive ecstasy sometimes appears as devotion. Constancy is not there, and there is no telling sign of devotion He in whose heart there lies devotion cannot know he is a devotee. He whose heart is weak, inconstant and only emotional, thinks with great pride, "I am a great devotee." It is not that devotion has appeared wherever tears, thrills of joy, perspiration and tremors have come. Along with these, devotion must have its own characteristic signs. Tears, thrills of ecstasy, perspiration, tremors etc. are signs of emotion that can be of many types. If, along with these signs of devotion, appear the characteristic ones of that state, then only is it a sign of the 'sattvic' state – the state of divine life and good feelings.

Devotion is concentric to the Source

Artificial devotion is mixed with stiff ego. Real devotion is free from pride; i.e., it has a very thin pride. A man with counterfeit devotion cannot TAKE advice. Adviser-like, he can only GIVE advice. So if anyone advises him, signs of irritation, aversion and shirking the company, appear clearly on his face. The man with real devotion is generally quite unwilling to play the part of an adviser and signs of pleasure blossom on his face if he gets advice. Devotion can never enter the heart of one who believes little and worships many. Devotion loves many for the One. Addiction loves the One for many. In addition there is gratification from self-interest. In devotion there is satisfaction from interests for others. Devotion is concentric to the Source. Addiction seeks satiety in self-interest or ego. Addiction is the wife of passion, and devotion is the younger sister of love.

Veda is the indivisible whole

What is known by realization is wisdom. To know is to reach the Absolute through discernment, and that is 'Veda'. Veda is the indivisible whole. To the extent one knows, one is a Vedist. Wisdom destroys confusion and gives discerning eyes to man. Wisdom indicates the real nature of an object. When one sees an object in a condition that reveals all that is to be known about it, one knows its very essence. Devotion tries to attach the mind to Truth, and what is realized from that is called wisdom. Ignorance creates anxiety for man, and wisdom gives man peace. Ignorance is the cause of grief, and knowledge is bliss. The greater your wisdom, the greater your peace of mind. As your experience is, so is your strength to live normally.

Doubt is the messenger of disbelief

The more rigid the ego, the greater the ignorance. The lighter the pride, the brighter the knowledge. Doubt is the messenger of disbelief, and disbelief is the shelter of ignorance. Remove doubts the moment they appear, and merge yourself in thought of the good. You shall become the possessor of wisdom and bliss. Wicked thoughts create heinous experience, ignorance or delusion. Give them up! You shall be saved from grief. The more addicted you are to the evil, the more obsessed you will be by selfish interest and overpowered by evil knowledge or delusion. And disease, grief, poverty and death shall rule over you; it is sure!

Obsessed ego brings forth addiction

Addiction breeds selfish interest. Selfish interest gives birth to passion. Passion is the source of anger, and anger begets violence.

Devotion brings wisdom. In wisdom there is the sensing of self in creation. When there is this realization of self in creation, nonviolence emerges, and from nonviolence comes love. To the extent you possess any, you possess all.

He who is not greedy is not addicted

From obsessed ego comes addiction. From addiction comes ignorance, and ignorance is misery. From doubt comes disbelief, and disbelief is dullness. From idleness comes stupidity, and stupidity is ignorance. Thwarted lust is anger, and anger is the friend of violence. The intention to satisfy passionate selfish interest is itself greediness, and this greediness is addiction. He who is not greedy is not addicted.

No cunning is so good as simple honesty

Any person, whatever he may be, must be caught in this trap: "Honesty is the best policy."

- There is nothing so fascinating as humility.
- What else is so attractive as love?
- There is no achievement greater than faith.
- There is no eye like wisdom.
- There is nothing else to subdue vanity better than hearty humility.
- What sacred formula is there like carrying out the commands of the Living Ideal?

Move on! Go ahead! Don't get tired thinking about the path, or you won't be able to move.

Leader

He who has jumped first and shown the way first is the leader. Can empty words alone make a leader? At first, give up your all for others. Sell out your self at the feet of others. Forget to reckon the faults of others as faults. Be self-less in service. Then you are a leader; then you are the heart of your country, the king of your country. Otherwise, all this won't be achieved by words alone. If you wish to be a leader, give up charm of leadership, give up self-praise, stake your everything for the good of others, show them by doing yourself what is blissful and true, and speak of that to others with love. You will see how thousands will follow you.

Boldness

Rely and work on with boldness and indomitable enthusiasm. Beware that no misfortune come from anything in you to yourself or others. You shall find how the goddess of good fortune is tied down stationed in your house. It is said, "Fortune favors the brave." That's right. Faith, reliance and sacrifice : these three are the signs of bravery.

Work on in your own way

The longing for name and fame is a tremendous obstacle to self-elevation. After a little progress you make, you'll find some have come to find a Master in you; some are calling you a 'great man'; some, 'prophet' etc.; on the other hand, some are calling you 'satan' or 'scoundrel'; some 'a professional' etc. Beware! Pay no heed to any of them. They are all ghosts to you. If they are heeded, they will sit tight on your shoulders, and it will be very difficult to get them off. Work on in your own way, come what may. If, under the hope of name and fame, your mind behaves like that of a devotee, hypocrisy is hidden therein. Strike it out at once! Only then comes good. Otherwise, everything will be spoiled. If you desire to be Master, Prophet or God, you will certainly become a hypocrite, and due to that you will not be able to do anything practically, even though you speak volumes. If your wish is such, give it up at once! Otherwise misfortune is sure.

Can darkness cover the Sun

To the extent you are genuine, Nature shall honour you with endowments and provide you with Her appropriate privileges. You see this every day; then, what more do you want? Just try wholeheartedly to be genuine. Does the university honour anyone with a degree unless he has studied and passed? Don't propagate yourself, even by mistake, and don't request anyone to do it for you. Then everyone will hate you and will leave you. If you really have known some truth and if you think it is beneficial, speak to your utmost about it and request everyone to know it. If they understand, they will listen and follow you. If you have seen and understand Truth, it will surely burst forth in your thought, word and deed. You will know no rest until you are lost in it. Can darkness cover the sun?

A Real Preacher

If there is no truth in you, you may speak a thousand times, even show a thousand tricks, pretend in a thousand ways; still the light of truth will not effulge in your mind, character and words. If there is no Sun, a million lamps can't take away all the darkness. Propagating a truth, who speaks about his greatness, who is always busy with himself, who tries to show himself beautiful by various tricks and whose pride bursts forth in every movement – in love, in words, in reliance – however vastly learned he may be and however much he may speak about wisdom and devotion – he is a hypocrite for sure. Stay far away from him. Don't listen to his words. There is no truth in his heart. How can feeling appear if there is no truth in mind?

Vanity in preaching is a hindrance to real preaching. A real preacher doesn't, even by mistake, speak of his own greatness, observes Truth in deed, and charmed by the honest thought in his mind, speaks about it according to his own conviction. Whenever you'll find anyone is speaking about Truth with the pride of conviction, has become restless with pleasure and humility while speaking about kindness, is calling and embracing all with love and emotion, and instead of yielding at the moment he is told of his own greatness, becomes pale, humble, and crest-fallen as it were – know it verily – there lies blazing Truth in him and there you will find in his normal character too that Truth is ablaze.

Do light the lamp of Truth with the wick of wisdom soaked in the oil of devotion! You will see how you will be surrounded by so many grasshoppers and insects, so many beasts and men. He who thinks of the Source of Existence only, speaks of the Source only, and loves Him only is the real preacher. If there is no deep faith in the Ideal, there is no constancy, no devotion. And if there is no devotion, how can there be realization? How can there be wisdom? What will be preach? The pride of a real preacher is his Ideal. The pride of a false preacher lies in self-preaching. When your heart will heave up with bursting zeal to speak what you know as good, what you know as Truth – with the mind unaffected by what people say about you, but feeling pleasure if you find men inclined towards Truth – that is preaching. Without real faith, constancy, and devotion, you can never be a real preacher.

The real preacher

He who preaches himself deprives himself. He who, enchanted with the Ideal, speaks about Him does really preach himself. The real preacher alone is the true well-wisher of the world. Limitless is the number of creatures that may find self-elevation through his kindness. Be charmed with the Ideal. Feeling will swell up in your heart spontaneously, and there is no knowing how many people will progress, being inspired by that feeling. Don't desire to be the Master; rather, try to be an adherent to Him. And one adhered to the Master is the real saviour of lives.

Ego & pride

As long as body lasts, individuality also will last. So long as modes of mind remain, the ego persists. But the more passive one can remain, placing one's pride in the Ideal, the more self-less and tolerant he is. The less you brag of 'you', the better. The more you pride in the Ideal, the greater your good. Let the Supreme Father be your pride and enjoy bliss through Him. Don't place your pride in a false ideal; for then your ego will become even harder. The higher and broader the Ideal, the better. For, as high and broad your Ideal is, so high and broad you too become.

Eager to give service

Whenever you find people – specially the respectable – are bowing down at your feet and it doesn't elicit any great objection in you (you are sometimes hesitant with your words only, but not so much in your mind), know then and there for certain that self-adulation has stealthily entered your mind. Beware as soon as you can. Otherwise, you will fall for sure. Whenever anyone has bowed down at your feet and at once your head bows with humility and the mind is not ready at all to take service, rather it is eager to give service, and pleasure is felt in the heart only in speaking about the Ideal – no fear, you are in the lap of Bliss and always try to remain even more so.

Ideal

Take to the habit of the creeper and entwine yourself around the tree of the Ideal; fulfillment of desire shall be yours. If you feel pleasure in speaking about your Ideal, pleasure in hearing and thinking about Him, pleasure in His order, pleasure in His affection, pleasure even in His inattention, and the heart swells up in His Name; I tell you surely, don't worry any more for your elevation.

Take to the feet of a true Master, go on taking the Holy Name, and remain in the company of the devout. Truly I say, you have no more to worry for your elevation. Leave not the water of devotion and move not too far away to the sandy shores of temptation. It will be difficult to return when the sand will be hot from the scorching sun of grief. If you don't come back before it gets hot, you will dry up and die.

- Try to remain inclined towards devoted feeling; you will not fall, but will be moving forward.
- Try to be in tune with the Master, and don't follow your mind; progress will never leave you.
- Cling to right judgment, and don't follow the mind; broadness will never desert you.
- Hold unto the Good and follow not evil; peace will never part from you.
- Let humility find an abode in the heart – vanity will mean nothing for you.
- Don't long for, or be attached to, that which must be forsaken; you will be saved from grief.

Surrender to HIS will

Pray for love and keep violence far away; the world must be attracted to you. May thou be an ascetic at heart. Dress not thyself as a hermit, and be not chameleon-like for nothing. Let thy mind roam about on the Source or Brahma, but be not busy to dress thyself in saffron robes or to paint the body; for then the mind may incline to these things. Give up pride, you shall be able to remain in Good. Make the fallen hear the message of rescue! Give hope; by hook or by crook, try to help them towards elevation. Encourage, but let them not be wanton. If ever, after giving your all to your Beloved, you are immersed in Him and have fears of floating up, then do dive at once with all your ardour and love, and lose yourself. You will see how beautiful is the Beloved and how He has embraced you.

If the slightest public criticism, ridicule, inclination to relatives, loss of self-interest, neglect, or abuse from one's own or others can make you aloof from your Beloved, how shameful is your love, how meager! Isn't it so? If you understand a thing today, don't you tomorrow deny the same, calling it a riddle. Don't play fox like that. Because, even the lower animals do not forget what they once understand. So to speak like this is to display fickleness or wickedness. Today you are benefited. Tomorrow, blinded by selfish interest you pretend to be wronged: don't invite such ingratitude. What is meaner than this? Ask anyone. Unless one is a fool, one cannot be induced, by slander from the benefited, to blame the benefactor. When the helper is harmed by the helped, stupid pride breaks the bolt of gratitude and throws open the path of death strewn over the thorns of arrogance. Treachery pursues him who considers the shelter ugly because of any disrepute of the sheltered ones. Unfeeling and unbenefitting activities for the Beloved are never the signs telling love. One not desiring to do anything for the Beloved, yet loving much, is like a bronze dove made of gold. The selfish in spirit generally love like that. So it is better to guard against this sort of disinterested love. Otherwise, there is every possibility of danger. You love? But when the Beloved insists, influences, rules, insults, makes angry pretences or forces; and you, rather than feeling pleasure, suffer from the reverse, and all your happiness washes away; I say, you will cheat and be cheated, surely. And this will continue as long as you are such. So, while there is time, take care. The charm of love – increases with hindrance, causes no hatred to grow when oppressed by the Beloved, becomes vigorous in separation, doesn't stupefy a man, remains for ever unsatisfied, never leaves once it has touched, and is unchangeable.

The infatuation of lust – decays if hindered, arouses hatred if oppressed by the desired one or if one doesn't get as expected, makes one forgetful in separation and cowardly and stupid, brings satiety and depression in enjoyment, doesn't last long – it is changeable. Be venerable but no insufferable. If you like to charm, be charmed completely. If you like to be beautiful, see beauty even in the ugly. The beauty and meaningfulness of life lies in being devoted to One with intensity and continuity. When liking for many cannot shake or sever the liking for One, that liking is the

sister of love. Better be attached to the true Master than being shattered by the consideration of good and evil. You shall safely achieve success. It is sure! As the time of weakness think of beauty and strength, and when vanity seeks to possess you, think of the Beloved and of humility. Mental health will remain undisturbed. Don't be spoiled by seeing faults, and don't spoil those who are attached to you. Give to Him. Don't want, but feel blessed if you get. Surrender to His will. Don't try to make Him yield to you, because He alone is beautiful to you. Never give up the craving for Union. Otherwise, the pang of separation will not be sweet, and you will not be able to feel peace in distress.

As much as is your thought, activity, feeling for One, so much is your inclination, charm, and love for Him, and in the same way He alone to whom you have surrendered your all is your Lord – your Guide Supreme.

Doing is the mother of getting

Don't regret for not having without doing in the way you can have. To become sad without doing invites a 'not-to-get'. To get, whatever it might be, one must learn how to get it and do that exactly. Is there anything more foolish than to become impatient to get without doing? Know it for sure – "Doing is the mother of getting." Only when doing is in accordance with desire does success appear. The desired good of man remains hidden beneath his habitual superstitions, and the Giver of Good is punished only when conflict appears between the Goodness He gives and the habitual superstitions. So the saviour is slandered in His own country. Nature reproaches those who would approach the Unsensed – with neglect and rejection of what is Sensed. Those for whom the Seen is coloured or humiliated by the Unseen are deceived.

To know God is to know all or the Whole

That which being developed and becoming everything, yet remains the same, is **Brahma**. He within whom all the resources of the world – knowledge love and activity – are spontaneous, and by an inclination towards whom the scattered lives of men and all the diversities of the world find a final solution, is the God of men!

To know God is to know all or the Whole. He whose intense and active inclination for a Living Ideal, transcending time and space, has made Him into God normally; whose literature, philosophy and science, penetrating the scattered good and evil prejudices of the mind, have been meaningfully adjusted in the Ideal, is the **True Master**.

He whose mind is filled with attachment for One, or the Truth, is honest or chaste. To adhere the mind thoroughly to the Ideal is called **Holiness**.

When the mind is absorbed completely in conceiving anything thoroughly, it is called deep meditation or **Samadhi**.

Repetition of the Name makes man keen, and Meditation or **Dhyan** makes him calm and receptive. To remain engaged in any single thought and to feel that which distracts but cannot break our continuity is 'Dhyan' or Meditation. To be displeased means to be scattered. Be keen but calm. You will feel everything.

Attachment to One or concentrated inclination is called **Yoga**. That which, being opposed by something, wants to establish itself is 'self'. To make the ego stiff is not to know others. Those who are satisfied with meaningful solution through meditating observation are 'Rishis', Sages or Seers.

The solving and untying of all kinds of knots of the mind so that they become meaningful in One – is **Salvation**.


The ideas and activities that lead man towards the Cause are **Spiritualism**. The decision by which the Inner Cause is made to blossom is real Judgment. That analysis which determines the real form of the object aimed at is Reason. The painful feeling that arises from a judgment of the merits and demerits of a completed act, and causes abstention from evil, is Repentance.

The Place on going to which the knots of the mind are untied and solved is **Tirtha**, place of pilgrimage. Doing that which preserves existence is **Virtue**. Doing that which makes one fall from existence is **Sin**. That which exists and has expansion is **Real**. That to conceive which the mind retains its being is Finite. That to conceive which the mind loses itself is Infinite!


Peace! Peace! Peace!

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