

a while. He was then asked how he felt. "I thought I would die for want of air to breathe," came the answer. "Such a quest of God would reveal Him immediately," was the answer given by the master.

— Sri Ramakrishna

Doubt is Derogatory — 40-42

अज्ञश्चाश्रद्धानश्च संशयात्मा विनश्यति ।

नायं लोकोऽस्ति न परो न सुखं संशयात्मनः ॥ ४०

अ-ज्ञः च अ-श्रद्धानः च संशय-आत्मा वि-नश्यति ।

न अयम् लोकः अस्ति न परः न सुखम् संशय-आत्मनः ॥

*ajñas cā 'sraddadhānaś ca saṁśayaātmā vinaśyati ।*

*nā 'yaṁ loka 'sti na paro na sukhaṁ saṁśayaātmanaḥ ॥*

अज्ञः *ajñaḥ* the ignorant च *ca* and अश्रद्धानः *asraddadhānaḥ* the faithless च *ca* and संशयात्मा *saṁśayaātmā* the doubting self विनश्यति *vinaśyati* goes to destruction न *na* not अयम् *ayaṁ* this लोकः *lokaḥ* world अस्ति *asti* is न *na* not परः *paraḥ* the next न *na* not सुखम् *sukhaṁ* happiness संशयात्मनः *saṁśayaātmanaḥ* for the doubting self

The ignorant, the man devoid of *sraddha*, the doubting self, goes to destruction. The doubting self has neither this world, nor the next, nor happiness. 40

Ignorant is that man who is uninformed about Atman. Divine qualities such as self-confidence and noble effort are all born of *sraddha*; but doubt is the very negation of these great qualities. The doubting man does not trust anybody in the world. He suspects the words and deeds of the others. Through disbelief he alienates himself from the others and feels miserable. For want of faith in the right path he fails to pursue it and brings ruin to himself.