

Desire grown to the stature of greed is a destructive force and an enemy to all human beings. But the ignorant among them who come under its sway hold it as a helpful friend. Whenever a set back and humiliation ensue from it, the destructive force of desire is momentarily detested as a treacherous factor in the make up of man. But this feeling vanishes as quickly as it dawns. The unwary ignorant choose to ally with it always. But the case of the knowing man is different. Both while under the influence of desire and while holding it in abeyance the wise man views it as his sworn enemy. He likes no alliance with it. Still, in spite of him, it steals into his heart assuming innumerable forms and trying to allure him. It is therefore the constant foe of the wise.

The indicator in the balance moves away from the middle point when there is more weight on one side. The mind of man moves away from God allured by the weight of lust and greed.

— Sri Ramakrishna

Wherein does desire reside? The answer comes:—

इन्द्रियाणि मनोबुद्धिरस्याधिष्ठानमुच्यते ।

एतैर्विमोहयत्येष ज्ञानमावृत्य देहिनम् ॥ ४०

इन्द्रियाणि मनः बुद्धिः अस्य अधि-स्था-नम् उच्यते ।

एतैः वि-मोहयति एषः ज्ञानम् आ-वृत्य देहिनम् ॥

*indriyāṇi mano buddhir asyā 'dhiṣṭhānam ucyate ।*

*etaiṣ vimohayaty eṣa jñānam āvṛtya dehinam ॥*

इन्द्रियाणि *indriyāṇi* the senses मनः *manaḥ* the mind बुद्धिः *buddhiḥ* the intellect अस्य *asya* its अधिष्ठानम् *adhiṣṭhānam* seat उच्यते *ucyate* is called एतैः *etaiḥ* by these विमोहयति *vimohayati* deludes एषः *eṣaḥ* this ज्ञानम् *jñānam*