

## **Hunger of Soul**

Embracing a monastic life is not always a solution to the inner turbulence and torrent we pass through. In a world where death is an inevitability, one day every individual will be renouncing even one's own body, everyone is already a monk or nun by birth. Going by the true definition of monasticism, it is the hunger of our soul for the divine, and on the path toward satiation. The most glorious aspect of an elevated soul is its hearkening to the call of the Absolute Eternity. Disillusioned with the petty little joy of the world, limited knowledge, unstable love, and other limitations of life, the elevated soul hankers in search of the Eternal, Boundless, and Ultimate. One was gifted with an active inner quest: the quest for eternal existence, boundless love, everlasting joy, supreme peace, absolute knowledge, and the ultimate meaning of life. Even after being firmly entrenched in the structure of the monastic order, mental renunciation seldom becomes trustworthy. Until a spiritual seeker is sufficiently advanced on the spiritual path, it is difficult for them to understand the workings of the unconscious psychological state, and they are likely to be misled by various types of self-deception. The key to spiritual success is the awareness of the correct path. Through love and devotion, one can realize one's identity and spirit. The various passions, feelings, and emotions in our hearts generated by love can never be said to be wrong. Once they are given a higher direction, they attend to the greatest goal. For one's love for the Absolute, the undifferentiated will marginalize all his or her other attractions. The mighty love for the Absolute, entering one's heart, leaves little place for others to live there. Only then can one see beauty in everything around it as an extremely limited partial apprehension of an all-embracing divine beauty. The higher and higher we climb the spiritual ladder, we find that the state of bliss increases exponentially, compared with all the pleasures one can achieve here through senses, or one's intellectual satisfaction is reduced to nonexistence. The brighter the moon shines, the dimmer the stars become. When the Sun rises, the moon becomes dim. This is what supreme devotion is about. In the final stage of this spiritual journey of a true devotee, forms of any kind melt away, rituals are thrown aside, scriptures are superseded, philosophical debates become dysfunctional, images from any religion fall by the roadside, and only supreme love for eternally Absolute remains. Nothing is there to fetter us.