

37. *There are peaceful and magnanimous saints who live, like the spring season, for the good of humanity. They have crossed the dreadful ocean of finitude through their own efforts and with no ulterior motives; they also help others to cross it.*

A Man of Realisation instinctively becomes a lover of the whole universe. Like spring, his is a love which demands no cause to flower into a wealth of blossoms. He who has discovered that the Self within himself is none other than the all-pervading Consciousness which is non-dual, he instantaneously discovers It to be in the core of all pluralistic forms around him.

Living as he does in this intimate understanding of oneness, he cannot but love others as his very own Self. In his case, universal love is not an art to be practised, not a formality to be followed, nor a goal to be reached, it is his very life breath. This can be brought within the understanding of the laity through a comparison.

There can be no occasion for you to feel a constant hatred for any part of your own body. Even if your hand or your leg gives you a dose of pain, your anger towards them cools down when you realise that they are but your own hand or leg. For instance, if the finger of your right hand accidentally pokes your right eye, it is a case of one part of your body giving pain to another part of it. These can be moments of terrible protest of anger mixed with pain. But almost immediately you realise that it is your own forefinger that is the culprit and you cool down to a spirit of mercy and tolerance and paternally ignore both the offender and the offended. It would be foolish to punish the finger for, the pain to it would be more pain to yourself only. Similarly, when one has realised that the Reality within him is the pith and substance that constitute all others in the universe, love and kindness are natural and continuous in his bosom for all in the world.

On understanding the essence of Truth in ourselves, we gain a freedom from the sense of finitude which was ours so long as we identified ourselves with the body, mind and intellect. Since these

disturbances can no longer affect a Man of Perfection, it is one of the surest symptoms of knowledge and saintliness if we can observe an individual who is under all provocative circumstances, infinitely at peace with himself and with the world. Therefore, a sānta is a man of true broadmindedness which is the natural outcome of kindness, tolerance and so on. This is the flag of Realisation.

To say that a mahāpuruṣa after Realisation, casting off his desires, will retire totally, to a dark cave in the Himalayas, to count his days of forced existence in this corporeal form is fallacious. He may dwell in the cave or may walk about in the market place, where he lives is a matter of no concern to him. Wherever he be, whether in a jail among criminals or among devotees in a temple, irresistibly, instinctively, he will spread around him an aura of knowledge, light, cheer, joy and peace. It is his very nature, just as heat is the nature of fire and we cannot say that fire creates or generates heat.

Śaṅkara gives us an inimitable example when he compares the mahātmās and the touch of joy they lend to the world, with the spring season. When spring comes, it does not court every tree to bring forth its flowers nor does it reach the world and canvass the moon to be brighter, the sky to be clearer and cleaner, the grass to be thicker and every heart to be more joyous. The presence of spring and the concomitant conditions are complementary, the one cannot be without the other.

Similarly, it is for the Mahātmā to spread knowledge and cheer around him and whenever true seekers reach him, they are irresistibly drawn into his orbit to bask in the warmth of his personality.

The poetic suggestion is that he travelling in his own experience, is one who unasked, helps others to cross the shores of delusion and sorrow. Therefore, to surrender to such a one, requesting him to save us from our misunderstanding, is to assure for ourselves a true Liberation, almost a luxury liner to Truth!

