

in Truth, live uninvolved in the things that are happening around. If you participate actively in the happenings around, you will again tumble down into agitations. Therefore, remain in the world, let the thoughts in you dance about, but never get involved with them.

If you pour oil or water in a broken pot, nothing will remain in it after some time.¹ If the pot is not broken, the contents can remain in it for a long time. When it is broken few will come and take it away, as there is nothing in it. Remain like a broken pot. If you cannot eliminate the mind, at least make a few holes in it. This is how Kucelā (Sudāmā) lived in complete detachment. When his wife, in her exasperation gave him a talking-to, he ardently listened to her and deeply sympathised with her. But the moment she stopped, he started his japa – ‘Om namo bhagavate vāsudevāya’. This is called ‘things going out of the mind’ – the leaking mind. In this way, ever remain empty because, ‘Empty thyself, I shall fill thee’, is the eternal promise of all Prophets.

¹ There is another reading of the last pāda of this verse – *tiṣṭhedghaṭapaṭādivat* – here the meaning is direct and very elementary. One must live as unconcerned for the objects perceived around. When we see a pot, we know the pot is an object and we do not generally misunderstand it to be ourselves. Similarly, let us not identify with the ego.

