

○ Children of Light!

MUCH ADO OVER NOTHING

An ascetic entered a restaurant and ordered a light breakfast. As he did so, he thought, “My guru says that mind can work havoc. I cannot understand that.”

As he was gazing at a little drop of honey that had spilled over the wall by the carelessness of the waiter, he saw a bee that came to taste that honey. Soon a lizard rushed at the bee with its shaking tongue. Then the pet cat of the manager of the restaurant jumped upon the lizard. A customer had a tiny dog that he had hidden in his clothes. Seeing the cat, the dog jumped up and wounded the cat.

The rush of events that led to the wounding of the cat confused all the customers. The manager was furious. Abusive words rang from all sides and the restaurant was soon chaotic.

The aspirant watched this calmly and reflected, “Even so is this mind. If one is careless, even little things can work havoc. The teachings of the guru are perfectly sound.”

Do not let the mind go astray over the spilt honey of sense enjoyments. Externalization of the mind leads to innumerable afflictions. Be careful and watchful always.

DIVINE DATTATREYA

Sage Dattatreya is considered to be a manifestation of Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Sustainer) and Shiva (the Destroyer). Therefore he is pictured symbolically as having three heads. He was the son of great sage Atri and his wife Anasuya. He



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for Children*
by Swami Jyotirmayananda

was a born sage. When he grew up he preached the Truth of Vedanta.

Once king Yadu asked Dattatreya, “Blessed Sage, who is your guru?”

Dattatreya replied, “The Self alone is my guru, but from a relative point of view, I have learned from twenty-four gurus.

I have learned patience from the earth, purity from the water, splendor and sacrifice from the fire, and fullness from the ocean.

I have learned concentration from an arrow-maker, cheerfulness from the children and expansion from the sky.

I have learned from a spider not to create a web of entanglements, and from moths I have learned not to come under the sway of the organ of sight.

Thus, Dattatreya learned from various gurus the priceless teachings of spiritual life. For those who have deeper vision, every object and event in life is a teacher—a guru.

Because of his exalted vision, Dattatreya became the guru of gurus. Aspirants seek his grace for acquiring wisdom.

THE GLORY OF NONCOVETOUSNESS

Once a devotee of the Goddess of Wealth saw the Goddess appear before him. But the Goddess had strange features. Her forehead seemed to be bruised and the soles of her feet were wounded.

The devotee asked, “Oh Goddess, please let me know the reason for the wounds that I see on thy blessed forehead and the soles of thy blessed feet.”

The Goddess said, “Learn from me a great secret. When people hanker for me, I kick them in disgust. There are many on the earth who are greedy. The blisters on the soles of my feet have been produced by my constant kicking of such persons.

But when someone renounces greed, I present myself in utter supplication and bow low repeatedly before him, each time placing my forehead on the threshold of his door saying, “I am here at your service. Command and I shall obey.” Thus my constant supplications produce the marks that you see on my forehead.”

Therefore renunciation of greed is the secret of abundance. Crave for wealth and wealth shall renounce you. Renounce craving and all the wealth of the world will be after you.

