

Who Are My Brethren

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Before birth and afterward we are normally very focused on our mothers, suppliers of love and food. Later we learn there are social rules to obey, then there is rough play with other children, and there are cruelties and kindnesses; an abundance of early lessons in life.

Many children have a natural faith in God, and supernatural forces both good and bad. But, with the emphasis on finding a place in social settings and negotiating the swift currents of this world these finer sensitivities too often fade into the background.

There is a natural loyalty to family, whether it actually serves us well or not; there is a natural desire to belong, even when finding a place in this world does not come easy. So when the soul is re-awakening to the finer sensitivities of Soul there is often a desire to keep such precious cargo safe from thieves and robbers.

Jesus himself warned against dangling the inner workings before any and all when he said, **“Give not that which is holy unto dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”**

And yet there are times in our spiritual lives when our spiritual path runs contrary to worldly expectations. These can be simple things, such as whether to attend a family function, or the possibility of incurring the ridicule of friends, all the way of becoming a target of cruel enemies. With all of these social pressures on the one side and God’s direction to travel a road less travelled on the other, we will find ourselves tested in our loyalty in little and big occurrences.

What is a difficult test to one sadhaka will seem to be nothing to another, so we cannot measure another’s agony strictly by our own standards. Whatever tests come our way will certainly be tailored made to fit our own personalities and circumstances.

An early test came for me when attending a Kriya Initiation in June. I was working for my father; it was seasonal work in a fruit and produce business. One thing that was not done was to ask for time off in the busy season; June was in the middle of busy season, and I needed a week off! I fully intended to leave the job if leave was not granted.

My father asked what this initiation was all about, and since I found words difficult I handed him a copy of the Autobiography of a Yogi with the chapter on Kriya Yoga marked, and asked him to read it. Some time later my mother handed the book back to me and I asked if he had read it. She said he had. I asked if he made any comment, she said that the conversation went like this, “It sounds like they meditate a lot.” My mother replied, ‘Yes, I think so.’ That was the sum total. A few days later I received the week off, if begrudgingly.

Another time I was setting up my new apartment that was basically one large room with kitchen and living room, a hide-a-bed couch was my bed. I put up some cloth in front of my meditation blanket with the Guru-lineage taped on it. When I did so I was aware anyone who came in the door would see the pictures and I felt shy about that. Perhaps I should make it something that I could put away? Then I thought, "No one will be coming anyway, so no problem." Within a week my entire family came, brothers, sister-in-law and nephews, my parents and even grandmother! I was now inoculated, there was no one else who would have disturbed me to see my public display of my cherished Gurus.

Some people are very bold in broadcasting their latest fad. However my spiritual life was very precious and private to me; it was not my nature to *put it all out there*. It was my test to put God first, and what the world thought would have to come down the line, at least in second place to my spiritual life. I have had many such tests, I wish I could say it was easy for me, but often it tested me right up to the limits.

In going through powerful spiritual experiences God did not seem to mind that He had me do strange things in front of crowds of people without regard to my desire not to make a scene; perhaps He chose exactly those times to cure me of my regard for what others thought!

Over the years there were many times when God would suddenly come over me as a strong magnetic force that would make me move in certain ways: all the way from hatha yoga postures (some of them normally impossible), to dancing in very particular ways, singing and making tones at exactly the right pitch, and all sorts of unusual demands.

The biggest tests were times when I was in public, a store for instance, and suddenly God would start to move my body in very particular ways, turning it around in circles, walking me forwards and backwards, stopping and keeping me there for some time, with God and everyone else as my witnesses! I could only surrender to His supreme will and let others think what they would. The movements were always exacting and precise, but never did anyone chase after me with a net to haul me off to the funny farm!

Jesus made a tremendous point one time, using his mother and brothers and sisters as a means of emphasizing it. When he was told that his mother and brethren were outside to see him he answered, "**Who is my mother? Who are my brethren? ...Whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.**" (Matthew 12: 48-50). In this episode from Jesus' life he makes clear that spiritual connection is more important than blood ties.

This can come as a great test for the aspirant; not just with family but also friends, business associates, even what strangers might think of you if they knew your deep spiritual nature. The fear of what others think, how they might judge you is a tyrant that never releases you from a self-made prison of what others expect and what judgements they may have.

One of the things Mother faced, that would be very difficult for many, came when she left for Anandashram in 1957 without any idea of whether she would return or not. Her daughter was pregnant with her first child. As much as Mother loved her children I can only imagine that there was a strong pull for her to stay. Surely her daughter would have very much wanted her mother there through the pregnancy and after the birth. However, today we are all the great beneficiaries that Mother chose God's direction over familial considerations.

Each of us face the tyranny of what others think, and in order to have complete union with God you have to make the clear choice for Him alone.

When Mother asked me to give talks to the Spiritual Group she told me to speak from my own experiences, not just philosophy. Being so visible to the world with my inner spiritual life was very hard for me to do. But, I surrendered to Mother and forged on to the best of my ability.

Gradually I came to the point of wanting to only please God; if he was satisfied then all was right. When others were benefited from the talks, then it only added to the joy I felt in God. If others gave criticism, I listened to whatever truth they may have. It was through these experiences that I finally released myself of a prison I had made with my own imagination. I claimed my right to be in this world, with as much right as anyone else. I have a right to my own thoughts, feelings and wants, just as much as anyone else.

I realized that God does not want me to play small, but to stand in His light and manifest His likeness and image as He created me to be. His desire is for everyone one to do this so that He might fully manifest Himself through each and every individual form. In this way alone can He bring about His perfection upon this earth.

In this Work that I do for God and Gurus I love to be with those who do the hard work of transformation, who shows courage and tenacity in their desire to know God. We have all fallen short of the great goal on the way up, however the pearl of great price is known by those who never give up, never give in.

I will go every extra mile for those who are striving, however there are those who are coasting, or worse yet, due to their lack of focus create a wave of chaos and discord wherever they go. I have found that the fundamental principle for real psychological and spiritual growth is the ability to examine one's own actions with an eye for learning, and then go to school on the lessons life is constantly trying to teach us.

There are two types of arrogance that prevent this necessary self-examination. The first is the mindset that the problem is primarily with the world we live in. It is always, "What others have done to me, what they made they me do, and that the world is responsible for who I am." The second arrogance is the mindset that is always leads to self-referral, an exaggeration of one's own role in this world, "I am responsible for what others do or what happens in my world."

A stubborn adherence to this arrogance on either end of the spectrum will guarantee that not only will the individual stay stuck in ruts of thinking, but they will never be a Light to this world. When you dedicate your life to knowing God you will have a healthy relationship with your self and with this world. You will seek out kindred spirits who are dedicated to their own growth, even if, like you, they are occasionally imperfect. These kindred spirits are your real spiritual family, wherever you may find them; whether they follow the same spiritual path you do or not. You will know them by the quality of their heart, soul and spirit. These are your spiritual brethren.

Excerpt from Mother's Talk: Shalom; 1978.

I have met people who have total peace within themselves. I myself, deep within myself, have that kind of peace at all times regardless of outer situations. There are times in the human sense when I am under tremendous strain, under tremendous pressure because I have a tremendous job to do for God. But the way I have peace is to let Him do it! I don't take it on myself. I don't back down and be an Indian giver. I don't give it to Him one minute and take it back the next. Every moment of my life I'm listening to His voice of direction. From the voice of intuition which is John the Baptist which comes in the beginning in the human spiritual sense, it is now the voice of Christ that I listen to. And where it came spasmodically before, now it flows through my consciousness like oil flows out of a barrel. And it is with me every moment.

I am a free woman! And it is the most wonderful, the most glorious position to be in, in this whole, wide world. I don't worry about what anybody says. I don't care what they do, what they think. I am free. The responsibility is theirs! Isn't that a wonderful attitude to adopt, that the responsibility belongs to each one?

It's like the story I told you once about the guru and the disciple, where the guru was tremendously fond of this one disciple and kept him with him all the time. Naturally, there's always envy and jealousy around and so the boy was rather puffed up that this was so, you know. But, finally it came time where the master felt it was necessary to discipline this disciple. He had had the easy way for long enough and so now the time of testing was coming. So he started giving him tasks that he didn't like to do, of not being with him so much, of devoting a great deal more time to other disciples and gradually just shutting him out.

Well, the boy just couldn't stand this. So, here he had been the favorite son, had everything his own way. He was so proud of his relationship with the guru. So, at last, being given some menial task to do, he couldn't stand it any longer and he just ranted and raved at the guru. He told him that he was through with him, that he couldn't stand this treatment any longer and that he didn't ever want to see him again. And so he left his presence and he went out into the world.

Well, for a while he felt really free. He had peace inside of himself. He was no longer disciplined. He could go and do whatever he pleased, see whom he pleased, go to bed when he wanted to, get up when he wanted to, eat what he wanted to. There was nobody curtailing his activity. But pretty soon he found out that he was in a little trouble doing all of these things because it wasn't just all the way he thought. He began suffering for some of his actions. Then he began to think of how he had been when he had been in the presence of his guru. What tremendous love that guru had showered upon him. What tremendous wisdom had been given him. Kindness, consideration in all things. And his heart started to ache. And it ached so badly that finally he just felt the absolute necessity for running to the feet of his guru which he did. He threw himself down before him and he said, "Master, how can you ever forgive me for what I have said and done to you?" He said, "My son, you have done nothing to me." "Oh, I did," he said. "I called you names. I told you that you'd been cruel to me. I told you I didn't ever want to see you again. I treated you terribly!" The guru said to him, "My son, if you were to offer me an apple and I should refuse it, who would still have it?" And he said, "Well, I would, sir." He said, "Just so with insults you gave me. I did not accept them so they are still with you."

You do not need to accept what other people give you if it is not to your liking. Examine yourself. If their criticism is justified then change yourself. If it is not, don't accept it. Don't even give it back to them, you see, because you haven't had it. Sometimes we have it, we take it and then we try to give it back. That's not the thing to do. Just don't accept it in the first place. Don't accept it in the first place.

Be a free person! And the way to do that is to fix your consciousness totally upon God at all times! This requires a great deal of battle in the beginning. It's a funny thing that you use a sword. As Jesus said, he came not to send peace but a sword, in order to cut away the debris in your life, all of the things that are not worth keeping, in order that you might find peace. Like Krishna said to Arjuna. Christ is said to be the man of sorrows. He led the way for us, he showed the way. And he is always shown upon a cross. Amazingly enough, Krishna is always shown with a flute. And that is really a true picture of what the Christ is.

You see, we confuse the savior with the Christ because the savior is the Son of man. And the Christ has become the Son of God because he has crucified the human ego. And so Krishna, playing the flute, is luring all the people to God. And constantly he is filled with joy, with laughter, with pranks that he is playing on the people and they all loved him. His name is on the lips of everyone in India, and many places beyond. They even name their children out of one of the thousands of names of Krishna so that every time they call their child they are calling on the name of the Lord. This is a beautiful and a wonderful thing. And I notice that in all of the births that we are having in this group that this too is coming to pass, that people are seeking for names in the spiritual sense that really mean something in God and giving these names to their children. And it is beautiful. Because when you stop to think about it, God's name is one by whatever name you want to call Him. The original word is AUM, which we have made into Amen. But it came from the original Sanskrit word "A U M", AUM. And that Word went forth

and it became all of the names, all of the forms. Everything that we see in this universe, that one Word became and is. That's amazing.

But when you have peace you have everything. Nothing bothers you. This doesn't mean that you don't live, that you go around like a robot. It doesn't mean that at all. It means that you have turned your life over to God, that you have become the Christ, or the Son of God in truth! And that He is running your life and you are free of responsibility.

You have the responsibility of listening to His voice alone and you do that merely as that small part of you which is still left within you which is the witness to what the Christ is doing. It speaks of it in Revelations. You witness what He is doing but you have no responsibility but that. Then you do it. You are at peace but you are the busiest person in creation. You are also the happiest, the most joyful and you have the most fascinating life that anyone could have, because you are in business with every business in the universe. You are one with every single individual. And you know finally the true meaning of the word brotherhood, of the phrase, "Peace on earth, good will toward all men." Because you come to the point where what other people think, say and do is not important to you if they are trying to influence you wrongly. You come to the point where your habits can't dominate you any more, that you are the master and not the slave. And you will never find peace until you get on top of these bad habits.

Now, we're told in this chapter to go into the battleground and fight them and you do. You have to face up to them. This is a fact. But don't forget that facts can be changed! The truth can never be changed, but facts can be changed! What is a fact in your life today may not be a fact tomorrow. Many times people will say to me, well, I remember years ago you said so-and-so, and it's a direct contradiction to what I'm telling them now. So they're putting me on the spot; they're using my own words against me, so to speak. And I'll say, that's right, I did, because at that time that was a fact. That was what you needed. And that was how your life was. But today what I tell you is a fact and because I tell it to you today in my state of consciousness and yours it is also a truth! It is also a truth. Because God reveals the truth to someone who surrenders themselves entirely to Him. It is just constant the way it comes. It is like a feeling inside of yourself on knowing beyond all question of a doubt that this is the word of God, this is the will of God, this is the everything of God. God is! And this is the truth! And when you have this, finally, when you have paid the full price for it, there isn't anybody on earth could dissuade you or tell you that what you have is not the truth.

I've had many, many people in various church groups tell me that I was an anti-Christ, that I was an angel of Satan, because I told them the truth, and that truth wasn't in accordance with the fact that they had been taught before. They were told a story. It was a parable. But inside that parable is the seed of truth. And it is up to us to open it like you would crack a nut and take the real kernel of truth out! And use it, see it, apply it and become it.

The greatest service you can do yourself is to become the truth, to be one with your real Self which is God within you. I think in all of this that I read you this morning, this one little thing, “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” If you will let the peace of God rule your hearts; if you will see nothing but God in every individual you meet, in every circumstance of your life; if you will do your part, forget yourself and help whoever stands before you to become one with God within themselves, you have not lived in vain.

We are not put here to live for ourselves, for our own pleasures, for our own satisfaction. We are put here to overcome those things in order that we may have the eternal satisfaction, the eternal knowledge of the truth of God and of our oneness with Him. I and my Father are one. Blessed Spirit I am He.

Focus for the Month:

- In thinking about who are your brethren, surrounding yourself with kindred spirits, consider who in your life brings out the best in you. Whether it is in your spiritual life, social life, work life, notice the qualities of those who manifest a higher light.
- Track your internal response to being in the presence of others. Do you notice the arrogance of thinking it is all the fault of others when things go wrong, or do you constantly and exaggeratedly find fault with your self. Can you find that middle path of being a learner in life, with healthy self-awareness and self-responsibility?
- The most stable point in life is what Mother described as the deep peace she felt in all circumstances. It is from this endless fount of peace that we may enter into this world and not be disturbed by what others think, and be held up in emotional black mail by what others lay on us. Practice having this peace all through the day and in all circumstances.
- Practice putting God first in all circumstances. Notice the freedom you feel as you have only one “boss” in this world, and that is God. You need not make yourself a social misfit, however, when you know that God is expressing His will through you, put Him first above all other considerations.



Jesus tested by the elders