



Overcome Temptations

Beloved and worshipful Gurudev! Adorable Divine Presence, who art the all-pervading, all-immanent, the beginning and end of all things! Thou art manifest as Guru; we bow to Thee tow-in-one! This relationship of identifying and unity is the path-pointer, the remover of the veil that bound us. Beloved seekers and sadhakas! Great is your supreme good fortune. Most blessed are you! Shakaracharya spoke of three blessings: human birth, longing for Liberation, and the proximity of liberated sages and their wisdom teachings. We have a fourth blessedness: an environment and facility for the practice of spiritual discipline, for contemplating the Divine and engaging in sadhana.

Turn to God for help with sincerity and you will receive it. Turn to Him day after day, meditate, direct your mind, focus your heart upon Him with faith, love and humility. What you ask for shall never be denied. But, as we have to connect ourselves with God, we have also to contend with our grosser, lower carnal nature. Passion, desire, physical appetites, lust, greed, anger are the dire enemies of the sadhaka, hard to overcome but not impossible. This is the *adesha* (command): “*Jahi Shatrum Mahaabaaho Kaamaroopam Duraasadam* [Gita 3.43]. Slay this great enemy in the form of impure desire, cardinal passion and physical lust. It is formidable, but slay it.” The seeking soul should never lay down before this enemy and surrender – never, never.

But more often than not, not recognising this foe, we think it is our well-wisher; and we befriend it! Such is the beguiling, alluring nature of this dire enemy! The devil comes as an angel; the poison comes as sweetness. Such is this extraordinary delusion! We invite temptations; we go into that area where we are tempted.

A wise man must shun those persons and places where temptations lies, must not rush in where angels fear to tread. Turn to God for help, and you will receive it without fail. Nothing is more powerful than intense aspiration, *mumukshutva*. Nothing is more powerful than the power of faith and *sattvic* determination and the power of the Name of the God. If you make each day given to your through His immeasurable love, a day of vigilance, wakefulness and true aspiration, then each day will be a step nearer to the grand Goal. God speed you! Gurudev Bless You!

God Bless You!

■ *Swami Chidananda*