



Dattatreya's Admonition

Worshipful homage unto Dattatreya, the *trimurti avatar* (the united form of Brahma, Vishnu and Siva) the divine son of the austere and illumined Sri Atri Maharishi and *Sati Sadhvi Mahapavitra* (most pious) *rishi-patni* Sri Anasuya. May the benedictions of this divine couple be upon all married couples. May the divine grace of Dattatreya be upon all.

Dattatreya was a Supreme Yogi. He was the Adi Guru, the primal world teacher. Contemplate His life. Meditate upon Him. Feel His divine presence. Evoke in your mind the sacred memory of Sati Anasuya and Atri Maharishi, the power of chastity and divine grace in the form of Divinity taking birth at the earnest supplication and prayer of a heart filled with devotion.

The Divine trinity Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshvara gave a boon that they would be born as children of sage Atri and Sati Anasuya. She became the mother of these three children, but later on two of them – manifestations of Brahma and Rudra – withdrew into their bodies, leaving behind *kamandalu* and *mala*, and *trishula* and *damaru*, *shankha* and *chakra* were retained by Lord Vishnu.

Ever try to be steeped in the lofty teachings of Guru Dattatreya. His one admonition is: "Attain God-consciousness and become established in it. Until you realise God, ever strive yourself by continued unbroken effort in a state of awareness of your divinity". May your intellect be firmly based, with absolute conviction, upon this truth: "I am divine. I am immortal Soul, birthless and deathless, beyond time and space, without name and form. I am Atman, I have no limitations. The body does not limit me. The mind does not limit me. I am the limitless, all-pervading Divine-consciousness. This is my true identity. This is my real nature". Never fall into the slumber of Self-forgetfulness. Ever strive to keep yourself in a state of ever-wakeful awareness of your divinity. This is the one thing we should try to receive from Him as His benediction and *prasad*. He is a *nitya avatar*, *pratyaksha devata*, a living, immortal ever-present manifestation of Divinity upon the earth plane.

Gurudev's central message to mankind is: "Blessed immortal Atman! You are not this body, not this mind, not this finite intellect. You are immortal Soul. Be aware that thou art beyond these finite *upadhis*. Enquire, "Who am I?" Know Thyself and be free". May the blessings of Dattatreya and Gurudev and the benedictions of Sati Anasuya and Sage Atri Maharishi enrich your spiritual life and elevate you to lofty heights of Divine consciousness and awareness.

May God Bless You All!

■ Swami Chidananda