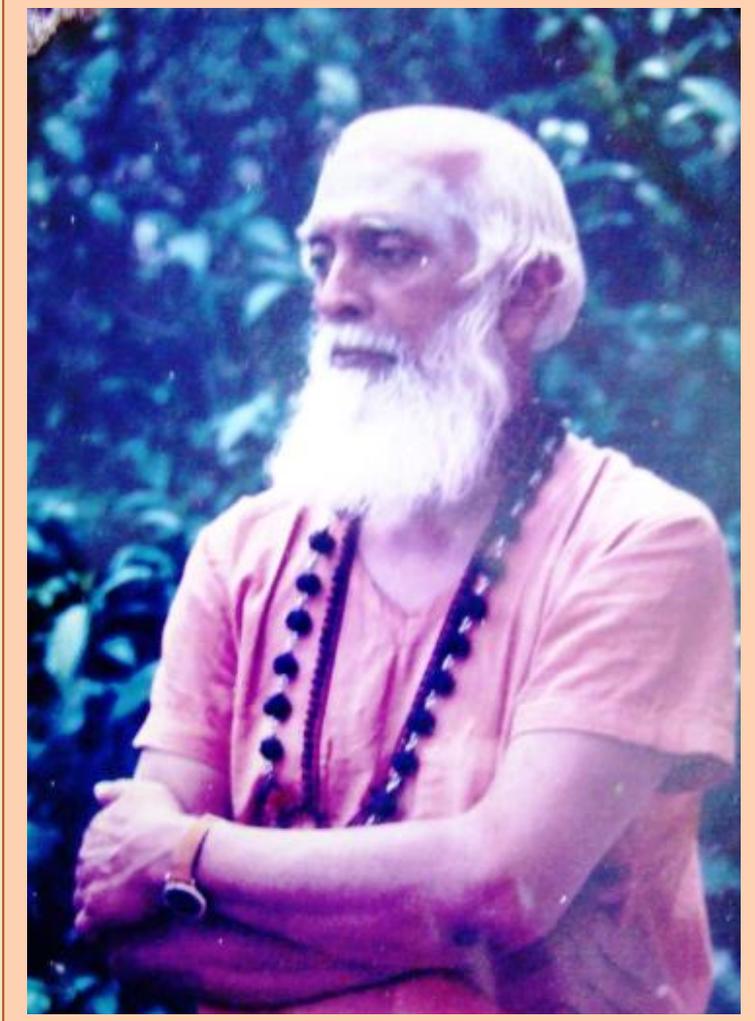


Letter to a devotee on her marriage

*By Swami Shantananda Puri Maharaj,
Vashishta Guha, 1995*



OM

VASHISHTA GUHA
GOOLAR DOGI POST
VIA RISHIKESH
(UP-HIMALAYAS)
PIN 249303
6-5-95

Dear Mrs. X,

NARAYANA SMRUTHIH! May the blessings of our LORD and JAGADGURU be on us all. Mr. S has desired me to write to you and hence this letter. I learn that you are going to get married. All the events relating to the body are all pre-programmed and we can neither

invite them nor avoid them. Accepting them all with pleasure as LORD'S will is the best way to get the maximum happiness in this life. They are all required also for the exhaustion of the Vasanas. There is a beautiful shloka in "BHAJA GOVINDAM VERSE 19":-

*Yogarato Va Bhogarato Va Sangarato Va Sanghavihinah
Yasya Brahmani Ramate Chittam Nandati Nandati Nandatyeva*

[Swamiji has written the sloka in Devanagari script in the original letter]

Whether engaged in spiritual pursuits or pursuits of worldly engagement, whether living in a crowd or in solitude, the one whose mind revels in the glory of the LORD IS ALWAYS HAPPY. Never expect that a husband or a son should be of similar spiritual temperament and that all environment should be kept pure, handy and ready for your pursuits. If we remain firmly rooted in our sadhana keeping our goal in sight all the time, all environment changes to suit you.

If the environment remains antagonistic, it means that there is laxity in our Sadhana. Intensify it and all environment will change for the best. Thus the nature of environment is the best BAROMETER to assess our own progress. I never, in my life, tried to teach spirituality to anybody (including the son of my earlier ashram). When our own TYAGA, TAPASYA and constancy of thought of GOD increases, it will work on everybody around you. Presuming to be knowledgeable and trying to correct the people around us is the greatest mistake and its effects are less than minimal. Let our attention always be on our own Self and not on others.

I am sorry that I have started lecturing myself. These are not advices but a loud thinking of some stray thoughts.

In case you are going to settle down at DELHI, I shall have no objection to visit you whenever I pass through Delhi or even stay for a day or two at your place (unless it is too far off from station/ISBT etc.). The Grace of the greatest Masters ever born on this earth (Paramacharyal [written by Swamiji in Tamil script]) is always with you. It is working by itself. You do not require anybody else. Further, the love that Mr. & Mrs. Y as also Mr. S. bear for me has led them to exaggerate my worth. Even through the grace of my GURUDEV I have been not only led into Sannyasa but have been made to do some Sadhana leading me to a window wherefrom I have a clear view of the destination, I still continue in the role of an aspirant 'SADHAKA' only. For ought we know, though young in age, your all birth seniority as a SADHIKA may rate far higher than mine! I WISH YOU THE HIGHEST HAPPINESS MAKING YOUR NAME MEANINGFUL ('your name' means one who possesses the highest bliss [edited the name to protect privacy]).

I am proposing to leave for GUJARAT where I shall be shut up in a self-contained solitary room underground for two months from 30-6-95 to 28-8-95 (one month each in the Ashrama in both cities – NADIAD & SURAT) – in solitude and without any communication

with the outside world (two meals will be slid – noon and night through a small opening in the door with Tea twice a day). No sun's rays penetrate and there is a slight opening for some slight ventilation. No letters are delivered to the inmates and they can't see anything outside the room, no windows. I may then go to PUNE / PANDHARPUR for a week or two and return to GUHA by end of September. It is all subject to LORD'S will even though the Mouna dates have been confirmed by the concerned Ashrams. I never sought the Sadhana. It came unexpectedly my way. I shall be at GUHA till 20-6-95. Mr. S is always kept informed of my movements.

May all the blessings of the Lord be on you. Please do write sometimes.

HARI OM,

Yours in Gurudev,

Shantananda

PS.

1. Till one stage in our Sadhana, every inch of progress seems to be an uphill task. Soon enough we reach a stage when no Sadhana is done by us – we are only made to do them. Everything goes without effort. Every moment and everything in this world is full of joy. We are the witnesses of the 'greatest show on earth'.
2. Please ring up and inform Mr. S that I have written to you as per his letter.

Note: All the capital words / emphasis / sentences are as written by Swamiji. No editing has been done in order to retain the original form of the letter.

* * HARI OM * *

Website: <http://www.swamishantanandapurimaharaj.org/>