



Friends of BHAKTI MARGA

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Sri Swami Vishwananda
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Question: In the Guru Gita you talk about being cursed by the Guru. For what reason would the Guru curse someone?

Actually, the Guru Himself doesn't curse anybody. The Guru is an incarnation of Love, mercy and compassion. Do you think there is any trace of negativity in the Master? No! To be able to curse somebody means that there should be some trace of negativity, isn't it true? The Guru doesn't do that. We read in the Holy Scriptures that the sages used to get angry very quickly and curse people. But it was always for the sake of the greater benefit, like in the story of Anjana, Hanuman's mother.

She was a heavenly dancer, an apsara. One day, she was travelling around the world with her friends. All of a sudden, their heavenly vehicle could not move up to heaven. So they decided to see the beauty of the Earth. She was mesmerised by the nature there. There was a moment when she saw a pillar of light on an anthill, and she was wondering what that was. She looked carefully and thought that it was a monkey, so she took a twig and started cleaning it off, just to see the face. However, there was a sage meditating inside the anthill. The sage came out of his meditation, and immediately said, "As you disturbed my sadhana, you will be born on Earth!" Then she said, "Please forgive me! I thought it was a monkey." The sage got even more enraged and said, "As you have thought that I was a monkey, you will be born as a monkey!" So, she got very scared. When the sage calmed down, and saw that she had sincerely repented, he realised, "Oops, what I have done? Due to the power of my penance, I can't take back what I have said." Then through his divine sight, he understood why he had pronounced those words. So, he revealed to her, "Look, I can't take back what I have said, because it was Yogmaya Herself, in the form of Saraswati, that pushed me to pronounce that curse so that you can bear Shiva as your son."

She was a heavenly dancer of Indra's Loka, but her devotion for Lord Shiva was well known in the heavens. And her only desire was to have Lord Shiva, nothing else. So that's why that event was 'enacted'. (Before, Brihaspati had already blessed her, saying, "May you be blessed to have a son." Then, he realised, "Oops! How can a heavenly dancer have a child?" The heavenly dancers, the

apsaras, can't have children, they are like angels. Then he said, "Saraswati made me say that, so that you can bear Lord Shiva as a son.") Then she was happy. So due to that curse, she was born on Earth, as Anjana to bear Lord Shiva as her son, in the form of Hanuman.

As you know, Lord Rama was sent to exile for 14 years. Kaikeyi had one son called Bharata, but she loved Rama very much, even more than her own son. But, her mind was deluded by Maya, so that Rama could be sent to Lanka and accomplish His mission there. So like that, often some people may say that the Guru curses.

But the Guru doesn't curse, because whatever comes from a Master is a blessing.

However, there is a curse which is called Guru aparadh. When people go on the spiritual path and take Diksha from a Guru, they are blessed so that they can advance spiritually. But, sometimes, for whatever reason, these people become negative towards the Guru, and go around talking all kind of rubbish (Guru drohi) about the Guru. This is due to the negativity of their own mind that starts judging the Guru as if he is a normal human being. So what happens? Due to that blessing that the Guru had given, automatically they attract a certain curse from the cosmic realm and doom themselves. This is the reproach of the soul, because the soul wants to advance, and the mind is putting a barrier between the Atma and the Guru, which is the greatest "dis-advancement". So, automatically, those people curse themselves. It's not a willing curse from the Master, but it's a curse from the soul. Scary, huh? It is! Because that curse can make one fall. The Guru will always elevate people, but the people's own negativity may be the cause of their own downfall.

When you look at how the mind functions, the mind will always try its best to make you fall. That's why it keeps diverting you from your sadhana. The Guru is the reminder that you have to do your sadhana. The Guru is always pushing you towards God-Realisation, and reminding you that this is the most important thing; nothing else is important! Your soul is aiming only for God, nothing else! But if you don't want it, the Guru can't force you. So, if the mind becomes negative, the soul curses itself. And when the soul curses itself, then you fall really, really, really far down.

So...then you may ask, "How can we save ourselves if we have committed Guru aparadh?" Surrender! If you have ever done that, go to the Master and ask the Master directly for forgiveness. Only the Master can forgive you. And the Master, out of his mercy, can really elevate you, from wherever you are. Of course, you will not be elevated back to the same position. There will be lots of tests, even more than before. Nevertheless, due to the Love and mercy of the Master, by the Grace of the Master, he will help you.

