

It Must Become Our Passion

It is the experience of almost every seeker that after a period of early enthusiasm and progress their spiritual life settles down—it doesn't have quite the same enthusiasm, and the early progress seems to be missing. The sad fact is that even if we keep up the spiritual life until the day we die, we don't seem to find much change in ourselves. It may be a very important part of our life, but there has been no fundamental transformation.

Is there an obvious reason for this? It stands to reason that if we're going to bring about a transformation in our life, we have to be willing to change. The problem with the spiritual life is that while we're prepared to change in a surface way, perhaps even radically, such as leaving our occupation or even leaving our home, we are very reluctant to change at the core. In fact, most of us won't even look at it let alone consider it.

We all know the words: Brahman alone is, one without a second, and we are That. That means there are no two. There isn't me and Brahman. Brahman alone is. That means that all the concerns I have for me as an individual, including *my* concern about *my* liberation, has no ultimate meaning.

This is just too much for most of us. And yet it is this change in perspective that the spiritual life demands of us. And if we're not even prepared to look at it, let alone consider it, how can we expect any fundamental transformation in our being? How can we expect our spiritual life to be meaningful in a fundamental way?

But then, how can we bring our minds up against this truth? All our spiritual practices are trying to do this for us. Every spiritual practice is trying to wean us away from the personal and put our mind on to the Universal. A great sage said, "Bondage is I and mine. Liberation is not-I and not-mine." And so no matter what our sincerity, no matter what our other spiritual practices, if we're not facing into the truth that we are bound by I and mine and we can only be liberated by not-I and not-mine, then our spiritual life cannot become truly progressive.

And this is a process that we must carry on every day. It is not enough to occasionally contemplate it. It must become our passion. We

must want to know and realize the truth at any cost. It must become the most important thing in the world to us: Not-I, not-mine. Not-I, not-mine.