

Between God & me...

Gita Krishna Raj



The first letter I wrote to God was full of questions. And He is still answering them for me. To be honest, I have forgotten most of the questions I raised. But every time an answer appears from Him, I recollect asking it in my youth.

*I know not why I pray to Thee, Oh Lord
day after day and night after night
For I still have not received
any release from my plight.
I've been good to everyone
never knowingly unkind
Yet all the world's worries
rest on my mind.*

*I know not why
I try to be helpful
to the rich and the poor
the wealthy and the needful
When all I get in return
for all my good deed
Is no help from You
when I am in need.*



*I know not why
I have to go on living
when You, my Lord
can take away my suffering
By just a wave of your hand
or a look from your eyes
I can be transported
from earth to Paradise.*

*I know not why
I ask You these questions
when I have a fair idea
of Your reasons and motivations
I'm here for my sins
to endure and pay the price
To leave this land of mortals
never to return from heaven - that Paradise.*

When I failed to read His answers initially, I opposed His existence. But that did not satisfy me for now I had nobody to question, nobody to talk to. So I revived Him back and re-invited Him to reside in my mind. But I ensured He realised that He was an unwelcome guest.



*Smiles are in plenty and joyously say
that all the world is happy, healthy and gay.
But all the world's wealth can't buy that smile
when there is only sorrow every other mile.*

*It takes special people to smile in times of need
Spread the wealth of happiness through joyous deed
They are a source of strength at the time of tears
And on all gloomy days, weeks months and years.*

*They are not You, Oh Lord, nor claim to be so
Just human beings with body, mind and soul
They know what is love, joy and pleasure
have suffered sorrows the world can't measure.*

*They don't condemn us, nor laugh at us in mirth
For they know what it is to be a human on this earth.
Not like You, Oh Lord, who claim that you love
Yet sit on judgment from the heaven above.*

*Is it not better to follow such persons
learn how to smile without looking for reasons
Than to pray to You who Know not our feelings
For You are not one of us human beings.*



*Come down to earth, be one of us
Then You can judge and do what You must
For who knows a human - his desires and feelings
Any better than us - We human beings.*

He took all the blame and still refused to give me answers. Now I decided it was best to ignore Him. I didn't want to give anybody including Him credit for being 'me'.

*How to hold a pen I learnt at the age of three
Great accomplishment indeed it was,
to write on paper for me.
I learnt how to spell and read, proud was I of myself
They all praised my teacher –
no great feat of mine was it.*

*I learnt how to cook – my mother taught me how
I work alongside my father – he trained me to
I think of God and religion; philosophy, psychology
No thought originated in me, I read them all in books.
I dance as taught, sing as tutored, speak as others do
I walk, run and eat; pray, write and read –
all as trained to do.*



*If all that I did and do is because of another's efforts
What in the name of God have I done since my birth?*

*Am I just a robot that is trained by humans?
Am I the home of a devil, that I find no peace?
Am I indeed cursed to be disturbed all my life?*

*What effort is mine that I accomplished all by myself
To reap the fruits alone – praise and fault alike?*

*If nothing else it shall be, one thought I shall retain
One effort I shall make every second of my life*

*No one can say they cause my happiness –
I'll never give them that power
Happy is something I shall be,
by my own efforts and dreams.*

Praise came my way, in abundance I must say. But as more people began to admire me, more incomplete I felt. I thought I should run faster, and faster to win the race. Till one day I woke up to find I would still feel inadequate.

*I sure want to be the dearest of my mom and dad
the best loved relative to my entire family
the most trustworthy pal to each of my many friends
O Yes! To be cherished by every life I touch.*



*Not just at my home- town or in my beautiful country
in every part of this world, famous I want to be.
Not just to the literate or the spiritually inclined - but
to peoples of all lands, known to every human mind.*

*I could enter politics, glamorize the silver screen,
Maybe, found a religion or work in the social scenes,
lecture on life's philosophy, the world's best dancer be
but sure there'd be someone who never hears of me !*

*How can I reach everyone, just born to the very old
reach beyond language, religion - to all be known ?
Oh ! What touches everyone, just born to the very old
no matter what language, religion - to all is known ?*

*O Yes ! The five senses, the feelings we emote
the heartbeat, the life that is God to us within
common is that breath to every being on this earth
As my soul merges with Him, as life I will be known!*

That is when I acknowledged that indeed He was an integral part of me without whom I would have felt incomplete. I began to speak to Him, and to my eternal surprise I realised that He too was trying to talk to me!



*O God, can I see You ?
In the brilliant Sunrise
or the starry night,
the full moon, the sand dunes,
the drizzle and thunder showers,
the blossom of a flower
with dew drops on its petals,
this earth that is beneath my foot,
or the lakes oceans and sea ?*

*God do I see You ?
In the flight of a bird, the swim of a fish,
the gait of an elephant or the speed of a deer,
in the bees, the butterflies, the rats and snake,
the horse with its colt, the cow and the calf,
the cock, the chicken – mother with her child ?*

*Oh ! I think I see You !
There is born a child with a dimpled smile
as a toddler he runs with sparkle in his eyes
he dances at his youth, charms at his prime
now a frail old man there he lies with no life.*



*Oh yes God ! I have seen You !
With these eyes You have given me
I see all that is alive
With a heartbeat strong and steady
I see You every second of my life
Oh God ! I see You, how wonderful it is to see
O how I wish I could hear You,
to smell, taste and touch.*

*Here I stand taking an important decision
Logic says – “YES” or “NO” both are good
Confused am I, for by both I gain and lose
As my tongue moves to say “YES”,
I hear my voice “NO”
God I heard You, I heard You loud and clear:
What is on my mind, I hear my mother say
My dad says the words I long night and day
Every person who comes my way
has something definite to say
O God I hear You,
Ain't it wonderful that I hear ?*



*As the odor chokes my lungs
I long for a breath of fresh air
I open the window above the roses,
God I smell You there.
Food I eat in abundance
and plenty of water I drink
On an empty stomach, O Lord,
I taste you in every meal.
On the days I feel alone,
lost depressed and sad
Yes God ! I feel Your touch
in the comfort of my Mom & Dad.*

*O how complicated this body of mine is –
All that goes around me makes me feel, think !
Why do my eyes fill with tears
at the sight of death?
O why does my heart dance in delight
at the smile of a child ?
What makes me feel ? What makes me think ?
How can I comprehend
the details of this birth?*



*I see and am happy, hear and am sad
Smell, taste and touch and each time I do feel.*

*No! It's not true
that all You say make me happy
Nor that every time I see You,
You fill me with joy*

*But then –
If all that is good that my senses feel,
I liken to Thee
Can I say that only happy deeds
is what God is to me ?*

*If I see You as the fire that burns as my light
I should see You in the fire that destroys life ;
If I hear You in delightful words of my parents
I should hear You in hurtful words of others ;
If I smell You in the roses, taste You in my food
I should smell You in smoke, taste You in tears
If I touch You in the softness of a kitten's fur
I should touch You in the roughness of an
elephant's trunk.*



*O God I feel You in every happy deed
O God I do feel You in all the sorrows of life.*

*If all my feelings I liken to Thee
Ain't it my feelings that God is to me ?
If all my feelings is what God is to me
Ain't it my duty to always be happy ?*

My friendship with God grew by leaps and bounds. I could feel His step right beside me. I began to talk to Him about all my hopes and dreams.

*I want to be
a doctor using with skill the scientific tools,
a healer encouraging people with inspiring words
a lawyer understanding the intricacies of law making
an architect decorating intricate modern structures
a teacher preaching with love to her pupils
a student on par with the best of the intellectuals
a singer with the voice of a nightingale
a dancer with the dainty grace of a sail.*

*I want to be
a mother, sister, wife and daughter
boisterous, kind, delicate and wise*

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*a modern fun loving young girl
and a sober old-fashioned woman ;
educated and illiterate; in-style and homely
in passion and pleasure, mischief and mystery
in love and fury, laughter and tears
in frightened helplessness and powerful strength
in abject poverty and in the grandeur of a castle
in silent sympathy and in gloating revenge.*

*I want to be
a mirror that will portray any character I must
not over emphatic and maudlin nor too subtle but just
Yet I want my mirror not to be a mosaic of images
where my being individualistic is part of a dream
I want to become famous for all the roles I play
but let them all love me for what I am today -
an ordinary human being with nothing much to say
but a prayer to God for a lively expressive face.*

Little did I realise when I wrote this to Him that one day I would understand that all the world is a play! My conversations were heard, no doubts of that I had. But more importantly I spent a lot of my time listening to Him.



*On one sunny morn a letter I received
A few days later nowhere was it found
"Did I leave it here God ?" I asked and opened a door
Lo ! There it was the misplaced letter.
MEMORY was the God I referred to that morn.*

*The dates for my exams had been declared
I opened my textbooks - my mind wasn't there
Said I "God ! Let me study" and learnt all I could
I received my mark sheet passing with flying colours.
CONCENTRATION was the God that helped me pass.*

*I practiced weeks ahead for my dance shows
Yet on the day before, no practice I could
Said I "God give me stamina" stepping on the stage
For three hours I danced amidst applause and praise.
PRACTICE was the God that helped me those hours.*

*As darkness enveloped I switched on the night bulb
With no one else in the house, I retired to bed
"Let I not be afraid God" said I and shut my eye
The next time I opened, it was broad daylight.
SLEEP was the God that made me brave that night.*



*Longing to experience Him, I sat down alone
I knocked on His doorway of silence evermore
“God! Reveal Thyself!” I demanded as His child
My being was consumed by the very definition of life
CONSCIOUSNESS is the God I cling to at all times!*

And He told me about love and marriage.

*While most others stand out alone
Why did He give us a pair of hands ?
One we call right and the other left -
the working hand and the lazy limb
As one feeds, writes and does all the work
the other looks on and maybe helps around
But the joys and pleasures and praises that come
are received by both - waving and clapping together.*

Think !

*How would it be if two hands fed one lonely mouth
doing one job when so much is left undone.
If one is disabled the other comes to help
taking over responsibility and all the others work
We then find that what was thought to be a lazy limb
has as much to do as any other hand*



*for it is not conceived to overwork one
when by the other the work can be done.
If given only one leg we'd jump around this world.
But when provided with two, we use them both
Yet how could one walk and progress into the future
if one leg refused to stay still for the other to proceed?
For each keeps pace and has a steady influence
on the other's progress through this world.
Two eyes were given not to mention two ears
to see in unison and hear the pleasurable sounds
For no sight is beautiful if each eye is determined to
look its own way
And of course listening to the birds chirping with two
ears is better than one.
When God made Men and Women,
He designed them this way
**Like a human body most things common
with differences to say**
Be two hands doing your own deed
joining forces at the times of need
with healthy competition to progress faster
Yet be the steady leg - the pacemaker of the other*



*Enjoy the laughs and cry out together
For has anyone ever heard of
One eye smiling when the other is in tears?*

*When my ideal of love seemed impossible to achieve,
I sought His cooperation.*

*Eyes which see nature's beauty
fill with tears in reality
Ears which hear nature's call
wish to close at the sound of screams
Uses we found for all parts of our body –
some meant, some not to be
O heart you lift with joyous delight
only to sink with the burden of desperate need.
Described I once that man and wife
are like parts of a human body
Were, they like eyes, one in tears
the other smiling cannot be
Little did I know how tough it is
to match eyes with similar feelings
No thought I gave to the rest of the world,
the imperfect body.*



*When asked a born blind who has just lost his ears
What boon do you choose –
the power to see or ears with which you hear
Would he rather ask for eyes to see
that which he has never seen before
Or would he rather have his ears back
and everything normal like just before
Of course grant both - he will live happily thereafter
Till ears fill with screams, eyes with unshed tears
and heart with guilt and fear...
For no guarantee God gives, not of life or of death
Are two eyes with unshed tears better than one ?
O Love ! When will you come to sweep me off my feet
with the promise of happiness all my life
I need thee to survive, to keep me alive –
but my needs are not just thee
I also need the love I grew up with,
the love that's grown with me
Do I smile and be happy
or will my heart bleed breaking free
God grant eyes meet to crinkle with laughter lines
And any tears that fill the eye are for others ways.*



He sure heard my call and gifted me this joyous
married life. To my beloved I wrote –

*For the joys you give me
Him I do thank
By giving me your love
He has blessed me with His grace
By bringing you to me
He is leading us to Him
I'll fill your life with love
And we'll love Him all our lives.*

In love with love (falling in love with my husband
came much later) I danced through life climbing
higher and higher till I thought I could fly. My little
daughter made me believe that this whole world was
mine.

*On the morn of Christmas eve
in Nineteen Ninety Six
Amidst the festive joy and laughter
of the nurses at St.Isabels
Even as your father and grandparents
were walking in the corridor
O my beautiful baby !
You were born on this earth.*



*The first look I took at you,
all my pain I did forget
Wonder struck I caressed you
as you slept by my side
When first I carried you,
Oh ! How proud I was of myself
The ultimate beauty – the sight of God,
is your face with a dimpled smile !*

*O you stubborn girl – you wake at night
and are up at all odd hours
You cry when I sit down to eat
and never let me have a bath !
You take most of my waking hours
and give me not a minute to relax
You sure know how to make your demand
and get all the attention you want.*

*No doubt there are times
when I get very tired with you
Times when you sap my energy
and make me want to cry
Yet my darling Meenakshi,
you've indeed proved beyond any doubt
The happiness, joy and pleasure
I always give my Mom and Dad !*



The outside world began to intrude into my cocoon that had God, my loved ones and me. I began to find that there were times when I wasn't considered to be the most important person in other people's life.

*"God! Be with me!" I sobbed as I was to be born
He enveloped me promising He would, at all times.
I cried with fear - my lids radiated darkness
I opened my eyes, my beautiful mother was by my side
I looked with wonder at a caressing hand on my brow
My father's tender smile etched on my mind forever.*

*And then I grew up basking in their warmth
No hurt was greater than seeing them frown
Smiles & laughter, little joys and pleasure
Filled every second I remained by their side.
Oh! What a fool! When I was to leave home
"Mom & Dad be with me" I sobbed within my heart
No way could they stay by my side to soothe my hurt
Nor smile away all my fears and hold my adult hand.*

*Thinking I was all alone, I sobbed out with pain
I howled and wept till I remembered my very first cry
"God! Be with me! You had promised You would..."*



*As Mom & Dad He lives, but is that all?
I looked around me, He had said He would be here
Always by my side, helping and holding my hand
“God, You promised ! Are You there?” I whispered
My daughter put her little hand into mine and said
“Mom can I hug you?” - She held me tight.*

*"God where are You?" I still couldn't understand
His laughter filled the air, He spoke with a smile:
"I am where you see me,
who you believe I am,
I am the person you love most,
The one who fills your mind
I am the one you want me to be,
The one you long to become
You can restrict me to just your few loved ones,
Or cherish me in everything you see !"*

*I sobbed & sobbed, what a fool I had been.
He had fulfilled his promise to be by my side
I had failed to see Him, shut my human eye.
I begged to Him for forgiveness for not understanding
“God! I had restricted You to just a few human forms
You have revealed the vastness of Your glorious self.*



*The nectar of love You radiate through my parents
Makes me long for bliss in all my mortal ties
No God ! I'd never again cage You in a few bodies
I want You & will see you in every soul around me
Come God ! Be in my eyes, in my heart & senses
Let me feel Thy peace and love in every cell alive !”*

With total faith I walked with my head held high. The world slapped my face hard and cut the earth from under my feet. I was left with no place to stand.

*I sit down to write, my paper remains blank
I lie down to sleep, my eyes refuse to close
I try to forget my worries, my mind refuses to rest
When I try to think in-depth, my brain goes to sleep.*

*My tear bags have dried up,
my heart has left my body
My willpower, so-called self-control,
has deserted me at the battlefield.*

*All my joys and pleasures,
the little things I enjoyed doing
Fade away from my memory,
not leaving even vacuum behind
Is this my existence, the way my life will be ?*



*O Ye ill luck, you have hugged me for too long
I never wanted my life to break and fall apart.*

*You have taken away my happiness,
my laughter and smiles
my confidence, my self-control
and the peace from my heart.*

My sense of self worth has flown off with the wind

All I have left is a tiny flame of hope – GOD

*Don't try to banish him,
my heart won't ever let him go
though just a tiny spark within,
He will burn you off to yore.*

*O Ye ill luck, it is time you let me go
God's grace is upon me, my life won't ever fall apart.*

The only way I retained my sanity were my conversations with Him. I remember one night during sleep, where in the presence of my divine mother, I stood burdened and defeated. With tears in my eyes I asked her “*Mother! See how I suffer! Can't you help me someway?*” and she immediately replied, “*You think you are suffering? See how much of your burdens I'm shouldering*” and she pointed her finger to her form that was beginning to squirm like a



pathetic little worm. I had given her so much heartache that she was suffering for my sake! I vowed to her that day “*Divine Mother! I surrender to Thee! I will never betray Thee, Thy slave am I*”. Since that day I never take these unworthy human problems to the delicate divine shoulders of my divine mother – I would never again cause her to suffer like that again.

God !

Let not I become a slave to my emotions.

Let not I be carried away

by the drama of human life on earth.

Let not I be swayed

by egoistic logic to deviate from Thy path.

Let not my frail emotions

burst my life of peace.

Lead me Lord, from this dream

of tears and pain to the reality of Thy bliss.

Give me the courage to accept a dream

and the wisdom to know reality.

Heal me that I don't seek

mortal pleasures nor false helping hands.

Make me an instrument to play

the tune you have willed on me.



*Let I not become lost in this dark vacuum
but rise to the light of Thy divinity.
Remove from my heart these seeds of hatred, jealousy,
anger, pain, anguish, fear, loneliness, and self pity.
Grow Thy peace, Thy happiness, Thy joy
may they bear fruits of forgiveness within my heart.
Teach me God to always trust Thee,
never fear betrayal nor nurture revenge.
Hold my hand today Lord, always be by my side.
NEVER EVER LET GO OF ME!*

I felt like I was in a boxing ring taking blows from all around! I sometime even thought He was handing out the blows. But to what end I cried...

*I stand in a boxing ring
the blow strikes my face
I fall down flat
it's a total knock out!*

*I stand in a boxing ring
the blow strikes my face
I stagger and fall
my resistance is weak*



*I stand in a boxing ring
the blow comes fast
I am ready to resist
I stagger but stand*

*I stand in a boxing ring
I am ready for the blow
equal pressure I hold
the strike is well met.*

*I stand in a boxing ring
Thy strike has met its match
equal force I can gather
to resist every punch*

*I stand in a boxing ring
now it is time for me to strike
my hands swing with force
cutting mere air – no defence met!!*

*I stand in a boxing ring
My opponent is unseen
untouched – I cannot strike
my hands fall by my side*

*I stand in a boxing ring
it is time for the next strike
I gather all my strength
to resist thy punch*



*I stand in a boxing ring
my resistance melts
I don't want to prepare or
be ready to face Thy strike*

*I stand in a boxing ring
when the next blow comes
will it just pass untouched through me
can I be like Thee – letting it flow through me??*

The world at large praised my patience and patted my back for my forbearance. But I laughed off their wonder and brushed aside their praise. You see I had done nothing! It is just a contract I signed with God :

*No riches I seek, no fame, no power
No hatred I cherish, neither anger nor revenge.
I don't run after happiness, for I have befriended Thee
I won't wash myself in self-pity,
'coz I know Thou are with me.
Let not the devil ruin my creativity
nor hijack my imagination
Don't let any effort, earthy or alien,
drive me from Thy will supreme.*



*Good heavens! Who needs mortal understanding,
So what if they don't care,
Lo! Behold! I found a true friend,
Thy love is always there.
Hold my hand, today, never ever let go of me
Be in my waking thoughts forever
and reign in my dreamless sleep.
Let us enter this contract today,
no other guarantees I seek
In return for my total surrender, God,
will You always be with me?*

He has never left my side since! Joy kept pouring into my life and a radiant smile became a part of my face. Then the purpose of existence unfolded! I met my Guru Mahatria and life just took over from there....

*O Divine Radiance! Eternal Joy!
Where did Thou take me on Thursday last?
Amidst the sounds of the rain forest came
A wise vibrant voice, 'Ra' by name
The stream, the tree, the lion and the deer
Screamed "O Human! If WE CAN, YOU CAN!"*



*My brains, my heart, every cell in my being
Pleaded "O Master! If WE CAN, YOU CAN!"
Mere words if spoken, no impact it would have had
But the power of that voice melted my very life
Tears welled in my eyes, trickled down my cheeks
My heart swelled so much, I thought burst it might
No thought I gave to those forty eight others
For to me O Divine Bliss! Only Thou were present!*

*O Divine Radiance! Eternal Bliss!
Why did Thou take me ONLY on Thursday last?
When truth it is that we avoid every pain
And with our entire being embrace all pleasure
Those tears that rolled were certainly not pain
For though my heart choked, I would do it again.
As his voice spoke on for another hundred minutes
You were vibrant O Light, in my every cell alive.
I was weeping yet laughing, smiling thru' my tears
I was frozen yet dancing, silent with joyous screams
I could look into the future and see your divine grace
Feel the power you had bestowed to defy even fate!
I know I can start from scratch, rebuild every dream
No matter how often in past defeated I have been.*



*O Divine Radiance! Eternally Wise!
I won't even say 'Thank You' for these little smiles
For I know you walk with me every step of my life
And I can't even begin to verbalise all my joys.
Just one thing, pray tell me, O Divine Life!
When would Thou take me again thru' that light?*

The practices of silence suddenly found intensity. I began in earnest to get to know my dear friend God...

*I haven't yet seen a white star
at the centre of my brow
I haven't yet felt the snake rise
from the base of my spine
I haven't yet felt consciousness
descending thro' my crown
All I feel is THY LOVE engulfing me all the time.*

*Not for long do my eyes
remain closed in meditation
Nor do they stay
earthly awake during the day
Not for long do I sit
in a posture frozen
But my LOVE swells and flows into THEE always.*

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*When I concentrate on my breath,
YOU pop up from nowhere
And refuse to leave when I say "GO AWAY!"
Yet when I seek YOU
amidst the forest of my thoughts
YOU chide me and hide, making my life a play !*

*I'm unable to renounce YOU
from any thought or action
But YOU repudiate the rules
when I solely seek Thy sight
Now stop this masquerade GOD !
All divinity might be THINE
But the love from my heart
will soon make YOU Mine !
GOD, I LOVE YOU !*

My faithful friend who had carried me through my difficult days in His arms started talking to me in a different language. My first reaction was fear for I didn't know if this new voice was His at all! But the more I withdrew from His call, the louder grew His voice!



*God can I hear you? I had asked many times
His gentle laughter filled my ears each and every time
Confident of His presence I walked with a smile
Till the day I realised he had treated me as a child.*

*One fine day, He said it was time for me to grow -
'Go sit in silence and try to hear my tone'
Sure it would be fun, I bade as He said
And prompt I heard His 'Aum' within my depth.*

*Light struck my eyes not once but thrice
Not sure if it was joy, I got up with a start
Standing behind locked doors, I shook with tremor
Frightened of its might I hid behind worldly clamour.*

*No change it had, for it followed me through the day
And when I went to bed, it didn't go away
The next morn I woke and the first sound I heard
Was the vibration in my ear,
God's 'Aum' loud and clear!*



“God! I don’t understand the rules of this game”

I pleaded –

“I’m not sure I want to play this game ever again”

***‘Grow up little girl. Its time to move on
Don’t be foolish and try to snap me off!’***

*But I thought I would fail,
for with God I had to compete
And however well I played,
He would win all the same*

So I wept and cried and said “GO AWAY”

*For I thought I would feel better
if I never heard Him again*

Then for a second – actually less than even that

*He did go away – and my heart went astray
Fear gripped my mind and terror filled my ears
I had done the unforgivable and sent God away!*

*Desperately I tried to hear His vibration again
And Lo! There it came just a small breath away
I now understood the game – for God was on my side
Fear was the opponent trying to takeover my mind!*



*Tears fill my eyes for I had almost lost His sight
But He loved me so much
He had come back to be mine
And that moment of fear brought back my senses
For I would rather have God
than fear as partner for life!*

I realised that I am trying to climb a majestic mountain. It would take all my strength to even reach a slightly higher altitude from where I am. "Can I do it?" doubts arose in my mind...

*Doubt! Doubt! Don't infringe my mind
No deep dark secret does my soul hide
I'm convinced these sounds are not earthly bawl
But the whispers of eternity, God's own call.
For not just the humming of the bees do I hear
But also the wind that thru' the bamboo wafts
And often the voice of the gushing waters from heaven
These echoes are the voice of divinity I'm sure.*

*Doubt! Oh doubt! Why try to infringe my mind?
No room for Thee would my soul provide!
If 'ailment' it is that my left ear feels
And occasional pressure in my inner drum*

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*I would still call them special, for they constantly flow
From the mouth of beloved 'Aum', into me they pour!*

*Not just are these sounds that vibrate so dear
Nor just peaceful and smooth as they spill into me
The breeze, the gentle tickling, that touches my ears
Refreshes my being with promise complete.*

Doubt! Dear doubt! Go ahead and infringe my mind!

*For who art thou but the other side of light!
Perhaps you are right! Nothing special about me
But I'd still be the only one to live like me!
Isn't that good enough, sweet little doubt?
To be as He made me, as He willed I must.*

*I gather you little doubt as you hover over my mind
And make you a promise you can never ever find
Come! Reside in me! Forever if you must!*

Just change thy name from 'Doubt' to 'Devout Trust!'

With a deep longing to be with Him, I was lost to this world of paltry emotions. Intense craving shook my body and inexplicable tears rolled down my cheeks. Everything around me seemed to remind me of only Him...



*A peaceful sea
the sky stretching high
A lovely beach
not a soul nearby...
The trees are green
the waters cool
feathers of beauty
colourful blooms...
Earth is a Paradise
Your magical touch true
Yet God, my heart flutters
I wanna come home...*

*High rise buildings
cities on the seas
Cars a plenty
bridges of steel...
Bungee jumping
Hi-tech video games
fancy restaurants
every comfort man ever made...
Earth is a Paradise
Your magical touch true
Yet God, my heart flutters
I wanna come home...*



*A daughter I cherish
a Master I revere
a husband I love
Parents I adore...
Family too precious
friends to die for
colleagues shoulder to shoulder
sweat to work uphold!
Earth is a Paradise
Your magical touch true
Yet God, my heart flutters
I wanna come home...*

*My eyes are closed
my body relaxed
no thoughts I hold
Well! Just one foremost...
I have seen you God
Felt your presence
slipped into silence
beyond words or feelings...
Earth is a Paradise
Your magical touch true
Yet God, my heart flutters
Take me home once more!*



The more I searched, the more desperate I became!
'Surrender to that will, let go of your judgements' may
make sense to the one who says it but never to the one
who listens! Then one fine day He made me realise...

*Hands raised in prayer
begging for name & fame
wealth, health & happiness
I am Thy adamant child
demanding in liberty
from my loving parent
Lord, I pray...*

*Hands raised it stays
No longer seeking glory
on the earthly plane
now searching eternal fame
like a parent renouncing youth
to reap joy in old age
Lord, I pray...*

*Hands lower like a defeated soldier
project yet an image of royal martyr
No riches for the self seek
only prayers for another
hover like a dutiful wife
- an image of burdening sacrifice
Lord, I pray...*



*Hands remain by the side
Won't the divine know what's right?
Why change destiny, make a hue & cry
like a mistress ready to please
making no demands on time
in surrender to fate - destiny mine
Lord, I pray...*

***My hands rise high, higher than ever before
Give, Lord, bestow whatever Thou choose
rejoicing I receive with arms open wide
No right & wrong, joy or sorrow judge
I am thy beloved, Lord - no fears or demands hold
My hands shall stay high, ready to receive Always...
Lord I pray.***

**My God heard my cries. He began to reveal Himself
to me - in the most simplest of ways...**

*God! Why have you come as my Mother?
To nourish and nurture you and show I love you!*

*Lord! Why have you come as my Father?
To lead and guide you and show I love you!*

*God! Why have you come as my Sister?
To be and grow with you and show I love you!*



Lord! Why have you come as my Brother?

To tease and play with you and show I love you!

God! Why have you come as my husband?

To hug and take care of you and show I love you!

Lord! Why have you come as my Mother-in-law?

To bless and pray for you and show I love you!

God! Why have you come as my Father-in-law?

To help and support you and show I love you!

Lord! Why have you come as my Daughter?

To show that I need you and to say I love you!

God! Why have you come as my Guru?

To show that you need me and to tell I love you!

**He sent my Guru to carry me in His womb of silence
Higher, Deeper and Beyond...**

*Every breath I inhale remains locked within in awe
fascinated and enchanted by the miracle of life
And as I exhale, peace envelops my being in a smile
But for you, my Guru Ra..., this life wouldn't be mine!*

*Every emotional crying that ever was a part of me
presenting an irresponsible and weak to act 'Gita'*

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*has been vanquished and healed, stable for all to see
But for you, my Guru Ra..., this life wouldn't be mine!*

*Every confusion that ever crossed my muddled mind
leading me deeper into desperation, pain and fear
vanishes without a trace leaving clarity in its wake
But for you, my Guru Ra..., this life wouldn't be mine!*

*Every longing I ever had to grow my wings and fly
to experience in all planes higher, deeper and beyond
unfolds not rarely but as a waking conscious presence
But for you, my Guru Ra..., this life wouldn't be mine!*

*As He carries me in His silence His divine love keeps
overflowing, merging my days and nights into long
spells of ecstasy.*

*I am in love! In love with love!
In love with life! In love with light!
I begin my day with a bright smile
That flowers in me from deep inside
And stays with me all my waking hours
Refusing to leave even at night.*

*I'm in love with darkness too
For as my lids close I burst with joy
The night isn't harsh, nor takes me far away
Though asleep I feel I'm still wide awake*

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*And the darkness has light – translucent and mild
That spreads its warmth to this world that is mine.*

*Oh! I'm in love! In love with silence!
For I hear His whispers, His laughter and cries
I neither hate this noise, these human screams of woe
For they reiterate to me this joyous island inside
Oh Lord! I'm in love – let the whole world know
Do bless me to spread and make Thy love grow!*

The cosmos has begun to play its divine music and
my dear friend God, is talking to me from deep within
all the time.

*Thank you God for these whispers in my ears,
for the sparkling light that pierces me.
Thank you God for always holding my hand,
for carrying me during earthy trials.
Thank you God for flowering in me -
blooming from the depth of my very being.
Thank you God for flowing thru' me -
melting with tears this physical body.
Thank you God for these words of joy
That fall on paper to become poetry.*



*Thank you God for that eternal silence
that breaks all my barriers making me free.*

*Thank you God for being with me
for always leading and guiding me.*

*Thank you God for being me
that I may experience this self outside of Thee.*

*Thank you God for making me 'me'
that I may always seek thee ever hungry.*

*Thank you God for being Thee
that unto thee I may unite in bliss eternally.*

My true journey on earth has begun. My beloved Gurudeva and my divine friend are holding my hands, leading me with a gentle smile!!

*"Guru Govind dono khare, Khakke lagu paun
Balihari us Guru ki jo Govind diyo dikhaye"*

*When I heard this Kabir doha I thought it meant
'my guru and my lord appear in front of me. Whom
should I salute first? Salute your guru for he is the
one who is leading you to the Lord!'*

Today this understanding is very different. There aren't TWO realities - GOD & GURU. There never were! They are but one and the same. Guru and



Govind are forever with you, in front of you, are always in your presence. Whom should you surrender to first? Should one surrender to the reality of a Guru who instigates the student in you to be alive or does one surrender to the reality of the infinite source directly? Probably a surrender to the all pervading wisdom directly will not motivate the common man to take responsibility. He may assume by surrendering to that infinite wisdom, he can fatalistically relinquish all responsibility of action. I realised, Kabir was saying, surrender to the Guru first, the Guru is the one who keeps the student in you alive, makes you realise that there is so much you really don't know, so much that you can do with your potential, so much that needs to unfold through you... And by surrendering to the Guru, you will be led automatically to the presence of the divine for the more you think you know, what you don't know grows exponentially.

Ultimately the verse is not about the Guru or about the Lord but about the quality of surrender of the disciple. And that quality of surrender includes the intelligence within it. That intelligence guides the student to understand what the Guru is trying to say and implement it to actualise that vision. But that surrender also primarily includes the quality of never questioning the intelligence of the source. The



questioning is only related to the implementation of that wisdom.

I have found my Guru Ra... in whose reality my God, my *Krishna* reveals Himself. As God is omnipresent, it is the easiest for any true disciple to see His presence in their Master...

We were in the lawns... there amidst the gentle cold breeze, divine music and a hundred angels stood a man in white and white pyjama kurta and me in awestruck fear incapable of even comprehending what was unfolding that very moment...

It is easy to dissolve into gratitude. For me, it the easiest thing to do... One flower, one smile, one word, one look, one glance from his eyes, and I am ready and waiting to dissolve into tears of gratitude. Ever since he held my hands in 2002 and took over the responsibility of leading me Higher, Deeper and Beyond, it seemed to absolve me of any need to strive. Oh! The striving most certainly remains in trying to 'be' but the striving of needing to 'prove' has long since been removed. And there I was yet again, laughing like I have never laughed before, crying with joy, letting go of all negativity, dancing like the breeze, swimming into the ocean of his



presence, drinking him with every conscious thought and dissolving into him with every passing moment. I am sure I was smiling like him... my head voice was his... the syntax of every sentence was unmistakably his... in fact I am sure I even brushed my moustache and beard a couple of times... Indeed it was being in heaven...

Uninvited a thought came 'is this real?' But even before my mind could comprehend the thought the answer flowed in the form of a song by M.S.Subbulakshmi 'Koi kahe yeh meetah sapna, Krishna Kahani kaviman rachna, Mohe nahi kuch kehna sunnah, mohe toh brigg lal lalanna, Yaad aaye...' Tears were flowing like a river rushing to meet the ocean... To me time stood still and I was in the womb of eternity...

I should have remained right there, correct? That one moment should have been enough to define the rest of my life, right? I don't remember consciously asking for anything more... and yet it came catching me unawares...

There I was dancing like a dry leaf, spell bound in a trance of heavenly peace... I simply looked at him - something I have been doing every moment with



him... and yet what made that moment different was the way my breath struck within my soul... I couldn't exhale my breath was caught... I couldn't shut my eye though I didn't want to see... Oh there wasn't any theatrics! No drama on the outside. It was still just a man in white and white pyjama kurta, laughing with everyone and dancing to His delight... But that moment within struck a chord so deep, I can't call it wonder, it was way beyond that... I can't call it divine for to be honest I was scared out of my mind... It wasn't fear in the traditional style of repelling you... but a fear that was so attractive - a whirlwind that was sucking me in... a moment that changed every perception I have carried in life... ever... a moment that most certainly didn't allow me to gratefully dissolve in tears but one that made me want to run away with every cell in me... run away from what I don't know... run away not because it was unattractive but because it was too attractive... fear not because it was likely to cause pain but because it was revealing a joy I wasn't sure I could contain... a fear so profound that it brought me to the surface, from that ethereal world of gratitude and smiles, love and laughter, security and tenderness... I jolted into surface... do I call this reality? But it was nothing like I ever knew before... One moment and my world was no longer the same... Oh nothing had changed on the



outside... we were still at the lawns at Lahiri, I was still on my feet dancing, and my best friend, guide, mentor, guru - the closest 'thing' to me was still there in a white and white pyjama kurta... But he wasn't the same... and I most certainly wasn't the same... In a jolt I realised it all began because unconsciously I had whispered 'whom am I with?' I still don't know... I never will... But yes that moment has changed something within me forever... You see, etched in my mind is the constant thought 'whom am I with' every nanosecond of my life...

*Wish there was some way by which
I could express what You mean to me...*

*Wish there was some way by which
I could even comprehend what You mean to me...*

*Everyone has desires. Yet I can't seem to find mine...
I don't even long for You 'coz I feel you in me all time.*

*I don't really aspire to be any different
for I know You make me be what you make me be...
I am not indifferent to the world yet don't feel I belong
My trust in you makes everything else
seem so insignificantly small...*

*I don't desire for wealth, fame or power
Yet I know they are mine as you so destine*



*I love every minute of my life - everything I do
Yet no shackles bind my mind...*

*A sense of completeness overflows all the time...
But it doesn't fill me with 'me'
I don't feel 'full' at all...
actually feel quite 'empty'*

*Is this the meeting of the poles? Are there even two?
It almost feels like infinity rolling into unity...
Why am I even writing this - I have no clue...
But somehow the tears that well in my eyes
find their way to You...*

*God I love you...
Coming...
Take me the other way...*

In Surrender and faith,

Gita Krishna Raj

