

LETTER No 16

(Letter written by Bhaiji)

*Tarapeeth
7/1*

Badama,

Letters in the name of Mago to you regularly that is why I don't feel the necessity of writing letters separately. Apart from my relationship with Ma I don't have many other relationships. That is why I cannot go anywhere leaving Ma. All my letters I have read out to Ma; Ma listened in silence. Whatever Ma orders for our benefit, we should try to accept it totally with head bowed. Whatever your queries are can never be solved in the absence of Ma. All your communication should be with Ma. You could well see that so far, by keeping Ma aside, whatever happened was inauspicious.

I understood it very well. For the rest of my life, with all my actions, I stay before Ma that is my only resolve. We are ordinary beings. How can you cage me like a bird. Ma was kind enough to keep me here and will keep me – this is the truth. Ma appoints whoever she thinks fit to serve me. Why do you think about that? Try to serve yourself. All our focus is on Ma only. That is why for everyone of us only She can be our brother, friend, father, mother. No other being has such a position. You have written “Ma has snatched everything away from me”. If Ma snatched anything away that is quite fortunate. Let Ma snatch away everything that belongs to me – that is my constant prayer. Perform all your actions as Ma orders, then you are sure to be at peace. What I think is that you should not take any decisions before you meet Ma once. You have written that if you are unable to serve exclusively you will not come. Ma said “So long as this body is there and because I am caring for you like a baby, then where will she get the chance to serve you exclusively.” Bring the book ‘Shri Charane’ from Jyotishbabu through Swami Shanakaranandaji. There is no extra copy.

When does Ma scold us? Were she ever to scold us, when we were at fault, would we have suffered so much? Because Ma pardons all our faults we are very restless and suffer pain. We should pray at Her feet so that Ma gives us harsh punishment and makes us true men.

Well wisher,

Shree Jyotish Chandra Roy

The analysis:

Bhaiji wrote this letter from Tarapith, but not on behalf of another. Tarapith is one of the most famous of the 51 Shaktipithas of India. It is situated about 100 miles to the north of Calcutta. This place is famous for the temple of the goddess Tara as well as a centre for the Tantric way of spiritual practice. The famous Tantric saint, Vamaskhepa, a contemporary of Sri Ramakrishna, did

his sadhana and attained salvation there. Ma also sent Bholanath, Her husband, to Tarapith for doing intense spiritual practice.

From other records of Ma's movements we found that on Her way to Tarapith She had been to Calcutta and BG met Her there. Bhaiji also met BG in person for the first time. We do not know what had transpired between Ma and BG in Calcutta when they met. During the period of Ma's stay in Tarapith there were very frequent exchanges of letters between Ma and BG. Bhaiji here addressed BG as Badama. (Bada=big/great/grand/senior; ma=mother) This is quite an unusual way of formally addressing a letter. In his letter just three weeks after, Bhaiji addressed BG as sister and referred to himself as Dada (older brother). Something must have transpired in between for this sudden and abrupt transformation in the relationship. In some of the succeeding letters we will find that Ma also started calling BG Badama. We will discuss this later.

In addition to writing to Ma BG wrote a letter to Bhaiji. BG might have expected a reply from Bhaiji which she expressed in her letter to Bhaiji. She also wanted some of her queries to be answered by Bhaiji.

As most of the time Bhaiji's role was to write on behalf of Ma he did not feel the necessity of writing separately. Bhaiji was totally surrendered to Ma and did not feel the need to carry out the normal formalities of worldly relationships. It is to be noted that Bhaiji was a householder with a wife and a son. He was also holding a responsible position in government service. Beside, he had other kith and kin. But his relationship with Ma, as Her spiritual son, was so close that worldly norms could not get in the way. He was constantly attending on Ma for Her every need and could not even think of going anywhere, leaving Her alone.

As a secretary he not only had to read out the letters written to Ma by other seekers but he also had read to Her his personal correspondence with BG. Bhaiji wanted all the followers of Ma to try to carry out Ma's directives obediently and sincerely.

As for BG's queries Bhaiji declined to answer her as he thought that Ma was the only one who could reply to these properly. He asked BG to communicate directly with Ma. Everything should be made known to Ma. The consequences of many other things being deliberately concealed from Ma had proven to be inauspicious.

Now Bhaiji spelt out that his only resolve was to stay in Ma's presence and surrender all his actions to Her for the rest of his life.

The next sentence was quite an interesting one. Bhaiji wrote, **"How can you cage me like a bird?"**

Bhaiji was not keeping good health. Ma engaged someone to nurse and take care of him. As Bhaiji's spiritual sister, BG thought that he had not been

looked after well by the person appointed by Ma, and she offered to nurse and take care of him, asking him to come to Calcutta. Bhaiji thought that her caring for him might be something like being a bird in a cage. Any relationship, other than with Ma, was bondage for him. Besides, Bhaiji took exception to her offer as this indirectly implied BG's lack of confidence in Ma's decision. Bhaiji told her not to worry about his illness and he was frank enough to decline her offer. He asked BG to take care herself. As a seeker one's focus should only be on Ma. One could witness the fading of all worldly relations in Ma. It was the common experience of all who had the chance to be in Ma's presence that all other relationships lost their charm and closeness. BG also felt the same. She wrote, "Ma has snatched everything away from me." It seemed that BG was oscillating between her worldly connections and the spiritual connection with Ma.

She wanted to serve her brother (Bhaiji) but Ma did not allow it. According to Bhaiji such things happens only to those fortunate ones. He wished and prayed to Ma to take away all his belongings. BG's possessive attitude disturbed him. Bhaiji suggested that she do as Ma says and cautioned her not to take any decisive step before she met Ma. BG might have laid down some conditions in serving Bhaiji. One of the conditions was that she would come to Tarapith, provided nobody else would be allowed to interfere in her service to Bhaiji. After hearing this Ma made a remarkable comment to Bhaiji. Ma said, **"So long as this body is there and because I am caring for you like a baby, then where will she get the chance to serve you exclusively."** Here we find a striking difference between Ma's kheyal towards Bhaiji and towards BG. This was because of the difference in their degree of surrender to Ma.

Bhaiji wrote a book called **Shri Charane**. BG wanted a copy of that book from Bhaiji. As he had no extra copy she was asked to procure a copy from Sri Jatish Gha who was entrusted with the publication of Ma's sayings and advice, through Swami Shankaranandaji.

BG perhaps mentioned in the letter that Ma scolded her. This allegation was unfounded and so far unheard of. No one had ever seen Ma angry or dissatisfied with anyone for anything.

One gets angry when he finds fault with others or when someone is not fulfilling his expectations. One of Ma's sayings is: "This body does not find anyone at fault...." During the long period of Ma's physical existence in this world nobody had ever witnessed Her to be angry or seen Her punish anyone for wrong doing.

BG, like an over-indulged, pampered and very sensitive child was would often take offence at anything which went against her wishes, irrespective of its being right or wrong. During her meeting with Ma in Calcutta it might so

have happened that BG took exception to some of Ma's words, which because of her over-sensitive nature, appeared to her like scolding. Bhaiji challenged this interpretation. He said that because of Ma's ever compassionate way, we had done wrong things - as a result of which we then suffered pain and restlessness. Bhaiji wrote, 'We should pray at her feet so that Ma gives us harsh punishment and makes us true men.'

A true seeker should not take the compassionate treatment by the teacher as weakness and then take advantage of this to pursue his own will, forgetting the ultimate goal of the spiritual journey.

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