

LETTER No 21

(Ma's letter in Bhaji's handwriting)

*Dehradun
9/6*

Kalyaniashu (a term of endearment made to a junior deserving affection),

Received your letter. It seems from your written correspondence that you are quite at peace. That is what I also want. I didn't know that you would not come without an invitation, that is why I am writing to you to come along with the visitors to Uttarkashi. Though I am fair complexioned know that my lovable ornaments are black.

Be happy by always praying for God's blessings.

Well wisher

Ma

The analysis.

This letter was written after a gap of almost one month. Ma could read from BG's correspondence about her state of mind, which was somewhat composed and peaceful. In the classical Indian tradition of the guide-seeker relationship the former always tries to encourage feed-back so that the latter can continue with his/her spiritual practice without physical or mental hindrance. We have seen that in spite of BG's arrogance and uncalled for behaviour Ma was always considerate and compassionate towards her. In one of Her previous letters Ma asked BG to come to her.

It seemed that by now Uttarkasi temple had been completed and the date of consecration of the image of Kali had been fixed. Many visitors from Calcutta would come to join the celebration. Although by then BG's anger was less intense, her ego was playing its role as usual. BG wanted a formal invitation and Ma obliged her.

In the next sentence we came to know about one of BG's complexes. In her letter BG might have hinted about her concern about her skin colour. BG was not fair complexioned and she was unhappy about her dark skin colour, whereas Ma was unusually fair complexioned. This might be one of the reasons for BG's inferiority complex, reflected in her behaviour and thinking. Ma was fully aware of this and to free BG from this complex She made a very interesting comment. Ma said, ".....**my lovable ornaments are black.**"

An ornament is something worn as jewellery to supplement the natural beauty of a person. It is the innate nature of every human being to want to decorate himself/herself so as to appear beautiful to others.

Here Ma suggested BG was Her ornament. Now the question is- how could a person be an ornament to another person?

It is said that a person is known by the company he keeps. There is a symbiotic relation. With constant association there is an affinity between the two. One is influenced by the other. Due to the relationship the qualities of each are exchanged.

But this does not apply to saints or a person like Ma. A dip in the Ganges purifies one of sins but the Ganges never gets polluted. The saints usually compassionate towards sinners. Anger, ego, envy, possessiveness etc are stains on the character of a spiritual seeker. These unhelpful qualities need to be removed through spiritual practice and the association of saints. Ma once said that She needed most those with problems in spiritual life.

At the end of this letter Ma asked BG to pray constantly for God's blessings so that she could free herself from complexes including that of her skin colour.



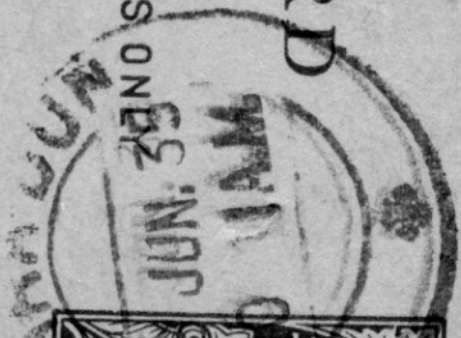
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