

Knowledge

Mira Mehta

A HITCH IN MATCHMAKING

Peopled with Questions
Of all races and hues
Is the realm of my mind;
Eagerly they queue
With presentation speech
To meet their Replies.

But when the Master of Answers
Arrives with his men,
Word-forgotten, they flee,
For he floods
The whole domain
With quietness.

There is a satisfaction in having one's questions answered. Curiosity, doubts and the thirst to know do not leave the mind in peace.

The spiritual quest in Yoga is seen as a quest for knowledge that is not intellectual but experienced. The mind, the instrument of knowing, is focused on the consciousness that underlies it, that is, the soul. Absorption in this experience occurs in profound meditation. It is a state of enlightenment described as "truth-bearing",¹ where the particulars of all phenomena are intuited directly in a process bypassing inferred or traditional knowledge.²

True knowledge stands revealed because the mental veil of ignorance covering it is destroyed. This veil consists of the predisposition to suffering and accumulation of karmic debt, both of which the Yogin eradicates.³

Yet at the same time as stating the logical possibility of omniscience, Yoga philosophy is healthily sceptical about it. In the words of a traditional verse:

A blind man pierced a pearl;
One without fingers threaded it;
One without a neck wore it;
One without a tongue praised it.⁴

¹ Yoga Sutra 1.48

² Yoga Sutra 1.49

³ Yoga Sutra & Commentary 4.30

⁴ Yoga Sutra Commentary 4.30

The poem is taken from Mira Mehta's book *Cascade of Stars*, published by Shephard-Walwyn (www.shephard-walwyn.co.uk). For information about her classes and other publications visit www.yogicpath.com.