

The Voice of the Silence

12 (Verses 161-181)

by John Algeo – USA

The preceding group of verses, 150-160, dealt with the Path as a communal experience, a band of servers who, life after life, unselfishly devote themselves to the welfare of others. The next dozen verses focus on the individual's inner self. They treat the theme of Wisdom and humbleness, and in the process play with the concept of opposites, which are not always what they seem.

A. VERSES [161-172].

[161] Be humble, if thou wouldst attain to Wisdom.

[162] Be humbler still, when Wisdom thou hast mastered.

[163] Be like the ocean which receives all streams and rivers. The ocean's mighty calm remains unmoved; it feels them not.

[164] Restrain by thy Divine thy lower Self.

[165] Restrain by the Eternal the Divine.

[166] Aye, great is he, who is the slayer of desire.

[167] Still greater he, in whom the Self Divine has slain the very knowledge of desire.

[168] Guard thou the lower lest it soil the Higher.

[169] The way to final freedom is within thy Self.

[170] That way begins and ends outside of self.

[171] Unpraised by men and humble is the mother of all rivers, in Tirthika's proud sight; empty the human form though filled with Am ta's sweet waters, in the sight of fools. Withal, the birthplace of the sacred rivers is the sacred land, and he who Wisdom hath, is honored by all men.

[172] Arhans and Sages of the boundless Vision are rare as is the blossom of the Udumbara tree. Arhans are born at midnight hour, together with