

TO A FRIEND

Listen, Friend, I will speak my heart to thee,
I have found in my life this truth supreme,
Buffeted by waves, in this whirl of life,
There's one ferry that takes across the sea.

... ..

Formulas of worship, control of breath,
Science, philosophy, systems varied,
Relinquishment, possession, and the like,
All these are but delusions of the mind;-
Love, Love - that's the one thing, the sole treasure.

... ..

Say, who else is the highest God of gods?
Say, who else moves all the Universe?
The mother dies for her young, robber robs!
Both are but the impulse of the same Love!

... ..

Let go your vain reliance on knowledge,
Let go your prayers, offerings and strength,
For Love selfless is the only resource;
Lo, the insects teach, - embracing the flame.

... ..

Aye, born heir to the Infinite thou art,
Within the heart is the ocean of Love,
"Give", "Give away," - who ever asks return,
His ocean dwindles down to a mere drop.

... ..

From the highest Brahman to the yonder worm,
And to the very minutest atom,
Everywhere is the same God, the ALL-LOVE;
Friend, offer mind, soul, body, at their feet.

- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA