

The Song of the Sannyasin

1 Wake up the note! the song that had its birth
Far off, where worldly taint could never reach;
In mountain caves, and glades of forest deep,
Whose calm no sigh for lust, or wealth, or fame,
Could ever dare to break; where rolled the stream
Of knowledge, truth, and bliss that follows both.
Sing high that note, Sannyasin bold! Say- "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

2 Strike off thy fetters! Bonds that bind thee down,
Of shining gold or darker, baser ore;
Love, hate; good, bad; and all the dual throng.
Know, slave is slave, caressed or whipped, not free;
For fetters though of gold, are not less strong to bind;
Then, off with them, Sannyasin bold! Say - "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

3 Let darkness go! the will-o'-the-wisp that leads,
With blinking light, to pile more gloom on gloom.
This thirst for life, for ever quench; it drags
From birth to death, and death to birth, the soul.
He conquers all who conquers self. Know this
And never yield, Sannyasin bold! Say- "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

4 "Who sows must reap," they say, "and cause must bring
The sure effect; good, good; bad, bad; and none
Escape the law; but whoso wears a form,
Must wear the chain." Too true; but far beyond
Both name and form is Atman, ever free.
Know thou art That, Sannyasin bold! Say- "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

5 They know not truth, who dream such vacant dreams,
As father, mother, children, wife and friend.
The sexless Self! whose father He? whose child?
Whose friend, whose foe is He who is but One?
The Self is all in all, none else exists;
And thou art That, Sannyasin bold! Say- "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

6 There is but One, the Free, the Knower - Self!
Without a name, without a form or stain.
In Him is Maya, dreaming all this dream.
The Witness, He appears as nature, soul.
Know thou art That, Sannyasin bold! Say- "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

7 Where seekest thou? That freedom, friend, this world
Nor that can give. In books and temples, vain
Thy search. Thine only is the hand, that holds
The rope that drags thee on. Then cease lament,
Let go thy hold, Sannyasin bold! Say- "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

8 Say, "Peace to all: From me no danger be
To aught that lives. In those that dwell on high,
In those that lowly creep, I am the Self in all.
All life both here and there, do I renounce,
All heavens, and earths and hells, all hopes and fears."
Thus cut thy bonds, Sannyasin bold! Say- "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

9 Heed then no more how body lives or goes,
Its task is done: let Karma float it down;
Let one put garlands on, another kick
This frame; say naught. No praise or blame can be,
Where praiser praised, and blamer blamed, are one.
Thus be thou calm, Sannyasin bold! Say- "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

10 Truth never comes, where lust, and fame, and greed
Of gain reside. No man, who thinks of woman
As his wife, can ever perfect be;
Nor he, who owns the least of things, nor he,
Whom anger chains, can ever pass thro' Maya's gates.
So, give these up, Sannyasin bold! Say- "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

11 Have thou no home. What home can hold thee friend?
The sky thy roof; the grass thy bed; and food,
What chance may bring, well cooked or ill, judge not.
No food or drink, can taint that noble Self,
Which knows Itself. Like rolling river free
Thou ever be, Sannyasin bold! Say- "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

12 Few only know the truth. The rest will hate
And laugh at thee, great one; but pay no heed.
Go thou, the free, from place to place, and help
Them out of darkness, Maya's veil. Without
The fear of pain or search for pleasure, go
Beyond them both, Sannyasin bold! Say- "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

13 Thus, day by day, till Karma's powers spent,
Release the soul for ever. No more is birth,
Nor I, nor thou, nor God, nor man. The "I"
Has All become, the All is "I" and Bliss.
Know thou art That, Sannyasin bold! Say- "Om Tat Sat, Om!"

- Swami Vivekananda