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PART I

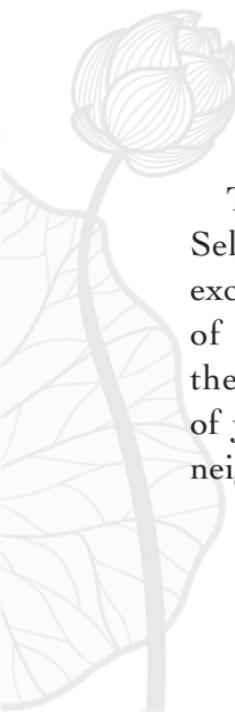


*True Friendship Is a Universal Force  
That Reunites the Many With the One*

Friendship is God's love shining through the eyes of your loved ones, calling you home to drink His nectar of eternal unity. Friendship is God's trumpet call, bidding the soul destroy the partitions of ego consciousness that separate it from all other souls and from Him. True friendship unites two souls so completely that they reflect the unity of Spirit and its divine qualities.

Friendship is the universal spiritual attraction that unites souls in the bond of

divine love. It may manifest itself in the unity of two persons or of many. The Spirit originally was one. By the law of duality It became two: positive and negative. Then, by the law of infinity applied to the law of relativity, It became many. Now the One in the many is endeavouring to reunite the many into One. This effort of Spirit to unify many souls into One works through our emotions, intelligence, and intuition and finds its greatest expression through friendship.



*Realize Your Kinship  
With All Humanity*

True friendship is broad and inclusive. Selfish attachment to a single individual, excluding all others, inhibits the development of divine friendship. Gradually extend the boundaries of the glowing kingdom of your love to include your family, your neighbours, your community, your country,

all countries — all living, sentient creatures. Be a cosmic friend, imbued with kindness and affection for all God's creation, sowing love everywhere. Such is the example set by the avatars and saints. Such has been the way of Jesus Christ, Lord Krishna, Swami Shankara,\* St. Francis, and my great masters: Babaji, Lahiri Mahasaya, and Swami Sri Yukteswar.

Consider no one a stranger. Learn to feel that everybody is akin to you. Family love is merely one of the first exercises in the Divine Teacher's course in friendliness, intended to prepare your heart for all-inclusive divine love. Realize that the same lifeblood is circulating in the veins of all races. How may anyone dare to hate any other human being, of whatever race, when God lives

\* Swami Shankara (Adi Shankaracharya), who lived in India in the late eighth or early ninth century A.D., reorganized the ancient monastic Swami Order. He is considered India's greatest philosopher.