SADHANA MANDIRA
तत्त्वमेव त्वमेव तत्

सुभाषितरत्ना Subhashita - 3

यदा किञ्चित्ज्ञोऽहं गज इव मदान्धः समभवं
तदा सर्वज्ञोऽस्मीत्यभवदवलिप्तं मम मनः ।
यदा किञ्चित् किञ्चित् बुधजन-सकाशादवगतं
तदा मूर्खोऽस्मीतिज्वर इव मदो मे व्ययगतः ॥

ಯದಾ ಕಿಂಚಿಜ್ಞೋಽಹಂ ಗಜ ಇವ ಮದಾಂಧಃ ಸಮಭವಂ
ತದಾ ಸರ್ವಜ್ಞೋಽಸ್ಮೀತ್ಯಭವದವಲಿಪ್ತಂ ಮಮ ಮನಃ ।
ಯದಾ ಕಿಂಚಿತ್ ಕಿಂಚಿತ್ ಬುಧಜನ-ಸಕಾಶಾದವಗತಂ
ತದಾ ಮೂರ್ಖೋಽಸ್ಮೀತಿಜ್ವರ ಇವ ಮದೋ ಮೆ ವ್ಯಯಗತಃ ॥

yadākiñcijño'haṁ gaja iva madāndhaḥ samabhvam
tadā sarvajño'smītyabhavadavaliptaṁ mama manaḥ।
yadā kiñcit kiñcit budhajana-sakāśādavagataṁ
tadā mūrkho'smītijvara iva mado me vyayagataḥ ।।

प्रतिपदार्थः
यदा – When किञ्चिज्ज्ञः – knew a little अहम् – I गजः – an elephant इव – like मदान्धः – blind with intoxication समभवम् – I was तदा – then सर्वज्ञः – all knowing अस्मि – I am इति – thus अभवत् – was अवलिप्तम् – conceited मम – my मनः – mind यदा – when किञ्चित् - little किञ्चित् - little बुधजनसकाशात् – due to my association with scholars अवगतम् – I learnt तदा – then मूर्खः – fool अस्मि – I am इति – thus ज्वरः – fever इव – like
मदः – pride मे – my व्ययगतः – was gone

तात्पर्यम्
Knowing a little, I got blind with pride like an elephant. Then I arrogantly thought of myself as omniscient. When I did learn something, little by little, from the learned and realised that I was after all ignorant, my pride subsided like fever.

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Story

Mandana Mishra was a staunch ritualist and disliked Sannyasins, he believed all Sannyasins are escapist; Adi Shankaracharya was popular in propagating Vedanta. When Mandana Mishra and Shankaracharya sat down for a debate, the condition was that if Bhagavatpada Adi Shankaracharya lost, he should leave Sannyaasa ashram and become Mishra's disciple and settle down and live a married life and if Bhagavatpada Shankaracharya were to win the debate then Mandana Mishra should take up Sannyaasa and become Shankarancharya's disciple.

Mandana Mishra's wife, Ubhaya Bharati, a scholar herself was chosen to be the judge. She decided to be fair to both and therefore gave a flower garland each to wear and the condition was that whosoever's garland dries first would be the looser.

The debate started, Mandana Mishra had never seen his match in knowledge and therefore was very proud of his knowledge and was unsure of the knowledge of Shankaracharya. Shankaracharya had an answer for everything asked by Mandana Mishra. The garland on Mandana Mishra started drying up quickly and eventually dried up first (when the mind is not at rest and is agitated the body produces more heat and consequently the garland would dry up) and he had to give in to the condition to adopt Sannyasin's life and become Bhagavatpada's disciple.

Moral: One needs to be aware of the ego of oneself and keep it under check, for an uncontrolled ego could drown thy self.

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