

2017年6月：中文组学习圈

一个拥有四个老婆的富翁有要事，必须出国，为期数月。将返国时，他致函每一个妻子，说他在数周内返国，而如有要购买的物品，来函告知，他会照单采购。

第一个夫人饱受病魔折腾，痛苦万分，活得最不快乐。她寄来一些药名，要丈夫购买一些外国药品，看能否减轻病痛。第二个妻子，物质欲望强烈，她写说，“亲爱的，请为我购买精美的珠宝和一些优质的丝绸，还有，时下最流行的物品。”第三个妻子灵性意向强烈。她写信给丈夫，要买一些有关圣贤之生活点滴及生活体验的好书。她常阅读灵性书籍以激励自己对求道的热衷。第四个妻子，也是他最爱的妻子，写说，“亲爱的，我自己什么都不要，只要你平安回来，我就非常快乐了。”

回来时，他带回她们所要之物。他回来后就与第四夫人住在一起。其他三个夫人知道了，妒火焚身，于是她们质问，“这么久没见面，你现在回来了，却连上我们家一次都不愿意。原因何在？”丈夫回答，“你们所要求的，我都给了你们。要药，要珠宝，要经书，我一照办。其中一人要的是我，现在她拥有我了。”

这丈夫是神自己而四个夫人是四类信徒。

1. 为除痛苦而向神祈求圣恩者，
2. 为得美满生活而向神祈福者，
3. 探索更精深的人生意义者，及
4. 无上灵性知识之识者。

第一类信徒是在陷入困境或受到考验和痛苦后才向神祈祷的人。只有在这样的情况，他才想到神和膜拜神。第二类信徒是祈求主赐予财富、地位和权势的人。他向主祈求子孙满堂、延年益寿、有福气拥有房屋、产业、家畜、黄金、珠宝等以便他帮助和服务他的同胞。他们热衷于世俗的事物但不明白这些世俗财富外在表象的深奥意义。第三类信徒是从事真理的探索者。他一直想知道‘神在哪儿？神是谁？我如何达致神？我和神有什么关系？我是谁？’等问题。如果你踏入这一阶段，你会为了获得灵性知识而致力于这些探讨。于是，你叩访高人，向他们讨教，服务他们，并且孜孜不倦地研读经典。最后，当你完全把这些教诲吸收于你内心时，你置此阶段于后头而成为第四类的信徒，无上真理之识者，具有永恒之智慧者。此智慧就是真正的灵性知识，超凡的知识。它指的就是‘一体性’的体验，对那‘独一无二’的体验。

问题：

1. 你是属于那一类信徒？请详细说明。【顺序讲述】
2. “神是偿愿树。神会回答每一个人的请求。祂知道你要什么，也会把它给你。”你同意这个说法吗？为什么？【公开讨论】
3. 为什么要时常保持正面的、善良的想法？【公开讨论】

取自：《赛巴巴梵歌》第十四章

June 2017: SCA Study Circle

A wealthy man who had four wives had to go abroad for some important work. He spent a few months in a foreign country. Before he returned home, he wrote a letter to each of his wives. In the letter he mentioned that he would be coming home in a few weeks, and if there was anything they wanted from that particular country, they could send a list and he would be glad to bring back the various things to them.

His first wife was an unhappy lady; she was suffering from many ailments. She sent the husband a list of medicines, explaining that her health was not good and that she would like to have a number of foreign medicines which would help her feel better. His second wife had a great many desires. She wrote, 'Dear husband, please bring me some fine jewels, some silk saris and all the latest fashionable articles that are available there.' The third wife had a strong spiritual inclination. She wrote to the husband asking for any good books that were available in that country, books which dealt with the lives of great saints, depicting their life experiences. She was always looking for good spiritual books that would inspire her in her own spiritual aspirations. His fourth and favourite wife wrote, 'Dearest one, I do not need anything for myself. I will be very happy when I know that you have come back home, safe and sound.'

When he returned home he brought with him whatever they had asked for. And then he went to stay with the fourth wife. The other three wives became jealous of the favourite one since the husband had gone to stay with her. They sent messages asking, "After such a long time without seeing us you have not even once come to our houses to visit us. What is the reason for this?" The husband replied, "I have given each of you exactly what you asked for. One of you asked for medicines; I brought them. One of you asked for the latest jewels; I brought them. One of you asked for sacred books; I brought them. One of you wanted only me, so now she has me!"

This husband is the Lord himself and the four wives are the four types of devotees.

1. the seekers of boons to relieve their suffering,
2. the seekers of blessings for a full and happy life,
3. the inquirers into the deeper meaning of life, and
4. the knowers of the highest spiritual wisdom.

The first type is one who prays to the Lord when he is in difficulty or undergoing trials and tribulations. It is only at such times that he thinks of the Lord and worships him. The second type is one who entreats the Lord for the blessings of wealth, position and power. He prays to the Lord for progeny and long life and yearns to gain houses, property, cattle, gold, jewels and such things to serve his fellow man. They are anxious to acquire worldly objects, but do not understand the subtle meaning and deeper significance of all these outer symbols of worldly wealth. The third type of devotee is ever engaged in inquiry into truth. He constantly seeks to know, 'Where is God? Who is God? How can I reach God? What is my relationship to God? Who am I?' When you enter this stage, you become engaged in all these inquiries in order to gain spiritual knowledge. You approach great people, listen to their teaching, serve them, and study the sacred scriptures. Finally, when you have fully absorbed the teachings within yourself, you leave this stage behind and become the fourth type of devotee, the highest knower of truth, the one of abiding wisdom. This wisdom is true spiritual knowledge, the transcendental knowledge. It refers to the experience of unity, the experience of the One without a second.

Questions:

1. What type of devotee are you? Please elaborate. **【Sequential narration】**
2. 'God is the wish-fulfilling tree. He will answer everyone's request. He knows what you want and he will give it to you.' Do you agree with the statement? Why? **【Open discussion】**
3. Why is it important to always have good, positive thoughts? **【Open discussion】**

Source: 'Sai Baba Gita', 14th Chapter