



ईशोपनिषद्

Īśa Upaniṣad

(This whole universe is pervaded by supreme.)

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for Arya Samaj Greater Houston

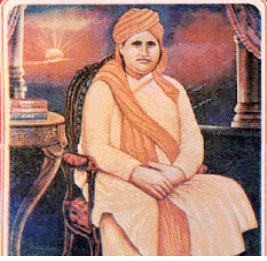


Scabbard & Sword



The world spends too much time, money and energy on the scabbard of life; too little on the sword.

- The scabbard represents outside show, vanity and display; the sword, intrinsic worth. The scabbard is outward appearance; the sword the reality.
- The scabbard is the temporal; the sword is the eternal.
- The scabbard is the body; the sword is the soul.
- The scabbard characterizes the material side of life; the sword the true, the spiritual, the ideal.



The man who does not follow his own convictions, but lives in terror of **what society will say**, falling prostrate before the golden calf of **public opinion**, is living an empty life of mere show.

He is sacrificing his individuality, his divine right to live in harmony with his own ideals, to a cowardly, toadying fear of the world.

He is not brightening, sharpening and suing the sword of his life in true warfare; he is lazily ornamenting a useless scabbard with the hieroglyphics of his folly.



The man who lives beyond his means,
who mortgages his future for his present,
who is generous before he is just, is really
losing much of life.

*He, too, is decorating the scabbard, and letting the
sword rust in its sheath.*



The person who spends thousands in charitable donations, and is hard and uncharitable in his judgments, sentimentally sympathetic with human sin and weakness in the abstract, while he arrogates to himself omniscience in his harsh condemnation of individual lapses, is charitable only on the outside.

He is too enthusiastic in decorating the scabbard of publicity to think of the sword of real love of humanity.



The girl who marries merely for money or for a title, is just selling her birthright of love for an empty name, for a mere bag of gold.

She is decorating the scabbard with a crest and heraldic designs, and with ornaments of pure gold set with jewels.



Body and Soul



In the same way as the universe outside is the golden lid that covers the Absolute,
This body is the golden lid that covers the soul within.
This body, this psycho-physical individuality, this so-called 'me', also is a glittering gold, which is attractive, which we like so much, is the golden vessel that prevents us from visualizing the true light that we are essentially.