Monday, June 14, 1999 - 8:00 a.m.

A couple can function well only if each one respects the way of thinking of the other, more particularly as regards spirituality. It is not easy to make a success of a couple's life. So many of our associates must make a sometimes painful choice and give up continuing a process which was necessary for their blooming. Europe is late on this point. Religions still have a great influence. The media blow up out of all proportion some unfortunate matters. The systematic hype against all movements referred to as 'sects', in the most pejorative sense of the word, has wrought devastation in people's minds.

"Unless one is understood by one's circle, it is difficult to practice under good conditions. We do not lose sight of the isolated and sincere cases, where, to avoid destroying one's family, the spiritual path is followed in secrecy and often in a state of great suffering.

"The big problem of this society is intolerance. We are no longer in the days of the Salem witches and yet, it [intolerance] is present and harmful in all areas, racism being the most striking example. When the skin colour is no longer an obstacle to brotherhood, a great step will be taken. This is no new phenomenon. One should not generalize, nor close one's eyes; it exists. At the level of the social classes, the lack of money, the lack of instruction, still constitute serious barriers. You, who are in a serious spiritual process, you should try to place yourself beyond all these human failings. Never believe you are superior to the non-wealthy; you would curb your evolution. Consider the other person, whatever their profession, culture and race, as a brother. Your quitting this conventional frame of mind will make you take a great step. Abolish from your mind all that constitutes one

of the human tragedies: considering oneself superior to one's fellow creature. True equality can be established only through spirit and heart bonds, the way we understand them: all being equal, by the divine presence which dwells in us and which is never selective."

Babuji