

# Crossing the River

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A danake placed in the mouth would buy the passage to go across the River Styx  
By the deft rowing of Charon.

In Hinduism, a Batasha placed on the lips after a person passes on

It is used as a transit token to the land of the unknown.

Vasudeva, the ferryman, in Siddhartha, gave ideas of enlightenment

Not by deprivation, being tenacious, such as in the secret of Epiphyllum Oxypetalum

Fulfillment in life comes through living life "to the lees," said Tennyson,

But, penance to express gratitude is often practiced as a footstool to heaven.

Always returning home to finish, what we had started during youthful endeavor

To find the Atman, the inner self, rare as which blooms only at night once a year

Although we had thought to run away and assumed that would last forever

Thinking that there was an easier way to find ourselves somewhere besides here

Govinda clearly had suggested to return home and find ourselves, right there!

We "find ourselves," in most unusual places

And often under interesting circumstances.

We "stand and wait," in saffron clothes, a sannyasin, in a trance!

I don't know who besides God knows the answer for sure

Do we really find ourselves before our earthly life is over

And what does it mean when we say

"I need to find myself," in quiet solitude as we lay

It must be an eternal yearning to find the self

That we don't see till we feel the deception of the grandeur of being on top shelf

Is it a heart full of love, far from malice and pogrom, and surrendering?

Through introspection and humility when we stop denying and conquer defying?