

*Link:—The Lord now mentions the natural duties of a Kṣatriya.*

शौर्यं तेजो धृतिर्दाक्ष्यं युद्धे चाप्यपलायनम् ।

दानमीश्वरभावश्च क्षात्रं कर्म स्वभावजम् ॥ ४३ ॥

śauryam tejo dhṛtirdākṣyam yuddhe cāpyapalāyanam  
dānamīśvarabhāvaśca kṣātram karma svabhāvajam

Heroism, radiance, firmness, resourcefulness (dexterity), not fleeing from battle, generosity, and authoritative, are the natural duties of a Kṣatriya, (a member of the warrior class), inherent in his nature. 43

*Comment:—*

'Śauryam'—Fighting heroically, and fearlessly, for a just and righteous cause,\* on the battlefield, in the face of the most terrible calamity, is 'Śauryam'.

'Tejah'—Moral power of a person by which even sinners, hesitate to commit sins or follow the path against the ordinance of the scriptures and social decorum is, 'Tejah'.

'Dhṛtiḥ'—The unwavering firmness by which a man, does not get unnerved, nor deviates from righteousness, even under the most unfavourable or dangerous conditions is, 'Dhṛtiḥ'.

'Dākṣyam'—Resourcefulness (dexterity) by which one controls, conducts and rules over, the subjects properly and promptly, is 'Dākṣya'.

'Yuddhe cāpyapalāyanam'—A Kṣatriya, never turns his back to the battlefield, even in the face of gravest dangers, he never loses heart and never flees from a battlefield.

'Dānam'—Giving away, one's own possessions to deserving persons liberally, is a duty of Kṣatriyas. At present, this charitable nature is seen among the Vaiśyas, but they are not liberal in offering charity. Because of their greedy nature their charity is not sāttvika (Gītā 17/20). But the Kṣatriyas, offer charity,

\*The battle which is fought as a duty without any selfish motive and without pre-decision, forced by circumstances, is righteous.

liberally. Therefore, 'Dānam' is mentioned as a natural quality of Kṣatriya.

'Īśvarabhāvaśca'—The Kṣatriyas, have a natural inclination to rule over their subjects. If they behold their subjects going against ethics and righteousness, they check them, from the unrighteous or wicked path, and turn them towards righteous and just path, in a loving manner having no pride.

'Kṣātram karma svabhāvajam'—A Kṣatriya, is he who protects all his subjects, from suffering. The above-mentioned are his natural duties.

**Appendix**—Kṣatriyas are very heroic and morally radiant. But because of envy, the king, who ruled over the state, tried to discourage other Kṣatriyas who were subordinate to him, he did not let them progress, lest they, being powerful, should usurp the state. It was because of such envy, discord and discouragement among Kṣatriyas that foreigners following other religions were successful in ruling over India.



*Link:—The Lord now mentions the natural duties of a Vaiśya, (a member of the trading class) and a Śūdra ( a member of the labour class).*

**कृषिगौरक्ष्यवाणिज्यं वैश्यकर्म स्वभावजम् ।**

**परिचर्यात्मकं कर्म शूद्रस्यापि स्वभावजम् ॥ ४४ ॥**

**kr̥ṣigaurakṣyavāṇijyaṁ vaiśyakarma svabhāvajam  
paricaryātmakaṁ karma śūdrasyāpi svabhāvajam**

Agriculture, cow-rearing and commerce are the duties of a Vaiśya, inherent to his nature, and actions consisting of service, are the duties of a śūdra, born of his nature. 44

*Comment:—*

'Kṛṣigaurakṣyavāṇijyaṁ vaiśyakarma svabhāvajam'—Agriculture, cattle-rearing and pure trade, are the duties of a Vaiśya born of his nature.