

Self-dedication is the highest law of life. It prevails at the ethical and spiritual planes. It is given to the enlightened man alone to practise self-dedication. The act of offering the best and the most useful in one for the welfare of the others is self-dedication. Both the giver and the receiver stand to gain through this sacred act. It is like draining the water away from a copious well into a fertile field. This bounteous act goes by the name of *Yajna* which literally means sacrifice. As fresh water springs out from an emptied well, the man who performs *Yajna* becomes more and yet more enlightened and prosperous. By imparting one's learning to others the capacity to teach increases. By sharing one's knowledge and wisdom with the others one's fund of knowledge and wisdom increases. By supplying manure to the soil its capacity to yield is made more potential. By giving the labourer his due wage the urge in him to turn out more work is made keen. By sharing one's wealth with all those who have been responsible for its growth, security and further expansion are ensured. The personal wealth is ever unfailingly contained in the public wealth. Giving effect to this inviolable law of nature is the practice of *Yajna*.

Meritorious act untainted by selfishness, disinterested service, work of any kind performed for general welfare, adoration of the Almighty, ethical and spiritual endeavours — all these salutary activities are contained in *Yajna*.

Dedicating oneself exclusively to spiritual life amounts to the performance of *Yajna*. Waging a