

UNCHANGING, IMMUTABLE (*Kootasthah*) --- This is the term used for the Eternal Self. Its expressiveness becomes apparent when we understand that the term "*koota*" in Sanskrit, means the "anvil." The anvil is that upon which the blacksmith places his red-hot-iron-bits and hammers them into the required shapes. In spite of the hammerings, nothing happens to the anvil as the anvil resists all modifications and change, but allows all other things to get changed upon it. Thus, the term "*kootasthah*" means that which "remains anvil-like" and though itself suffers no change, it makes others change.

He is a saint and has the full-blown fragrance of perfection, who has sought and discovered a perfect contentment which arises out of this subjective experience of what the *Shastra* says, and has come in contact with the Self that changes not. And such a saint becomes tranquil and a master of equal-vision in all conditions of life. To him, a clod of mud, a precious stone and costly gold are all the same. This equanimity of mind in profit and loss, at the acquisition of precious things or at the presentation of mere filth, is the very test to show that the individual has spiritually evolved and that to him no gain can bring any extra joy, nor any loss --- any sorrow!!

In my dream I earned a lot of wealth, but ere I enjoyed it fully, I woke up to my waking-state, poverty. In my destitution, when I am suffering the pangs of hunger, I will not feel, in any sense of the term, consoled by the thought that I was rich in my dream and that in my