

It is only after filtering that muddy water becomes fit to be mixed with pure water. Mind purged from passion, fear and anger assumes competency to grasp the Divine. Then getting absorbed in It becomes easy. Through absorption the glory of the Divine is increasingly realized. There is then no difficulty whatsoever in taking refuge in what is known to be Benign. Fuel consigned to fire becomes fire itself. It is penance when individuals seek to know of the Divine and give themselves over to It. This way many have ascended from the human to the Divine. There is no purification greater than this. *Mukti* or emancipation in this wise is an eternal process.

*Maya* is inherent in *Isvara*. This *maya* is constituted of both *vidya* and *avidya*—knowledge and ignorance. *Vidya-maya* is made up of discrimination, devotion, detachment and love of beings. It takes the aspirant Godward. *Avidya-maya*, on the other hand, estranges man from God.

— Sri Ramakrishna

Are the ignorant ones allowed to go astray? The plan is expounded :—

Diverse Means to the Same End—11

ये यथा मां प्रपद्यन्ते तांस्तथैव भजाम्यहम् ।

मम वर्त्मानुवर्तन्ते मनुष्याः पार्थ सर्वशः ॥ ११

ये यथा माम् प्र-पद्-यन्ते तान् तथा एव भजामि जहम् ।

मम वर्त्मानु-वर्तन्ते मनुष्याः पार्थ सर्व-शः ॥

*ye yathā mām prapadyante*

*tāns tathai 'va bhajāmy aham ।*

*moma vartmā 'nuvartante*

*manuṣyāḥ pārīha sarvaśaḥ ॥*