

The courtesan of a prince heeds not the courting of a beggar on the road. The one enjoying the supreme bliss of communion with the Maker cares not for all earthly joys and enticements.

— Sri Ramakrishna

A man in a locality where there is only a tank of water has to content himself with it. Similarly the man not blessed with *Brahma-jnanam* has to be contented with mundane happiness only. A contention to this effect is likely to be advanced. No, reconcile not yourself with vulgar existence, but prepare yourself as follows :—

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन ।

मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि ॥ ४७

कर्मणि एव अधिकारः ते मा फलेषु कदाचन ।

मा कर्म-फल-हेतुः भूः मा ते सङ्गः अस्तु अ-कर्मणि ॥

*karmany evā 'dhikāras te mā phaleṣu kadācana* ।

*mā karma phala hetur bhūr mā te saṅgo 'stv akarmaṇi* ॥

कर्मणि *karmaṇi* in work एव *eva* only अधिकारः *adhikārah* right ते *te* thy मा *mā* not फलेषु *phaleṣu* in the fruits कदाचन *kadācana* at any time मा *mā* not कर्मफलहेतुः भूः *karma phala hetuḥ bhūḥ* let not the fruits of action be the motive मा *mā* not ते *te* thy सङ्गः *saṅgaḥ* attachment अस्तु *astu* let (there) be अकर्मणि *akarmaṇi* in inaction

Seek to perform your duty ; but lay not claim to its fruits. Be you not the producer of the fruits of karma; neither shall you lean towards inaction. 47

There seems to be an anomaly and defeat of purpose in this injunction of the Lord. Not an atom moves without a motive. Beings are all busy