

And he who serves Me with an unswerving devotion, he, going beyond the Gunas, is fitted for becoming Brahman. 26

Extreme devotion surges in the heart of the devotee who has made himself over to the Lord. He has nothing but Narayana to cognize both within and without. This intense fervour ends with his becoming Brahman. As darkness disappears when light comes, the three Gunas disappear when the dawn of the *Brahma jñāna* takes place.

The devotee sees Iswara in many forms. But when he gets into *Samadhi* this very Iswara is realized by him as the formless Infinite *Nirguna Brahman*. It is in this realization that *Bhakti* and *Jnana* get harmonized.

—Sri Ramakrishna

Is *Bhakti* the only means to go beyond the Gunas? The elucidation comes :—

ब्रह्मणो हि प्रतिष्ठाहममृतस्याव्ययस्य च ।

शाश्वतस्य च धर्मस्य सुखस्यैकान्तिकस्य च ॥ २७

ब्रह्मणः हि प्रति-(स्था)ष्टा अहम् अ-मृतस्य अ-वि-अयस्य च ।

शाश्वतस्य च धर्मस्य सुखस्य एकान्तिकस्य च ॥

*brahmaṇo hi pratiṣṭhā 'ham amṛtasyā 'vyayasya ca ।*  
*sāśvatasya ca dharmasya sukhasyai 'kāntikasya ca ॥*

ब्रह्मणः *brahmaṇaḥ* of Brahman हि *hi* indeed प्रतिष्ठा *pratiṣṭhā* the abode अहम् *aham* I अमृतस्य *amṛtasya* the immortal अव्ययस्य *avyayasya* (of) the immutable च *ca* and शाश्वतस्य *sāśvatasya* (of) everlasting च *ca* and धर्मस्य *dharmasya* of dharma सुखस्य *sukhasya* of bliss एकान्तिकस्य *ekāntikasya* absolute च *ca* and