

worship ते *te* they अपि *api* also च *ca* and अतितरन्ति *ati taranti* cross beyond एव *eva* even मृत्युम् *mṛtyum* death श्रुतिपरायणाः *śruti parāyaṇāḥ* regarding what they have heard as the supreme refuge

Still others, not knowing thus, worship as they have heard from others; they too go beyond death by their devotion to what they have heard. 25

Among the four Yogas, Bhakti Yoga is the easiest. Scriptural knowledge and keen discrimination are not necessarily auxiliaries to this all absorbing path. The Gopis of Brindavan were uneducated and devoid of intellectual equipment. Still, through pure devotion they made the Lord of the universe their own. But if learning and wisdom can be properly utilized and if pure devotion is also side by side developed, progress in spirituality becomes easier still.

Devotion to the Lord may be compared to a ferocious tiger. As the latter destroys the cattle, the former destroys lust, greed and such like enemies to man. If *Bhakti* comes up but once, there is no more fear of being disturbed by lust and anger which will be all exterminated from the mind. The Gopis of Brindavan were free from these taints because of their extraordinary love of the boy Krishna.

— Sri Ramakrishna

The Karma Yoga, the Raja Yoga, the Bhakti Yoga and the Jnana Yoga—all these four yogas are given equal status and importance in the Bhagavad Gita. Any one of these four great paths is sufficient to lead the *sadhaka* to perfection. Still, the salutary course is to harmonize all the four paths. The Karma Yoga provides man with efficiency. The Raja Yoga adds to the stamina of the mind. The