

far more than those of all the other characters put together. And why did he do so? He gives the answer :—

यदि ह्यहं न वर्तेयं जातु कर्मण्यतन्द्रितः ।

मम वर्तमानुवर्तन्ते मनुष्याः पार्थ सर्वशः ॥ २३

यदि हि अहम् न वर्तेयम् जातु कर्मणि अ-तन्द्रितः ।

मम वर्तम अनु-वर्तन्ते मनुष्याः पार्थ सर्व-शः ॥

*yadi hy aham na varteyam jātu karmany atandritaḥ ।
mama vartmā 'nuvantante manuṣyāḥ pārtha sarvaśaḥ ॥*

यदि *yadi* if हि *hi* surely अहम् *aham* I न *na* not वर्तेयम् *varteyam* engage in action जातु *jātu* ever कर्मणि *karmani* in action अतन्द्रितः *atandritaḥ* unwearied मम *mama* my वर्तम *vartma* path अनुवर्तन्ते *anuvantante* follow मनुष्याः *manuṣyāḥ* men पार्थ *pārtha* O Partha सर्वशः *sarvaśaḥ* in every way

If ever I did not engage in work relentless, O Partha, men would in every respect follow My path.

Staunch adherence to good and devotion to duty are the characteristics of the great. But the ordinary people in society do not usually feel inclined to emulate the merits in the eminent. If there be any lapses in them such as idleness, procrastination and indifference to duty, these are readily caught by the ordinary. They even cite these shortcomings in the great as precedents. Sri Krishna is therefore exemplary in His conduct. In all of His doings He is a model to mankind.

Is there any harm if perchance the Lord ever deviated from dharma? Here is the answer :—