

*Dharma*, as used in our scriptures is, to put it directly and precisely, "THE LAW OF BEING." That because of which a THING continues to be the THING itself, without which the THING cannot continue to be that THING, is the *Dharma* of the THING. Heat, because of which fire maintains itself as fire, without which fire can no more be fire, is the *Dharma* of fire. Heat is the *Dharma* of fire; cold fire we have yet to come across! Sweetness is the *Dharma* of sugar; sour sugar is a myth!

Every object in the world has two types of properties: (a) the essential, and (b) the non-essential. A substance can remain itself, intact, when its "non-essential" qualities are absent, but it cannot remain ever for a split moment without its "essential" property. The colour of the flame, the length and width of the tongues of flame, are all the "non-essential" properties of fire, but the essential property of it is heat. This essential property of a substance is called its *Dharma*.

Then what exactly is the *Dharma* of man? The colour of the skin, the innumerable endless varieties of emotions and thoughts --- the nature, the conditions and the capacities of the body, mind and intellect --- are the "non-essential" factors in the human personality, as against the Touch of Life, the Divine Consciousness, expressed through them all. Without the *Atman* man cannot exist; it is TRUTH which is the basis of existence. Therefore, the "essential *Dharma*" of man is the Divine Spark of Existence, the Infinite Lord.