

BORN OUT OF THE WOMB OF SIN --- Sin, according to *Vedanta*, is a wrong tendency in the mind created out of the past unhealthy thought and negative living. These wrong channels of thought (*vasanas*), irresistibly drive man to live false values and bring about confusion and chaos into his life, as well as into the lives of others. It is these wrong tendencies, ploughed on the mental fields, that are the sources of the feminine nature of the mind (*Stritvam*), or the commercial attitude of the intellect (*Vaishyatvam*), or the general dullness and somnolent morbidity in one's inner life (*Shudratvam*). A dull-witted *pundita* alone will have the audacity to commit the folly of interpreting this stanza, adhering faithfully to the literal meaning, conveniently forgetting Sri Krishna's own definition of *Varnashrama Dharma* given previously in his discourses.

In short, when these wrong tendencies are in the mind, the *Rishis* have declared, in sheer kindness, that it is useless for that mind to undertake a study of the *Vedas*. Therefore, such minds were debarred from doing so. To attain the necessary qualification for a successful study of the sacred lore, the prescription is *Sadhana*. Of all the spiritual practices (*Sadhana*), the most efficient is the constant remembrance of the Lord with a heart overflowing with love and devotion (*Upasana*). It is the *Vedantic* declaration that through *Upasana* the mind gets purified --- purified of its debilities which are classified and indicated by the terms, "WOMEN, TRADERS AND WORKERS."