

Karma known as living a righteous life culminates in Self-knowledge. The man of Self-knowledge discharges his earthly duties to the best of his ability. Karma and *Jnana* are complementary to each other.

— Sri Ramanuja

3. What the individual soul views as his personal effort is karma, action. The unfailing Cosmic Function of the Supreme Lord is *Akarma*, inaction.

Man in his ignorance thinks that he is the sole agent of his action. But when he sets aside his egoism and agency and feels that his actions are in reality the doings of the Lord, he is said to see inaction in action. Man is not responsible for what he does in dream; but whatever takes place in that state is also the Lord's doing. With or without the instrumentality of man, the Lord's work goes on perfectly. He who sees this great fact sees the Lord's action in man's inaction too. Such a man gains in wisdom.

— Sri Madhwa

4. The nature of karma is to bind man to the wheel of birth and death. But that karma which is performed without egoism, purely for the glory of the Lord does not bind man. Furthermore it disentangles man from the bondages of his previous karma. To see, therefore, inaction in action is to convert all bondage-creating actions into freedom-creating actions. Work done for the sake of the Lord has this effect.

Desisting from obligatory action, due to laziness or ignorance, is highly harmful. New fetters