

The Gunas of Prakriti perform all karma. With the understanding clouded by egoism, man thinks, "I am the doer." 27

Karma is inherent in Nature which is constituted of the three Gunas — *Sattva*, *Rajas* and *Tamas*. But there is no karma whatsoever in Atman. The ignorant man is incapable of distinguishing between the action-ridden Nature and the actionless Self.

It is egoism to identify the Self with the non-Self. Two trains stand side by side in a railway station. A passenger in one train fixes his gaze on the other. When the other train moves the man fancies that his own vehicle moves. Likewise the mobility of *Prakriti* is imposed on the immobile Atman. Egoism is brought about by mistaking *Prakriti* for Atman. Bondage persists as long as egoism lasts. The egoistic man thinks of himself as the doer while actually he is not. Egoism and agency are the outcome of ignorance.

When an onion is peeled continually all skin goes away and no substance is left. Similarly on analysing the ego it is found to be no entity.

— SRI RAMAKRISHNA

Then how about the enlightened man? The elucidation comes —

तच्चचित्तु महाबाहो गुणकर्मविभागयोः ।

गुणा गुणेषु वर्तन्ते इति मत्वा न सज्जते ॥ २८

तच्च-चित्तु महा-बाहो गुण-कर्म वि-भागयोः ।

गुणा गुणेषु वर्तन्ते इति मत्वा न सज्जते ॥

tattvavit tu mahābāho guṇakarma vibhāgayoh ।
guṇā guṇeṣu vartanta iti matvā na sajjate ॥