

‘I belong to these; they belong to me’, with regard to kingdom, (9) elders, sons, comrades, well-wishers (1.26), kinsmen (1.37), relatives (1.34) and friends, have been shown by him with the words, ‘How can I (fight)...in battle (against) *Bhishma*’ (4), etc. It is verily because his discriminating insight was overwhelmed by sorrow and delusion that, even though he had become engaged in battle out of his own accord as a duty of the Ksatriyas, he desisted from that war and chose to undertake others’ duties like living on alms etc. It is thus that in the case of all creatures whose minds come under the sway of the defects of sorrow, delusion, etc, there verily follows, as a matter of course, abandoning their own duties and resorting to prohibited ones. Even when they engage in their own duties their actions with speech, mind, body, etc, are certainly motivated by hankering for rewards, and are accompanied by egoism. (10)

Such being the case, the cycle of births and deaths—characterized by passing through desirable and undesirable births, and meeting with happiness, sorrow, etc. (11) from the accumulation of virtue and vice, continues unendingly. Thus, sorrow and delusion are therefore the sources of the cycles of births and deaths. And their cessation comes from nothing other than the knowledge of the Self which is preceded by the renunciation of all duties. Hence, wishing to impart that (knowledge of the Self) for favouring the whole world, Bhagavān Vāsudeva, making Arjuna the medium, said, ‘You grieve for those who are not to be grieved for,’ etc.

As to that some (opponents) (12) say: Certainly, Liberation cannot be attained merely from continuance in the knowledge of the Self which is preceded by renunciation of all duties and is independent of any other factor. What then? The well-ascertained conclusion of the whole of the *Gītā* is that Liberation is attained through Knowledge associated with rites and duties like Agnihotra etc. prescribed in the Vedas and the Smrtis. And as an indication of this point of view they quote (the verses): ‘On the other hand, if you will not fight this righteous (battle)’ (33); ‘Your right is for action (rites and duties) alone’ (47); ‘Therefore you undertake action (rites and duties) itself’