

between the fleeting happiness and the lasting happiness. The earthly impermanent attainments and happinesses deified are called the little gods ; whereas the permanent spiritual attainments and bliss ever belong to Iswara. The ignorant seek the former while the enlightened seek the latter.

Why is it that all do not seek Iswara ? The position is explained :—

The Characteristics of Iswara — 24-26

अव्यक्तं व्यक्तिमापन्नं मन्यन्ते मामबुद्धयः ।

परं भावमजानन्तो ममाव्ययमनुत्तमम् ॥ २४

अ-वि-भक्तम् वि-भक्तिम् आ-पद्-तम् मन्-य-मन्ते माम् अ-बुद्धयः ।

परम् भावम् अ-जानन्तः मम अ-वि-भयम् अन्-उत्तमम् ॥

*avyaktam vyaktim āpannam manyante mām abuddhayaḥ  
param bhāvam ajānanto mamā 'vyayam anuttamam ॥*

अव्यक्तम् *avyaktam* the unmanifested व्यक्तिम् *vyaktim* to manifestation आपन्नम् *āpannam* come to मन्यन्ते *manyante* think माम् *mām* me अबुद्धयः *abuddhayaḥ* the foolish परम् *param* the highest भावम् *bhāvam* nature अजानन्तः *ajānantaḥ* not knowing मम *mama* my अव्ययम् *avyayam* immutable अनुत्तमम् *anuttamam* most excellent

Men of poor understanding think of Me, the unmanifest, as having manifestation, not knowing My supreme state — immutable and unsurpassed. 24

A benevolent and charitably-minded millionaire may be in rags occasionally just for the fun of it. If a beggar misunderstands him as one in rags and passes by without availing himself of the rich man's charity, the poor man becomes poorer for his