

properly cherished they become useful to bring knowledge and efficiency to man. To the extent man gets enlightened he looks after the senses with added wisdom and attention. Mutual fostering takes place this way causing good to both. Life becomes enriched thereby.

Highly evolved souls are called *Devas* wherever they happen to be. Cosmic forces are also called *Devas* because of their efficient functioning. The characteristic of the good and the enlightened is that they are always engaged in the welfare of all. It is *Yajna* to aid them in their noble and auspicious endeavours. The good and the noble in the world spontaneously come forward to serve the doers of good and to promote their noble causes. Those who sacrifice themselves completely to God get their reward accordingly. As the fuel that gives itself away to fire becomes fire in its turn, the devotees who surrender their everything to the Lord, become all Divinity. By sacrificing his all to God, man attains Godhood. This is the supreme good that *Yajna* brings.

Whatever you offer to the Lord is returned to you, magnified manifold. Take care, therefore, that you do not offer anything bad to him.

—Sri Ramakrishna

What becomes of him who makes no sacrifice but appropriates everything to himself? Here is the answer:—

इष्टान्भोगान्हि वो देवा दास्यन्ते यज्ञभाविताः ।

तैर्दत्तान्प्रदायैभ्यो यो भुङ्क्ते स्तेन एव सः ॥ १२