

CHAPTER 5

THE WAY OF RENUNCIATION OF ACTIONS

कर्मसंन्यासयोगः

In the instructions beginning with 'He who finds inaction in action' (4.18), and in, 'he is engaged in Yog and is a performer, of all actions' (ibid.), 'whose actions have been burnt away by the fire of wisdom' (ibid. 19), 'performing actions merely for the (maintenance of the) body' (ibid. 21), 'Remaining satisfied with what comes unasked for' (ibid. 22), 'The ladle is Brahman, the oblation is Brahman' (ibid. 24), 'Know them all to be born of action' (ibid. 32), 'O son of Prthā, all actions in their totality culminate in Knowledge' (ibid. 33), 'the fire of Knowledge reduces all actions to ashes' (ibid. 37), ending with 'actions do not bind one who has renounced actions through Yog' (ibid. 41), the Bhagavān spoke of renunciation of all actions. And in the words, 'take recourse to Yog by cutting asunder with the sword of Knowledge this doubt' (ibid. 42), the Bhagavān has said, 'You undertake Yog consisting in the performance of actions'.

Between these two, namely the performance of actions and renunciation of actions, since there is mutual opposition as between rest and motion, therefore it is not possible for the same person to undertake them together. Nor has it been enjoined that they should be practised at different times. That is to say, there arises the contingency of having to undertake one of these as a duty. In such a case the one which is more commendable of these two, namely