

*ca* and भविष्यताम् *bhaviṣyatām* of those who are to be prosperous कीर्ति *kīrtiḥ* fame श्रीः *śrīḥ* prosperity वाक् *vāk* speech च *ca* and नारीणाम् *nārīṇām* of the feminine स्मृतिः *smṛtiḥ* the memory मेधा *medhā* intelligence धृतिः *dhṛtiḥ* firmness क्षमा *kṣamā* forgiveness

And I am the all-devouring Death. I am the prosperity of those who are to be prosperous; and of female qualities I am Fame, Fortune, Speech, Memory, Intelligence, Constancy and Forbearance. 34

Life and death are the obverse and reverse of existence. To the born, death is certain. The Lord is as much the force of destruction as He is of creation.

As the rain-bearing clouds are attracted to the verdure of forests, the grace of the Lord in the form of prosperity comes to those who have made themselves worthy of it.

Fame, fortune, speech, memory, intelligence, constancy and forbearance are termed female qualities because of their grace and tenderness. Wherever these excellences are found in exuberance, there the presence of the divine is prominent.

It is the Cosmic Mother that reveals Brahman. Without the *Vidyā maya* or revealing power of the Mother, who can comprehend Brahman? Without knowing the *Sakti*, *Iswara* cannot be known.

—Sri Ramakrishna

बृहत्साम तथा साम्नां गायत्री छन्दसामहम् ।

मासानां मार्गशीर्षोऽहं ऋतूनां कुसुमाकरः ॥ ३५

बृहत्साम तथा साम्नाम् गायत्री छन्दस्-आम् अहम् ।

मासानाम् मार्गशीर्षः अहम् ऋतूनाम् कुसुम-आकरः ॥