Holy Geeta by Swami Chinmayananda

sincerity, the three-fold *tapas* as explained above, come to reap a large dividend from their austerities.

18. The austerity which is practised with the object of gaining good reception, honour and worship, and with hypocrisy, is here said to be RAJASIC, unstable, and transitory.

Penance that is performed with a view to gaining respect, honour and reverence is said to be of the *Rajasic* type, performed generally by men of "passionate" nature. Self control and self-application pursued not for the purpose of one's own inner development, but only for hoodwinking the world and getting cheap respect, reverence or worship, is indeed, one of the basest deceits that a man of culture can ever practise. Earlier Shri Bhagawan Himself (III-6, 7) called such men hypocrites. Seekers belonging to this group perform austerities mainly for their propaganda value, and hence, Bhagawan says that their *tapas* is "with ostentation" (*Dambhena*).

One may wonder what harm is there in practising this type of *tapas*? After all "*tapas*," as we observed, "is economy of thought-forces and the intelligent reinvestment of the economised energy into more creative fields of self-development." And yet, the *Geetacharya* condemns those who perform *tapas* with this wrong motive, and declares that such *tapas* is "UNSTABLE AND TRANSITORY." Any intelligent self-effort, ordinarily, has a time-lapse, before it can produce its results. Self-