

Learn from Me in brief, O Kaunteya, how reaching such perfection, he attains to Brahman, that supreme consummation of knowledge. 50

*Siddhi* or perfection is the state to attain which everything in Nature is incessantly struggling. The very plan and purpose of Nature tend towards this end. The sentient and the insentient are all shaping themselves only for perfection. Carbon that remains buried under earth for ages turns into diamond, a most precious gem. That this great possibility is potent in a piece of charcoal cannot ordinarily be thought of. Time and environment are the factors that contribute themselves for this great miracle to take place. Man delights in helping himself to a luscious apple. The perfection that this fruit has undergone is the cause of the delight of man. But he does not ponder over the process that the apple plant has undergone to bring about this perfection. Sun, rain, dew, fog, water, frost, soil, manure, air – all these have contributed their quota to the apple and have aided its progress towards perfection. All lives are struggling in their own way to reach perfection in their respective spheres.

But of all the attempts of all beings for perfection, that of man enjoys a special merit. The *siddhi* of the other things and beings is confined to the material plane. Therefore, it is prone to nullification. A diamond for example may again be reduced to a bit of carbon. Honey, nectar and ambrosia turn again into dirt. But the *siddhi* that is open to man leads him to immortality, to immutation and to