

imperfect birth, quite common in Nature. It may be found that in all species the feminine body is less perfect and less majestic than the masculine. And in the human, the mind is more important than the physique. Women as a class are less developed in mind than men, though exceptions may be found. They only are classified as Vaisyas and Sudras who are not fully developed in mind. The inferior birth, therefore, is a statement of fact. Even the mediocre mentioned herein are competent to reach Godhood. No human being is debarred from this birthright.

When there is a hurricane, it is not possible to distinguish one tree from another. Similarly when there is the hurricane of *bhakti* in the mind, distinctions such as sex, caste, colour and race vanish of their own accord.

—Sri Ramakrishna

How about the fully qualified ones? The answer comes :—

किं पुनर्ब्राह्मणाः पुण्या भक्ता राजर्षयस्तथा ।

अनित्यमसुखं लोकमिमं प्राप्य भजस्व माम् ॥ ३३

किम् पुनः ब्राह्मणा पुण्याः भज्-ताः राज-ऋषयः तथा ।

अ-नित्यम् अ-सुखम् लोकम् इमम् प्र-आप्स्य भज-स्व-माम् ॥

*kim punar brāhmanāḥ puṇyā bhaktā rājarṣayas tathā ।
anityam asukham lokam imam prāpya bhajasva mām ॥*

किं पुनः *kim punaḥ* how much more ब्राह्मणाः *brāhma-nāḥ* Brahmanas पुण्याः *puṇyāḥ* holy भक्ताः *bhaktāḥ* devoted राजर्षयः *rājarsayaḥ* royal saints तथा *tathā* also अनित्यम् *anityam* impermanent असुखम् *asukham* unhappy लोकम्