

identify with the body --- gross, subtle or causal --- the experiences can only be of the finite. To experience the Infinite, is to enter the status of Immortality, beyond the thralldom of death.

This verse, while explaining the efficacy of prayer and worship, even when unscientifically performed, is not recommending that all the methods are equally efficient, but it is only emphasizing the idea that, in the practice of worship, correct knowledge shall surely provide a better guarantee of success. If seekers can progress upon the authority of others' instructions, when they are themselves ignorant, *Sankara* exclaims: "How much more so then can they progress, who can independently appreciate the *Shastra* texts and discriminate?"

THROUGH THESE VARIOUS 'PATHS' AVAILABLE,
WHAT EXACTLY IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL TO BE
REALISED? LISTEN:

27. Wherever any being is born, the unmoving or the moving, know you, O best of the Bharatas, that it is from the union between the "Field" and the "Knower-of-the-Field". "

All things in the world that are born --- both the world of inert matter (unmoving) and the world of conscious beings (moving) --- arise neither from the "Field" (*Prakriti*) nor from the "Knower-of-the-Field" (*Purusha*). The source is from the marriage of *Prakriti* and *Purusha*. This