

school abandoning the studies. The training that the *Jivatman* gets in the school of Nature is similar to this.

*Naishkarmyam* and *Siddhi* connote the same; for, the state of perfection is that in which all activities are transcended. A fully ripe fruit may be said to have reached the state of perfection. Its taking form from the flower, its development, growth and maturity are all different stages of its activity, leading to actionlessness in perfect fruition. The fully ripe fruit severs its connection with the tree. But if it is plucked out before ripening its fulfilment remains incomplete.

Man's spiritual life or his progress towards *Sreyas* is akin to this. As the tender fruit grows receiving sustenance from the tree, so man marches towards perfection in and through the discharge of the duty fallen to his lot. He derives no benefit by violently snatching himself away from duty. Desireless action is the sure means to reach actionlessness.

The goal in life of man is to merge in Godhood. Make a reminder knot of this fact in a corner of your scarf and then plunge in the discharge of your duties.

— Sri Ramakrishna

An unripe fruit plucked from a tree can be utilized for cooking purposes. Similarly abandoning karma, temporary rest can be had by the karma-bound man. Where is the harm in man's giving up work and living in peace for sometime at least? But the fact is this:—