

to a spiritually evolved man stage act and life act are one and the same. Because of the absence of egoism, no modification of any kind takes place in his mind. There are instances of this in the Mahabharata war itself. Arjuna vanquished his grandfather Bhishma in the encounter. But he did not harbour the egoistic feeling that he caused the death of the grandsire. His mind was free from that modification. While waiting to give up the body in the auspicious northern passage of the sun, Bhishma did not feel that he was vanquished. Non-ego was the cause of it. As a man casts off a worn out clothing, Bhishma cast off his old body, unattached as he was to it.

The reflection of a moving body is seen in a mirror. That mirror is not the creator of the reflection and its movement. The reflection leaves no impression either in the mirror. While reflecting the things as they are, the mirror is ever itself, unattached, unaffected and unmodified. Like the mirror is Atman, the Pure Consciousness. It reveals the activities of the Prakriti. But Atman is no doer of karma. It is not bound in spite of Its being the lord, ruler and regulator of the Prakriti. That *Jivatman* who traces his original state to this Pure Consciousness regains his taintless understanding. Freed that he is from egoism he is not affected by the actions of the body and the senses. Happenings such as killing and being killed are all modifications of the Prakriti. As Atman is supremely above karma, the knower of Atman also rises above the turmoils of karma.