

*ye 'py anyadevatā bhaktā yajante sraddhayā 'nvitāḥ ।  
te 'pi mām eva kaunteya yajanty avidhipūrvakam ॥*

ये *ye* who अपि *api* even अन्यदेवता *anya devatāḥ* other gods भक्ताः *bhaktāḥ* devotees यजन्ते *yajante* worship श्रद्धया *sraddhayā* with faith अन्विताः *anvitāḥ* endowed ते *te* they अपि *api* also माम् *mām* me एव *eva* alone कौन्तेय *kaunteya* O Kaunteya यजन्ति *yajanti* worship अविधि पूर्वकम् *avidhi pūrvakam* by the wrong method

Even those devotees who, endowed with Sraddha, worship other gods, worship Me alone, O son of Kunti, by the wrong method. 23

Because these are devotees endowed with *sraddha*, they are necessarily believers in God and in His grace. It is not wantonly, but only for want of right understanding that they adopt the wrong method.

A good government has its sound administrative system from which its loyal officers do not deviate. Be it supposed that a citizen has applied to an officer for a favour and he has sanctioned it, coming as it does within the purview of the system. It is a mistake if the applicant fancies that the officer has shown him a concession. The actual position of the minor gods is equal to that of the government officers. As all powers come to them from the government, even so whatever power the other gods have, it has come to them from Iswara. Apart from and independent of Him no deity has any power to bestow any boon. The wrong method consists in getting the things done counter to this truth.