

*The Blessed Lord said: 22. Light, activity, and delusion, when present, O Pandava, he hates not, nor longs for them when absent.*

In answering the first question of Arjuna, the Lord tries to explain how the man of right understanding does not hate the effects of the three *gunas* when they are clearly present in his inner life; nor does he long for them when they have disappeared. Equanimity is the essence of perfection and a Man-of-Knowledge is ever in perfect balance. He craves for nothing, nor does he strive to acquire anything new. To have and not to have --- both are equal to him, because he is beyond both, living a life of inward peace which is totally independent of all environments.

LIGHT ACTIVITY AND DELUSION, WHEN PRESENT, HE HATES NOT --- The three terms LIGHT, ACTIVITY and DELUSION are the effects of their respective causes, the predominance of "*Sattwa*," of "*Rajas*" and of "*Tamas*." The three *gunas* are indicated here by their effects. Their presence within him, does not create in him either any special attachment nor any particular aversion. Whether his mind and intellect are under the influence of *Rajas* or *Tamas*, even when he feels agitated or deluded, he is not in the least affected by them, and therefore, he hates them not. It is only in the absence of Self-Knowledge, that one hates them.

He who has risen above the *gunas*, is unaffected when they appear in his mind. No doubt, a man who is *Sattwic*