

As the mind ceases to function without these states, they are called its Vṛttis.

(3) Through wrong knowledge, the adjuncts of the Puruṣa in the shape of body, mind, etc. are constantly undergoing changes or they exist in a dormant state or move in a flow of births and deaths. This is what is meant by Guṇavikāra or the changes in the Guṇas. When through correct knowledge nescience etc. is destroyed, the mental fluctuations connected with this correct knowledge counteract the operation of the Guṇas and they are, therefore, known as Akliṣṭa Vṛttis or harmless processes. For example, an illusion like the feeling that 'I' am the body, or the fluctuations of the mind arising out of actions done under the influence of such an illusion are harmful processes founded on nescience. Deep contemplation or conduct based on correct knowledge that 'I' am not the body gives rise to processes which are free from afflictions. As the sequence of such fluctuations might terminate the assumption of the body, i.e. of the chain of births and deaths and thus of incorrect knowledge, these are called harmless or beneficial modifications conducive to the elimination of the operation of the Guṇas. When through the final discriminative knowledge, nescience is destroyed, the state of mind arising therefrom is the Akliṣṭa *par excellence*. The mediate cognition of the distinction between the Puruṣa and Buddhi through verbal instruction, study and contemplation without any actual realisation of the same, is also an Akliṣṭa state, but only in a secondary sense.

(4 & 5) It might be urged that it is hardly possible for creatures with a preponderance of 'harmful' Vṛttis to have at all any 'beneficial' ones, or for the latter to prove effective in the welter of the 'harmful' modifications of the mind. In reply, the commentator explains that the 'beneficial' modifications, though mixed with the harmful ones, remain distinct from them as a shaft of light coming into a dark room remains distinct from the surrounding darkness. The intervals of Abhyāsa and detachment might be fruitful in giving rise to 'beneficial' modifications. In the same manner through the loopholes in the stream of 'beneficial' fluctuations, the 'harmful' ones might also creep in. As the overt modifications