

the function of the lowest Guna अधः *adhaḥ* downwards  
गच्छन्ति *gacchanti* go तामसा *tāmasāḥ* the Tamasika

Those who are fixed in *Sattva* go upwards; the *Rajasikas* remain in the middle; and the *Tamasikas*, abiding in the functions of the lowest Guna, go downwards. 18

There is an inviolable relationship between the change of the *Gunas* in the *Jivatman* and his being born high or low. The one fixed in *Sattva* may be born a celestial if he is inclined towards enjoyment of pleasures. But if his bent is towards knowledge and wisdom he takes a suitable human birth and strives for further progress in that direction. The man of *Rajas* is ever active in all of his births. For want of proper discrimination he does not head for higher births, nor does he deteriorate to lower births. He maintains the position he has gained and waits for the dawn of discrimination to guide him upwards. But the man steeped in *Tamas* wallows in the nether regions.

Is it sufficient if man aspires to *Sattva* and gets established there? The answer comes —

Transcending the *Gunas* is *Mukti* — 19 20

नान्यं गुणेभ्यः कर्तारं यदा द्रष्टानुपश्यति ।

गुणेभ्यश्च परं वेत्ति मद्भ्राम सोऽधिगच्छति ॥ १९

न अन्यम् गुणेभ्यः कर्तारम् यदा द्रष्टा अनु-पश्य-मति ।

गुणेभ्यः च परम् वेद्ति मद् भावम् स अधि गच्छति ॥

*nā 'nyam guṇebhyaḥ kartāram yadā draṣṭā 'nupāsyati*  
*guṇebhyaḥ ca param veti mad bhāvam so 'dhigacchati*