

who shall give the Divine sanction for the very *Vedic* declarations.

IF ALL THOSE ENDLESS PROFITS WHICH ARE SAID TO RESULT FROM THE *VEDIC* RITUALS ARE NOT TO BE SOUGHT AFTER, THEN TO WHAT END ARE THEY TO BE PERFORMED AND DEDICATED TO *ISWARA*? LISTEN TO WHAT FOLLOWS:

46. *To the BRAHMANA who has known the Self, all the VEDAS are of so much use, as is a reservoir of water in a place where there is flood everywhere.*

It is a wonderful simile that is used here, fully applicable in the context in which it is used. So long as there is no flood, everyone from the vicinity will have to reach the well to collect drinking water, although everywhere there is a vein of water running under our feet, but separated from us by the crust of the earth. For the seeker, the *Veda* is the only source of True Knowledge, and every one must necessarily go to the Sacred Book for Knowledge. But when the area is flooded and the wells and the tanks have disappeared in the spread of the flood, at that time the reservoir of water, which used to be of service, becomes merged in the spread of water that lies all round.

Similarly, the *Vedas*, meaning here "the ritualistic portion," which promises fulfilment of the various desires, can be useful only so long as the individual is riddled with delusory desires for sensuous satisfactions. But, to a