

spiritual matters among the good and the virtuous increases the steadfastness in the *sādhana*. *Bhakti* and *Jñāna* are on the increase in such an ardent soul. Spiritual service is therefore another means to gain access to Divinity.

Bhagavan, Bhagavata (the scriptures) and Bhaktas are all identical.

— Sri Ramakrishna

How does the Lord hold the devotee who carries this spiritual message among righteous and the spiritually inclined people? The answer comes:—

न च तस्मान्मनुष्येषु कश्चिन्मे प्रियकृत्तमः ।

भविता न च मे तस्मादन्यः प्रियतरो भुवि ॥ ६९

न च तस्मात् मनुष्येषु कः-चित् मे प्रिय-कृत्-तमः ।

भविता न च मे तस्मात् अन्यः प्रिय-तरः भुवि ॥

*na ca tasmān manuṣyeṣu kaścīn me priya kṛttamaḥ ।*

*bhavitā na ca me tasmād anyāḥ priyataro bhuvī ॥*

न *na* not च *ca* and तस्मात् *tasmāt* than he मनुष्येषु *manuṣyeṣu* among men कश्चित् *kaścīn* any मे *me* of मे प्रियकृत्तमः *priya kṛttamaḥ* one who does dearer service भविता *bhavitā* shall be न *na* not च *ca* and मे *me* of मे तस्मात् *tasmāt* than he अन्यः *anyāḥ* another प्रियतरः *priyatarāḥ* dearer भुवि *bhuvī* in the earth

Nor is there any among men who renders dearer service to Me than he; nor shall there be another on earth dearer to Me than he. 69

All the happenings, great and small, magnificent and minute, taking place in the universe are verily the doings of Iswara. The universe itself is the revelation of the glory of Iswara. Among all these