

There is no fixity of mind for them who cling to pleasure and power and whose discrimination is stolen away. 44

The desire-ridden are those who have not risen to ethical and spiritual levels; they are the unrefined among the human. Their sole aim in life is to hunt after vulgar enjoyments here and hereafter. Their learning, enquiry and power of speech are all directed to this base end. The ritualistic portions in the Vedas pander merely to the low tastes of the crude happiness-hunters. Rites of this kind in the Vedas are useful to only those who seek to prolong the wheel of birth for the sake of several enjoyments. Though the Vedas are the oldest literature in the world, all that they contain are not sublime and elevating. The needs of the vulgar are also met in them.

Enjoyment of pleasure and happiness is not the goal of the human life. The attainment of perfection is its supreme object. The means for it is to be absorbed in *Samkhya* and yoga. Rituals simply distract the mind. *Samadhi* cannot be had from them.

The vulture soars high up in the sky. But its eyes are always on the carrion and carcass below on earth. However much one may be learned in the Vedas, as long as one's eyes are fixed on sense-pleasures one acts like a vulture. Spiritual enlightenment is not to the one given to lust and greed.

— Sri Ramakrishna

What ought to be the ideal in life? The answer comes :—

The Key to Yoga — 45-53

त्रैगुण्यविषया वेदा निस्त्रैगुण्यो भवार्जुन ।

निर्द्वन्द्वो नित्यसच्चस्थो निर्योगक्षेम आत्मवान् ॥ ४५