

तस्मात् शास्त्रम् प्रमानम् ते कार्य-अकार्य-वि-अव-स्थितौ ।
ज्ञात्वा शास्त्रं वि वान उक्तम् कर्म कर्तुम् इह अर्हसि ॥

*tasmāc chāstram pramānam te kāryākāryavyavasthitau
jñātvā sāstravidhānoktam karma kartum ihā 'rhasi* ॥

तस्मात् *tasmāt* therefore शास्त्रम् *sāstram* Sastra प्रमाणम् *pramānam* (be) authority ते *te* they कार्य अकार्य व्यवस्थितौ *kārya akārya vyavasthitau* in determining what ought to be done or what ought not to be done ज्ञात्वा *jñātvā* having known शास्त्रविधान उक्तम् *sāstra vidhāna uktam* what is said in the ordinance of the Sastras कर्म *karma* action कर्तुम् *kartum* to do इह *ihā* here (in this world) अर्हसि *arhasi* shouldst

Therefore, let the scriptures be your authority in deciding what ought to be done and what ought not to be done. Having known what is said in the ordinance of the scriptures you should act here. 24

The purpose of the scriptures is to guide man in living a perfect life on earth and to remind him repeatedly of the Supreme Goal which is supramundane and which ought to be sought after earnestly. This being the case, bound as man is both to karma and to earth, whatever he does here on earth ought to get the sanction of the scriptures. And those that are divinely disposed involuntarily do acts that are quite in tune with the teachings of the scriptures. In fact their doings and the injunctions of the scriptures are in corroboration of one another.

“What particular *Sastra* do you follow?” was the question put to Sri Ramakrishna by a devotee “I follow no *Sastra* whatever I plead with the Deity residing in my heart for directions,