

things They are solely intent on gaining the gracious vision of the Lord

— Sri Ramakrishna

What does the Lord do with these men of mean mentality and foolish endeavours? He delineates His dispensation —

यो यो यां यां तनुं भक्तः श्रद्धयाचितुमिच्छति ।

तस्य तस्याचलां श्रद्धां तामेव विदधाम्यहम् ॥ २१

य य याम् याम् तनुम् भक्तः श्रद्धया अर्च-स्तुम् इच्छति ।

तस्य तस्य अचलाम् श्रद्धाम् ताम् एव वि-दधामि अहम् ॥

*yo yo yām-yām tanum bhaktaḥ*

*śraddhayā 'rcitum icchatī ।*

*tasya-tasyā calām śraddhām*

*tām eva vidadhāmy aham ॥*

य *yah* who य *yah* who याम् *yām* which याम् *yām* which तनुम् *tanum* form भक्त *bhaktaḥ* devotee श्रद्धया *śraddhayā* with faith अचितुम् *arcitum* to worship इच्छति *icchatī* desires तस्य तस्य *tasya-tasyā* of him अचलाम् *acalām* unflinching श्रद्धा *śraddhām* faith ताम् *tām* that एव *eva* surely विदधामि *vidadhāmi* make अहम् *aham* I

Whatever form any devotee with faith wishes to worship, I make that faith of his steady. 21

Children are very particular to have sweetmeats shaped to their likings, such as a cow, a horse or an elephant. The confectioner supplies them sweets according to their tastes. The way of the Lord is more generous than that. His grace descends suited to the attainments of individuals. The worship of the little gods is not altogether erroneous or sinful as some theologians would have it. It is but a stepping