

well-performed. He who does the duty ordained by his own nature incurs no evil.

[As a poisonous substance does not injure the worm born in that substance, so he who does his Svadharma incurs no evil.]

सहजं कर्म कौन्तेय सदोषमपि न त्यजेत् ॥

सर्वारंभा हि दोषेण धूमेनाग्निरिवावृताः ॥४८॥

XVIII. 48.

कौन्तेय O son of Kunti सहजं attended with evil अपि though सहजं with which he is born कर्म the duty न not त्यजेत् one should relinquish हि for सर्वारंभाः all undertakings धूमेन by smoke अग्निः fire इव as दोषेण by evil आवृताः are enveloped.

One should not relinquish, O son of Kunti, the duty to which he is born, though it is attended with evil, for all undertakings are enveloped by evil, as fire by smoke.

[Duty etc.,—this need not mean caste duty.

All undertakings: one's own as well as others' duties.

The greatest evil is bondage and this endures so long as one lives in the realm of the Gunas, except in the case of a freed soul. All action is comprised in one or the other of the Gunas. All action therefore involves the evil of bondage.]

असक्तबुद्धिः सर्वत्र जितात्मा विगतस्पृहः ॥

नैष्कर्म्यसिद्धिं परमां संन्यासेनाधिगच्छति ॥४९॥

XVIII. 49.

सर्वत्र Everywhere असक्तबुद्धिः whose intellect is unattached जितात्मा who has subdued his heart विगतस्पृहः whose desires have fled संन्यासेन by renunciation परमां the supreme नैष्कर्म्यसिद्धिं the perfection