

*Muni* does not mean an old man with a beard, living in a jungle, eating roots and berries, but it means, "A man of reflection and contemplation" (*Manana Sheelavan*). Thus, an understanding of the *gunas*, their nature and their tyranny, when and how they rise up in revolt against our peaceful progress, are all preliminary information useful for all Men-of-Reflection, who constantly digest and assimilate their experiences in life and thereby gain "wisdom."

AFTER THIS LIFE --- The attainment of Perfection is promised here, as in many *Upanishads*, "AFTER THIS LIFE." Some thinkers take this declaration too literally and say that Perfection cannot be gained in this life while living here. Very efficiently and logically, Shri Shankaracharya and others break up this argument and assert, again and again, that Perfection can be gained, here and now, by any diligent seeker. According to these *Acharyas* "AFTER THIS LIFE" means "at the end of our ego-centric misconceptions of life."

Even in our life, we find that the bachelor must die to become the married man; the virgin must die before she becomes a mother. In the above cases, the person is not dead but bachelor-hood and virginity have ended, so that they may acquire husband-hood and mother-hood. Thus, the individuals remaining the same, their status changes. Through right reflection and true understanding, our false values-of-life can end, and in the newly found "wisdom," a life of better illumination and greater equanimity can be