

5. Purity, passion, and inertia --- these qualities (GUNAS) , O! mighty-armed, born of "PRAKRITI" bind, the Indestructible, Embodied one, fast in the body.

GUNAS BORN OF PRAKRITI --- It is indeed difficult to find an adequate rendering for the word "*guna*" in English. The tradition of thought in the West has nothing equivalent to these terms, as the science of psychology in the West is even today passing through its very early childhood. The influences (*gunas*) under which the thoughts function in each bosom, will be considered by it only when analytical and experimental psychology has exhausted its observations and study.

The concept of *Sattwa* is rather that of perfect purity and luminosity, the opposite of "foul-darkness" called *Tamas*, and distinctly different from the "dusky-colour" of *Rajas*. We find in our literature that these *gunas* are associated with-light (*Sattwa*), red-colour (*Rajas*) and darkness (*Tamas*).

The term *guna* also means 'rope,' by which, the spiritual beauty of life in us is tied down to the inert and insentient Matter-vestures. In short, *gunas* are the three different influences under which every human mind has to play in such an endless variety at different moments of its changing environments.