

Learn from Me the truth about this abandonment, O best of the Bharatas; abandonment, verily, O best of men, has been declared to be of three kinds. 4

The words *Sanyāsa* and *Tyāga* are synonyms. Both the words mean abandonment, renunciation and the act of giving up. It is not a negative process born of frustration and failure in life, as some would have it. In renunciation there is fulfilment as well as acceptance. It is an act of giving up the lower after one's concern with it is successfully over and embracing the higher with greater responsibility and keener application. All good and purposeful acts in Nature are the acts of renunciation. We shall presently see how they are so.

Renunciation is both the key and the basis for higher life. This principle is evinced by Nature at all levels of existence. The sun is constantly giving up its heat and light, facilitating thereby the life process of beings in planets where they have made their appearance. A ripe fruit renounces the parent tree that has been sustaining it, so that it may fulfil itself elsewhere by its intrinsic worth. A mother fosters a babe in her womb as part and parcel of herself. But she delivers it in time lest a delay in that act should prove dangerous both to herself and the babe. This is an act of renunciation though we do not call it so. A pupil has to renounce in time the school that has been educating him. While availing himself of the benefits of that school, his aim is to get out of it successfully. The aim of the *Jivatman* is to get himself educated in the school of Nature.