

From the way in which the subordinates and attendants conduct themselves in a palace, the presence of the king in it can be inferred. One should not be satisfied with that inference. Seeing the king in person is superior to believing in his presence. There is a state greater than seeing the sovereign. Contact and communion with him is what is wanted. *Ananya bhakti* takes the devotee through all of these stages in his pursuit of the Lord. He feels first the presence of the Divine; he gets the vision of the Lord next; then he moves intimately with Him until unison is reached. Unswerving devotion provides all these possibilities.

Many have heard of milk. Those who have seen it are lesser in number. The partakers of milk are lesser still. Even such is the contact of man with God.

A talk arose whether man can see God with his physical eyes. No, He cannot be perceived with fleshy eyes. When *bhakti* is practised, the *sadhaka* develops a superior sense organ, which has the power to see and hear supermundane things. With that spiritual eye, God is beheld and the devotee is commingled with Him.

—Sri Ramākrishna

What should the *sadhaka* do then? The injunction comes :—

मत्कर्मकृन्मत्परमो मद्भक्तः सङ्गवर्जितः ।

निर्वैरः सर्वभूतेषु यः स मामेति पाण्डव ॥ ५५

मद्-कर्म-कृत् मद्-परमः मद्-भक्तः सङ्ग-वर्जितः ।

निर्-वैरः सर्व-भूतेषु यः सः माम् ए-ति पाण्डव ॥

*matkarmakṛn matparamo madbhaktaḥ saṅgavarjitaḥ ।  
nirvairah sarvabhūteṣu yaḥ sa mām eti pāṇḍava ॥*