

I am your disciple. Do instruct me who have taken refuge in you. 7

Arjuna confesses that this crisis has driven him on to the position of a *Kripāṇa*. It means that he is inclined to grieve; he has become feeble and an object of pity; it also indicates niggardliness. The Upanishad says that he who does not strive for spiritual enlightenment is a *Kripāṇa*. The man's confession is correct.

Referring to man's strivings the Upanishad declares:

अन्यच्छ्रेयोऽन्यदुतैव प्रेयस्ते उभे नानार्थे पुरुषं सिनीतः ।

तयो. श्रेय आददानस्य साधुर्भवति हीयतेऽर्थोऽयं य उ प्रेयो वृणीते ॥

“One thing is the good and quite another, the pleasant; being of different requisitions, they both bind man. Holy becomes he who pursues the good, but falls the man from the goal, who chooses the pleasant.”

Arjuna finds himself now at the cross-roads between the pleasant and the good. It is *Preyas*—the pleasant, that he has been blessed with in plenty all along. Learning and culture, wealth, wives, progeny, kingdom—gifts of this kind add to enjoyment. They come under the category of *Preyas*. Arjuna comes to know now of the fact that they are of no avail to allay the agony caused by a catastrophe. He who was all along the kinsman and comrade of Sri Krishna, now becomes a disciple and supplicates for the gift of *Sreyas*—the good. He surrenders himself to the Lord. This frame of mind is the prerequisite to the attainment