

and yet another may fly, drift in breeze and land in a Śiva temple.
What has the tree got to do with them?

Let the body fall down anywhere, whenever its prārabdha ends. If the people around want a little more satisfaction, let them burn it. Else let it rot and stink. What have I got to do with it?



पत्रस्य पुष्पस्य फलस्य नाशवद्-
देहेन्द्रियप्राणधियां विनाशः ।
नैवात्मनः स्वस्य सदात्मकस्या-
नन्दाकृतेर्वृक्षवदस्ति चैषः ॥ ५६१ ॥

*patrasya puṣpasya phalasya nāśavad-
dehendriyaprāṇadhiyām vināśah,
naivātmanah svasya sadātmakasyā -
nandākṛtervr̥kṣavadasti caiṣah.* (561)

561. *Like the destruction of a leaf, flower or fruit (to a tree), is the destruction of the body, sense organs, prāṇas and intellect; the Ātman, the eternal Reality, is never affected. It is the embodiment of Bliss which is ones real nature and exists like the tree.*

When the leaf, the flower and the fruit fall off, nothing happens to the tree. They are all its fulfilment; but the tree is separate from all these. Similar is the vināśa of the body, the sense organs, the vitality and the intellect. When they all die and fall away, I still exist.

Just as the tree survives after the fallen leaves, the fallen flowers and the fallen fruits, the pure, eternal, infinite Consciousness which knows no destruction, survives the body and the intellect.

