



27. Infinite Love – the Self (106-107)

आत्मार्थत्वेन हि प्रेयान्विषयो न स्वतः प्रियः ।
स्वत एव हि सर्वेषामात्मा प्रियतमो यतः
तत आत्मा सदानन्दो नास्य दुःखं कदाचन ॥ १०६ ॥

*ātmārthatvena hi preyānviṣayo na svataḥ priyaḥ,
svata eva hi sarveṣāmātmā priyatamo yataḥ
tata ātmā sadānando nāsya duḥkhaṁ kadācana. (106)*

106. Sense objects are pleasure giving only because of the Self which manifests through them and not independently, for the Self is, by Its very nature, the most beloved of all. The Self, therefore, is ever blissful and can never suffer any grief or misery.

The sense objects of the world are pleasurable, no doubt, but only when they are illumined by the Ātman – the Life. Things are pleasurable only when I am alive. If I am dead, nothing is pleasurable. A thing in itself has no joy; the happiness that we seem to gain from the objects outside is in fact due to the nature of the Ātman, which is happiness Itself. The most enjoyable thing in everyone of us is our own Ātman.

A man learning that his house is on fire runs to the house. When he comes to know that his only child is sleeping inside the house, he announces a large cash award for whoever will go and bring the child out to safety. When there is no response, he increases the sum of his award and at last, he offers all his wealth for his child. But he himself does not risk the blazing fire and the burning rafters to bring the child out. This is because he loves himself more than anything else – his wealth and even his only child.