



3. Unique Graces in Life

दुर्लभं त्रयमेवैतदेवानुग्रहहेतुकम् ।
मनुष्यत्वं मुमुक्षुत्वं महापुरुषसंश्रयः ॥ ३ ॥

*durlabham trayamevaitaddevānugrahahetukam,
manuṣyatvam mumukṣutvam mahāpuruṣasamśrayaḥ.* (3)

3. *Manhood, burning desire for Liberation, the capacity to surrender completely to a Man of Wisdom – these three things are rare indeed, and wherever they are found, they are due to the Lord's own grace.*

Earlier we were told how rare is the human birth and necessary qualifications one must have for a vital and positive living by which one can grow in one's inner evolution. In order to emphasise to the seeker the importance of the qualities which he should have when going to a great Man of Wisdom, seeking spiritual knowledge, these qualifications are here stressed.

Śaṅkara says that to be born as a human being is a sign of Lord's grace. After this, to employ in life a deep discriminative understanding and to perceive the ultimate futility of all the ordinary mundane pursuits of life and thereby discover an enthusiasm to seek a nobler path of self redemption is rarer still. Lastly, when a creature is born as a man, when he feels a gnawing sense of impatience at his own limitations, for him to find the right Master to guide him across the thorny paths of his imperfections into the soft meadows of limitless joy and bliss is the rarest. Śaṅkara attributes all these three rounds of seeming luck to the grace of the Almighty.

The grace of the Almighty as expressed in Vedānta is not to be understood as the blessings of a God, a Sultāna of the sky

sitting amidst the clouds showering special packets of grace on chosen individuals. What is meant here by God's grace is only the sum total of reactions gained through the healthy and intelligent way in which the individual has lived through his many previous lives of great and noble cultural pursuits.

