



71. Prārabdha for a Saint (446-464)

निदिध्यासनशीलस्य बाह्यप्रत्यय ईक्ष्यते ।
ब्रवीति श्रुतिरेतस्य प्रारब्धं फलदर्शनात् ॥ ४४६ ॥

*nididhyāsanaśīlasya bāhyapratyaya īkṣyate,
bravīti śrutiretasya prārabdhaṁ phaladarśanāt. (446)*

446. *He who is an adept at meditation is yet seen to have external perceptions. Śruti says, 'This is prārabdha at work.' This can be inferred from actual results seen.*

Earlier in two verses it was said that to a Man of Perfection, the vāsanās created by his past actions cannot be powerful promptings because he has awakened from his egocentric misconceptions. If thus, through meditation and Realisation his vāsanās have been completely exhausted, an intelligent student would naturally ask a pertinent question. How is it that such an individual is seen to have his experiences in the world? We see that such a Mahāyogī still has transactions with the world around him. He eats. He sleeps. He walks. He talks. He enjoys a cool bath in summer and a warm bath in winter. Therefore, if he has no vāsanās, why should he continue to exist and gather experiences in contact with the world outside?

In answer to this pertinent question, Śaṅkara says, "He who constantly practises meditation is certainly observed to have outer perceptions and experiences. This is explained by Śruti as being the result of his prārabdha. It can only be prārabdha, for, we observe the Man of Perfection to have his quota of joys and sorrows when he comes in contact with the world."¹



¹ *sukhaduḥkhānubhavadarśanāt sattasyakāraṇaṁ prārabdhamiti śrutiḥ.*