

sense contacts is because he is full of the ecstatic joy of the Self. He is full of the undiluted elixir of the bliss of the Self (*svānanda-sāndra-rasapāna-sumatta-cittah*).



लक्ष्यालक्ष्यगतिं त्यक्तवा यस्तिष्ठेत्केवलात्मना ।
शिव एव स्वयं साक्षादयं ब्रह्मविदुत्तमः ॥ ५५४ ॥

*lakṣyālakṣyagatim tyaktvā yastiṣṭhetkevalātmanā,
śiva eva svayam sākṣādayam brahmaviduttamah.* (554)

554. *He who has renounced the anxiety to reach the goal and never to deviate from it, and lives as the absolute Ātman, indeed, he is Śiva himself, the best among the knowers of Brahman.*

Having renounced the anxiety to reach the goal, and the anxiety never to deviate from the goal (*lakṣya-alakṣya gatim tyaktvā*), that is, ‘I must move towards the Self, I must not move towards the non-Self, I am slipping away from the goal’, and so on, in him there is no more this anxiety. The anxiety to reach the goal will leave when the goal is reached. Such an individual whose mind is free from all worry and dissipation is Lord Śiva himself, the very embodiment of auspiciousness. He who has thus reached this Śiva-pada is the best among the knowers of Brahman.



जीवन्नेव सदा मुक्तः कृतार्थो ब्रह्मवित्तमः ।
उपाधिनाशाद्भूम्यैव सन् ब्रह्माप्येति निर्द्वयम् ॥ ५५५ ॥

*jīvanneva sadā muktaḥ kṛtārtho brahmavittamah,
upādhināśādbrahmaiva san brahmāpyeti nirdvayam.* (555)

555. *The perfect knower of Brahman becomes eternally free, even in this life and is fulfilled; he merges with the non-dual Brahman – which he had been all along – through the destruction of his limitations.*