



Select Your Path

The whole universe is nothing but a play, an inscrutable manifestation of that dynamism, Shakti, who is based upon the immovable eternal Reality. This Supreme dynamism is the primal power, Adi Shakti, the great power, Maha Laxmi, the transcendental power, Para Shakti. As such it is beyond our imagination. Even its Cosmic manifestation as Brahma-Shakti, Vishnu-Shakti and Siva-Shakti – the creative power, the preserving power and the dissolving power – is a metaphysical concept beyond the ordinary man.

However, there is her manifestation that is immediate to us, that is right in us that is relevant to you, that which you are dealing with every moment of your life. It is *jnana-shakti*, the power of thinking, imagination and creativity, *iccha-shakti*, the power of desire to carry out what has been creatively thought of and *kriya-shakti*, the power to bring about what has been conceived and desired. Man has conquered Nature through them.

The Lord has called His inscrutable Cosmic Power as gunamayi. “*Daivi Hy Esa Guna-mayi Mama Maya Duratyaya* – verily this divine illusion of mine (Maya), made up of the three qualities of nature (gunas) is difficult to cross over.” [Gita 7.14] He says: “*Urdhvam Gacchanti Sattva-stha Madhye Tisthanti Rajasah Jaghanya-gunna-vrtti-stha Adho Gacchanti Tamasah* – Those who manifest My powers through *sattva* ever ascend and attain heights; those who manifest My powers through *tamas* go down; and those who manifest it through *rajas* remain in the middle.” [Gita 14.18] Within us we have these three *gunas*. Now it is our choice: In what channel is She going to manifest in the field of our human personality complex?

Thus He has placed us in our own hands. It depends upon the manner in which we choose to manifest the Cosmic Being present in us. This is the art and science of living the life. It is the secret of supreme blessedness. Each individual can decide what to do with this gift called life. The Kauravas choose the downward path, the Pandavas upward path; the masses chose no path. So this is the drama of life. We make or mar our human life. This is a truth to be pondered very deeply. Abundant guidance is given to us in the Bhagavad Gita.

May God Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*

“Every day, side by side, along with your duties, practice meditation. This is your foremost duty. This should not be neglected on any account. Get up at 4 a.m. Practice little bit of meditation, a little bit of Kirtan, study of Gita or other sacred scriptures, and introspection.”

■ *Swami Sivananda*