

## Bhagavad Gita - Chapter 18, Verse 66

सर्वधर्मान्परतियज्य मामेकं शरणं व्रज |  
अहं त्वां सर्वपापेभ्यो मोक्षयिष्यामि मा शुचः || 66||

**66. Renounce all duties (*dharma*), and just come to me for refuge. I will take you beyond sin and guilt, where there is neither grief nor sorrow.**

What great assurance he gives! It's not that you consciously reject anything, but you do things according to your nature, which is your *svadharmā*, while renouncing the fruits. Even as your body and mind are functioning, you feel that you aren't the one who is acting. Simply feel that things are being done, or "things are happening through me." You are simply a witness. You let things happen through your body and mind. Whatever happens, you observe it—like watching a movie.

This is renunciation of the *dharmas*. *Dharmas* will still happen. Duties are being performed. Your mind performs the duty through your body, while the real you just sits and watches. You are the one who drives the car. The engine runs; the wheels turn; but you just sit behind the wheel watching the whole thing. *You* are unaffected by the *dharma*, the dutiful action.

You are neither the actor, nor the agent, nor the action itself. The cosmic force functions through your body and mind. Just realize: "It is that force that sustains me and keeps my breath going. I'm not even consciously breathing. Something else is conscious of my breathing."

It's true. You are not conscious of your breathing or your digesting, or even the beating of your heart. Do you tell your heart to beat? Do you tell your lungs, "Come on, breathe in and out?" No. These things just happen. Call it motor nerves or involuntary muscles; it doesn't matter. The doctors may have their own names for it. But behind all the involuntary muscles, there's one super-voluntary power. It's that cosmic intelligence that takes care of us. From the moment the sperm fertilizes the egg, the cosmic intelligence knows, "Yes, one soul is getting ready for a body. It should have food; I will prepare milk for it."

Have you seen an expectant mother? As soon as she conceives, milk is being prepared in her breasts. Whether she wants it or not, whether she knows or not, milk is being prepared. Who is doing that? Neither the father nor the mother. Sometimes if you break open a rock, you will see a small, frog-like creature living inside the cavity. Who feeds it? Who takes care of it? Give it any name you want, but know that there is one cosmic intelligence which knows and cares for everything.

Even your knowing comes through that. Without that cosmic intelligence you wouldn't know anything. You couldn't know anything. So just trust it completely. Resign yourself to that intelligence and *you* won't need to do anything. You will be made to do what is necessary. That intelligence will take you over and perform everything through you. Then your actions are not *your* actions anymore. They are God's actions, and you simply function as an instrument. Then there is nothing that will disturb your mind in this life. Your peace is eternal. That's the real Yoga, the true religion, the supreme peace and joy.

And that is what Sri Krishna is saying: "Just renounce everything, and I will take care of it all. You don't need to worry. Grieve not. I'll liberate you from all wrongdoing." The sins you are still carrying are nothing but your own feeling that you have done something bad. If you really renounce all *dharmas*, which you have been thinking are your own personal duties, and accept that everything is being done by God, how can you be a sinner or a saint? You are neither one.

Some years ago a well-known saint was praised for being so great. Then he said, "I don't know about that. But I do remember one day many years ago when I was just some sort of stuff heaped up like cement and mortar, sand, colors and other mixtures. The masons were ready. Then the building supervisor, the Creator, came in. The masons asked, 'Sir, everything is ready. What shall we make today?'"

"He turned to the shopkeeper, 'What is diminished in our stock? What items should we produce today?'"

"The shopkeeper said, 'The stock is nearly complete, but to make the shelves full we need a pig and a saint.'"

"All right,' said the Creator, 'Make a saint.' And that's why I'm here in this form," said the saint.

Maybe you are still a little doubtful about renouncing everything. "What will happen to my intelligence?" you might ask. But don't think it means you have to lose your intelligence. Keep it. But know that the most intelligent person will put the load on that higher intelligence, and just sit quietly enjoying everything. Your intelligence was given to you for that purpose. God just gave you a little intelligence and is waiting to see if you are intelligent enough to use it properly by linking your intelligence with God. You're still free to keep it separate and say, "It's mine. I'm just going to play with it and do everything myself." But the truly intelligent person will link her intelligence with the higher intelligence.

With this *sloka* (18:66), Sri Krishna concludes his instructions to Arjuna. In the very beginning, he told Arjuna; "Cast off weakness. Wake up. Be a man. Do your duty! Perform your *dharma*." Now he ends by saying: "Renounce all duties and be in eternal union with me."

(Translation & Commentary by: Sri Swami Satchidananda.)