

Leave Everything Else to God

One of the most challenging occupations a person can have is to be a manager. The most important function of a manager is to encourage those people assigned to him to give their very best, so that the project they are concerned with will be successful. Sometimes the manager is able to use economic incentives. Sometimes it is encouragement and praise. And sometimes the manager is blessed with someone who needs very little; on their own they take pride in doing a job well.

But all this is not necessarily spiritual because it is based upon results. From a spiritual point of view, the more a person is concerned about producing good results, the more they feel that they are the doer and inevitably, sooner or later, they will have a problem like Arjuna had—something will go wrong. Perhaps it may not be due to any obvious fault of their own. It may be a collapse in the business itself, something may go wrong with their health or they may have some unknown personal flaw that may trip them up. In any case, they are no longer effective in their work.

This was the challenge that Lord Kṛṣṇa had. He had to make Arjuna effective in the job at hand, but He could no longer use any of the old incentives—Arjuna had all the answers. So Lord Kṛṣṇa had to use the spiritual approach, the approach Arjuna should have had all the way along. In the first place, Lord Kṛṣṇa said that there is no excuse for inaction as no one can live without acting: “You must act. Further, you have a duty to do, and if you don’t do that duty, you’re going to pay a very high price: People who previously thought well of you will scoff at you, will call you a coward; you will be disgraced. But you have to learn a new way of doing your duty. You have to recognize Prakṛti or I as the ultimate doer. Therefore you must let go of the results of your actions. You must do your duty for the sake of doing duty and leave the results to Me.”

To say that this is a difficult task is to say the very least. We can repeat the words, we can think we understand what it means, but to do our very best without seeking the fruits of our actions—to never give up, no matter what the discouragement—is no easy task, especially with our *sādhana*. We can give our *sādhana* maximum effort as long as we are getting visible results. As long as seem to be learning more, as long as there are some spiritual experiences, then we will keep up our enthusiasm. But

what happens when there are no results? What happens to our efforts? To our enthusiasm? We may still go through the motions, but we are no longer giving it our best because we're not seeing any tangible results.

But that is not spiritual. Spiritual means that we continue to give it our very best whether we see results or not. Why? Because we have offered it all to God. Our duty is to do our very best, to give it everything we have. The spiritual results are up to God. From a practical point of view, why should we do this? The truth is that spirituality means wearing away the ego, it means wearing away our sense of doership. If there is no sense of doership, there is no concern about results.

To be spiritual means to be empty of self. It means to participate in God's creation as part of God's creation—not wanting something for an individual when God alone is. Therefore, each and every day, a motto that would serve us well would be simply to do the very best we can—and literally leave everything else to God.