Via B. Galliari, 15 bis - Via Matteo Pescatore, 2 – 10125 TORINO Tel/Fax +39 011 6698099

info@studioyoga.it

www.studioyoga.it

Online Education in the tradition of Yogacharya BKS Iyengar by Sri Prashant S. Iyengar Session 4 recorded on April 19, 2020 at the RIMYI of Pune

Namaskar all of you.

So, we are in the fourth session on Education in Yoga, Education about Yoga, Education through Yoga.

In the last session I made a concluding remark that I will be dealing with another major misconception prevalent in the field of yoga, that is, the Yamas and Niyamas are moral¹-ethical² principles, they are moral-ethical practices suggested by Patanjali.

At the outset let me make a statement that these are *not* moral-ethical principles. Patanjali is not suggesting moral-ethical norms to be practiced. As a matter of fact, anyone, you and me, can also stipulate moral-ethical principles to be practiced, ethics, morality to be practiced in whatever realm of life; why do we need Patanjali? So, therefore, we should know that Patanjali is not trying to suggest that moral-ethical principles are the first step in yoga.

Because the fact of the matter is if we want to get to be good human beings, morality and ethicality should be practiced by each and every one. If we do not practice those, we are nothing but bi-footed animals; one of the factors which keeps human beings as human beings is that the mankind practices morality-ethicality and should be practiced, whether you do yoga or you don't do yoga, morality-ethicality must be practiced.

Then, why Patanjali mentions Yamas and Niyamas, what is called as restraints and observances? Then we know the five Yamas and the five Niyamas and these are normative principles that anyone can instruct, anyone can suggest.

- 1 Morality (from Latin: moralitas, lit. 'manner, character, proper behavior') is the differentiation of intentions, decisions and actions between those that are distinguished as proper and those that are improper. Morality can be a body of standards or principles derived from a code of conduct from a particular philosophy, religion or culture, or it can derive from a standard that a person believes should be universal. Morality may also be specifically synonymous with "goodness" or "rightness". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morality
- 2 Ethics or moral philosophy is a branch of philosophy that "involves systematizing, defending, and recommending concepts of right and wrong behavior." The field of ethics, along with aesthetics, concerns matters of value, and thus comprises the branch of philosophy called axiology. Ethics seeks to resolve questions of human morality by defining concepts such as good and evil, right and wrong, virtue and vice, justice and crime. As a field of intellectual inquiry, moral philosophy also is related to the fields of moral psychology, descriptive ethics, and value theory. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morality

Via B. Galliari, 15 bis - Via Matteo Pescatore, 2 – 10125 TORINO Tel/Fax +39 011 6698099

info@studioyoga.it

www.studioyoga.it

But why I'm making a statement that these are not moral-ethical principles is for simple reason that in the Darsanic convention, in the convention of Indian philosophical system there are set columns on which the expounder must delineate. Now, when Patanjali comes to Ashtanga Yoga, actually the whole Ashtanga Yoga it is called as **Achara³ Dharma⁴ Neeti⁵** aspects, **Achara Dharma Neeti Pranali**⁶ ⁷.

So Patanjali has to offer something as a basic principle of practices and Sadhanas and they're called Achara Neeti Dharma Pranali. In English that is rendered as 'ethico-religious practices'. Now ethico-religious practices are not only Yamas and Niyamas; all the eight aspects are included, or they are composing the entire Dharma Achara Neeti Pranali. In English again I repeat, although it is a faulty rendition: 'ethico-religious principles of yoga'. Not only Yamas and Niyamas but even Asanas, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dharana, Dhyana, Samadhi. They all compose the Achara Dharma Neeti Pranali. of Patanjali's system. So it's not just Yamas and Niyamas but all the Ashtangas are part of Achara Dharma Neeti Pranali. Because these are all practices. Therefore Yamas and Niyamas are not moral-ethical principles and practices, because all the normative philosophers have suggested this.

05.35

Many of them have, from the top of their voice, have told us, beseeched us, or sometimes by *fiat*, that morality and ethicality must be practiced, but we got away. We can be told that we must practice morality-ethicality, but in the practicality of life do we really practice it? Can we really practice it? Does it become major consideration for us? And therefore all the heads of religions in the world have said about morality-ethicality that everyone should practice. But then you know what has happened?

So we don't have to bring in Patanjali to tell us the same thing, that you must practice morality-ethicality; so even if you are not doing yoga, if you are in business of life activity, if you are in practicality of life, yet you must be practicing morality-ethicality. That will be or that should be actually a signature condition of a human being, a good human being. Otherwise we are bi-footed creatures. The point is: the ethico-religious principles of Patanjali circumscribe all the Ashtangas and not just the two Yama and Niyama.

Now what is ethico-religious system? See, in our convention we have philosophy and then we have what is called **Tattvajnana**⁸ and we have **Dharma** which is rendered as religion.

³ Achara = conduct

⁴ Dharma is a wider concept. It comes from single letter-root called "dhṛ". Dhṛ means to sustain. So Dharma is that which sustaines us. That which makes us realize the realities (from this lesson).

⁵ Neeti (Nithi) = ethics, ethicality.

⁶ Pranali = adverb: going with, flowing with, towards.

⁷ Achara Dharma Neeti Pranali: an ethical conduct that makes us flow towards-with the Dharma

Via B. Galliari, 15 bis - Via Matteo Pescatore, 2 – 10125 TORINO Tel/Fax +39 011 6698099

info@studioyoga.it

www.studioyoga.it

So in systems such as Patanjali, even the systems of Kapila, Samkhya, Kannada, Vaisheshika, Nyaya of Gautama, or Jaimini Mimamsa, or Bhadra Mimamsa, or any other philosopher, there are so many philosophies in Indian philosophical systems; each one of those have mentioned something as Achara Dharma Neeti Pranali, which again I repeat in English it is 'religion', which is not a proper rendition. So, bear in mind Yamas: Ahimsa's Yama to Samadhi it is all ethicoreligious principles of yoga, it is not just Yamas.

And these are all anga, these are all limbs, they are all integral aspects. Do you want me to say that Yamas and Niyamas have to be practiced out in society, not while one is practicing Asana, Pranayama, Dharana, Dhyana? So it is not only a social face, it doesn't have only a social face, that while you are in social situation, that you must practice morality-ethicality. When you are isolated and when you are going to do yoga, so there are Yamas and Niyamas in all the other aspects as well.

Usually we bother about what is correct asana and what is correct Pranayama, what is right Asanas, what is right Pranayama. We don't try to understand what is Yama-Niyama of Asanas, what is Yama-Niyama of Pranayama, what is Yama-Niyama, how does it manifest in Asana, Pranayama, Dhyana, Japa⁹?. 10.04

Guruji made it a point to explain all these things. He would explain you Yamas and Niyamas in your Trikonasana. He would explain you Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya, Bramacharya, Aparigraha in Trikonasana, he would explain Saucha, Santosa, Tapas, Svadhyaya, Ishvarapranidhana in your Trikonasana, Tadasana.

We did not take clue that Yamas-Niyanas also come in Asanas, Pranayama and in the theory of yoga, in philosophy of yoga they come up to Samadhi. They will manifest differently.

See what is your morality when you are out in your workplace? And what is your morality when you are back home with your family? You have something called as business ethics. Now, the business ethics comes only in business, but when you are out from business framework, you are back home, do you still have the same ethics that you practice in your business place? So, the ethics will be

⁸ Philosofy in Sanscrit is tattvajnana i. e. tat = that, the soul or the methaphysical principle; tva = being; jnana = knowledge. The contemplation, knowledge and understanding of this metaphysical principle is philosophy. Prashant S. Iyengar *Discourses on Yog vol. 1* pag. 190 Publishers: Ramamani Memorial Yog Institute, Pune and Yog Mumbai.

It is a proven principle of *yogashastra* that the evolution of the s*ukshma sharira* is effected mainly by *japa* i.e. recitation of *mantras* and God's name and His *dhyana* or meditation. Page 54 ... This body is subject to hunger and thirst. Its needs are cleanliness, exercise and exercise and excretion. In the same manner, the s*ukshma sharira* has subtle needs which cannot be appeased by material substances like food stuffs, air, water, physical rest and exercise. The fulfillment of these needs is obtained through subtle channels. In this respect, it is to be noted that *japa* is food, *japa* is air and water, *japa* is the tonic. Japa is the medicine, *japa* is rest, execise and excretion and purification. Japa is bath. Japa is everything for s*ukshma sharira*. Page 56 - Prashant S. Iyengar *Discourses on Yog vol. 1* - Publishers: Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yog Institute, Pune and Yog Mumbai.

Via B. Galliari, 15 bis - Via Matteo Pescatore, 2 – 10125 TORINO Tel/Fax +39 011 6698099

info@studioyoga.it

www.studioyoga.it

changing with reference to your workplace, your occupation, where you are, what are you doing. So there is one kind of ethics while you are in office place, another kind of ethics when you are in your business place, another kind of ethics when you are in your family, another kind of ethics when you are with your wife and children. So therefore, again it is an open architecture.

Similarly, we have to see that Yamas and Niyamas, morality-ethicality comes differently in our Asanas, Pranayama, Dharana, Dhyana, Samadhi or whatever practices we are putting in. They will manifest differently, they will come differently. Are we studying it?

Now, as I just now said that Indian philosophical system has something called as philosophy. Now, what is this philosophy? Philosophy is that which divulges reality. A human being should be seeking realities and the philosophy is that which divulges reality. Then what is Dharma? **Dharma** is that which helps one realize. Philosophy will divulge, the Tattvajnana will divulge, and Dharma will make you realize the realities.

So all the practices of yoga, or any plane – body, mind, breath, senses, organs, psyche, consciousness, intellect, emotion – it is for truth seeking and it is for realization of the truth. So, Dharma is that which helps one realize the realities, by philosophy you will only divulge the realities. That is why Dharma and Tattvajnana are important aspects in structuring Indian philosophical system. These are two major considerations in Indian philosophical system, as to:

- what is Tattvajnana,
- what are realities,
- what are absolute realities
- what are relative realities,
- absolute realities,
- —ultimate realities

and then Dharma comes for one to realize. They are realized within oneself, inside, they are realized within. All the realities are realized within and Dharma comes for that purpose. That's why in English they call it 'ethico-religious system' and notice that it includes from Ahimsa to Asamprajnatasamadhi ¹⁰.

If you break up all the Ashtangas, you have:

- five of Yamas,
- five of Niyamas,
- then you have Asana,

10 1.18 विरामप्रत्ययाभ्यासपूर्वः संस्कारशेषोऽन्यः॥१८॥

[*Then*]

The other Samadhi is ASAMPRAJNATA |

Having total, absolute, complete restraint of the mind |

With only subliminal impressions |

Subsisting in Chitta |

And, this Samadhi is attained via media

SAMPRAJNATA SAMADHI | 18 |

Prashant Iyengar Lyricised Yoga Sutras Publishers YOG Mumbay, India

Via B. Galliari, 15 bis - Via Matteo Pescatore, 2 – 10125 TORINO Tel/Fax +39 011 6698099

info@studioyoga.it

www.studioyoga.it

- then you have Pranayama of three types: Bāhya Pranayama, Abhyantara Pranayama, Stambha Pranayama¹¹,
- then there is Pratyahara,
- then there are Dharanas, several kinds of Dharanas¹²,
- several kinds of Dhyanas¹³, which you will come across in the texts of yoga,
- and then there are Samprajnatasamadhi ¹⁴, Asamprajnatasamadhi ¹⁵.

All put together is included in Achara Dharma Neeti Pranali. Achara Dharma Neeti: Achara is conduct, Neeti is ethics, ethicality. And what is Dharma? Dharma, if you have heard Guruji often said:

"What is Dharma? Dharma is not religion, because religion is body of faith. You have to have faith in what religion postulates."

So, it is locus, any religion in the world is locus for faith, where people will place their faith, they believe in it, they will believe in it.

So, in other words, religion is sustained by mankind. If nobody believes in that religion, if nobody absolutely believes in that religion will it stay on? It won't stay on. So religion is sustained by it's followers. Religion is sustained by those who place faith, those who invest faith in it, they sustain the religion. So, religions need to be sustained.

Prāṇāyāma has three movements: prolonged and fine inhalation, exhalation and retention; all regulated with precision according to duration and place.

B.K.S. Iyengar Light on the Yogasūtra of Patañjali HarperCollins Publishers

13 *Ibid* page 763

14 वितर्कविचारानन्दास्मितारूपानुगमात् संप्रज्ञातः॥१७॥

[The application and accomplishment of the two means results into a cognitive trance which is.......]

The two means result into |

the four phased cognitive trance |

- a) pertaining to elements and senses |
- b) pertaining to subtle, intra, supra primal matter |
- c) pertaining to subjective bliss |
- d) pertaining to essential I-ness | 17 |

Prashant Iyengar Lyricised Yoga Sutras Publishers YOG Mumbay, India

15 See note N. 9

^{11 2.50} bāhya ābhyantara stambha vṛttih deśa kāla samkhyābhih paridṛṣṭaḥ dīrgha sūkṣmah ||

¹² The commentator says there are two regions for Dharana. One is an external region, and the other is an internal region. the mind getting confined to an external object in the mind or internal region of the body, that is Dharana. Page 677-78 in Prashant Iyengar *Discourses on Yog Series 2 - ASHTANGA YOGA OF PATANJALI* Publisher: Ramamani Memorial Yoga Institute 1107 B/1, Model Colony, Pune 411016 India

Via B. Galliari, 15 bis - Via Matteo Pescatore, 2 – 10125 TORINO Tel/Fax +39 011 6698099

info@studioyoga.it

www.studioyoga.it

16:36

What about Dharma? Very etymological meaning of Dharma which comes from single letter root, called "dhṛ". Dhṛ means to sustain.

So, Dharma is that which sustains us and religion is that which we sustain. Mankind sustains the religion and Dharma is that which sustains us.

How does it do this? You have often heard from Guruji which is a very popular famous definition of Dharma.

"One who is falling, one who has fallen, one who is about to fall, one who may fall, the one which sustains that person is a Dharma".

So, Dharma sustains the falling person, the fallen person. So, that is what the Dharma is. Therefore, it is not proper to translate Dharma as religion and religion as Dharma.

Religion is a cult, any religion is a cult. Dharma is not a cult. Dharma is not a cult. Dharma is there for non living things. Do we have a religion for non living things? The religion only comes from mankind, even it does not come from subhumans. Religion does not come to animals, cattles, bees, insects, worms, birds. There is no religion to them. However, they have a Dharma. Why? Because Dharma is a wider concept.

Let us not mix up with religion and Dharma. Let us not call religion as Dharma and Dharma as religion. Let us look at the Dharma as to what the Dharma is.

When it comes to Dharma there is something called as **Svabhāva Dharma**, **Guna Dharma**.

So, the vernacular people will be familiar with this **Guna Dharma**. Guna Dharma comes to even in earth matters, there is Dharma of element of earth, element of water, element of air, element of fire, element of space. They all have Dharma.

What is that? Their inherent characteristic, intrinsic characteristic, inherent characteristic is their Dharma, is their Guna Dharma.

So all matters have Guna Dharma, the word Dharma has come there, they will never give it up.

The earthness of earth will never be separated. The waterness of the water from water will never be separated, so water has waterness. Earth has earthness. Air has airness. Fire has fireness. Space has spaceness. That is their Dharma, that is their Guna Dharma. So, even they have Dharma in the form of Guna Dharma, though they are all inert, yet they have Dharma which is called Guna Dharma. 20:33

Insofar as living creatures are concerned, they have **Svabhāva**¹⁶ **Dharma**. So this word is also one is familiar with it, in vernacular: Svabhāva Dharma.

The Svabhāva Dharma is there even for bacteria, insect, worm, bird, animals, cattles, beasts. They all have Svabhāva Dharma. If they give up their Svabhāva Dharma they will not be sustained, they will perish. If the snake or cobra gives up snakeness or cobraness it will perish. If the tiger or lion give up tigerness or

¹⁶ Sva = own; bhāva means being, worldly existence, becoming, birth, be, production, origin, but also habitual or emotional tendencies. https://www.definitions.net/definition/bhava

Online Education in the tradition of Yogacharya BKS Iyengar by Sri Prashant S. Iyengar Session 4 recorded on April 19, 2020 at the RIMYI of Pune.

Via B. Galliari, 15 bis - Via Matteo Pescatore, 2 – 10125 TORINO Tel/Fax +39 011 6698099

info@studioyoga.it

www.studioyoga.it

lioness, they will perish. So, if they divorce with their Dharma they will cease to exist, so they must be having their Svabhāva Dharma. The tiger must be having tigerness. The lion must be having lioness. The snake must be having snakeness. Cobra must be having cobraness. Insect must be having insectness.

Sparrow, if the sparrow gives up its sparowness ... You know sparrow is a very timid bird. It is a small, tiny bird and a timid bird, if it gives up timidity it will perish. So, if the sparrow gives up timidity, it will perish. If it mantains its timidity, it will flourish. So the timidity of sparrow sustains sparrow. That is Svabhāva Dharma of the sparrow.

So Dharma is there for even creatures, there is no religion to creatures, there is Dharma to creatures. There is no religion to inert matters, but there is Dharma to inert matters.

So, let us not confuse between religion and Dharma.

Dharma: Niyata Dharma, Vihita Dharma, Vihita Karma, Niyata Karma

Coming to mankind, for mankind, what is Dharma?

Dharma is duty mindedness. If you want to be a better human being, you must be duty aware. You must be having duty consciences. You must be having duty conscience. You must be having duty conscience. If you don't have it, you are not human being. At part let us not see the exaltation.

So, we will fall from being human beings if you do not have duty mindedness. So duty mindedness is Dharma. For mankind it is mentioned something called as Svabhāva Dharma. Each one of us has a **Svabhāva**, a personalized characteristics and we live by that, we thrive by that, so Svabhāva Dharma comes to man also, human being.

24:00

Then Niyata¹⁷ Dharma, we have certain bounded duties without reference to time, space, situation we must adhere to it. A good human being will not compromise there. One who is not a good human being will compromise in time, space, situation. The duty mindedness about one's bounded duties that is called Niyata Dharma, that cannot be left aside in any situation, in any scenario.

Then there is something called as Vihita Dharma.

Vi¹⁸-hita, hita means good, attaining to what is good for me. Sometimes what is right to me is also relative. Because I am here this is right for me to do. Had I not been here, doing this would not have been right. So there are relative aspects where we must have the intelligence to identify that I must do this here, this is my duty here, this is my duty now and here. This is my duty because it is in this time, space I am now, therefore it is a bounded duty for me. Had I not been in this time and space dimension then it would not been there as duty.

¹⁷ Niyata = Curbed, restrained ... https://www.wisdomlib.org/definition/niyata

^{18 &#}x27;Vi' = As a prefix to verbs and nouns it expresses:-(a) separation, disjunction (apart, asunder, away, off &c.) https://www.wisdomlib.org/definition/vi

Via B. Galliari, 15 bis - Via Matteo Pescatore, 2 – 10125 TORINO Tel/Fax +39 011 6698099

info@studioyoga.it

www.studioyoga.it

So, mankind is given intelligence to ascertain what is my right duty now. That is called **Vihita Karma**¹⁹ ²⁰, which will be good for me. So, Vihita Karma tells us about what is good for you where and when, adhere to that. **Niyata Karma** what is good for you and not only good, but right for you anywhere, anytime, any situation. So that is what Dharma is.

So, in Ashtanga Yoga you should know what is bounded duty, what is my absolute duty by being in any practice of yoga, could be Asana, Pranayama, meditation, Dhyana, whatever you might be calling it. And what is my duty because of the condition that I am in. I have this condition, therefore it is my duty to do this. Had the condition been different, then I would have had another duty identified.

So, we must have this flexibility, according to Dharma: what is right and what is good. We must be able to make a proper plan of good and right, merely going for good will not be ultimately good, merely going for right will be also not ultimately good. So it's a weavetage, like a cloth is a fabric of horizontal and vertical weaves, Dharma says: you must have weave of Niyata Karma, Vihita Karma.

Niyata bounded duty, Vihita which is based on relative facts, relative conditions. So absolute conditions and relative conditions. Both are to be considered and then there is a weave.

So it is not just moral-ethical principle that you usually identify in Yamas and Niyamas. It is circumscribing entire Ashtanga Yoga. That is why Ashtanga Yoga is called ethico-religious practices, ethico-religious principles of yoga and not just Yamas and Niyamas. So, lets try to reform our idea about Yamas and Nyamas. Finally I say in case of morality- ethicality, whether you are in yoga or not in yoga, whether you do yoga, or whether you don't do yoga, should you not be in morality-ethicality framework? Is there any scope to break that framework? Is it good to be breaking the framework of morality-ethicality?

- 19 Essential Yog, Classical Yog commences after one has evolved **Karma consciousness**. This helps one to rightly identify and recognise one's Svadharma or Vikrita Karma and Niyata Karma. These are appointed duties of a man with conscience. Bhagavad Gita clearly declares in the sixth chapter that, "Yoga of a neophyte begins with Karma consciousness (which means that the cause of beginner's Yog is in Karma)." Page 7 in Prashant S. Iyengar *Fundamentals of Patanjali's Philosophy (Theory of Klesha & Karma)* Yog Mumbai
- 20 Due to lack of spiritual wisdom we consider whatever we do as Karma. But this is a major flaw. "What one does is not really Karma but why one does it is Karma".
 - "The first factor of Karma is precisely 'why we do'. The second important factor is the effect of our action or doing. The third factor is what exactly do we do.
 - Karma is the sum of why we do, what happens or would happen by what we do and dinamically what we do."
 - Karma is thus not merely the act or action. Action has been wrongly equated with Karma in English, which is a major flaw. Karma must be taken as a technical term and not alternatively replaced by words like 'action' or 'acts'.
 - "THUS WHAT WE DO IS NOT KARMA BUT WHY WE DO IS MORE KARMA".
 - The point is that if there is a confusion right at the base of this conceptual knowledge tree then confusion grows exponentially. Page 17 in Prashant S. Iyengar *Foundamentals of Patanjali's Philosophy (Theory of Klesha & Karma)* Yog Mumbai

Via B. Galliari, 15 bis - Via Matteo Pescatore, 2 – 10125 TORINO Tel/Fax +39 011 6698099

info@studioyoga.it

www.studioyoga.it

Therefore that goes without saying. Now when something goes without saying, why should Patanjali say that? That's why Patanjali doesn't say that. But we have wrongly construed Yamas and Niyamas as moral-ethical principles. Which all the religious heads, all the normative sciences have prescribed advocated, but we know very well that all that is in vain.

Patanjali doesn't want to do that, he doesn't do it. So, try to have reconsideration of what are Yamas and what are Niyamas. If they have to be coming in, not only in social reference but also in personal reference onto myself: why did Asanas or higher practices, what are the parameters of morality-ethicality? It is one parameter in Asanas, another parameter in Dhyana, meditation.

So, that's how Yamas and Niyamas have come. It is not just for morality-ethicality number one, then Asanas, then Pranayama, then Pratyahara, then Dharana, then Dhyana, then Samadhi. If you construe that way, it is lack of Education. That's why I'm telling you: get educated, let us get educated about the precepts or the treatise of Patanjali.

So, the entire Ashtanga Yoga is ethico-religious principle loosely translated, I don't approve of it, that is, in the modern language, whereas in the classical language Achara Dharma Neeti Pranali. Achara is your conduct. How do you conduct, how do you have your conduct when you are practicing Asanas, practicing Pranayama, practicing Dharana, Dhyana and Samadhi? So, we should know the distinction here. Like how do you conduct yourself out on the streets, out in society and back home and while you are totally isolated in your own bedroom? Do you want me to say that morality-ethicality doesn't come when you are isolated? It is a form of morality-ethicality when you are unto yourself, it is another form of morality ethicality when you are out in society. So let's try to reconsider this. Let's try to do some brushing on our idea, notion, concept of Yamas and Niyamas. I think that should be enough for this lesson. Namaskar.

31.50

QUESTION: You spoke about religion and Dharma and you differentiated that. A lot of students have questions about. **Can you differentiate Karma and Dharma?** It's a question that commonly comes to you. Is this the time to raise it or is it a separate lesson?

ANSWER: we can do it.

Here comes a question to distinguish between Karma and Dharma. Dharma, as I said, it is conduct. What is your conduct? Can you say the conduct is totally different than my act? Karma is your act. And the conduct gives a framework, a culture to your Karma. So, Karma is what you do and Dharma will tell you what you should do. What you should do, what is right, what is correct, and what is good for you ultimately. Which I also said about Vihita Karma. Vihita Karma tells

Via B. Galliari, 15 bis - Via Matteo Pescatore, 2 – 10125 TORINO Tel/Fax +39 011 6698099

info@studioyoga.it

www.studioyoga.it

you what is ultimately good, so while you are in Karma, this perspective must be taken into consideration, that what I do should be ultimately good, if not immediately good. So, ultimate good must be considered while you are in a Karma, in any act. That's why it's a joint word, the Karma-Dharma is a joint word. Karma is also constituted by your intrinsic Gunas – Sattva, Rajas, Tamas. Guna Karma, so Karma has Sattva, Rajas, Tamas, Dharma too has Sattva, Rajas, Tamas.

33.45

So that the combination of Karma-Dharma will be coming in. Your Dharma will depend upon your disposition, your consciousness, caliber, conscience caliber. On a lower calibration of your conscience, you think something is right, something is perfect, but when you come up from there, then you understand what I deemed as right, was not really right. So there will be reappraisal when you go on higher level of consciousness

So, Karma-Dharma, again, these are weave. Dharma is all pervasive within us because it is sustaining us. And the Karma is also incessant thing, you will all the time be in Karma. If you look at the precept that comes in the Bhagavad Gita, not even a moment would pass in Akarma, not even a moment would pass in non-doing, in non-act. Some kind of act will be going on, even if you are fast asleep, some act is going on. If it is not your act, something in you is acting. Your heart is functioning, your lungs are functioning, your autonomous system is functioning, so your things are functioning and are you not accountable for your things? Therefore, you are in Karma even when you are fast asleep, because autonomous system is functioning, digestion is functioning, metabolism is functioning and they are all yours. So you can't say I won't take responsibility for mine, I will only be responsible for me and not mine. Like the parents are responsible for their children, we are responsible for ours: our body, our mind, our autonomous system, our involuntary system.

The Karma doesn't leave you, even on the point of death, because on the point of death, I've often said: the busiest moment in one's life is the last breath. Because the trial balance of our Karmas will be drawn, balance sheet will be drawn and will be decided in that moment where are we going to head, based on our Karma in that life, and it will be immediately given passage for transmigration. Our passage commences right away from our death, from the moment of death. We are busy, you know, what is called as eschatological migrations, transmigrations.

36:45

So, the immigration, like thing in internationally journeys, here there is transmigration, so we will be busy in that, the vehicle to be going, where to be going, destination, where to be going. So, ticket will be issued on to the point of death. Visa will be given on the point of death. Passport will be issued on the point of death and will be proceeding right from our moment of death,

Via B. Galliari, 15 bis - Via Matteo Pescatore, 2 – 10125 TORINO Tel/Fax +39 011 6698099

info@studioyoga.it

www.studioyoga.it

immediately we proceed for eschatological movements. So, even that doesn't stop for activity, comatose doesn't stop, fear of conscious, but still we are living, if you are living, autonomous system is functioning, breathing is going on, some function is going on. Karma doesn't leave us, it doesn't leave us even for a moment, Karma will go on constantly.

How do we carry out Karma? Unless we are sustained, how do we carry out our Karma. We must be sustained we must be living, if we don't live how are we going to carry out your Karma? So, Dharma keeps you sustained. And because you are sustained, the Karma is on. So Dharma-Karma are again well related. And therefore in Karma, if you have Dharma consciousness, what is right for me, what is ultimately good for me.

If this consideration is there, our Karma will be reformed The petty thing like selfishness will not creep in, will not spoil the Karma, otherwise they can all spoil our Karma. If you have ulterior motives, selfish motives, self-centric motives, then that will spoil our culture of Karma. Dharma will not allow that. Therefore Karma-Dharma are mutually related. Again it is like weavetage, like a textile, horizontal and vertical threads, it's a weavetage. Weave. Dharma-Karma can have a weave. If the weave is not proper, the cloth is not strong, so if the weave of the two is not proper our life is not proper, not strong. So, the weave must be proper. That's why Dharma and Karma are again, should be considered in a joint manner, composite manner. Because Achara is Dharma: Achara Prabaho²¹ Dharmah. Acharya is your conduct. Conduct means what you do. Therefore they are very much related to each other.

Hope that is sufficient. Thank you.

 ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

This transcription is the result of the collaboration of the following Iyengar Yoga Students:

Barbara BRONDI Sebastiana CORDERO Maria Paola GRILLI Lari LEVI Elena MARTINETTO Paolo RAVA

Notes and editing: Maria Paola Grilli

A special thanks to Dr. Rajvi H. Metha who helped in the correct compiling of the transcription.

Turin, May 27th 2020

21 Prabaho = stream