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The meaning and definition of Karma

Meaning of Karma

The word karma from the Sanskrit root 'Kri' to do, signifies action or deed. From emotion to thought, then to will, then finally action (karma) comes. All action is karma.

Karma is the expression of human being which is influenced by any specific intention. Karma must have intention.

There are two types of Karma.

- 1) Natural Karma: expressed by our body system like digestion, breath, blood circulation etc.
- 2) Manipulated Karma :
 - a. without any expectation-karma Yoga
 - b. with expectation or desire
Good karma-with good intention
Bad karma-with bad intention

In B.G. 5/8-9 Different types of karma

“Even whilst seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, eating, walking, sleeping, breathing, speaking, ingesting, expelling, opening the eyes and also closing the eyes, that Yogi, who is a knower of the truth, comprehending that it is the senses that interact with the objects of sense, knows that ‘I do nothing’.

Definitions of Karma

1) BG. 8/3

Which creates the movable and immovable created things from immutable Brahma is called Karma.

2) Panini's Ashtadhyayi 1/4/79

What very much desired for the doer that is karma.

3) Dayananda

Karma is the name of special endeavor or effort of creature/living being from mind, senses(speech) and body.

4) BG 18/15

Human being starts every action with body, speech and mind.

5) Vivekananda's book p.3-4

All the blows taken together are called Karma-work, action. Every mental and physical blow that given to the soul, by which, as it were, fire is struck from it, and by which its own power and knowledge are discovered, is Karma.

6) Sivananda's book p.10

According to Gita, any action is a Karma. Charity, sacrifice and Tapas are all Karmas. In a philosophical sense, even breathing, seeing, hearing, tasting, feeling, smelling, walking, talking, etc., are all karmas. Thinking is the real Karma. Raga-dvesha (likes and dislikes) constitute real Karma.