



The Laws of Karma

Qualities of the Three Modes of Material Nature

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Quality	Ignorance (Degradation)	Passion (Mediocrity)	Goodness (Elevation)	Transcendental (Destination)
Deity	Shiva (Holy Ghost)	Brahma (Celestial Christ)	Vishnu (Supreme Lord)	Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead
Cosmic Function	Annihilation	Creation	Maintenance	Lila (eternal sporting pastimes)
Effect	Most contaminating	Contaminating	Purification, self-realization	Eternal knowledge and bliss
Consciousness	Self-delusion	Material fruitive activity	Spiritual illumination	Original spiritual body and relationship with God
Knowledge	Popular culture, cheating expertise, sex, intoxicants, streetwise	Material science, economic, social and political formal education	Pure spiritual knowledge from scriptures through self-realized spiritual master	Direct realization of transcendence through spiritual senses
Mood	Madness, indolence, frustration, lust, sleep	Insatiable desire, ambition and longing, anger	Happiness, devotion, spiritual love, compassion	Ecstatic love in five flavors: neutrality, servitude, friendship, parenthood and conjugal love
Symptoms	Confusion, unconsciousness, inertia, sleep, lamentation, uncertainty, madness, illusion	Great attachment, intense endeavor, uncontrollable desire, hankering, conflict, argument	Purity, cleanliness, spirituality, morality, intelligence, detachment, patience, humility, determination	Not affected by material energy, full ecstatic love of Godhead, symptoms of transcendental ecstasy
Death	While unconscious, intoxicated, from chronic condition, due to drug addiction or venereal disease	Violent, early, from conflict, fighting, stress, overindulgence, overwork or by accident	From natural causes, in ripe old age, peaceful, conscious until last moments	Eternal life in spiritual world — no more death
Next Life	Animal kingdom, hellish worlds	Human birth in material world	Heavenly planets, spiritual world	Eternal life in spiritual world
Diet	Animal products, processed, canned, restaurant, onions, garlic	Gourmet cooking, heavy, hot, spicy, highly opulent food	Grains, beans, vegetables, fruits, milk products, simple dishes, fasting on Ekadasi	Pure vegetarian food offered to Krsna with love and affection
Food Qualities	Stale, tasteless, putrid, rancid, impure, causing disease	Bitter, sour, salty, hot, pungent, dry, burnt, causing distress	Juicy, palatable, nourishing, organic, pure, causing longevity	Transcendental sound vibration, service and love
Colors	Dark muddy colors, brown, black	Saturated, intense, primary colors	White and light pastels	See 'Dress' below

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Dress	Dirty, old, ill-fitting, torn, used	Synthetic materials, fashionable, tight, tailored, uncomfortable, expensive, provocative designs	Simple, modest, clean, comfortable, natural cotton or wool	Dress identifying membership, initiation or status in a school of the Esoteric Teaching
Ornaments	Commercial logos, slogans or pictures	Ostentatious, expensive, shiny, status symbols, high-tech	Tasteful, handmade, natural materials	Tilak, transcendental knowledge, the Holy Name
Artistic Taste	Meaningless abstract art, gross violence, horror, pornography	Art glorifying ordinary men and activities, politics, nationalism	Art dedicated to glorification of God	Holy Names, qualities and pastimes of Krsna
Meaning of Life	Life is meaningless	Life is for personal enjoyment	Life is for attaining self-realization	Life is for serving Krsna
Result of Work	Foolishness, intoxication, self-destruction, madness, illusion	Pain, misery, conflict, unhappiness, greed and desire	Purity, piety, happiness, knowledge of material and spiritual reality	Krsna's transcendental pleasure
Object of Worship	Ghosts and spirits, magic	Powerful and demoniac men	Supreme Lord	Krsna the Supreme Personality of Godhead
Goal of Worship	Mystic powers, oneness with God	Money, power, heavenly pleasure	Eternal spiritual existence, devotional service	Krsna's pleasure
Style of Worship	Atheistic; critical of religiousness and spiritual people	Showy and formal; big churches, opulent religious organizations	Deep study, solitude, meditation, contemplation in quiet sacred place	Relishes an eternal ecstatic loving relationship with Krsna
Austerity	Out of foolishness, by self-torture or to injure others	Out of pride, for respect, honor, worship, impermanent results	Regulation of body, mind and speech according to scripture	Separation from Krsna and preaching
Sacrifice	Without regard for scripture, no distribution of spiritual food, chanting of <i>mantras</i> or remuneration to the priests	For fame and material results, out of pride, by empty ritualistic performance, without real faith	According to scripture, as duty or out of pure faith and love, with no desire for reward	Follows Krsna's instructions from within the heart
Charity	At an impure place, improper time, to unworthy persons and without proper attention and respect	With expectation of fame, return or material results, in a grudging mood	Out of duty, without expectation of return, at proper time and place, to a worthy person	Gives transcendental knowledge and love of Krsna
Renunciation	Giving up prescribed scriptural duty because of illusion or weakness	External, false, with expectation of return or material results, for respect and status	Out of scriptural duty, without attachment or expectation of result	Engages everything in Krsna's service
Spiritual Vision	Attached to one kind of work, no knowledge of spiritual truth; does not know God at all	Sees different types of living entities in different types of bodies; if God exists, He is far away	Sees one Supreme Being accompanying the spirit soul within all material forms	Sees Krsna within his heart, enjoys an eternal ecstatic relationship with Him, sees other beings as His servants
Spiritual Understanding	Considers religion to be irreligion and irreligion to be religion, under the spell of illusion, striving always in the wrong direction	Cannot distinguish between religion and irreligion, between goodness and ignorance, or between duty and prohibited action	Knows what is to be done and what is not, what is to be feared and what is not, what is degrading and what is liberating	Knows Krsna directly and sees Him by spiritual vision, knows everything by direct revelation

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Action	Out of illusion, against scriptural injunctions, without concern for consequences, violence or distress caused to others	Out of desire, with great effort, independent, to gratify desires, from a sense of false ego	Regulated by scriptural injunctions, without attachment, desire, hatred or fruitive results	Can do anything to please Krsna in loving service
Work	Against scriptural injunction, materialistic, obstinate, cheating, insulting others, lazy, morose, procrastinating	Attached to work and the fruits of work, overwork, hurried, desires to enjoy the fruits, greedy, envious, impure, motivated by joy and sorrow	Performs duty without association with the material modes or false ego, with great determination and enthusiasm, patiently, without attachment to success or failure	Completely detached from material work, loves Krsna with all his heart, works only to please Him and help people realize Him
Determination	Cannot go beyond dreaming, fearfulness, lamentation, moroseness and illusion	Attached to fruitive results of religion, economic development and sense gratification	Unbreakable, sustained by <i>yoga</i> practice, controls the activities of the mind, life and senses	Sees the truth automatically and cannot be deluded or swayed by false arguments
Happiness	Poison and delusion from beginning to end; blind to self-realization, arises from intoxication, sleep, laziness and illusion	Like nectar in the beginning but poison in the end; derived from contact of the senses with their objects	Like poison in the beginning but nectar in the end; derived from spiritual service; awakens one to self-realization	Continuous and ever-increasing transcendental happiness from loving and serving Krsna
Personal Qualities	Submission, labor and service to others	Heroism, power, courage in battle, generosity, leadership, resourcefulness	Peacefulness, self-control, austerity, purity, tolerance, honesty, knowledge, wisdom and religiousness	Ecstatic love and transcendental knowledge, direct perception of the spiritual world and Krsna
Occupational Duty	Worker, servant, artisan, laborer	Politician, warrior, businessman, executive, manager	Priest, intellectual, teacher, philosopher, spiritual master	Spiritual master, renunciant or sadhu
Sex Relationships	Out of loneliness, need and desperation; incompatible partners, promiscuity, casual sex, infidelity, perversion, venereal disease	Out of sex desire, lust for romantic thrills, desire for dynasty, conquest and control; enmity, jealousy, quarrel and divorce	Out of duty, according to scriptural morality; maintains celibacy or lifelong sacred marriage; faithful, peaceful and happy	Celibate, passionate lover of God
Management Style	Avoids management, responsibility and accountability at all costs	Creates hierarchies for exclusive control of information, power and exploitation of subordinates	Creates open networks for free distribution of information and spiritual benefit of all	Open to any arrangement that is pleasing to Krsna and practical in the present situation
Causality	Sees himself as a victim or effect	Thinks of himself & others as doers	Knows that God is the only doer	Directly sees Krsna as the knower and doer in all bodies