



S.K.S. SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE (LONDON) – BAL YUVAK MANDAL

Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 9EA Est. 1966 Charity Reg. No. 271034

Tel: [020 8909 9899](tel:02089099899) Fax: [020 8909 9897](tel:02089099897) Email: bym@sksst.org

Shikshapatri Bhashya Shlok 59

These atmanivedi devotees are considered as Nirgun (free from the 3 qualities of Maya) because all their deeds are purified by their continuous and devout contact to Shree Krishna who is forever Nirguna

1. What is Atmanivedi?
2. What are the 3 qualities of Maya?
3. What is Nirguna? – to put simply beyond and above the 3 modes of maya

A person who has reached a Nirgun state has overcome the 3 qualities of maya (Satva, Rajas and Tamas) and has reached the highest level to become one with Bhagwan. All actions by the devotee is for Bhagwan. The 3 qualities have been explained in Bhagwat and these are what initiated the creation process. The 3 qualities affect the course of nature and peoples habits. When we say a person is of good nature he has accumulated an abundance of satvagun through his acts. In the same way a bad or sinful person has a predominance of tamogun. The above happens with good and bad association, so you can see it is very important for a bhakt of Bhagwan to have the right association to become atmanivedi.

See the comparison in example below:

A person goes to work to earn a living which will in return give money so they can support their family and satisfy their needs

VS

A person who is Nirgun will go to work for Bhagwan (Maharaj's agna for all grahasth devotees) and earn money so they can do seva of Bhagwan.

Both people in the example above are going to work one is going to work for themselves (which means a karma is automatically attached to this action) and the other person is going to work to please Bhagwan and follow His agna (Karma is not attached to this action as it is God related and anything God related becomes divine).

So if we take another example when we are hungry we offer the food (that is suitable) to Bhagwan before consuming it as His prashad. If we eat food without some form of God relation then that action is a karma. So to put it simply everything



S.K.S. SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE (LONDON) – BAL YUVAK MANDAL

Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 9EA Est. 1966 Charity Reg. No. 271034

[Tel: 020 8909 9899](tel:02089099899) [Fax: 020 8909 9897](tel:02089099897) [Email: bym@sksst.org](mailto:bym@sksst.org)

we do should be God related for us to be become nirguna and above the 3 modes of maya.

Remember good karmas will take you to 'Swarag' and bad karmas to 'Narak'. Akshardhaam is for all who are free from karma and all their actions are God related i.e. Nirgun. Shatanand Swami has explained that by doing bhakti we become Nirguna. When we carry out an action and remember Bhagwan this becomes a type of bhakti (Which type of Bhakti is this?). So in fact bhakti will make us Nirguna and one with Maharaj. Please note only actions that derive benefit should performed.

It has mentioned in the shlok 'These atmanivedi devotes are considered as nirguna...' This is implying to become Nirguna we must become atmanivedi bhakts (recall the previous bhashya sessions which explains who an atmanivedi bhakt is).

- 4. How do we become atmanivedi? (think about what all the great devotees in the past did)**

- 5. Can you think of any more examples where our actions can become Nirguna? (One example from each person in the group)**