



# The Law of Karma

Presentation and Discussion - by Rati

## What is Karma

For every action you take there will be a reaction in the future. This is the law of Karma.

Whatever activity we do, good or bad, brings us good or bad reactions. For every action you take, you will face a reaction in the future, which could be a few seconds away or 20 years away or your next incarnation. If you take good actions, you will face good reactions. This may come in the form of good health, wealth or birth on higher planets etc. If you take bad actions, you will face bad reactions in the future. The bad reactions may come in the form of disease, poverty or birth on one of the hellish planets etc.

When we suffer, we are facing the bad reactions to our bad actions taken in the past.

Our actions include everything we do, including our physical deeds, our words and thoughts. There will be a reaction to all our actions.

Taking good actions builds our good karma (joy and happiness in the future).

Taking bad actions builds our bad karma (disease and suffering in the future)

What actions result in bad Karma?

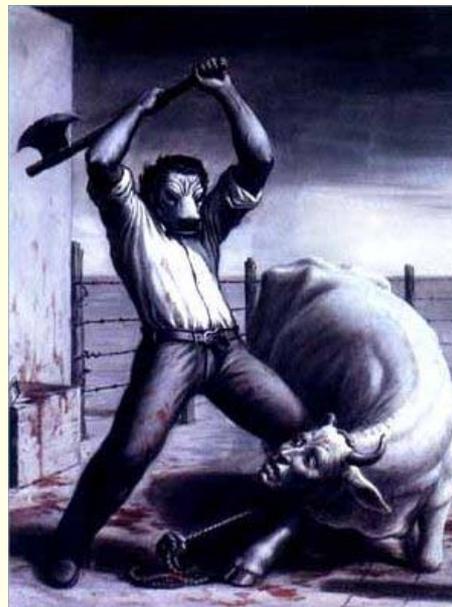
Actions, which result in bad Karma: Eating meat, violence, ignorance, harshness, untruthfulness, lust, anger, greed, attachments, desires, gambling, ego, and alcohol.

What actions build good karma?

Actions, which build good Karma: Vegetarianism, non-violence, generosity, charity, self-control, truthfulness, simplicity, forgiveness, religiousness, and cleanliness. Free from attachments, desires and ego.

Your destiny is in your own hands. You are held responsible for all your actions.

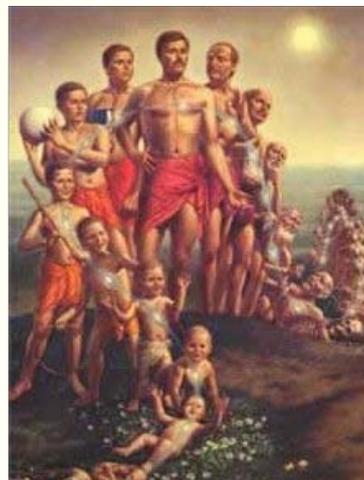
The reason why some people suffer more than others is that they sinned more than



*Please Don't Kill me Son, I am your Mother*

others in their past and thus they are now facing the bad reactions to the bad actions taken in their past.

The reason why some good people suffer all their life is because although they are now good. They still suffer because they



*The Cycle of Birth and Death*

are now facing the bad reactions to the bad actions taken in their previous lives. But because they are now taking good actions they will face good reactions (be happy) in their next life.

The reason why some really rotten people enjoy a good life despite being rotten is that they are now facing the good reactions to the good actions they took in their previous lives. However, because they are taking bad actions now (being rotten), they will face bad reactions in the future (suffer).

God does not make one happy for no reason nor does God make one suffer for no reason. Karma is a very just law. If a person takes good actions in life and thus builds good karma, he or she will be born into a better life in the next incarnation. A sinner who leads an immoral life may be born as a poor person or as an animal in the next incarnation. A person is born again and again to reap the fruits of his or her own actions. This cycle of birth and death continues until the person attains moksha or freedom from the cycle of birth and death. Moksha can be achieved through Krishna consciousness.

Karma has a system just like we have in this world and there's a human law for Karma as well.

## Karma and the Human Law and Order System

Why do we have the police, judges, courts and jails? We have a system of Law and Order in each and every country, which makes us responsible for our actions. If we break the Law, we are arrested, taken to court and the Judge decides on the punishment we receive, which will be in proportion to the crime committed, then sent to jail, punishment for our crimes.

Without the Law and Order system that we have, without the police enforcing the law, life would be pure hell. People would go round killing, looting, and stealing, raping and vandalizing property. Simply because people, would not be held responsible for their actions.

Without the Law and Order system there would be no peace and justice in the world. We have the human Law and Order System in every country and the citizens of each country are held responsible for the actions they take; those who break the law are punished just as we have the Human Law and Order system. God has a Law and Order system, the Law of Karma. We are held responsible for all our actions. The differences between the human system and God's system are:

- With Karma, we are responsible for all our actions, including words and thoughts- With Karma, there is no escape; you will face reactions to each and every action you take in the future, that is guaranteed. With the human system, some people do get away with murder and other crimes.

- With Karma, we are punished for our bad actions and rewarded for good actions, in the human system we are punished if we are caught breaking the law, but we are not rewarded for abiding by the laws.

If you accept that we cannot live peacefully and be treated fairly without the human system of Law and Order, then you must accept that God also has a Law and Order system, the Law of Karma.

## Bhagavad-gita

### Chapter 8, Text 3

The supreme Personality of Godhead said: The indestructible, transcendental living entity is called Brahman, and his eternal nature is called *adhyatma*, the self. Action pertaining to the develop-

ment of the material bodies of the living entities is called karma, or fruitive activities.

### Chapter 9, Text 28

In this way you will be freed from bondage to work and its auspicious and inauspicious results. With your mind fixed on Me in this principle of renunciation, you will be liberated and come to Me.

## Srimad Bhagavatam

### Canto 7, Chapter 7, Text 46/50

(46) Let it be clear that all that someone in a material body in this world does for his personal benefit, o asura sons, beginning with lusting after sex, with the temporary leads to the heavy suffering that is the result of the workload of his karma.

(47) Karma for one embodied begins with the body that one acquired as a consequence of the way one acted; by that karma one expands to another body and the both of them one indeed owes to one's ignorance. (48) Therefore does all the regulation of one's income and desires for sense gratification as well as the religion thereto depend upon the glorification of the Soul to the soul, the Lord divinely indifferent who is the Controller [of Time and karma]. (49) Of all living beings He is for sure the Lord, the original source, the one pulling the strings, the Beloved, who by His separate energies has created them as the Individual Soul of all individual entities together. (50) Whether god or demon, man or ghost or a singer of heaven indeed, rendering service at Mukunda's feet do we all become just as fulfilled with all of His!



*You Are What you Eat*



*Want to be a Bear?*



*Be a Tiger*



*Become a Tree*

