



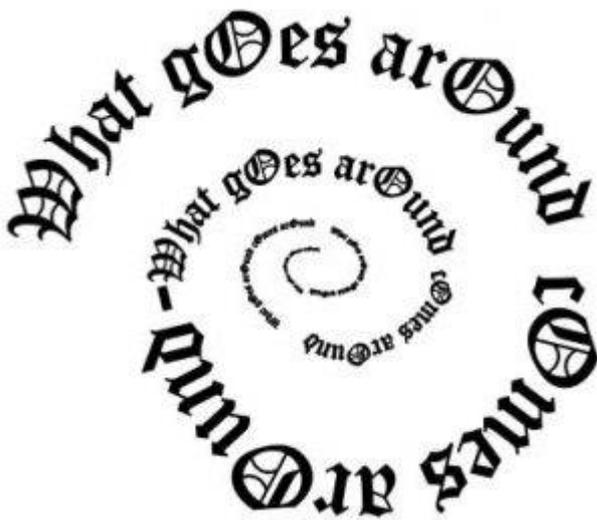
**REINCARNATION**

**KARMA**

*“To die is only one moment. Just a passing moment: you go, you change and come back”*

Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi: *Diwali Puja*, Perth, Australia, 27.03.1991

# **1. THIS IS WHAT KRISHNA SAYS** **ABOUT KARMA AND** **REINCARNATION**



*Just as in this body the embodied (soul) passes into childhood, youth and old age, so also does he pass into another body; the firm man does not grieve thereat.*

*Just as a man casts off worn-out clothes and puts on new ones, so also the embodied Self casts off worn-out bodies and enters others that are new.*

*The wise, possessed of knowledge, having abandoned the fruits of their actions, and being freed from the fetters of birth, go to the place which is beyond all evil.*

*Many births of Mine have passed, as well as of thine, O Arjuna! I know them all but thou knowest not, O Parantapa!*

*He who thus knows in true light My divine birth and action, after having abandoned the body, is not born again; he comes to Me, O Arjuna!*

*There he comes in touch with the knowledge acquired in his former body and strives more than before for perfection, O Arjuna!*

*But, the Yogi who strives with assiduity, purified of sins and perfected gradually through many births, reaches the highest goal.*

*At the end of many births the wise man comes to Me, realising that all this is Vasudeva (the innermost Self); such a great soul (Mahatma) is very hard to find. Having attained Me, these great souls do not again take birth (here), which is the place of pain and is non-eternal; they have reached the highest perfection (liberation).*

*(All) the worlds, including the world of Brahma, are subject to return again, O Arjuna! But he who reaches Me, O son of Kunti, has no rebirth!*

*This same multitude of beings, born again and again, ...*

*What is called the Unmanifested and the Imperishable, that they say is the highest goal (path). They who reach It, do not return (to this cycle of births and deaths). That is My highest abode .*

*To those whose minds are set on Me, O Arjuna, verily I become ere long the saviour out of the ocean of the mortal Samsara (the circle of birth and rebirth)!*

*In the production of the effect and the cause, nature (matter) is said to be the cause; in the experience of pleasure and pain, the soul is said to be the cause.*

*The soul, seated in Nature, experiences the qualities born of Nature; attachment to the qualities is the cause of his birth in good and evil wombs.*

*He who thus knows Spirit and Matter, together with the qualities, in whatever condition he may be, he is not reborn.*

*The embodied one, having crossed beyond these three Gunas (the spiritual channels in the body) out of which the body is evolved, is freed from birth, death, decay and pain, and attains to immortality.*

*O Arjuna, bound by thy own Karma (action) born of thy own nature, that which from delusion thou wishest not to do, even that thou shalt do helplessly!*

*Hari Om Tat Sat  
Iti Srimad Bhagavadgeetaasooapanishatsu  
Brahmavidyaayaam  
Yogashaastre Sri Krishnaarjunasamvaade  
Mokshasannyaasayogo Naama  
Ashtaadasho'dhyaayah*



"I don't believe in reincarnation, but I did in a previous life."

## **An Indian commentary on the Gita**

*“The Gita again and again emphasises that one should cultivate an attitude of non-attachment or detachment. Detachment is wisdom and brings with it freedom. The practice of detachment is a rigorous discipline. You may stumble like a baby who is just learning to walk, but you will have to rise up again with a cheerful heart. Failures are not stumbling-blocks but steppingstones to success.*

*Try to dwell always in your own Self. Abide in your centre. Think of the Self constantly. Then all attachments will die automatically.*

*Attachment to the Lord is a potent antidote to annihilate all worldly attachments. He who has no attachments, can really love others, for his love is pure and divine. “Therefore, without attachment do thou always perform action which should be done; for, by performing action without attachment man reaches the Supreme”*

*Just as the water stains not the lotus leaf, even so sins do not taint him who is regular in the recitation of the Gita.*

*Geetaayaah pustakam yatra yatra paathah pravartate;*

*Tatra sarvaani teerthaani prayaagaadeeni tatra vai.”*

Swami Sivananda, A divine life society publication, Uttar Pradesh, India, 2000



The butterfly, as a living metaphor for reincarnation was one of humanity's earliest spiritual teachings, recorded in carvings and painted pottery.

## **2. AND THIS IS WHAT SHRI** **MATAJI NIRMALA DEVI SAYS**

*“So it's such a contradictory life that we have been in, because in Christian religion they have not said much about the death. I mean, Christ, if they had allowed Him to live, He would have talked about it. But He has said that Spirit is eternal. He has talked of reincarnation, no doubt, but those people didn't tell about this.”* Diwali Puja, Cabella, Italy, 10.11.1991

*“They [the animals] just do it because they are bound by nature. They are bound by God Almighty. Shiva is Pashupati, which means he controls all the animals. All the desires from animals come in but they don't appear, they don't have ego. They don't think what is wrong or good. They have no karma problem, because they have no ego or freedom.”* Shri Adi Shakti Puja, Cabella, Italy, 06.06.1993

*“These desires are all ancient age -old things within you. See, also the aggression, the Karma that you are doing are also ancient.”* Advices, Delhi, India, 11.03.1981

*“And when, as I said, this centre [agnya chakra on the forehead] is opened out, He sucks our karmas and the so-called karmas are nothing but sins, you see. In a biblical language you can call it a sin, you see. And they're all sucked by this powerful deity of Christ, awakened within us. And you get beyond it because it is the ego that does the karma. Your ego is finished, what of the karmas? They are finished, too.”* Problems of Subconscious, Hove, UK, 13.05.1982

*“I do not know if you are aware or not, that whatever are your karma punyas [merits, good or less good actions] are finished. You're not responsible for your forefathers' karma punyas, your country's karma punyas, your own personal karma punyas. Whatever wrong we have done, is finished, as if you're cut off*

*from your past completely.”* Hamsa Puja, Vancouver, Canada,  
13.09.1992

*“The first He [Krishna in the Gita] talks about karma and many people get stuck at that point - that whatever karmas we are doing, we'll get the punyas out of it. He's not. He didn't say that. If you know Him, then you know He never meant that way. What He says that: "Whatever karmas you have to do, you can do it, but leave the results to the Divine Power." Results are from the Divine Power. Now maybe that some people think that they have got money because they have done good karmas and start doing all kinds of bad karmas with that money. He didn't say that. He said: "Leave the results to the Divine Power." Because Divine Power knows best what is for you. And so, if you think you have done something good - you have served somewhere to the poor, you have done something really good for the women, or anything – the result of that, you leave it at the Feet of the Divine Power. Means that you don't build up an ego for whatever you have done. Very well He has written this, but to understand Him, one should have again the witness state to see what He has written about karma.”* Krishna Puja, Cabella, Italy,  
16.08.1998

### **3. ALSO IN THE NON- CANONICAL GOSPELS and OTHER TEXTS**

**“Ignorance is the mother of all evil. Ignorance is the originator of death.”**

**“There is rebirth and an image of rebirth. It is really necessary that we are reborn by means of the image.”**

The Gospel of Philip, in the Nag Hammadi Library, Qumran

**Also in the “Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ”, written by Levi Dowling (1844 – 1911), we find interesting indications about reincarnation and karma. L. Dowling pretended to have access to the collective memory of humanity (the so called ‘akasha chronicles’), where he found this information.**

*“And Jesus said: Except a man be born again, he cannot see the king; he cannot comprehend the words I speak,*

*And Nicodemus said: ‘How can a man be born again? Can he go back into the womb and come again to life?’*

*And Jesus said: ‘The birth of which I speak,, is not the birth of flesh. Except a man be born of water and the Holy Breath, he cannot come into the kingdom of the Holy One. That which is born of flesh is child of man; that which is born of Holy Breath is child of God.’*

*“Lo, you shall see far greater things than this, for by the power of holy thought, my body will be changed from carnal flesh to spirit form; and so will yours.”*

*“What is it that the servant said? The child is dead? Lo, what is death?*

*It is the passing of the soul out of the house of flesh.. Man is the master of the soul and of its house. When man has risen up from doubt and fear, lo, he can cleanse the empty house and bring the tenant back again.”*

*“Death does not mean the end of life. The grave is not the goal of men, no more than is the earth the goal of seeds. Life is the consequence of death. The seed may*

*seem to die, but from its grave the tree arises into life. So man may seem to die, but he lives on, and from the grave he springs up into life. If you could comprehend the word that Moses spoke about the burning bush that burned and still was not consumed, then you would know that death cannot destroy the life.. And Moses said that God is God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel.. God is not God of dead men's bones, but the living man.I tell you, men, man goes down to the grave, but he will rise again and manifest the life;. For every life is hid with Christ in God, and man shall live while God shall live.”*

*“ In flesh of man there is the essence of the resurrection of the dead. This essence, quickened by the Holy Breath, will raise the substance of the body to a higher tone,... ”*

*“And life springs forth from death; the carnal form is changed to form divine.”*

### **In the Srimad Devi Bhagavat Purana:**

*“That which is born, must die. And that which dies, must be born again. This is an irreversible law.”*

*“Whatever connection I had with this body ,was the result of previous karmas – to be enjoyed or to be paid for, and they are separate from ant.”*

**From karma originates CONSCIOUSNESS.**

**We'll call it 'I-consciousness'.**

**In the West “I” is an unchanging, constant individuality.**

**In the East it is seen as a process of becoming:**

**“I” is a series of temporary, unstable forms of existence that can change continuously (like a fire or a river).**

## **Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi**

*“If you can reach self-realization in one life, it is possible in that same life to reach this so called state. If you are only half-baked during the process of one life, you’ll come back to complete yourself.”*

Shiva Puja, 1987

## **Adi Shakararacharya (788 – 820 ? BCE)**

**Shankaracharya was an Indian saint, whose works are still very popular. He was the founder of ten monastic orders and a propagator of the non-dualistic “Vedanta philosophy”**

**His best known work is “*Viveka Cūdāmani*”, the “*Crest-Jewel of Discrimination*”. Other known works are “*Saundaryalaharī*” and “*Ananadalaharī*”.**

**The leading principle of the “Crest Jewel” is:  
“*Brahman alone is real, the universe is unreal, and the individual soul is no other than the Universal soul.*”**

**He preaches that the world in which we live, is ‘maya’, illusion.**

**This is what he writes about *karma* and**

***reincarnation, that he often specifies as “transmigration” of the soul/spirit, from one life to another.***

*“47. It is verily through the touch of ignorance that thou who art the Supreme Self, findest thyself under the bondage of the non-self, whence alone proceeds the round of births and deaths.”*

*“68. Listen attentively, O learned one, to what I am going to say. By listening to it thou shalt be instantly free from the bondage of Samsara.”* (‘Samsara’ is the chain of different lives, of birth and rebirth.)

*“136. By means of a regulated mind and the purified intellect (buddhi), realize directly thy own Self in the body so as to identify thyself with It, cross the boundless ocean of Samsara whose waves are birth and death, (...).”*

*“137. Indentifying the Self with the non-Self – this is the bondage of man, which is due to his ignorance, and brings in its train the miseries of birth and death.”*

*“146. This bondage of the non-Self springs from ignorance, is self-caused, and is described as without beginning and end. It subjects one to the long train of miseries such as birth, death, disease and decrepitude.”*

*“164. Identification with the body alone is the root that produces the misery of birth etc. of people who are attached to the unreal; therefore destroy thou this with the utmost care. When this identification, caused by the mind, is given up, there is no more chance for rebirth.”*

*“396. So long as man has any regard for this corpse-like body, he is impure, and suffers from his enemies as also from birth, death, and disease; (...).”*

*“574. There is neither death nor birth, neither a bound nor a struggling soul, neither a seeker after liberation nor a liberated one – this is the ultimate truth.”*

**Shri Jnanadeva (1271 – 1296): in his**  
**“Amrutanubhava”, ‘Ambrosial Experience’.**

*“That knowledge which drowns itself cannot be held in high esteem . Knowledge brings about liberation (from samsara, birth and death) provided it dissolves itself.”*

**4. TO DIE**

*“What is there to think even about your death. There is nothing like death for you, because you’ve got eternal life. It is not that you’ll continue in the same body; you may change a dress, but you’re living, you’re aware. And you know even if this body is not there, you will be there ! “*

Sahasrara Puja, Cabella, Italy, 08.05.1995

*“You come on earth and: that you have to take some rest and come back again. So the death is just a change of life. Without death life cannot exist, it’s a balance between the two.*

*So a Sahaja Yogi should never be afraid of death - he should never be afraid of death, because if he is going to die, it is only going to be another life where he rests for a while, and comes back with greater enthusiasm, with greater energy. So there is a complete balance in nature, if you see, if there was no balance we could not have existed.”*

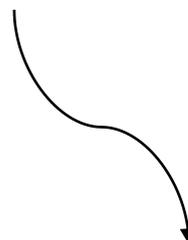
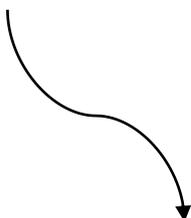
Shri Ganesha Puja, Perth, Australia, 09.02.1992

*“So everybody who is born has to die, but the way they have made the death as some sort of a big part of life [is not right]. It's just a moment, just a moment that you pass out and you go and change and come back again.”*

Diwali Puja, Cabella, Italy, 10.11.1991

## **5. THE CHAIN OF MUTUAL DEPENDENT CAUSES AND RESULTS**

**“I” = a succession of temporary, unstable forms of existence.**



*Descartes:*

*“I think, so I am.”*

*Buddha:*

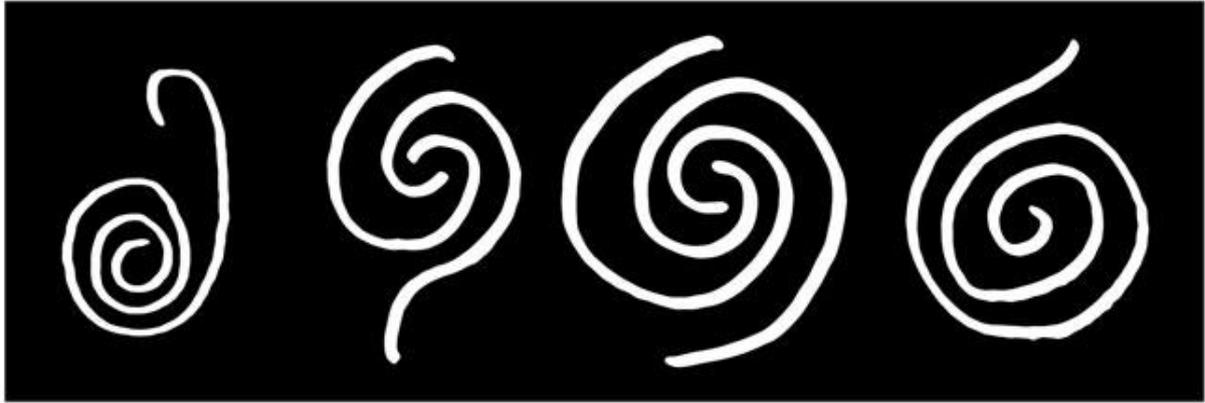
*“I think, so ‘I’ am not!”*

**Attachment to “I” brings: jealousy, greed, hatred, deceit, delusion of grandeur, pride, cruelty, violence, dominance, destruction of others ...**

## **6. KARMA AND FREEDOM**



sign of reincarnation in ancient cultures



Taino Petroglyph Spirals

*“Whatever connection I had with this body, was the result of previous karmas – to be enjoyed or to be paid for, (...).”*

Shrimad Devi Bhagavat Purana

**► Shri Mataji speaks about karma and reincarnation in:**

Hamsa Chakra Puja, Vancouver, Canada, 13.09.192

*“But this Hamsa Chakra does the greatest thing about which, I do not know if you are aware or not, that, whatever are your karma phalas (fruits of your actions) are finished. You are not responsible for your forefathers karma phalas, your country’s karma phalas your own personal karma phalas. Whatever wrong you have done, is finished, as if you are cut off from your past completely.*

*Once this is established, then all mistakes, all wrong-doings, not only of you, of your relations, of your forefathers, of your family, of your country, of this world, anything, doesn’t touch you. You are aloof from it. And in this Krita Yuga where this Brahmachaitanya is trying to expose and to punish people for their past karmas – collectively also, country-wise also – will not be able to even touch you because the light*

*of this centre is extremely powerful and you will be redeemed of all the fears, of whatever you have done before. You'll just be beautiful like lotuses, which are come out of the mire, and you'll emit beautiful fragrance all around the world."*