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Yoga

• **The strings of bondage**

The nature of karma is not in the action that you perform. Karma means action, but this gathering of past karmas is not because of the actions you have performed. It is the volition, the intention, the kind of mind that you carry. That is your karma.

There is a story which the wonderful sage Ramakrishna used to tell. There were two friends who used to go visit a prostitute every Saturday evening. On one such evening, while they were walking towards the prostitute's house, there was someone giving a spiritual discourse. One friend decided not to visit the prostitute, saying he would prefer to hear the lecture on spiritual possibilities. The other man left him there. Now the man sitting in the lecture hall, his thoughts were full of the other man. He began thinking that the other man was having the time of his life while he was caught in this place. He thought the other man was more intelligent in choosing the prostitute's place rather than a spiritual discourse.



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Fropper

Now the man who had gone to the prostitute's house, his mind was full of the other man. He began to think that his friend had chosen the path to liberation by preferring the spiritual discourse to the prostitute's place, while he got caught in this. The man who had gone for the spiritual discourse and was thinking about what was happening in the prostitute's house pays by piling up bad karma. He suffers, not the other man. You don't pay because you have gone to the prostitute; you pay because you are cunning about it. You still want to go there, but you think by going to the discourse you'll be one step closer to heaven. This cunningness will take you to hell. That man with the prostitute knows it is worthless, and seeks something else; his is good karma. So it is not about action.

Right now, why you think in terms of 'right' and 'wrong' is simply because of the social moral code. It is not your innate nature which is telling you that this is right and wrong. It is just that society has fixed some rules and they have always told you, right from your childhood, that if you break them you are a bad boy. So whenever you break these, you feel like a bad boy. If you feel like one, you become one. If you are used to gambling, maybe gambling in front of your mother or your wife, in your home, or even to utter the word is sacrilege, but once you join your gang, there gambling is just fine, isn't it?

Among the gamblers, the one who does not gamble is not fit to live. It's like this everywhere. If all of you are thieves, you are all fine, isn't it? Among thieves, do they feel it is bad to rob somebody? When you fail, they think you are a no-good thief. That is a bad karma, isn't it? The question, this karmic thing, is just the way you feel about it. It is not about what you are doing. It is just the way you are holding it in your mind.

Why we are talking about acceptance, acceptance, acceptance, is, if you are absolute acceptance, whatever life demands, you do. If you have to fight a battle, you go and fight, there is no karma. The karma is not made in physical action; it is made only by volition. It's just that some fool has formed some rules and you expect every human being to live by them. It's impossible, but society needs such rules to maintain the social ego.

Society has its own ego, isn't it? For every small thing, the whole society gets upset. It need not be wrong. Suppose it is summer in the United States. Everybody is hardly wearing anything or maybe they are in miniskirts. Let's say you are fully clothed. People will get upset: "What is she doing? Why is she all covered up?" Here in India, if you don't dress like that, they will all get upset! So this is one kind of ego; that is another kind of ego. It is the social ego which is getting upset, and your karma is becoming part of the collective karma. I want you to really understand this with a certain depth. Your idea of good and bad has been taught to you. You have imbibed it from the social atmosphere in which you have lived. Karma is in the context of your life, and not in the action itself.

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Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev is a realised master, Yogi and a profound mystic of our times. Sadhguru developed Isha Yoga - Yoga of the Divine, a scientifically structured programme, as the vehicle to transmit a deep experience of the Self that changed his life completely about two decades ago.

Belonging to no particular tradition, Sadhguru incorporates what is most valid for the modern seeker. Isha Yoga flourishes today as a spiritual science for hundreds of thousands of initiates around the world.

An accomplished poet and an author of several books, his latest book - '[Mystics Musings](#)' - is one of the most candid unveiling of the mystical dimensions of life.

Isha Foundation, founded by the Sadhguru, also administers the Dhyanalinga multi-religious temple and meditation shrine, an

ashram, and a yogic hospital at the Isha Yoga Centre, located on 50 acres at the foothills of the Velliangiri Mountains, 30 km from Coimbatore.

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