

The Three Modes of Material Nature

This is derived from Chapters 14, 17 and 18 from the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* and Chapter 25 of the 11th Canto of *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam*. (© Bhaktivedānta Book Trust)

	सत्त्वगुण <u>Goodness</u>	रजगुण <u>Passion</u>	तमगुण <u>Ignorance</u>
Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frees one from sinful reactions. • Gates illumined • Mind and sense control • Tolerance • Discrimination • Sticking to one's prescribed duty • Truthfulness • Mercy • Careful study of the past & future • Satisfaction in any condition • Generosity • Renunciation of sense gratification • Faith in the spiritual master • Being embarrassed at improper action • Charity • Simplicity • Humbleness • Satisfaction within oneself • Self-control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlimited desires and longings • Great attachment • Fruitive activity • Intense endeavor • Uncontrollable desire • Audacity • Dissatisfaction even in gain • False pride • Praying for material advancement • Considering oneself different and better than others • Sense gratification • Rash eagerness to fight • Fondness for hearing oneself praised • The tendency to ridicule others • Advertising one's own prowess • Justifying one's actions by one's strength • Lust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignorance • Delusion • Darkness • Madness • Inertia • Illusion • Intolerant anger • Stinginess • Speaking without scriptural authority • Violent hatred • Living as a parasite • Hypocrisy • Chronic fatigue • Quarrel • Lamentation • Delusion • Unhappiness • Depression • Sleeping too much • False expectations • Fear • Laziness • Anger

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<u>Conditioning</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binds due to feeling of happiness and knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To material, fruitive activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madness • Indolence • Sleep
<u>Destination</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher planets of great sages • Higher Planets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth amongst those engaged in fruitive activities (humans) • Earthly planets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal kingdom • Lower planets (hell)
<u>Result of action</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pious activity • Real Knowledge • Happiness • Virtue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misery • Greed • Attachment • Separatism • Activity • Desire for prestige and fortune 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foolishness • Madness • Illusion • Excessive sleep • Indulging in false hopes • Lamentation • Violence towards others
<u>Faith (worship)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demigods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghosts/spirits
<u>Food</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives strength • Purify one's existence • Give health • Give happiness • Give satisfaction • Juicy • Fatty • Wholesome • Pleasing to the heart • Easily obtained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bitter • Sour • Salty • Hot • Pungent • Dry • Burning • Cause distress • Cause misery • Cause disease • Gives immediate pleasure to the senses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared more than three hours before being eaten • Tasteless • Decomposed • Putrid • Remnants • Untouchable things • Unclean • Causes distress
<u>Sacrifice</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a matter of duty • Under direction of scripture • Those who desire no reward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For material benefit • For sake of pride 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without regard for directions of scripture, distribution of prasada, chanting Vedic hymns, or remuneration's to priests
<u>Sacrifice (continued)</u>			

Austerity of the body consists in worship of the Supreme Lord, the brāhmaṇas, the spiritual master, and superiors like the father and mother, and in cleanliness, simplicity, celibacy and nonviolence. Austerity of speech consists in speaking words that are truthful, pleasing, beneficial, and not agitating to others, and also in regularly reciting Vedic literature. And satisfaction, simplicity, gravity, self-control and purification of one's existence are the austerities of the mind. (Bg. 17-14-16)

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<u>Austerity</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With transcendental faith • Not expecting benefits • Only for the sake of the Supreme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the sake of gaining respect, honor and worship • It is neither stable nor permanent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performed out of foolishness • With self torture • To destroy others
<u>Charity</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given out of duty without expectation of return • At the proper time and place • To a worthy person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With expectation of return • With desire for fruitive results • In a grudging mood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In impure place • At improper time • To unworthy person • Without proper attention and respect

The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: The giving up of activities that are based on material desire is what great learned men call the renounced order of life [sannyāsa]. And giving up the results of all activities is what the wise call renunciation [tyāga]. Some learned men declare that all kinds of fruitive activities should be given up as faulty, yet other sages maintain that acts of sacrifice, charity and penance should never be abandoned. O best of the Bhāratas, now hear My judgment about renunciation. O tiger among men, renunciation is declared in the scriptures to be of three kinds. Acts of sacrifice, charity and penance are not to be given up; they must be performed. Indeed, sacrifice, charity and penance purify even the great souls. All these activities should be performed without attachment or any expectation of result. They should be performed as a matter of duty, O son of Pṛthā. That is My final opinion. (Bg. 18.2-6)

<u>Renunciation</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performs duty because ought to be done • Renounces mat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of fear of bodily discomfort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of illusion
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	association and attachment to the fruit		
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O mighty-armed Arjuna, according to the Vedānta there are five causes for the accomplishment of all action. Now learn of these from Me. The place of action [the body], the performer, the various senses, the many different kinds of endeavor, and ultimately the Supersoul—these are the five factors of action. Whatever right or wrong action a man performs by body, mind or speech is caused by these five factors. Therefore one who thinks himself the only doer, not considering the five factors, is certainly not very intelligent and cannot see things as they are. One who is not motivated by false ego, whose intelligence is not entangled, though he kills men in this world, does not kill. Nor is he bound by his actions. Knowledge, the object of knowledge, and the knower are the three factors that motivate action; the senses, the work and the doer are the three constituents of action. According to the three different modes of material nature, there are three kinds of knowledge, action and performer of action. Now hear of them from Me. (Bg. 18.13-19)

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<u>Knowledge</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sees everything as same spirit-soul • Absolute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sees different soul in every body • Based on duality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attached to one kind of work as all in all • Materialistic
<u>Action</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulated • Performed without attachment • Performed without love or hatred • Without desire for fruitive results • Without association of the modes of nature • Without false ego • With great determination and enthusiasm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking to gratify senses • From false ego • Attached to work and fruits of work • Greedy • Envious • Impure • Moved by joy and sorrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performed in illusion • Without regard for scriptural injunctions • Without concern for future bondage • Impelled by envy • Causes violence or distress • Engaged in works against the injunctions of scripture • Materialistic • Obstinate • Cheating • Expert in

			insulting others • Lazy • Always morose • Procrastination
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<u>Understanding</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows what is to be done and not done • What is to be feared and not feared • What is binding and liberating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot distinguish between religion and irreligion • Does not know what should be done and should not be done 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers irreligion to be religion and vice versa • Under spell of illusion and darkness • Always in wrong direction
<u>Determination</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unbreakable, steadfast • Controls mind, life and senses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds fast to fruitive results in economic development, religion and sense gratification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot go beyond dreaming, lamentation, moroseness, illusion, and fearfulness
<u>Happiness</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poison in the beginning but happiness in the end • Awakens one to self-realization • Derived from self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derived from senses and their objects • Nectar in the beginning but poison in the end 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blind to self-realization • Delusion from beginning to end • Arises from sleep, laziness and illusion
<u>Worship of Krsna</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In loving devotion • Without material attachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For material advancement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With desire to commit violence to others
<u>Consciousness</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear • Fearless • Senses are detached from matter • Detachment from material mind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsteady perplexity of mind • Distortion of intelligence because of too much activity • Inability to disentangle the senses from material objects • Unhealthy working of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of higher of awareness • Mind is ruined • Ignorance • Depression

		physical organs	
	सत्त्वगुण Goodness	रजगुण Passion	तमगुण Ignorance
<u>Sleep</u>	• Alert wakefulness	• Dreaming	• Deep sleep with no dreams
<u>Residence</u>	• Forest	• Town	• Gambling house
<u>Faith</u>	• Directed towards spiritual life	• Rooted in fruitive works	• In irreligious activities