

## Satasloki

Sloka 5

देहस्त्रीपुत्रमित्रानुचरहयवृषास्तोषहेतुर्ममेत्थं  
सर्वे स्वायुर्न यन्ति प्रथितमलममी मांसमीमांसयेह।  
एते जीवन्ति येन व्यवहृतिपटवो येन सौभाग्यभाजः  
तं प्राणाधीशमन्तर्गतममृतममुं नैव मीमांसयन्ति॥५

5. In this world, people look upon their own bodies, their wives, sons, friends, servants and their possessions such as horses and oxen as the sole source of all their happiness. They spend all their allotted life-span only in thinking of the means of protecting and nourishing all these. They never think of that Self (Atma), the immortal Lord of all life, because of whom they are alive and are able to function as sentient beings and to whom they owe all their good fortune.

Note. There is a satire in the use of the expression मांसमीमांसया . The word मीमांसा means 'pondering reverentially over a sublime topic' and is used only when speaking about such lofty topics as Dharma and Brahman. Here it is used satirically in respect of such lowly subjects as one's own body and that of others. The implication here is that people in general spend all their lives in thinking about such mundane matters and that their thoughts never rise to loftier levels.