

Satasloki

Sloka 7

स्वीकुर्वन् व्याघ्रवेषं स्वजठरभृतये भीषयन्त्यश्च मुग्धान्
मत्वा व्याघ्रोऽहमित्थं स नरपशुमुखान् बाधते किन्तु सत्त्वान्।
मत्वा स्त्रीवेषधारी स्त्र्यहमिति कुरुते किन्नटो भर्तुरिच्छां
तद्वच्छरीर आत्मा पृथगनुभवतो देहतो यः स साक्षी॥७

7. A man who, for earning his livelihood, entertains people by painting his body to make him look like a tiger and frightens gullible children by his appearance does not really think that he is a tiger and does not eat or attack men and animals. A man who dresses as a woman to play a female role in a dramatic performance does not begin to think of himself as a woman and does not look for a husband. Both of them are always aware of what they really are, though they may outwardly put on the garb of a tiger or a woman. So also, everyone must realize that the physical body is only a garb in which the Atma or individual self is cloaked. The Atma is known by experience to be different from the body and is a mere witness to all the activities of the body. Being a mere witness, the Atma does not participate in the actions performed by the body and is not in the least affected by the results of such actions.

Note. How the Atma is experienced to be different from the body is explained under verse 4 above.