

## Satasloki

Sloka 8

स्वं बालं रोदमानं चिरतरसमयं शान्तिमानेतुमास्ये  
द्राक्षं खर्जूरमाम्रं सुकदलमथवा योजयत्यम्बिकास्य।  
तद्वच्चेतोऽतिमूढं बहुजननभवान्मौढ्यसंस्कारयोगात्  
बोधोपायैरनेकैरवशमुपनिषद्बोधयामास सम्यक् ॥८

8. In order to comfort her child who has been crying (because of some pain in the body) the mother puts into its mouth a raisin, a date, a piece of ripe mango or a piece of ripe banana. (The idea is to comfort the child temporarily so that it may willingly take the medicine to be administered to remove the cause of the pain. The intention of the mother is not to feed the child with raisin, date, etc, which will not cure the child of its affliction but may only aggravate it). In the same way, the Upanishads adopt various means to impart knowledge of the Self to the ignorant man whose mind is full of the vasanas or impressions left by actions performed in innumerable past lives under wrong identification with the body-mind complex.

Note. The ultimate goal of human life is liberation from the cycle of birth and death by the attainment of Selfknowledge. For this one has first to become fit for knowledge by attaining purity of mind. The mind of man is full of various desires due to identification with the body-mind complex caused by ignorance of his real nature. Initially, the Vedas and even the Upanishadic portion of the Vedas (such as the Sikshavalli of the Taittiriya Upanishad) prescribe various actions and meditations to enable a man to have his desires fulfilled. The real object of the Vedas is, however, not to fulfil such desires but to make man fit for knowledge. This can be achieved only by the performance of the actions and meditations prescribed without desire for the fruit thereof. The aim of the Vedas is to induce man to perform these actions and meditations, initially with desire for the fruits and ultimately without desire. This is comparable to the mother comforting the child with something that it likes to eat, so that it may then accept the medicine willingly. The Vedas are always described as being more compassionate than a thousand mothers.