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*About Feeling-producing Karma*<sup>1</sup>

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Feeling-producing (VEDANEEYA) karma is of two types: Pleasant-feeling-producing karma, which causes the feelings of happiness and unpleasant-feeling-producing karma, which causes the feelings of unhappiness.

Question: If happiness is the consequence of pleasant-feeling-producing karma, then how can happiness (bliss) be an intrinsic attribute of soul?

Answer: In fact, true happiness of a soul entails freedom from anxiety, that is, absence of desires and concerns. The pleasant-feeling-producing karma does not lead a soul to such a state of happiness. It merely causes a living being to become unaware of his unpleasant worldly experiences.

Question: Some people and even some religious books say that the pleasant-feeling-producing karma provides materials and circumstances of comfort while the unpleasant-feeling-producing karma brings materials and surroundings of pain and suffering. These ideas do not conform to the definitions of the pleasant- and unpleasant-feeling-producing karma given above. What is right?

Answer: There are two types of karmas. One type of karmas influences the soul. Their fruition causes the various states, thoughts and feelings of the souls of living beings. The other types of karmas affect matter. They basically influence the body of a living being and its functions. The feeling-producing karma [does not directly influence the soul; in conjunction with the deluding karma, it] indirectly influences the soul. Thus it causes the feelings of happiness and unhappiness in a living being. It does not provide materials of comfort or discomfort.

Question: What is the objection in considering materials of comfort and discomfort as consequences of the feeling-producing karma?

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<sup>1</sup> English adaptation of excerpts from the Hindi exposition of Acharya Umaswami's TATTVAARTHASUTRA, published by Varni Jain Granthmala, Varanasi.

Answer: Happiness and unhappiness do not always accompany the presence and absence of materials. Many people are seen to be happy or unhappy without any regard to the means of comfort and discomfort, while others suffer from anxiety and dissatisfaction even when they have all the means of comfort and luxury. Thus it is evident that the feeling-producing karma is not responsible for providing desirable and undesirable materials.

Question: If that is so, how do people obtain materials?

Answer: Enterprises such as business, jobs, manufacturing, etc., result in accumulation of material means.

Question: Why don't all people do business and get rich?

Answer: It depends on one's aptitude, interests and circumstances.

Question: Why are some people successful in business while others are not?

Answer: Insufficient effort or circumstances or both.

Question: Sometimes it is seen that one businessman makes good profit while another person doing the same business suffers losses. Isn't feeling-producing karma (or some other karma) responsible for profit and loss?

Answer: In business, the individual's ability and the existing circumstances, not meritorious (PUNYA) and demeritorious (PAAP) karma, bring about profit or loss. In partnerships all partners together make a profit or suffer a loss. It is highly improbable that all of them simultaneously have the same type of karma. Thus it is not logical to consider profit and loss to be the consequences of meritorious and demeritorious karma.

Question: Well, it is understood that profit and loss are not consequences of karma. However, it seems that health and sickness result from good and bad karma. Is it right?

Answer: Good health and sickness are not caused by fruition of karma. However, they might influence the fruition of meritorious and demeritorious karma. As other material things are acquired through external endeavors, good and poor health is also caused by other means. It is not proper to consider them to be results of karma.

## About Feeling-Producing Karma

Question: What are the causes of health and sickness?

Answer: Unhealthy food habits, improper daily routine, undesirable company, etc., result in poor health and sickness. Good diet, living habits, company, etc., lead to good health.

In sum, the pleasant-feeling-producing karma and the unpleasant-feeling-producing karma do not result in materials for comfort, happiness and unhappiness.