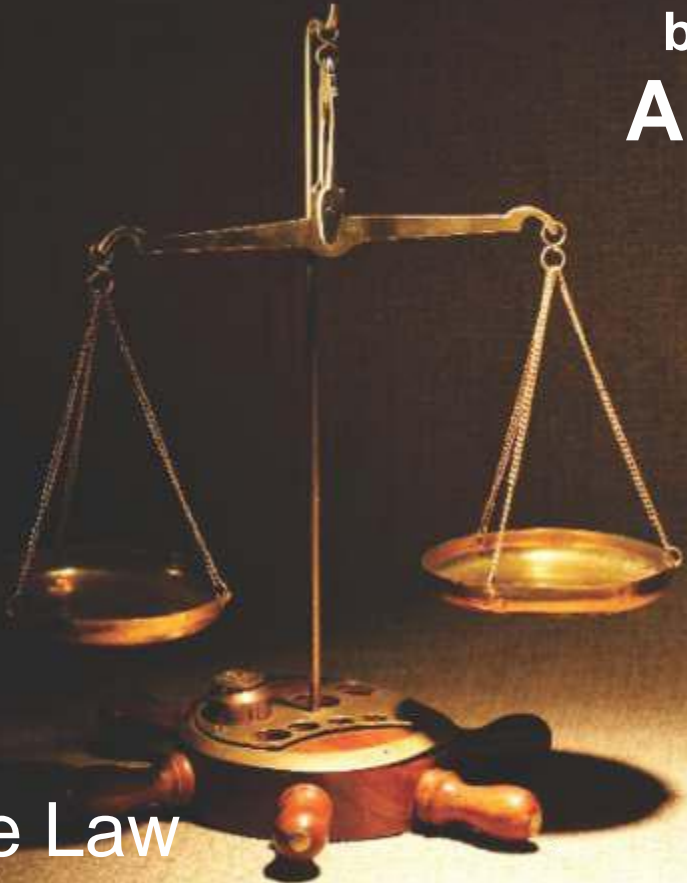


The A to Z of KARMA

by
AiR



The Law

“What you give is what you get!”

THE A TO Z OF KARMA

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**What did I do Oh Master! That God
brought you my way? What would I
be without you... Struggling in
darkness every day?**

**You caught my hand and led me
On the path for Truth to find
And finally to liberate me
Realizing I am not the body or mind.**

**You live in my heart forever
As my Guru and God on Earth How
can any words of gratitude Express
what is your true worth!**

GRATITUDE TO MY GURU

“Rejoice!” said Dada, to my astonishment, when I went to him to share a tragedy. He smiled as he listened to me and went on to explain, “Nothing happens by chance. Whatever happens to us are our own deeds coming back to us. It is our own Karma that is returning, and nobody can escape it.”

Although my Guru has left the physical world, he is eternally present in my heart and soul. I bow down to him for his guidance and his grace, his love and his support that took me onward, forward, inward, upward and most importantly, Godward.

Dada himself wrote a book on Karma in which he spoke about how people sometimes think that God is unfair when something wrong happens in their life. They don't realize that there exists a universal law

called Karma. God does not micromanage everything that happens in the world. Everything is managed by the Law of Karma.

I am grateful to my Guru and my Master, Dada J. P. Vaswani, for inspiring this book, while he traversed planet earth for 100 years. He was a rare saint, full of humility, compassion, love and kindness. He was a realized soul who had transcended Karma as he looked upon this world as a cosmic drama. I offer this little book to my Guru and seek his blessings.

PREFACE

The earth is a unique place. It has over 8 billion people, trillions of insects, animals, and plants on it. It is a planet that is suspended somewhere in space, rotating on its axis, revolving around the Sun. How does this happen? Who makes it happen?

We exist! Of course, we do. But where do we come from and where do we go? Nobody knows. There is no doubt that we arrive and depart, but there is no proof of what happens, how it happens and who is making it happen.

The cosmic drama called life is not happening randomly. It seems to be a perfectly produced show on the stage called earth by a superpower that is beyond human understanding and imagination. But life is happening. The Sun rises and it sets. Seasons change as

they follow a sequence and time seems to pass. Between birth and death, several cosmic laws seem to be operating in the universe. There is no proof of these laws. But when you throw a ball in the sky, it doesn't drift away into the clouds. It falls back to earth, and although there is no proof, through inference, we know that the Law of Gravity exists.

Several such cosmic laws make life on earth possible. One of them is the Law of Cause and Effect - popularly known as the Law of Karma. According to this law, an action is followed by an appropriate reaction. Nothing occurs by chance. If you plant tomatoes, you will not reap mangoes. This law controls our destiny. Our past actions are the cause of our present, just as our present actions will determine our future.

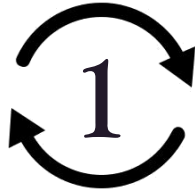
While the Law of Karma seems to be a simple, practical and universal one, it is actually very intricate in nature and continues to elude humanity.

The law doesn't stop at death. When the body dies, ME (Mind + Ego) passes on, and based on its Karma, it is

reborn in a new body with a new life. This is how the world seems to continue its existence.

We are controlled by the Law of Karma until we die and are reborn again, no matter how many times we experience death and rebirth. While we enjoy this beautiful world, we suffer too. There is no way of escaping suffering as we live and die.

The law states something very simple – What we give is what we get! There seems to be a Supreme Power that has commissioned this law. This Supreme Power is obviously none other than the one that has created planet earth and everything on it. Let us try to examine the A to Z of the Law of Karma. Once we do that, we can live with eternal joy, peace and bliss as we transcend Karma and get liberated from the cycle of death and rebirth.



What is “Karma”?

The Law of Karma is a Law of Action and Reaction. According to this law, every action of ours is recorded and rewarded either through the good or evil that our action has caused. The Law of Karma is a universal law and holds good for everybody. Nobody can escape this law, and nothing can manipulate it. Even if the action is performed behind closed doors and unknown to the world, the Law of Karma captures it. Such is the law.

Karma literally means “ACTION”, but because of its global popularity, it has reached beyond that. Today if one says “Karma,” it means a lot more. It indicates the existence of a cosmic law. What is the relevance of this law?

Imagine something terrible happens most unexpectedly and unwarrantedly. There seems to be no logical reason as

to why the incident happened. And we exclaim - "Karma!" Here, we are acknowledging the fact that the Law of Karma is executing itself in the circumstance that just unfolded. There was no reason for this terrible thing to happen. Then why did it happen? It is obviously a reaction to an action performed previously. The action may have been performed in the distant past and beyond the recall power of our memory. The Law of Karma ensures that all actions are appropriately rewarded.

Suppose you have a garden in which you find apples growing on a tree. How did the apples appear? Could it be through some magic? Is it a random act of nature? Of course not. Somebody must have planted apple seeds for the tree to blossom in the garden. It could be you, someone else or even your neighbour who threw the seeds across the compound wall. It might have been caused by the wind or the birds, but some action has led to this reaction. You cannot reap apples unless you sow them, and if you sow tomatoes, you cannot reap mangoes. The law is very simple, and while it cannot be proved, we know the law exists through inference.

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Can you prove that the Law of Gravity exists? You can't! You can prove that your Gmail account is yours by revealing the password and other related credentials. But the Law of Gravity is different. If you throw your mobile phone up in the air, it doesn't disappear into the clouds above. Thus, you infer that there is some force that pulls it back to the ground. You conclude that the Law of Gravity exists. Karma is also a law that can be verified through inference. There is no doubt that the law exists.

The Law of Karma is a complex law. It works in several ways. You may instantly get the reward for your actions, or you may have to wait several days, weeks, months or even years for the repercussions. In fact, it is believed that you cannot escape this law even after your death.

Many things keep happening around us. What is the cause of all that happens? It seems that a Law of Cause and Effect is unfolding. What is the Law of Cause and Effect all about? For every effect, there must be a cause. Therefore, something that has happened in the past is

causing whatever is happening now. What is happening is the effect of a cause. For every action, there will be an equal reaction. If there is smoke, there must be fire or something that has caused it.

The Law of Cause and Effect can also be seen in our day to day life. You see a pot, a plate and a statue. You know that all the three are made out of mud. Mud is the cause. The pot, the plate and the statue are just effects of the cause. Whatever is happening around us are just effects. What is the cause? Our own Karma, our own actions or deeds of the past that were captured by the Law of Karma are unfolding as effects. Therefore, Karma is often referred to not only as - "the Law of Action and Reaction", but also as "the Law of Cause and Effect".

Have you ever seen a boomerang? When you throw it into the sky, it comes back to you. Karma works like a boomerang. What you put out into the world eventually comes back to you. Sometimes the Law of Karma tricks us because although we do many bad things, only good comes to us. We don't realize that the

What is "Karma"?

good that is returning to us is the Law of Karma itself. These are our own previous good actions that are coming back as a boomerang. What about the bad actions that we are currently performing? Beware! Although it looks like a magic show and a lot of good is happening in your life, every bad action that you are currently performing is also being recorded by the Law of Karma and will eventually come back to you.

The world today believes that what goes around comes around. People know it, and it is not something they need to be taught. Intuitively, people feel the truth of this statement. They experience it. What goes around comes around. If someone treats other people badly, he or she will eventually be treated badly. People know that if they cheat someone in love, someday somebody else will cheat them too. They can't escape their own actions.

The universe works with several cosmic laws. One such law is the Law of Sequence and Continuity. If you see someone going somewhere, eventually, he or she will come back. If you see someone coming, that person

must have gone somewhere sometime ago. People don't come from nowhere and disappear into nowhere. Things don't come from nowhere and disappear into nowhere. What goes around comes around.

What you give is what you get. The Karmic Law is very simple. Even a child can understand it, but we human beings often forget this law because we ignore the existence of the Law of Karma. We don't realize that the law exists. Just because the table, the chair, the cupboard, the bed, you and your laptop are all secure on the ground, it does not mean that the Law of Gravity has stopped working. The cosmic Law of Gravity exists. It has always existed and it will continue to exist forever, and so is the case with the cosmic Law of Karma.

The Law of Karma is universal. Whether you are American, Chinese, Indian or Japanese, the Law of Karma applies to you irrespective of your nationality. It does not matter whether you are a Hindu, a Muslim, a Christian, a Jain, a Sikh, a Jew or a Buddhist because the same law extends equally to everyone who is born

What is "Karma"?

on earth. One cannot escape Karma, no matter which religion they follow.

The irony is that we can neither escape Karma (Action) or the Law of Karma. Can we escape from action? Every human being has to act - whoever they are and wherever they are. They need to get out of their bed every morning and do something. You can't escape from action. This is also a universal law. But while this is a law, it is not the law that is referred to when we talk of "Karma". Karma has been understood across civilizations, nations and religions as the Law of Action and Reaction or the Law of Cause and Effect.

Peter used to live in a village with his uncle. To explore new opportunities, he left for the city and spent two decades building his career. One day, he returned to visit his uncle, and they took a walk around the farm. "Do you remember, Peter, just a few days before you left, I had asked you to plant a row of apple seeds, all around the edge of the farm?" his uncle asked. "Look at these wonderful trees now. In twenty years they have grown so beautifully." His uncle took him around the entire farm and showed him how well the trees had grown along the border of the farm until they reached the

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