



Karma and Ethics

Introduction to Gnostic Studies



chicago gnosis

“In each moment of your life, you are creating. The human organism is a transformer of forces, and according to your will and your action, those forces are transformed, and those forces produce consequences, results. This is called karma in Sanskrit, from the word *karman*, which means “to act.” Karma is simply the Law of Cause and Effect.

We are not here on this planet to do whatever we want, to just do whatever we please, even though this is the philosophy that our media loves to promote. Our culture loves to tell us that life is just about enjoying all of the pleasures we can, as much as we can, until we die. This is a very convenient lie for those who are benefiting from us behaving in that way, but we do not benefit from this behavior, neither does God, neither does humanity. The evidence is all around us. Because of our behaviors we have created this society. Because of how each of us behaves individually on a day-to-day basis, we have created this world, not God. We have created starvation, poverty, rape, war, nuclear weapons, chemical weapons. We are the ones who created all kinds of cunning ways to cheat one another. We have made all of that because of desire. To change this planet, we have to change ourselves.”

— Gnostic Instructor

Working with Karma: Action and Consequence

Four Rules of Action and Consequence:

1. Actions produce related consequences.
2. The consequences are greater than the actions.
3. You cannot receive the consequence without committing its corresponding action.
4. Once an action is performed, the consequence cannot be erased.

A superior law always overcomes an inferior one.



“We ask for love when we have been merciless and cruel. We demand comprehension when we have never known how to comprehend anyone, when we have never learned to see the other person’s point of view. We long for immense good fortune when we have always been the origin of many misfortunes.

We protest against persons who insult us when we have always insulted everyone who surrounds us. Slander annoys us terribly when we were always slanderers and filled the world with pain.

Gossip upsets us, we do not want anyone to gossip about us, however we were always involved in gossip and backbiting, talking badly about our fellowmen, mortifying the lives of others.

That is, we always demand what we have not given; we were evil and we deserve the worst, but we suppose that we should be given the best.”

—Samael Aun Weor



Ethics: Foundation for Spiritual Development

“Ethics are not just mechanical laws that some external authority is trying to impose upon us. These rules, commandments, or vows have a very specific function, which must be clearly grasped, and that is this: If you perform actions that are harmful, you create disharmony not only in your environment but in your mind. Yet if you follow these ‘observances,’ or positive practices, you create positive energy, not only into your environment, but in your mind. So the purpose of Yama and Niyama or the Commandments of Moses is to stabilize our psychology so that we are no longer vibrating with so much negative emotion.”

—Gnostic Instructor, gnosticteachings.org

Establishing Ethics: Patanjali's *Yoga Sutras*

Yama

- Ahimsa (non-violence)
- Satya (truth)
- Asteya (non-stealing)
- Brahmacharya (chastity)
- Aparigraha (non-avariciousness)

Niyama

- Saucha (purity from desire)
- Santosha (contentment with what one has)
- Tapas (austerities, spiritual practices)
- Svadhyaya (study of scriptures)
- Ishvarapranidhana (continual remembrance of God)



Those who only preoccupy themselves with their own spiritual progress and do not work for others achieve absolutely nothing. Whosoever wants to progress must sacrifice the self for others.

—Samael Aun Weor