Thyaga : 13th Divine quality

Thyaga means renunciation, to give up, to abandon. It is the 13th Divine quality that Krishna enumerates in Chapter 16 Shloka 2.

In the Gita, Lord Krishna says that we should renounce the desire for fruits of action and not action itself. He clearly mandates that one should never give up one’s duties. The word Karma Phala Thyaga is interwoven in Gita at many places and HE insists that one should discharge all his/her duties and responsibilities without any selfish motive and renounce the desire for fruits of action. The true principle of renunciation is to be without false pride, to renounce ego and doership, to surrender to the principle that I am simply the instrument of God and to do the will of God till the last breath. This is the highest renunciation.

In Shloka 2.71 Krishna says,

विहाय कामान्यः सर्वान्पुमांश्चरति निःस्पृहः ।  
निर्ममो निरहङ्कारः स शान्तिमधिगच्छति ॥ 71 ॥

That person attains undisturbed peace of mind who, **renouncing** all worldly desires, conducts the affairs of life without longings, without arrogance and without ego.

In Shloka 12.12 HE says,

श्रेयो हि ज्ञानमभ्यासाज्ज्ञानाद्ध्यानं विशिष्यते ।  
ध्यानात्कर्मफलत्यागस्त्यागाच्छान्तिरनन्तरम् ॥ 12 ॥

Knowledge is superior to practice, contemplation is superior to knowledge, renunciation of outcomes of actions, is superior to contemplation, for peace immediately follows renunciation.

Result of renunciation is peace and everlasting bliss.

Renunciation is not external but internal. It is an attitude of the mind. To imbibe the virtue of renunciation, it is important to cultivate the habit of doing our duties without selfish motives, without expectations, detach ourselves from excessive material possessions, and keep remembering that we are only HIS instruments and accept all outcomes as HIS prasad. Detachment and equanimity of mind are keys to true renunciation.

Swami Sivananda says :

The mind is the all in all. Its mastery leads to the renunciation of all. True renunciation is in the abnegation of the mind. It consists in renouncing all worldly desires and egoism, not world existence. Through such mental abnegation you will be able to free yourself from pain. Renunciation consists of getting rid of all attachment, passion, egoism, infatuation, lust, greed, anger, etc. Vedanta does not want you to renounce the world; it wants you to change your mental attitude. It wants you to give up this illusory feeling of 'I-ness' and 'mine-ness'.

HARI OM TAT SAT!!