

# ***Dharma and Adharma***

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2011-11-15

Source: <http://www.shiningworld.com/site/satsang/read/280>

**Question:** Another thing that came up lately is what might be seen as a contradiction between upholding *dharma* and the notion that in reality there is no right and wrong. When we say there is no right or wrong, no good and evil, we are talking from the self's perspective. So how did the notion of *dharma* come up? Yes, I understand the need for *dharma* – otherwise everything would be pure chaos. So is the discrepancy just another level issue between the self and *maya*? Is *dharma* simply a necessity for *maya*'s sustenance (creation, sustainment, destruction)?

**James:** The self is beyond relative *dharma*, i.e. *dharma* and *adharma* which only applies to *maya*. Yes, the effect of *maya* is a field of laws, the macrocosmic subtle and gross bodies. Know the laws and follow them and you will go straight to *sattva*. Ignore them at your peril. The other dimension to this discussion is the *dharma*, nature, of individuals. This is the imprint of *Isvara* on the psyche. Fail to understand your nature and you will suffer. Follow it and you will succeed.