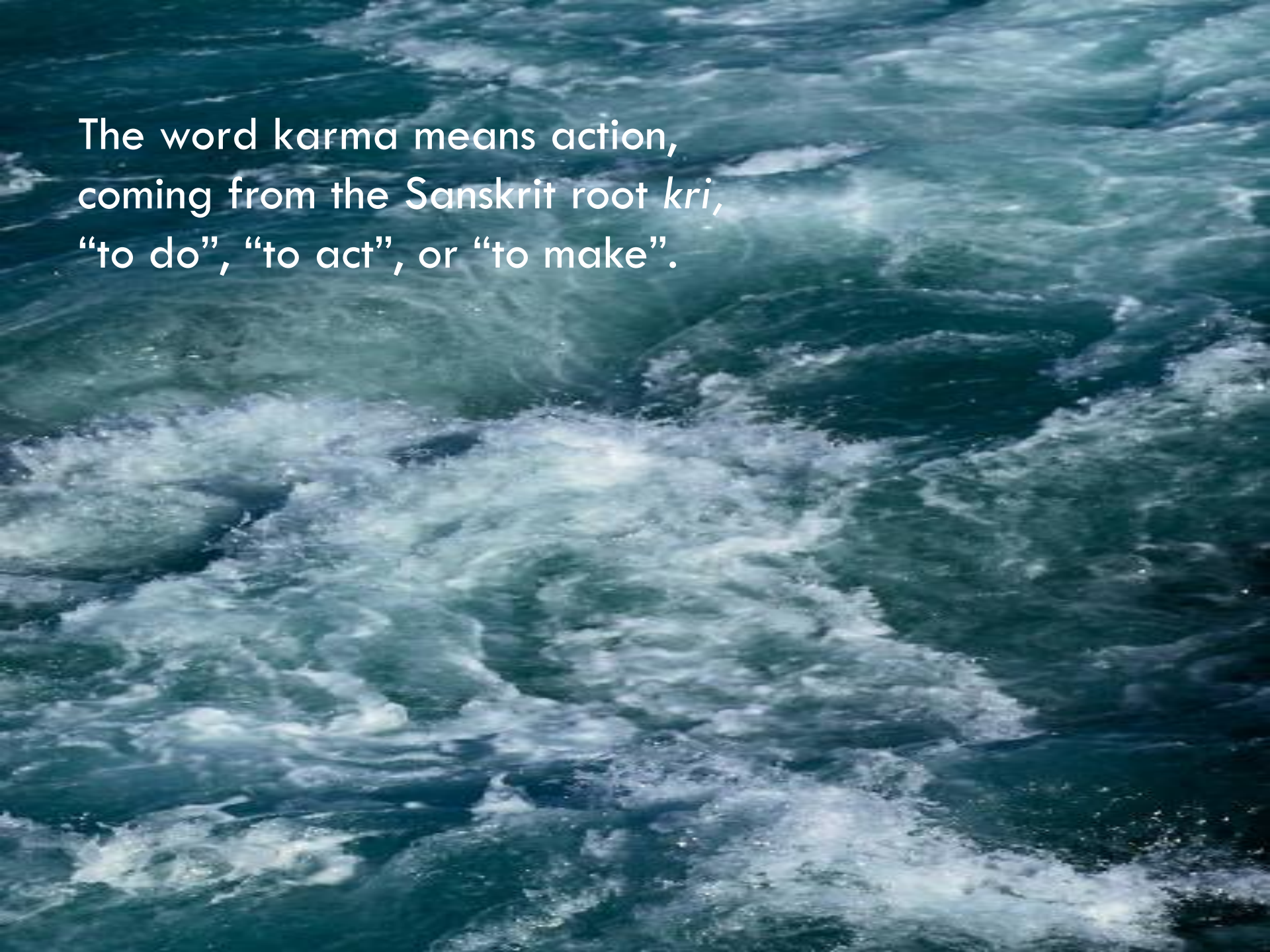


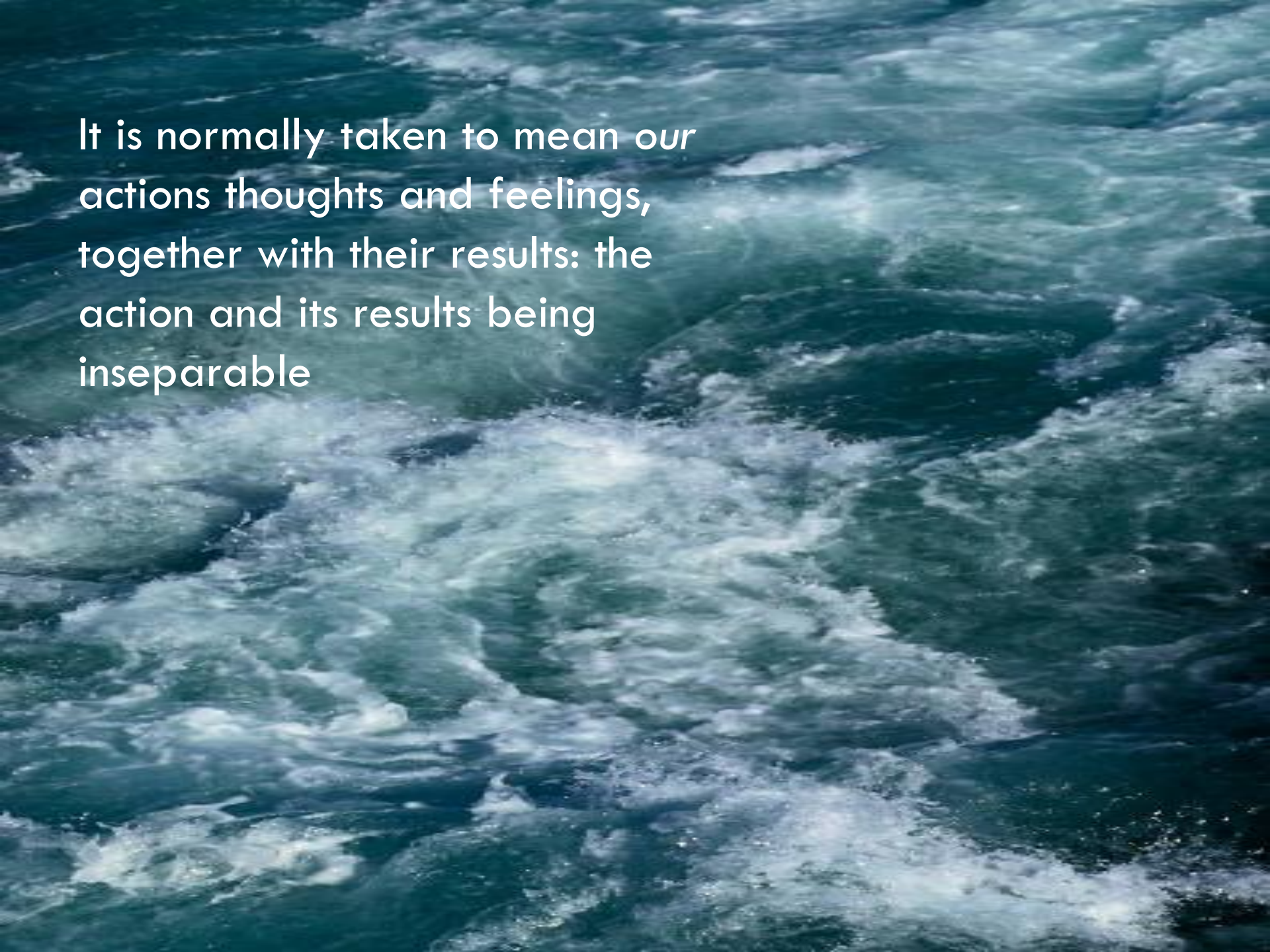


The Doctrine of Karma

Presented by Dara Tatray

An aerial photograph of a river with white-water rapids. The water is a deep teal color, and the rapids are characterized by white foam and turbulent currents. The text is overlaid in the upper left quadrant.

The word karma means action,
coming from the Sanskrit root *kri*,
“to do”, “to act”, or “to make”.

An aerial photograph of a river with white-water rapids. The water is a deep teal color, and the rapids are characterized by white foam and turbulent currents. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

It is normally taken to mean *our*
actions thoughts and feelings,
together with their results: the
action and its results being
inseparable

But karma is also action performed by Nature or Life: every action has results



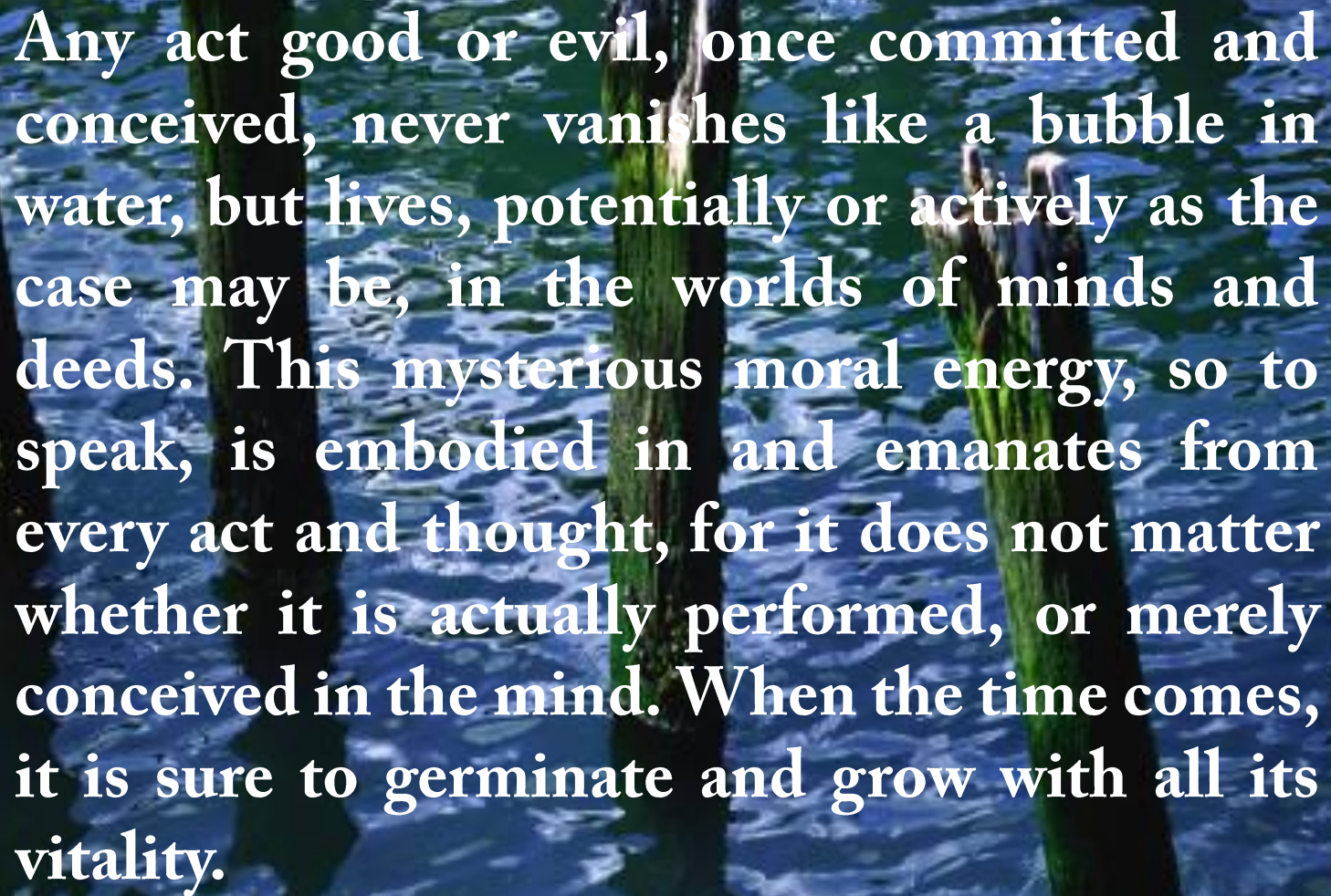
In terms of the Law of Karma and its retributive effect however, motive is the all-important thing. If I visit your home and clumsily spill red wine on your white carpet by accident: that is one thing. If I spill the same wine during a violent outburst: that is quite another, as far as the effects of that action go.





**Our actions, though
apparently
disappearing, remain,
unperceived, and
reappear in their
effects as tendencies**

A Nyāya aphorism




Any act good or evil, once committed and conceived, never vanishes like a bubble in water, but lives, potentially or actively as the case may be, in the worlds of minds and deeds. This mysterious moral energy, so to speak, is embodied in and emanates from every act and thought, for it does not matter whether it is actually performed, or merely conceived in the mind. When the time comes, it is sure to germinate and grow with all its vitality.

(D.T. Suzuki 1907)

Think now of a pond. A stone falls into the water and creates disturbing waves. These waves oscillate backwards and forwards till at last, owing to the operation of what physicists call the law of the dissipation of energy, they are brought to rest, and the water returns to its condition of calm tranquillity.

Similarly *all* action, on every plane, produces disturbance in the balanced harmony of the Universe, and the vibrations so produced will continue to roll backwards and forwards ... till equilibrium is restored.

But since each such disturbance starts from some particular point, it is clear that equilibrium and harmony can only be restored by the reconverging *to that same point* of all the forces which were set in motion from it. And here you have proof that the consequences of a man's deeds, thoughts, etc. must all react upon *himself* with the same force with which they were set in motion.

A satellite image of Earth showing three large, swirling hurricanes over the ocean. The landmasses are visible in shades of green and yellow, while the oceans are dark blue. The hurricanes are bright white and purple, with distinct eye-like centers. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**A knowledge of
karma removes
human experience
from the region of
arbitrary happenings
to the realm of law**

Dhammapadda Twin Verses

All that we are is the result of what we have thought, it is founded on our thoughts, it is made up of our thoughts.

If a man speaks or acts with an evil thought, pain follows him, as the wheel follows the foot of the ox that draws the wagon.



Dhammapadda Twin Verses

All that we are is the result of what we have thought, it is founded on our thoughts, it is made up of our thoughts.

If a man speaks or acts with a pure thought, happiness follows him, like a shadow that never leaves him.



Dhammapadda Twin Verses

“He abused me, he
beat me, he defeated
me, he robbed me” –

in those who harbour
such thoughts hatred
will never cease.

“He abused me, he
beat me, he defeated
me, he robbed me” –

in those who do not
harbour such thoughts
hatred will cease.





There is no such thing as chance or accident: every event is linked to a preceding cause; to a following effect.

From the writings of Annie Besant



**The chains that
bind are of our own
forging**

**Natural laws only lay
down conditions under
which all actions take
place, they do not
determine what actions
we take.**

From the writings of Annie Besant



**It is because
destiny lies in a
realm of law that
we have in our
hands the means to
build our future
characters and
circumstances**

From the writings of Annie Besant

Bon Voyage

