

# Bhagawat Geeta, Class 85: Chapter 6; Verses: 9 and 10

Swamiji summarizes Lord Krishna's discussion thus far:

1. The topic of Bahiranga saadhana. These are the general disciplines to be observed by a person who wants his meditation to be successful.
2. Samatvam (equanimity) as one discipline, the importance of self-confidence, self-effort and self-integration of various personalities (the physical, the psychological, the intellectual). If a person takes care of all these disciplines, then the self-knowledge is very easy.
3. Krishna then mentioned the benefit of gaining the self-knowledge. This comes in the form of a total change of one's perspective of the world. According to Vedanta, the world does not have an intrinsic capacity to bind, to persecute, torment or disturb an individual. The individual gives the power to the world to disturb them. This occurs when a person has an unhealthy perspective of the world. The perspective is in your hands!

Chapter 6 Sloka 9

Chapter 6 Sloka 9

in the goodhearted, in friends, in enemies, in the indifferent, in neutrals, in haters, and in relatives in the righteous also and in the unrighteous one who has equal mind excels.

The yogis look upon all-well-wishers, friends, foes, the pious, and the sinners-with an impartial intellect. The yogi who is of equal intellect toward friend, companion, and foe, neutral among enemies and relatives, and impartial between the

righteous and sinful, is distinguished among humans.

In this verse, Krishna says, not only does a jnaani have samtvam regarding inanimate objects, he has the sama darshanam regarding the living beings as well. Equanimity towards the living beings is more difficult, esp. with human living beings. When we befriend a person, we develop raga, dvesha, krodha, etc. Krishna has given a wide range of human beings.

सर्वज्ञः means by his very nature he is a well-wisher of everyone and will help anyone without any conditions or expectations.

सहजः another good person but this person is a conditional helper – helps only when the other is a known person.

द्वेषी (not seen separately due to the sandhi) means enemy

निर्विकारः: means an indifferent person. He does not harm nor do any good. मध्यस्थः: a mediator.

द्वेषी: one who is hateful; one who provokes hatred by his behavior

संबन्धुः: a relative; connected by family relation.

वैभवंशः: a noble person who follows dharma. श्रेयसाश्रयः means a person doing good to others. A श्रेयसाश्रयः is a person leading a life of values, whether an opportunity arises to help others or not.

अधर्मिणः one who leads a life of अधर्मः – an unrighteous person.

These are the various types of people. A jnaani's attitude towards all of them is equanimity.

How can you see all the people equally when one person is a saint and another a criminal? The सर्वज्ञः must be understood very well. This was discussed in Chapter 5, Verse 18 as सर्वज्ञः सर्वज्ञः सर्वज्ञः |

Swamiji explains सर्वज्ञः again.

Samatvam can be looked at from two angles:

- the philosophical and
- freedom from raga-dvesha.

The philosophical angle means that a jnaani looks at the true nature of everyone. This is the atma-svaroopam. All the differences in character belongs to the anatma or the body-mind complex. Behind this body-mind complex, everyone has only one reality, God! God or atma is uniformly present in everyone; therefore, everyone is innately good. A jnaani's vision is samtvam – that everyone is a beautiful atma.

The other angle of samatvam is that it is freedom from raga and dvesha. Neither attachment nor hatred. Both are forms of dependence. Attachment is the dependence on the presence of an object. Hatred is the dependence upon the absence of the object. A jnaani is samatvam means he doesn't have attachment and hatred. Neither a presence or absence of something or someone affects him.

## Chapter 6 Sloka 10

Yogi should let his mind steady constantly in solitude remaining alone one with the mind and the body controlled free from hope noncovetousness. 6.10

Yogi the Yogi let him keep the mind steady constantly self in solitude remaining alone one with the mind and the body controlled free from hope noncovetousness.

Those who seek the state of Yogi should reside in seclusion, constantly engaged in meditation with a controlled mind and body, getting rid of desires and possessions for enjoyment.

Krishna talks about the Antaranga Saadhanam from Verse 10 to Verse 15. These are specific disciplines to be observed just before meditation (Bahiranga sadhana is observed throughout all our transactions).

Krishna discusses 8 steps/stages in Antaranga saadhana. Meditation will be effective, if these steps are observed.

Stage 1: स्थान नियमः Desha NiyamaH

- स्थानम् a secluded place of meditation with minimum disturbances.
- स्थानम् alone; try to be alone.
- Let the place be spiritually and physically clean. The space should be associated with spirituality; puja room, temple, ashrama etc.

Stage 2: काल नियमः Kaala NiyamaH (Krishna does not mention this).

- कालम् Early morning is ideal for meditation. But the ideal time for meditation is when you are relaxed and not sleepy.

Stage 3: आसनम् Aasana

- आसनम् where should you be seated? You can sit on a chair if you are not able to sit on the floor. The main aim is the mind!
- Every meditator should have his/her own aasanam. It should be neither too soft nor too hard. Neither too high nor too low.

Stage 4: शरीर स्थितिः Shareera SthitaH; Posture of the body

- You should sit steadily; Keep the neck and head straight and relaxed

Stage 5: प्राणसायम् Praanasaamyam

- Even breathing. The breathing should be relaxed and smooth.

Breathing and our thoughts are interconnected.

Stage 6: इन्द्रिय निग्रहः Indriya NigrahaH; Sensory restraint

- Sense organs can influence the mind since every sense organ is a gateway in which the world enters the mind.
- Krishna says to withdraw the sense organs by turning the mind away.
- Krishna specifically mentions the eyes – the most powerful sense organs. If the eyes are open, all the things seen enter the mind and triggers the thoughts to wander. When the eyes are closed, by laws of association, we tend to sleep. Krishna says, let the eyes be half-closed, as though you are looking at the tip of your nose.

Stage 7: मनुः मनुनिग्रहः Mano NigrahaH; Withdrawal of the mind

- The mind must be withdrawn from mundane things; all the worldly roles you play in life as husband/wife/neighbor/mother etc. Each role has its set of anxieties and worries.
- For 15 minutes, shed all your roles. Become a sanyasi mentally. Relate to God or your Guru. These are the two relationships that have no problems.

Invoke the Guru. By law of association, you are reminded of the teachings. The relationship to the guru is in the context of teaching. Withdraw your mind; surrender to the Lord.

Stage 8: बुद्धिः बुद्धिनिश्चयः Buddhi NishchayaH

- Conviction regarding the necessity and utility of meditation. It should not be a mechanical routine. Need to meditate whole-heartedly, knowing the role of meditation.

With this conviction, sit in meditation, withdraw the sense organs; withdraw the mind. Now, you are fully available for meditation. These 8 steps are not meditation but specific preparation, called antaranga saadhanaani. The details will be discussed in the next class.

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# Bagawat Geeta, Class 57

Chapter 4 Sloka 10

freed from attachment, fear and anger  
absorbed in Me taking refuge in Me  
many by the fire of knowledge purified  
My Being have attained.

freed from attachment, fear and anger  
absorbed in Me taking refuge in Me  
many by the fire of knowledge purified  
My Being have attained.

Freed from attachment, fear and anger, absorbed in Me, taking refuge in Me, purified by the fire of knowledge, many have attained to My Being.

In Verse 10, Krishna talks about the spiritual disciplines followed by the people of the past. He talks about the various stages that one goes through.

Obsessed with the thought of Me (God). Keeping Godhood as the primary goal of life. It is an obsession born out of intense yearning; the obsession is Godhood – the primary goal. From the Vedantic angle, Godhood is nothing but our own higher, superior or healthy nature. Vedanta presents God as an external goal but ultimately Godhood is my own secure, healthy, full, contented self symbolized as God. So, that they are tired of their own mental sickness in the form of raga, dvesha, kama, krodha, that they want to convert that sick mind into a mind of compassion and a mind of love and security. This inner conversion is called attainment of Godhood.

This is not an easy task. No doubt your effort is a must, but it should also be backed by Ishvara anugraha. This is

indicated in the words **शुद्धे चित्तं** taking refuge in Me or surrendering unto Me. With determination, there is appropriate use of freewill. **शुद्धे चित्तं** corresponds to our freewill and **शुद्धे चित्तं** corresponds to Ishvara anugraha.

Once these two are there, you are ready for the journey but what is the direction? **शुद्धे चित्तं** you should learn to handle these inborn weaknesses that are in the form of raga, bhayam and krodha.

According to Vedanta, the world is neither a source of joy nor a source of sorrow. I, myself, am the source of joy and sorrow. An intelligent person will understand that the problem is within them and this leads to having raga and dvesha being managed. **शुद्धे चित्तं** one who handles (raga and dvesha); not a slave of likes and dislikes. The first direction is to manage raga-dvesha. Convert all desires into non-binding desires. Consequent to this is **शुद्धे चित्तं** wherever there is attachment, there is fear. KrodhaH is the result of obstructed desires. The anger is directed at the person who has thwarted the desire. Anger is also directly proportional to the attachment. Raga-dvesha-krodha-bhayam all go together. The first stage in spirituality is learning to handle them. This can be handled by the wisdom of knowing that I am a contributor not a controller of future events.

If this understanding is not there, the next method is devotion or surrendering to the Lord. Oh Lord, the future is not in my control. At least give me sufficient strength to face the inevitable. As Krishna has said in Chapter 2, Verse 27, 2<sup>nd</sup> line: An intelligent person is prepared for the inevitable or choicelessness. Take the help of the Lord.

Either rely on yourself through wisdom or rely on God through surrender to handle intense attachment/hatred/fear/anger. The one who has mastered this is called **शुद्धे चित्तं** |

Once the mind is purified and is no longer a slave of these

four, it is only a pure mind. It is not yet a wise mind. Karma yoga can only give you purity but not wisdom. So, having handled the raga-dvesha of the mind, you have to separately work for knowledge. Krishna calls this `□□□□□□□□` because this is a type of austerity. To come regularly to Gita class, to remember, study and progress, etc. requires austerity.

By the practice of `□□□□□□□□` , `□□□□□` got completely purified. Handling the raga-dvesha is only partial purification. Handling the kama-krodha is also only partial purification. You have to remove the basic impurity of self-ignorance for complete purification. Krishna says that by the practice of jnaana yoga, they rid themselves of the final layer of impurity. Grosser method is used to remove the grosser impurity and subtler method for removing the subtler impurity and the subtlest method to remove the subtlest impurity. It has to follow the stages in order.

The grossest impurity is raga-dvesha, the first layer called malam.

The subtler impurity is extrovertedness, the second layer called vikshepa.

The finest impurity is ajnaanam, the third layer called aavaranam

Malam is likes and dislikes.

Vikshepa is the wandering mind which is subtler.

Self-ignorance is the subtlest one.

We have to use three processes in the appropriate order to remove the three different types of impurities.

Karma yoga removes malam.

Upaasanam removes vikshepa.



Jnaana yoga removes aavaranam.

Therefore, many people have totally purified themselves by finally practicing the jnaana yoga. By removing all the impurities, they found they discovered that "I minus impurities" is God. God plus impurity is I, the jeevaatma. Jeevaatma minus impurity is Paramaatma. Paramaatma plus impurity is jeevaatma.

So, Arjuna, you also have to go through these four stages:

Spiritual goal must become top priority. The material goals need not be eliminated but they should be remembered as subservient to spiritual goals. This is setting direction in life.

Resorting or taking the help of the Lord in this grand journey because you can never travel this individually. Surrender to the Lord.

Purification of the mind by reducing the impact of raga-dvesha-bhaya-krodha.

Study the scriptures and gain self-knowledge.

Arjuna, many have done this and you can too.

Chapter 4 Sloka 11

Who who in whatever way Me approach them so even reward I My path follow men 0 Partha in all ways.

Who who in whatever way Me approach them so even reward I My path follow men 0 Partha in all ways.

In whatever way people surrender unto me, I reciprocate with them accordingly. Everyone follows my path, knowingly or unknowingly, 0 son of Pritha.

Krishna gives the suggestion that spiritual goal must be the primary goal but He says that He doesn't want to impose this goal upon you. Not everyone may be interested in spirituality or in attaining moksha. Krishna says "I suggest and recommend to you that moksha is a worthwhile goal". Krishna's philosophy is "As a person seeks, so I will bless him".

Let any seeker approach Me with any desire. Let a person seek anything and I will help him. The only condition is for the desires to be legitimate and the means of accomplishing them to also be legitimate. Enjoy life following the rule of dharma. In fact, enjoyment is part of life and then to finally grow out of it. Otherwise it can lead to suppression.

I will approach them only with the object they desire. As Vivekananda has said, to a hungry person, the Lord should approach with food. Let a poor person seek money. And for a moksha seeker, Bhagavan will give moksha.

Why do I bless them with all these goals?

Because all my devotees approach me through appropriate effort (like puja, karma, japa, upasana).

they have come in the proper method.

Chapter 4 Sloka 12

4.12

those who long for success of actions sacrifice in this world quickly because success is attained born of action.

In this world, those desiring success in material activities

worship the celestial gods, since material rewards manifest quickly.

Krishna says I have presented two paths in the Vedic scriptures.

The first path is karma maarga – a life of activity; a life of effort where you go through certain processes. The second path of jnaana maarga is presented in the final part of the Veda (called Veda-anta).

Krishna presents both paths which produce the end. The difference in the result is that all the results of karma are finite in nature and it's full of defects.

Accomplishment is a pain, preservation is a greater pain, and the final loss is the greatest pain. Any amount of accomplishment will not give satisfaction; they will become more dependent on the external factors. These are all defects of karmaphalam.

Krishna says in this sloka, कर्मफलं प्राप्नुयान् कर्मणः फलं प्राप्नुयान् many people are interested only in karma phalam, the finite results or dharmarthakaamaa. Both the finite and infinite are available for human beings but the intelligent ones choose the infinite whereas the unintelligent or mandaH chooses the finite. Krishna says कर्मणोऽपि फलं प्राप्नुयान् कर्मणोऽपि फलं प्राप्नुयान् they seek finite results. And once you choose karma phalam, the Vedic rituals are elaborate. It specifies that you should go to that temple, you should offer this item and on certain days; numerous conditions and if you fulfill all these conditions, you may get the result (it's not definite).

कर्मणोऽपि फलं प्राप्नुयान् they go after varieties of Deities. Why?

कर्मणोऽपि फलं प्राप्नुयान् कर्मणोऽपि फलं प्राप्नुयान् because the karma phalam is quicker compared to jnaana marga. In jnaana marga, jnaana phalam is quicker – the result of knowledge is very quick (getting knowledge is very easy) but preparation for knowledge

is a tough job. Like a wedding which takes place in one day but the preparation for it starts months ahead. Similarly, jnaanam only requires one statement. "I am what I am seeking". Drop seeking and own up your true nature. This alone is Vedanta. But for this statement to work, (Swamiji recites Chapter 6, Verse 45, 2<sup>nd</sup> line:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ 45 ॥

you have to start from many janmas before.

Krishna says ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ people are not interested in purification which takes a lot of time. They are interested only in the limited fruits of action.

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय Chapter 4 Sloka 13

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ 4.13 ॥

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय the fourfold caste ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय be Me ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय has been created ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय according to the differentiation of Guna and Karma ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय thereof ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय the author ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय also ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय Me ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय know ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय nondoer ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय immutable.

The four categories of occupations were created by me according to people's qualities and activities. Although I am the creator of this system, know me to be the non-doer and eternal.

Krishna says by following the prescribed lifestyle, a person can accomplish both material and spiritual end. Normally, spiritual and material ends are diagonally opposite but Bhagavan says the He has designed a unique lifestyle by which a person can accomplish both the spiritual end and material ends. This should be such a lifestyle that a person must be able to fulfill materialistic desires. Vedic lifestyle

encourages one to fulfill their desires. While fulfilling these desires, it presents certain disciplines to be followed. If you fulfill your materialistic desires following the Vedic discipline, the beauty is that you gradually grow out of these materialistic desires without suppression. And in that place, you discover the spiritual desire as the most natural one. And you discover this desire to such an extent that the pursuit of spiritual desire will not be considered as a denial of materialistic desires. So, when you come to spirituality, you will not miss anything in life. This gradual conversion must take place. Such a life design is the Vedic life design called varnaashrama dharma.

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## **Bagawat Geeta, Class 56**

In the beginning of Chapter 4, Lord Krishna talked about the glory of the Gita as vedasaarah and that He alone taught the Vedic wisdom in the beginning of creation and is teaching the same Vedic wisdom now, in the name of Gita.

Upon hearing this, Arjuna has a doubt due to the teacher being the same with a great gap in time. Lord Krishna introduces the topic of avatara to answer this question. He says "I am the original Vishnu who gave out the Vedic wisdom then, and that Vishnu is now in the form of Bhagavan Krishna". Not only is the Lord teaching now but he says I am aware of the fact that I am Bhagavan. I alone have taken all the janmas as Matsya, Kurma, Varaha, etc. I have now taken Krishna shariram. I know all my previous avataras, therefore I am Bhagavan Vishnu's avatara.

Both the avatara and the jeeva-janma take a body. However, there are fundamental differences between the two in the



Krishna says here, as a sthiti karta of the universe, I will come. Not very often but whenever there is a declension of dharma. And naturally, when the adharma, corruption increases. Then, I myself will consciously, deliberately, voluntarily, take the body.

#### Chapter 4 Sloka 8

for the protection of the good for the destruction of the wicked for the establishment of righteousness (I) am born in every age.

For the protection of the good, for the destruction of the wicked and for the establishment of righteousness, I am born in every age.

How will the Lord protect dharma and destroy adharma? Krishna says that dharma is protected by protecting the people who follow dharma. Therefore, Krishna says, – I take an avatara to protect the dharmic people. How is adharma destroyed? Only by destroying the people that are the cause of adharma.

We should note that the adharmic people can be destroyed in two ways.

One method is by converting them from adharma to dharma by sama, dana, bheda. When you convert a person from adharma to dharma without doing himsa, you have destroyed the adharmic person. The second is by destroying the adharmic person itself. Bhagavan tries this first, giving them sufficient opportunity to change. Krishna goes as a messenger to





My birth and action and My divine nature thus who knows in true light having abandoned the body again birth not gets to Me comes he 0 Arjuna.

He who thus know, in their true light, My divine birth and action, having abandoned the body, is not born again, he comes to Me, 0 Arjuna.

In this verse, Krishna tells, knowing the nature of God also leads to liberation.

However, Krishna had mentioned that atmajnaanam is the means of liberation in Chapter 2, Verse 55. Which actually leads to liberation? Are there two paths? Is there a choice?

The scriptures have mentioned that there is only one means of liberation. Therefore, it must be that self-realization and God-realization are identical. Swamiji gives an example of a wave. When a wave knows its true nature, the realization is that it is water. The ocean's true nature is also water.

Therefore, whether you talk about the true nature of the wave or the true nature of the ocean, the true nature is one alone; there is only one central truth. Similarly, whether you realize your true nature which is the self or whether you realize the true nature of God, you arrive at one "sat chit Ananda svaroopam".

If a person says, I have realized the self but not God or vice versa; it means he knows neither God nor the self.

Krishna says in this verse, suppose a person knows or realizes, or understands the true nature of my avatara. The true nature is that Krishna shariram is not the real Krishna because Krishna shariram is subject to arrival and departure.

Real Krishna is, as we saw in Verse 6:

शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं शरीरं |

शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं शरीरं || 6||

Real Krishna is **शरीरं** (birth less), **जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** (imperishable) real Krishna is free from birth and death; whereas Krishna shariram is subject to arrival and departure.

What is the real Krishna? Not the shariram but the Krishna Paramaatma behind the body. The one who knows this fact, and **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** the one who knows Bhagavan's sports (the divine sport is **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** from Chapter 4, Verse 8); the one who really understands the Lord, **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** means in His true nature... **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** that person does not take a body again after death; he will attain liberation. So, the knowledge of the real Krishna will lead to liberation. What is liberation? **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** he will become one with Me. After death, he will have **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** or **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** |

शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं

### Chapter 4 Sloka 10

शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं शरीरं  
शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं शरीरं 4.10

**शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** freed from attachment fear and anger **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** absorbed in Me **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** Me **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** taking refuge in **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** many **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** by the fire of knowledge **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** purified **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** My Being **शरीरं जन्ममृत्योरुत्थं** have attained.

Freed from attachment, fear and anger, absorbed in Me, taking refuge in Me, purified by the fire of knowledge, many have attained to My Being.

Realization of God has two stages.

First it is the realization of the Lord with a form.

The next is the realization of the Lord without a form.

This topic will be elaborated from Chapter 7 onwards.

The realization of the Lord with a form is in two stages.

One is appreciating the Lord with one form, as Rama or as Krishna or as Devi. We should all start with this for emotional health. Talk to God privately, as your confidante. The more you build this relationship, the more the Lord will become real. Then expand it further into realizing Bhagavan as One with the whole universe as his form. The final stage is the formless Ishvara. Every one has to go through these three stages, as they mature in their understanding.

The stages a seeker goes through is described in this sloka.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ the first stage is to have realization of God in form and follow karma yoga by dedicating all your duties to the Lord and by accepting all situations as Ishvara prasada. The first stage is to surrender to Ishvara and converting the life into worship. By following a karma yoga way of life, we will purify the mind. This will result in getting rid of certain unhealthy ways of thinking. The mental impurities are of raga, bhaya and krodha. Raga is attachment. The attachment will gradually be shifted from the risky and fluid world to the permanently and secure God. The second stage is going from world dependence to God dependence. The raga or attachment to the world has shifted to attachment to Bhagavan. Then Bhagavan dependence will be converted into self-dependence. From world dependence to God dependence to self-dependence – where you discover the Bhagavan as the very self. When raga comes down, bhayam also comes down because fear is directly proportional to the attachment. Then krodha also will come down.

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# Bagahwat Geeta, Class 55

In Chapter 2, Krishna gave a gist of Karma Yoga and Jnana Yoga.

In Chapter 3, Karma Yoga was elaborated.

In Chapters 4 and 5, Jnana Yoga is elaborated.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter is the “jnana yoga pradhana”. There is a small diversion in the first 8 verses before diving into jnaana yoga. In the first three verses, Lord Krishna glorifies this knowledge consisting of Karma Yoga and Jnana Yoga. The very essence of karma and jnana has already been taught in Veda at the beginning of the creation and this was received by Surya Bhagavan. This same wisdom is revived again in the name Gita. Veda was received by Surya Bhagavan and Gita is received by Arjuna. Therefore, it is an ancient and time-tested wisdom making it a reliable and a valid one.

Arjuna has a doubt about the timeline between creation and his current time. The times are different by few millennia, students are different yet the teacher is the same!

Krishna says in Chapter 4, Sloka 1:

मया तदात्मना कथितं तदात्मना कथितं वाच्यं । (मया कथितं तदात्मना I taught)

And now also, Chapter 4, Sloka 3:

मया कथितं तदात्मना कथितं तदात्मना कथितं वाच्यं । (मया कथितं तदात्मना taught by Me).

Arjuna asks “Your birth is recent but your initial student’s birth was too long ago. How can a recent person teach an ancient student?”

Krishna answers Arjuna from Verse 5 though Verse 8.



Because of karma, there is the problem of punyam and paapam.

Because of punyam and paapam, there is the janma.

The birth of a jeeva is due to ignorance, so we can call this as a "fall of a jeeva".

In the case of Ishvara, His birth takes place never because of. It is because of His omniscience. Because of the knowledge alone, Bhagavan chooses to appear on Earth. This is knowledge and compassion based. Avatara means coming down out of compassion. There is a difference between falling into a well (helpless phenomenon) and going down the well. kaaraNa bheda is the first difference.

SECOND: the nature; svaroopam is different; "svaroopam bheda".

Since jeeva-janma is because of ignorance, jeeva continues to be a samsaari. He is a bound person, born with sorrow. He is helpless, not a master of himself. Janma is samsaaraH.

Since Ishvara avatara is backed by knowledge, it is nitya mukta svaroopam or asamsaari.

Jeeva is samsaari while Avatara is asamsaari.

Another technical difference that Krishna points out is that all the bodies are made up of matter whether it is manushya shariram or avatara shariram. But the scriptures say that there is a difference between the two sharirams. The jeeva shariram is not directly born out of prakriti or maya. Jeeva shariram is indirectly born out of maya. Maya or prakriti gets converted into five elements called pancha bhutani and these five elements get converted into paancha bhoutika shariram. Thus maya does not directly produce the body (jeeva shariram) but it produces through the five elements alone. Jeeva shariram is called paancha bhoutika shariram. From maya to bhutaas to the physical body.

In the case of Ishvara avatara, the maya does not go through

the intermediary stage of five elements. Maya directly gets converted into Ishvara avatara shariram. Avatara shariram is called mayika shariram. From maya to the physical body.

So the second difference is in the nature of jeeva shariram and avatara shariram.

Jeeva shariram is bound or samsaari shariram; paancha bhoutika shariram.

Avatara shariram is free or asamsaari shariram; mayika shariram.

This is the svaroopā bheda.

THIRD: the purpose; “karya” or “udheshya bheda”.

When a jeeva is born, it is purely to exhaust the punyam and paapam, which have been acquired in the past, called prarabdha. The prarabdha has to be exhausted. Prarabdha punyam is exhausted through sukham and prarabdha paapam is exhausted through dukham. To experience pleasure and pain, we require the body medium. It is the prarabdha that determines the type of the body for exhausting punya-paapa. The very design of the body is for the purpose of punya-paapa exhaustion. The purpose of jeeva-janma is for the depletion of punyam and paapam.

What is the purpose of an avatara? Avatara is not ignorant, not a samsaari, and does not suffer from the problem of ego. Since there is no ego, there is no question of punyam or paapam. Therefore, Ishvara does not need to take an avatara to exhaust punya-paapa.

Krishna tells an avatara’s purpose in Chapter 4, Verse 8:

शरीरं कर्तुं यत्प्रयत्नं तद्विनाशायै तदात्मने ।

शरीरं कर्तुं यत्प्रयत्नं तद्विनाशायै तदात्मने ॥ ८ ॥

To protect the righteous, to annihilate the wicked, and to reestablish the principles of dharma I appear on this earth, age after age.

Ishvara Avatara's purpose is for the protection of dharma and destruction of adharma by protecting the dharmic people and destroying the adharmic people. This is why the very nature of avatara shariram is designed for protecting the people and establishing dharma. The design is determined by the type of protection that is required. Before every avatara comes, there is a portion in the Puranas, where all the noble people pray to the Lord to save them from some rakshasa (Hiranyakashipu, Ravana, etc). Rama Avatara's purpose was destruction of Ravana. The design of the body depends upon the situation.

Ravana's peculiar boon is that he cannot be killed by anyone or anything, except he didn't include humans, out of over-confidence. So, if Ravana had to be destroyed, Bhagavan's avatara had to be human. Hence the design of the body is determined by the purpose of the avatara. When the atrocities were done by Hiranyakashipu, the design for the avatara had to fit the loop holes of his boon. He could not be killed by humans nor animals nor any weapons; and not during the day nor night. The avatara was Narasimha with sharp nails.

In summary: the difference between janma and avatara:

Cause: kaaraNa bheda – ajnaanam vs jnaanam

Nature: svaroopA bheda – samsaari vs asamsaari

Purpose: udheshya bheda – depletion of punya-paapa vs protection of dharma

Krishna tells in this sloka that since avatara is not restricted by ignorance, the avataras know the past, present and future. Krishna says that He knows all his previous incarnations. However, in the case of jeeva-janma, since ignorance limits the jeeva, the jeeva cannot know the past



janmas.

How do you know if one is avatara or janma? We really don't have a method of knowing. We accept one as avatara wherever there is scriptural support ie. Rama is an avatara as written in the scriptures. If it is not mentioned in the scriptures, we cannot prove is one is an avatara or janma. It then becomes our personal belief.

If you consider people with extraordinary powers to be an avatara; then rakshasas will also fall under this. Having extraordinary powers is not proof that this person is an avatara.

Limitations does not disprove avatara. Certain avataras showed limitations. For example, Rama, who is accepted as an avatara, had several natural limitations. It is one's personal belief to accept someone as an avatara even with limitations and not accept someone with extraordinary powers as an avatara.

One consolation is that we do not need to know if one is an avatara or not for our spiritual growth. We need purity of mind! To attain purity of mind, worshipping any form of God is good enough.

The next thing required for spiritual growth is knowledge. This requires a Guru; who need not be an avatara. Even if an avatara has to bless, the blessing can be only by becoming a Guru. Krishna can never give moksha to Arjuna by any method other than by being his Guru.

Swamiji recites from Dhyana Slokas:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ।

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ।

And

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ।

Therefore, for knowledge we don't require an avatara. Nor for knowledge. There may or may not be an avatara right now. I may be willing to accept someone as an avatara. The important aspect is to purify, know and be free.

We all uniformly accept Krishna as an avatara. Krishna says, "Arjuna, I am an avatara, different from you. My cause of birth is knowledge, my nature is moksha, my purpose is moksha (Chapter 4, Verse 8). This is the topic of avatara given in this portion.

With this background, let's look at Verse 5.

Krishna says, Hey Arjuna, Many janmas have gone by for you. I have also taken many sharirams. The number of sharirams does not prove superiority. So what is the difference between you and me? I continue to be a free person; a therefore I know all the past sharirams. What about you? You do not know your past sharirams. O Parantapa (Arjuna).

Chapter 4 Sloka 6

Though I am unborn, of imperishable nature, and though I am the Lord of all beings, yet, governing My own Nature, I am born by My own Maya.

Chapter 4 Sloka 6

Though I am unborn, of imperishable nature, and though I am the Lord of all beings, yet, governing My own Nature, I am born by My own Maya.

Though I am unborn, of imperishable nature, and though I am the Lord of all beings, yet, governing My own Nature, I am born by My own Maya.

Krishna talks about the nature of the avatara.

Though I am unborn, of imperishable nature, and though I am the Lord of all beings, yet, governing My own Nature, I am born by My own Maya.

I know that I am birth less Brahman; I know my nature. I know I am birthless reality and this shariram is a simple `शरीर` (assumed appearance) I have put on for a certain purpose. I know I am `जन्म` meaning `न` `जन्म` `शरीर` `शरीर` (no birth). `अमर` `अमर` I am of changeless nature, not subject to decay and death; `शरीर` `शरीर` (devoid of old age and death).

`जन्म` means `जन्म` `मरण` and `अमर` means `अमर` `अमर` | Not only am I free from birth and death, `अमर` `अमर` | I am the master of all living beings. I am not a limited entity but I am `अमर` – I am the master. I have not helplessly come down to this world, I have chosen to come.

How do I manage to come down? `अमर` `अमर` – by keeping the prakriti, the matter, the material body under my control I am born. I am surrounded by matter; just as the jeeva also is surrounded by matter. The difference, however, is that I am the master of the matter whereas the jeeva is the slave of the matter (or shariram). Both the avatara (Bhagavan) and the jeeva are surrounded by the body-mind complex (`शरीर`) but Bhagavan is in control of the body-mind complex whereas the jeeva is controlled by the body-mind complex.

`जन्म` `जन्म` I take a body. How? `अमर` with the help of maya tattvam; by producing `शरीर` `शरीर` | This means that I don't require the five elements. Instead from maya I can directly convert into the shariram. This is why Bhagavan does not require the regular process of creation. Even `अमर` in case of Rama avatara is not the regular process. This is why it is said that the Lord entered into the garbha. In the case of Narasimha avatara, etc., there is no question of a father or mother. From where did the body come? They appear in full-fledged form. How is this possible? It is because of direct conversion of maya, otherwise called `अमर` | Therefore, Krishna says `अमर` `अमर` | And when do I take an avatara? See Sloka 7.

`अमर` Chapter 4 Sloka 7

ॐ धर्मो रक्षति अर्धं अधर्मो रक्षति ॥  
ॐ धर्मो रक्षति अर्धं अधर्मो रक्षति ॥4.7॥

ॐ धर्मो रक्षति अर्धं अधर्मो रक्षति ॥  
decline ॐ धर्मो रक्षति अर्धं अधर्मो रक्षति ॥  
of unrighteousness ॐ धर्मो रक्षति अर्धं अधर्मो रक्षति ॥  
manifest ॐ धर्मो रक्षति अर्धं अधर्मो रक्षति ॥ I.

Whenever there is decline of righteousness, O Arjuna, and rise of unrighteousness, then I manifest Myself.

The purpose of the avatara is explained in this verse.

ॐ धर्मो रक्षति अर्धं अधर्मो रक्षति ॥ | Whenever dharma declines, values decline. ॐ धर्मो रक्षति अर्धं अधर्मो रक्षति ॥ | And ॐ धर्मो रक्षति अर्धं अधर्मो रक्षति ॥ | whenever adharma increases, unrighteousness and corruption increases. ॐ धर्मो रक्षति अर्धं अधर्मो रक्षति ॥ | Then, I create myself. I choose whenever it is required.

From a scientific viewpoint, the world can be compared to human body, a cosmic body. Like a body or an organism, it functions in harmony. Any harmonious system, will have its own intrinsic protection device. Our body has built in self protection. Suppose something enters your nostril, you sneeze automatically. The sneeze is involuntary; it is intrinsically built into the system. A natural system has natural protection. This faculty will not be operative all the time (like sneezing). ॐ धर्मो रक्षति अर्धं अधर्मो रक्षति ॥ whenever the system's harmony is disturbed, the system itself produces an appropriate remedy. The universe is a cosmic system, the Bhagavan's shariram, and whenever there is a disturbance, the world itself will find an appropriate method of defending the dharma. It will become active whenever it is required. The avatara is like the immunity system of the universe, the cosmic immunity system. Whenever it is required, an avatara will automatically happen.

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# Baghawat Geeta, Class 11

Lecture 11 Notes : Bhagavad Gita Chapter 1 Summary 1/09/16

Swamiji gives a Summary of Chapter 1 and an Introduction to Chapter 2.

Summary of Chapter 1

To live a healthy life – consider these 2 factors:

1. The surroundings should be hygienic so that it doesn't cause diseases. This is an external factor; objective factor (the environment)
2. A person's body must have sufficient resistance to face the external world; build up immunity in your body. Subjective factor (immunity)

In addition to having a sterilized environment for surgery, the patient also needs to resistance. All vitals conditions are checked in order to proceed with the surgery. A physically healthy life depends on objective and subjective factors. The environment alone is not responsible for giving you the disease. You also have low immunity to catch it.

This same principle can be extended for mental health as well. Mental health means a mind free from all psychological diseases in the form of fear, anxiety, stress, strain, worry, jealousy, anger, inferiority complex (Kama, kroda, lobha, moha, madha, maatsarya are all psychological diseases). We have a tendency to blame the external factors ie. the world is responsible for my worry, my spouse is responsible for my tension, etc. Scriptures point out that we need to consider two factors for mental health. The external world is not totally responsible for my psychological problem. The weakness of the mind is also responsible for our psychological problem.

For a healthy life the environment and sufficient resistance are needed. For a healthy mental life (a secure, relaxed, happy life), you need to consider the environment and having sufficient mental strength to face the situation.

There are three benefits of having a strong mind. The number of psychological problems:

- frequency is less (thus family is saved)
- intensity of anger, frustration is less.
- duration of these are also less

The frequency, intensity and duration of these mental diseases are less in a healthy mind. The after effect is also less. So, a psychological healthy, happy life requires taking care of

1. adjusting the external conditions
2. improving one's own resistance

We usually only look into the external conditions. Vedanta talks about the subjective factor – your own inner strength. This freedom from mental diseases caused by external factors, is called mokshaH.

Swamiji recites from Chapter 2, Verse 56:

ॐ कर्मणो भक्त्यर्पणमवाप्तये ॥ २.५६ ॥

ॐ कर्मणो भक्त्यर्पणमवाप्तये ॥ २.५६ ॥

Lord Krishna says a jnani, a free person, also faces adversities but his resistance is very healthy and thus he is not shattered to handle this problem.

The subject matter of Gita is to strengthen the inner resistance (not change the external world) to obtain freedom from psychological disturbance. This is called mokshaH. Gita is also called "Moksha shaastram". Gita is meant for people who recognize that they have to improve their resistance (being aware of their psychological weakness, their

susceptibility to raga, dvesha, kama, kroda, etc and being aware of its affects on other people too).

Chapter 1 of Gita gives an introduction with Arjuna discovering that he has an inner weakness. And before he can change the world, he needs to strengthen himself. Arjuna discovers his weakness, and becomes a spiritual seeker, surrendering to Lord Krishna. Lord Krishna then gives him self knowledge. .

The first chapter can be divided into five parts:

1. Part 1: Vyasa presents the context, in which Arjuna feels the disease of samsaara; Verses 1-20

The context is the MB battlefield. In Kurukshetra, the Pandavas and Kauravas have gathered to settle their issue. Arjuna is very clear about the battle, he does not have any conflict or guilt because this war was the last resort after unsuccessful non-violent methods. Lord Krishna also goes as a messenger and tries to settle peacefully. But Duryodana tries to kill Lord Krishna even though he is just a messenger. Therefore, Arjuna, has come to the battlefield without any regrets. Duryodana enumerates the Pandavas' army and his won army to Drona. And he betrays his diffidence that the Pandava army is stronger. This is caused by adharma. In reality, Duryodana's army is stronger but the support of Dharma is not there. Seeing this, Bhishma enthuses Duryodana by blowing his conch. Then both sides blow the conches signaling the beginning of the MB battle.

1. Part 2: Arjuna goes near the Kaurava army to see them at closer range. Verse 21-25

Arjuna feels somehow that he should closely see whom he has to fight. This decision was a blessing in disguise even though it seemed it was not a good decision to delay the start of the battle. If this hadn't occurred, we would not have the Bhagavad Gita.

Swamiji recites Verse 20 and the first line of Verse 21:

॥ अर्जुन उवाच ॥ द्रुपदो वीर्यवान् द्रुपदो वीर्यवान् ॥

॥ अर्जुन उवाच ॥ द्रुपदो वीर्यवान् द्रुपदो वीर्यवान् ॥ 1.20 ॥

॥ अर्जुन उवाच ॥ द्रुपदो वीर्यवान् द्रुपदो वीर्यवान् ॥

॥ अर्जुन उवाच ॥ द्रुपदो वीर्यवान् द्रुपदो वीर्यवान् ॥ 1.21 ॥

Arjuna requests Lord Krishna to place the chariot in between the two armies so that he can see his opposition. At this time, Arjuna is the master (not a student) and Lord Krishna is the humble charioteer (not the Guru). Lord Krishna obeys Arjuna and places the chariot in front of the people towards whom Arjuna has a strong attachment.

### 1. Part 3: Arjuna's discovery of his weakness and the consequent problem of RagaH. Verses 26 – 28

The first weakness presented is the problem of attachment or psychological dependence on external factors. This is called a weakness because psychological dependence for your happiness is no longer in your own hands but it is connected to external factors. Since the external factors are not under your control, depending upon an unpredictable, external factor is risky for your happiness. You should not allow an external factor to determine your state of happiness. For example, the disobedience of your child causing you sorrow is due to the fact that you are depending on your child being obedient for your happiness (external factor). This displays your lack of resistance. Vedanta says that you should not depend upon a certain condition to be happy. This psychological need or dependence is called the problem of ragaH. Arjuna has this problem because he expected these people to be around him all the time and could not imagine even a hypothetical separation. Arjuna imagined a life without Bhishma, Drona etc. and broke down.



आत्मनि भ्रूयते भ्रूयते भ्रूयते भ्रूयते – Verse 28, discovery of RagaH (basic samsaara), psychological leaning. Physically, we depend on the world for food, clothing and shelter. Vedanta does not talk about physical independence but talks about emotional/psychological dependence, which is not required at all.

Gita's ultimate lesson is: आत्मनि भ्रूयते भ्रूयते भ्रूयते "atma, alone, by yourself, pleased" I am happy with myself, in spite of external factors being favorable or unfavorable. (Sounds so much sweeter in Samskritam). With any addiction, you imagine that you cannot do without it. This is not true. This is your intellect justifying your addiction. Don't have a crutch.

#### 1. Part 4: ShokaH (consequence of RagaH) or VishadaH Verses 28 – 35

The title of the first chapter is Arjuna Vishada YogaH. Grief or sorrow is an inevitable consequence of dependence (leaning on an unpredictable, perishable, external factor). Arjuna faces this deep attachment आत्मनि भ्रूयते भ्रूयते भ्रूयते . The intensity of grief depends on the intensity of attachment. For Arjuna, his intense sorrow was overflowing into the physical body also.

आत्मनि भ्रूयते भ्रूयते भ्रूयते भ्रूयते  
॥ ॥ आत्मनि भ्रूयते भ्रूयते भ्रूयते भ्रूयते 1.30

आत्मनि भ्रूयते भ्रूयते भ्रूयते भ्रूयते  
॥ ॥ आत्मनि भ्रूयते भ्रूयते भ्रूयते भ्रूयते 1.31

#### 1. Part 5: MohaH (consequence of RagaH and ShokaH); conflict, confusion, indecision Verse 36-47

Delusion, not able to determine what to do; MohaH or avivekaH. Arjuna can't decide whether to fight or not and draws a series of wrong conclusions.

Confusion 1: Arjuna sees Dharma Yuddham as adharma now. The



karma, rituals, dharma, religion, God, etc.

Due to his confusion, Arjuna quotes these true facts incorrectly to support his stand. RagaH, ShokaH and MohaH (attachment, sorrow, delusion) are called samsaaraH. A samsaari is one who suffers from these three problems. If a person handles these three samsaaraH, he is a liberated person (muktaH). Throughout Gita, Lord Krishna emphasize, married or unmarried, being internally free is what matters.

Even though Arjuna has discovered the problem of samsaara, Lord Krishna has not started giving the solution yet. Discovery of the problem alone is not enough for the solution. Some more steps are required.

1. Diagnosis of having the problem(know that you have a problem); Discovery of problem. But when we discover the problem, we try self medication first. Only when you realize that you cannot solve it yourself, do you go to the next stage of feeling....
2. Discovery of helplessness (know that you cannot solve the problem) I have a problem don't know how to get out of it; I require help from another firm person Vedanta Shaastra "Dainya bhavaH" affliction, state of being; or "kaarpanyam" pitiful circumstances.

We will be studying this in Chapter 2:

Arjuna's state of mind is described in Chapter 2.7. Arjuna is in a state of helplessness and is seeking help from someone else. This is the first stage of the process of liberation.

1. Surrender to someone who will give me a hand. Called (sharanaagati)
2. Solution is given, Medication Arjuna has only gone through the first stage – discovering the problem of samsaaraH. Arjuna has to go through stages 2 and 3 before Lord Krishna gives his advice. Therefore Lord

Krishna observes silently. Since Lord Krishna has not spoken, Arjuna thinks his conclusion is right and so throws down his bow/arrow and sits down in the chariot.

So, Vyasa completes the first chapter by saying that Arjuna sat down, afflicted by shokaH (ragaH shokaH mohaH):

ArjunaH shokah shokah mohaH  
ArjunaH shokah shokah mohaH 1.47

## Introduction of Chapter 2

Chapter 2 gives a comprehensive picture of the whole “treatment” (for the disease) as given by the Gita. This chapter is the essence of the entire Gita and it can be divided into 4 portions. Swamiji gives a high level overview.

Portion 1: Arjuna surrenders to Lord Krishna; Arjuna sharanaagati Arjuna going through the other stages(he discovers the helplessness). Arjuna decides to quit the battlefield but his inner conscience feels that this is not a good decision. The decision to go to war was made after years and years of adhaarmic actions done by the Kauravas. This was a sudden decision to quit the battle. He realizes that he is confused and not able to make the correct decision. He knows he cannot solve the present problem.

Swamiji recites Chapter 2, Verse 6, Line 1:

ArjunaH shokah shokah mohaH  
ArjunaH shokah shokah mohaH 2.6

Hey Lord Krishna, I thought I had made the right decision but now my mind is wavering and I am not able to determine if my decision is right or wrong. On one hand, the war is for a dhaarmic cause; but my emotional mind is unable to come to terms with knowing the casualties of war (my guru and other relations). Arjuna realizes his wavering and accepts his



taken without being attached to the results of one's deeds. The benefit of Karma YogaH is Jnana yogaH yogyata.

Portion 4: Jeevan MuktiH: Inner Freedom, Salvation: Explore the life of a psychologically healthy person, who has developed inner resistance, and who has solved raga, shoka, moha.

नन्दति नन्दति नन्दत्येव "Nandati nandati nandatyeva" Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice! A psychologically healthy person enjoys life thoroughly.

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## Bagawat Geeta, Class 10

Arjuna shows the close connection between the institution of family and a dharmic way of life. These are intertwined so closely that when one is affected, the other has an impact and then it spirals into a vicious cycle. If family is destroyed, then dharma is destroyed, and with dharma destroyed, the next generation of the family is destroyed as well.

Vedic teachings have 3 aspects of Dharma:

1. Values of life: like truthfulness, generosity, non-violence, love, concern for others
2. Attitude or basic reverence: towards things and beings ie earth, sun, moon; parents, teachers, and others in the society.
3. Rituals: this is a very important aspect and one that is not appreciated much anymore. A ritual is a concrete expression of the abstract values and is required for communication.

The Vedic religion considers rituals as one of the most important aspects of Dharma because:

- a. Since the first two aspects of Dharma (Values and Attitude) are abstract
- b. Rituals is one of the methods to keep a group together. Every member of a (belonging to the mind) they cannot be communicated or expressed. Hence "rituals" need to be physicalized/verbalized, making it easier to teach babies/toddlers. To communicate the concept of "respect" to a child, you will have to physicalize it...by symbolizing respect in the form of namaskara.

Friendship/love is also conveyed by verbalization or physical embrace, shaking hands, etc. Psychologist point out that physicalization or verbalization is very important for any relationship. Family takes part in a group ritual. Eat together, pray before a meal etc.

The psychological and sociological benefits of Rituals:

1. Give concrete form to an abstract value
2. Way to communicate the abstract value to the children
3. Maintain the togetherness of a group

Whenever there is reference to "dharma", these three aspects are of importance: values, attitudes and rituals. The communication of values via rituals vary between religions and even between communities of the same religion. Krishna says that once the ritual part of religion is ignored, then there will be varna sankaraha. The values are universal to all religions. Religions differ only from the stand point of rituals. Varna sankaraha is the immediate consequence of sacrificing rituals. This can occur even in a family where rituals are accepted, a person wants to maintain religion, gets married within the same community, etc. If the rituals diminish in importance and leads to the questioning of the cohesiveness of religion and of community, the consequence of

this is varna sankaraha.

No particular religion is needed to follow the attitudes and values – any religion is okay. The religion becomes important only when you value a particular way of performing the ritual. But once rituals are given lesser importance, the next consequence is that the separation of religions and the segregation of community will go away and this is varna sankaraha. There is another worse consequence of varna sankaraha.... disappearance of the family institution. A family institution was required for

1. Vedic Rituals to be followed; a family is not required for Values and Attitudes. A Brahmachari, a vanaprahsta, a sanyasi cannot perform the ritual of giving dakshina nor annadaanam. Only a grihasta can.
2. Fulfillment of artha – wealth, security
3. Fulfillment of kama – enjoyment, pleasures

Once the rituals are not respected, a family institution remains for artha and kama; but with changes in a society, artha and kama will become available without families. The government provides the security and if one has money, all artha and kama can be bought. Values and attitudes don't need a family life. And if artha and kama can be obtained without a family, why is family is needed? A family was required to maintain religion expressed in the form of Vaidika karma. All these are relevant because of karma. Once karma goes away family will be disintegrated. Without a stable family, there will be no karma nor values and attitudes. Who will teach values and attitudes to the next generation? No one will preserve Brahmana dharma – studying of scriptures and propagating it.

Chapter 1 Sloka 42



1.42

confusion of castes for the hell also of the slayers of the family of the family and fall the forefathers verily their deprived of the offerings of riceball and water. Once the varnasankara (intermingling of 4 groups) takes place, even mathasankara (religious confusion). the attitude and value of dharma may remain but ritual part of dharma will not remain. Ritual part of religion will have to be given up with varnasankaraha. Rituals are the method of communicating our feeling.

– because of the confusion, this will lead to naraka because all karmas are sacrificed. – naraka for both the victor of the war and for the vanquished, because they will lose all the values for religious practices; not only they fall spiritually but Vedic religion prescribes five fold compulsory rituals for every or Pancha maha yagna: Brahma or Rishi Yajna; Deva Yajna; Pitri Yajna; Bhuta Yajna; Manushya Yajna

pitri yagna – respect to our forefathers; blessing of our forefathers are needed for our material or spiritual growth. All rituals in family is started with Naandi sradha – invocation of the grace of the forefathers. Once dharma goes away – all these rituals will be sacrificed. Forefathers will be deprived of pinda kriya- srardham, udaka kriya- tarpana; lupta deprived of. Forefathers will be deprived of this karma. These days people replace pitri yagna with manushya yagna but it can only be a supplement not a substitution.

the forefathers will fall. In a society where rituals were considered important, Varnashrama dharma had value.

If there are no rituals, varnashrama dharma has no meaning. Morals and attitudes can be practiced without varnashrama dharma. Varnashrama dharma is important only from the perspective of rituals.

#### Chapter 1 Sloka 43

द्वेषेण कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं

द्वेषेण कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं 1.43

Destroyed by evil deeds (by) these destroyers of the family causing intermingling of castes are destroyed religious rites of the caste family religious rites and eternal. because of these defects in which the ritualistic part of dharma is degraded, responsible for the intermingling of various communities, religion, caste etc casualty is certain practices purely based on varna. According to Veda –certain rites can be done only by some varnas only. Rajasuya yaga can be done only by a raja a brahmana can assist the raja. Vedic rites will have to be given up. within one varna itself, the vedic practices differ from gothram to gothram a child of mixed varna cannot choose any vedic dharma; Rituals are gone. dharmas from a long time ago, destruction takes one generation

#### Chapter 1 Sloka 44

द्वेषेण कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं

द्वेषेण कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं कृत्यं 1.44

Destroyed whose family religious practices are destroyed of the men 0 Janardana in hell for unknown period dwelling is thus we have heard. Without rituals, the religion can continue with values and attitudes. But for these a family is

not required and so after 2 to 3 generations, when it is realized that with money one can obtain artha and kama, the question arises if a family is needed at all. The negative side to not having a family is that you lose the people that you can call your own, those that you can trust and those that give you unconditional love. The psychological anchor or psychological security will be lost. This leads to sociological disaster when people without the family anchor exist in a society (crimes increase, etc).

ಉಪವಾಸವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಉಪವಾಸ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? even when alive and after death, w/o family, w/o love and trust, it is like hell; ಉಪವಾಸ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? when ಉಪವಾಸವಿಲ್ಲದೆ svadharma is not done (sradha, tarpana), according to vedic rules it is ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? pratyavaya paapam; will lead to narakam. Arjuna says we have heard this repeated in the vedic mantra (not that he has seen).

#### Chapter 1 Sloka 45

ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು?

ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? 1.45

ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? alas ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? great ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? sin ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? to do ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? prepared ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? we ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? that ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? by the greed of pleasure of kingdom ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? to kill ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? kinsmen ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? prepared.

Arjuna's monologue continues as he thinks of the current and future repercussions of the MB battle. ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? - alas, a great tragedy indeed; we are about to cause ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? perform a great sinful act; killing all these people which will lead to ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? varna sankaraha, ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? jaathi (family) sankaraha, ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? (ruin) dharma nashaha, ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? (downfall) pitrnaam patanam ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? because of our short-sightedness; we were interested in royal pleasures; due to our misplaced greed for the pleasures

ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? ಉಪವಾಸವೇನು? Arjuna has forgotten that this is a

fight between dharma and adharma and says we are prepared to kill these people.

### Chapter 1 Sloka 46

Arjuna said to Krishna

1.46

if me unresisting unarmed with weapons in hand the sons of Dhritarashtra in the battle should slay that of me better would be. Arjuna says I have decided not to contribute to this tragedy but the beginning of the war has been signaled by conches. Therefore Duryodana may start the war but I will not retaliate. I am prepared to die but will not contribute to the pending chaos of the society. the kauravas may choose to kill us we, who have decided not to resist; we are with out weapons I consider sacrificing my life for the sake of dharma; I consider this a good fortune for me to have realized this in the nick of time.

Having said all these, Arjuna has shown raga, shoka, moha. Krishna maintains silence. Therefore Sanjaya says...

### Chapter 1 Sloka 47

Arjuna said

1.47

1.47

thus having said Arjuna in the battle on the seat of the chariot sat down having cast away with arrow bow with a mind distressed with sorrow.

Sanjaya gives a picture of Arjuna – who symbolizes a maha  
 samsaari. Arjuna's mind is totally grief  
 stricken – indicating the problem of raga and shoka;  
 completely overpowered by attachment and intense grief  
 he has thrown away the bow and arrow; For a  
 kshatriya, the bow and arrow represent fighting  
 for/establishing dharma, his duty. The physical action of  
 throwing his bow and arrow represents Arjuna giving up his  
 duty. "Sva dharma tyagaha" – indicating  
 conflict or mohaha; – wants to run away from  
 the battle, wants to do tapas(dharma of a sanyasi); a grihasta  
 has to do his family duty first; this is called mohaha:  
 paradharma grahanam(taking the duties  
 of another caste), svadharma parithyagaha(deserting your own  
 duties) having uttered all these words  
 to Krishna, Arjuna did this  
 he sat down on the chariot seat

At this crucial juncture, Vyasacharya says:

Om tat sat – all 3 words are names of the Lord.  
 Said at the end of every chapter to thank the Lord for the  
 successful completion. There are various meanings in different  
 context. Swamiji gives the simplest meaning for these:  
 Om – avati iti om; Avati is the protector;  
 protected us from all obstacles  
 Tat – one who is beyond sense perception; Para (beyond) and Aksha (eye);  
 beyond the cognizance of the senses

This portion comes at the end of every chapter.

Om tat sat – all 3 words are names of the Lord.  
 Said at the end of every chapter to thank the Lord for the  
 successful completion. There are various meanings in different  
 context. Swamiji gives the simplest meaning for these:

Om – avati iti om; Avati is the protector;  
 protected us from all obstacles  
 Tat – one who is beyond sense perception; Para (beyond) and Aksha (eye);  
 beyond the cognizance of the senses

Sat – eternal (past, present, future); From Tatva Bodha:

अविनाशो भूयः सर्वान् संतुष्टवान् ।  
The eternal protector who is beyond our sense perception.

शुभम् । - oh Lord, by your grace, we have completed the 1st chapter called

अर्जुनस्य शोकः - the grief of Arjuna. The main theme is vishada - raga, shoka and moha.

संवाह - presented as a dialogue between Krishna and Arjuna

Samdavaha - most healthy form of communication, is a dialogues between a guru and a shishya - attitude of guru is love and compassion towards the disciple and the attitude of shisya is faith and reverence towards the guru; Name of this dialogues is called गीता - The full name of Gita - upanishad means knowledge which liberates the person from sorrow. Wisdom which is taught by, revealed by, Srimad Bhagavaan. Meaning of Bhagavan - one who has Bhaga - 6 fold virtues.

The original upanishad, part of Veda, was in existence even before Krishna was born. Krishna's teaching is the essence of upanishad. Swamiji recites Dhyana Sloka #4:

सर्वोपाशदो गवो दग्धा गोपालानन्दानाः  
पार्थवत्साः सुदुर्भक्ता दुग्धम गितामृतम महत्

sarvopanishado gavo dogdha gopalanandana: parthovatsa:  
sudheerbhoktha dugdham gitamrutam mahat

There are only two topics in the entire Gita(theme of the entire dialogue):

Religion + Philosophy = Gita; Total contentment is the benefit.

1. Religion (योगशास्त्राः yoga shastra): अथर्ववेदोऽथवा Veda poorva bhaga(first part of Veda); कर्माण्डिका karma kanda - which relates to ceremonial acts and sacrificial rites. This is a way of life which prepares you to be

competent for philosophy; gives fitness for knowledge; makes you a योगी योग्यता jnana योग्यता (eligibility). First part of life get fit, then gain knowledge

2. Philosophy (ब्रह्मविद्या brahma vidya): वेद वेद वेद Veda antha bhaga (latter part of Veda); ज्ञानकण्डा jnana kanda – which relates to knowledge of the one Spirit Philosophical part – gives jnanam (knowledge)

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## Bagawat Geeta, Class 9

### Chapter 1 Sloka 38

अज्ञानं च मोहो भ्रमश्चैव प्रलयो यस्य साधुना  
संशयश्च क्लेशश्चैव प्रलयो यस्य साधुना 1.38

अज्ञानं though मोहो these च not भ्रमश्चैव see प्रलयो यस्य with  
संशयश्च overpowered by greed क्लेशश्चैव in the  
प्रलयो यस्य destruction of families मोहो evil भ्रमश्चैव in hostility to  
अज्ञानं friends च and संशयश्च sin

Swamiji explains that Vyasarcharya shows the intensity of Arjuna's samsaara in the battlefield. Samsaara is raga, shoka and moha (attachment, sorrow and conflict).

Attachment was shown in the 1st line of Verse 28: अज्ञानं  
संशयश्च प्रलयो यस्य The intensity of attachment  
grows in Arjuna when he thinks of the possible loss of his  
relatives that have assembled on the battlefield. He always  
had this attachment but it remained hidden. But once this  
attachment overpowers him, he suffers the immediate

consequence of sorrow. Sorrow is directly proportional to the attachment. Hence, his sorrow was equally intense and it affected his physical body (his limbs were trembling, his arms are weak, etc.). This is shown starting with Verse 29. Vyasarcharya shows how raga and shoka is leading him to moha: conflict or confusion.

Moha is धर्म अधर्म अविवेक "dharma adharma avivekaha" aviveka – absence of judgement or discrimination, not being able to judge between dharma and adharma. When there is a confusion, dharma appears as adharma and vice versa.

Arjuna's duty as a kshatriya is to fight this war and this yuddham is dharma for Arjuna. But Arjuna sees this dharmayuddham as adharma. This is the first conflict.

Secondly, a kshatriya should never run away from the battlefield. This is shirking his duty. Arjuna is seeing अधर्म पलायन "adharma palaayanam" as punya karma. Arjuna's confusion is complete.

When the emotional mind(attached and confused) begins to overpower a person, it stifles even the educated and well informed intellect. The intellect, not being able to overcome the emotional mind, begins to support the mental weakness. If the mind has a feeble addiction, the intellect can fight and overcome this weakness. If the addiction is intense, the intellect will justify the mental weakness.

From Verse 38 through 46, Arjuna, having been deceived by his intellect, talks about the evils of war. He says to Krishna, the Kauravas do not see the evils of war. अधर्म पलायन – heads of the family are killed, thus destroying the families, and the consequences of destroying families are terrible.

□□

अधर्म पलायन □ अधर्म पलायन – hurting our own kith and kin; another mahapaapam which they are not seeing but we are seeing clearly. We should help our friends. Let us decide to withdraw



from war.

## Chapter 1 Sloka 39

Arjuna is confused about the Kauravas' actions and the consequences of war. He asks Krishna for guidance. **1.39**

Arjuna **why I not should be learnt by us from sin this to turn away in the destruction of families evil clearly seeing O Janardana.**

Arjuna, feels that the Kauravas are confused but now that his thinking is clear, he says to Krishna:

Hey Janardana, we are able to clearly see the negative consequences of destroying families.

Having seen this evil clearly, why can't we withdraw? a sin(this war) which involves the destruction of families..

Why should we have a false ego? Regardless of what others may say, let us withdraw from war. Arjuna is pleading for Krishna's support to retrieve. Krishna, however remains silent because he feels that Arjuna is not yet ready to hear his advice. Talking to a non receptive person is called **vana rodana** – crying in the forest.

## Chapter 1 Sloka 40

Arjuna asks Krishna about the consequences of war. He asks if the Kauravas will be able to perform their religious duties. **1.40**

**in the destruction of a family perish family religious rites immemorial spirituality being destroyed the whole family impiety overcomes indeed.**

Arjuna further explains the consequences of family destruction. What are the consequences if there are no healthy families in society (have broken families)? Arjuna wants to say that without family life, dharma, religion and culture can never grow. Spirituality is never possible. These grow in a society where the family is strong, stable and long lasting.

Our scriptures give a lot of importance to family life. Without good family structure, cultural growth is inhibited. A stable family is required for Cultural/Ethical growth, Dharmic growth and Spiritual growth. These are known as **कुलधर्म** Kuladharm (practice or observance particular to a group or family).

□□

So Arjuna says, **कुलधर्मो धर्मोऽस्मिन्** without a stable family, kuladharm will perish.

**धर्मो ध्वंसः** – when this dharma is destroyed

**अधर्मो धर्मोऽस्मिन्** – adharma (life in which importance is given to **धनं** and **कामं**); only material values become important. This materialistic lifestyle will overpower all the good values.

## Chapter 1 Sloka 41

**अधर्मो धर्मोऽस्मिन् धर्मो ध्वंसः**

**अधर्मो धर्मोऽस्मिन् धर्मो ध्वंसः 1.41**

**अधर्मो धर्मोऽस्मिन् धर्मो ध्वंसः 0 Krishna अधर्मो धर्मोऽस्मिन् धर्मो ध्वंसः the women of the family अधर्मो धर्मोऽस्मिन् धर्मो ध्वंसः (being) corrupt अधर्मो धर्मोऽस्मिन् धर्मो ध्वंसः 0 Varshneya अधर्मो धर्मोऽस्मिन् धर्मो ध्वंसः caste mixture.**

Swamiji first explains the importance of a stable family for cultural growth.

A stable family is needed for a cultural or a healthy personality trait to be formed in a child. This needs to be

done at a very early stage in life. A baby or young child does not have the capacity to discriminate/judge what is important or valuable. A child learns to value things based upon the set of values of the parents (god like to the child). While child is developing values for various things, the respect it develops towards itself (self value) is also learned. The self image development is also very important. A newborn does not have an idea about itself – “am I a wonderful child or useless child; respectable or a rejected child”. This self opinion is developed based on the parent’s opinion of the child. If the life of the mother is centered on the child; parents respect the child; treat as a VIP in the first 5 years of life; be at his beck and call; with all the needs fulfilled; etc., then the child develops a beautiful self image, self worth and self confidence. This self opinion developed within the first 5 years can never be erased. If this is not developed within those few years, the child will condemn itself and develop inferiority complex, lacking self confidence. This negative value is developed not due to the child’s mistake – but they are the values the parents have imparted. A healthy mind is one which has self respect.

Swamiji refers to Chapter 6, Verse 5 where Krishna says:

आत्मैक्यं कुरुष्वैतन्मनो न विभक्त्युत्थितम्  
आत्मैक्यं कुरुष्वैतन्मनो न विभक्त्युत्थितम्  
आत्मैक्यं कुरुष्वैतन्मनो न विभक्त्युत्थितम् 6.5

“Arjuna, once you condemn yourself, no one can help you”.

If you don’t have self-confidence, no God, Guru, or Shastra can help. Ishvara kripa, Guru kripa, and Shastra kripa are secondary. These graces will be valid only when the most important grace “atma kripa” आत्मैक्यं कुरुष्वैतन्मनो – is there (self respect/self image/self confidence). This must be formed within the first 5 years of life with the help of a stable family and parents who respect the child. Therefore, family life is very important to develop psychologically healthy children that will become self respecting citizens in a

society.

This is “ego nourishment” but nourishing the ego will enable the ego to grow, and as the ego grows it ripens, then the ripened ego can drop (like a ripened fruit falls from a tree, when it is ready).... leading to moksha.

The second importance of family is to impart cultural values, again done early in a child’s life (nonverbal communication). The child learns by observing and imitating the parents. Even a newborn gets influenced by the thought of the mother during pregnancy, the manner in which the mother welcomes the child, the manner in which the family greets the child, etc. All these nonverbal communications have a psychological impact on the child. Every word and action of the parents are being imbibed by the child. Parents have to serve as a model to teach the cultural values.

Matha, Pitha, Guru, Devyam.... Mother is the first model, then the father. If the parents are not available as the models, then they seek for a model elsewhere.

The parents (models) should be consistent and constant in their lives. The parents should have trust, understanding and harmony between themselves to provide a suitable and nurturing environment. A father or mother should not contradict each other in front of the child. This causes confusion to the child since both parents are Godlike and both are correct.

Here Arjuna says, among the parents, the mother is more important – because the mother is intimately attached with the child. And if the head of the families are destroyed, the women may become corrupt. A young girl growing up in a broken home does not develop cultural values. And when she becomes a mother without values, she will not be able to teach her children. Hence a vicious cycle is created where the generations to come have no values. All values will be utterly destroyed.

When the families are destroyed, a girl child gets spoiled, she will become an unhealthy mother.

corrupt women (destruction of entire society)

addressing Krishna, as descendant of Vrishni. "vrishni kula samudbhoota"; you are born in a beautiful family; and know the importance of family

there will be utter confusion in regards to varnaashrama dharma.

Sankara means confusion.

Varnashrama dharma – In varna dharma, the veda prescribes certain duties for each class of people. Brahmana have certain cultural duties, Kshatriya have political duties, Vysya have economic duties, Sudra have supporting duties towards the other three. All these duties are important for the growth of a society.

Veda says that everyone has to take one of these duties(profession) based on birth or based on character i.e. choose to be a politician, business man etc.

Imagine a society which values money. This will lead to everyone choosing a profession based on whichever brings them maximum money. Once a society is materialistic, a class that was devoted to cultural growth of a nation will diminish. Learning dharma shastra & the scriptures and following & propagating the dharma shastra will not thrive.

Varna sankara – everyone will take every other profession but no one will come forward to study the scriptures. There will be confusion among the duties and no one will preserve and propagate the religious and spiritual culture. Society will be corrupt leading to destruction of humanity.

All these will happen when families become unstable...due to the war...so lets abolish war...drive chariot away from battlefield.