

Baghawad Geeta, Class 145: Chapter 11, Verses 19 to 22

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय
तु योऽमृतमश्नुते भगवत्पदमभ्यस्य
तु योऽमृतमश्नुते भगवत्पदमभ्यस्य
तु योऽमृतमश्नुते भगवत्पदमभ्यस्य
तु योऽमृतमश्नुते भगवत्पदमभ्यस्य 11.18

**You are the Immutable, the supreme One to be
known; You are the most perfect repository of this Universe.
You are the
Imperishable, the Protector of the ever-existing religion; You
are the eternal
Person. This is my belief.**

Continuing

his class Swamiji said, last week I pointed out that to have
Vishwa rupa darshanam
we need to have two things: 1) The physical eye to look at the
universe; the
body of the Lord and fortunately we have this gift; and 2) we
also need another
set of eyes, that is the attitude or perspective to see the
world as body of
God.

God

is material cause of universe, so we should look at universe
as body of God. This
faculty is obtained through training in scriptures and the
consequent vision
and attitude change we obtain, known as Divya Chakshu. I cited
example of
Venkateshwara laddu, which we see as different from a normal
laddu as we
attribute holiness to it and as such we even place it on our

eyes before

eating. This is caused by our inner attitude. Sri Krishna has now given this

inner eye to Arjuna. So, he sees the world as the vibrant body of God. In this "Seeing",

Arjuna goes through three levels of inner transformations.

First

transformation is vismaya. Due to my Ahamkara I see this universe as

fragmented and not in its totality. This is vismaya is described in shlokas 15-

22.

We

are in shloka # 18 where Arjuna's reverence for Sri Krishna increases. Until now he saw him as a friend, but now he sees him in a different manner, therefore Arjuna glorifies Krishna with all the

words he has heard in the Upanishads.

Remember Arjuna had also Gurukulamvasam in keeping with the tradition; brahmanas, kshatriyas and vaishyas, all of them had to study the vedas. And therefore

Arjuna remembers the Vedic description of the Lord and he rattles out in these verses,

which we started in the last class.

Tvam Akshram: Aksharam is

Nirguna Brahman. You are Eka rupa, Aneka Rupa and Arupa Ishwara. You are not

limited by time, space and properties. You are the ultimate truth to be known

by everyone.

Mandukya

Upanishad says you are the ultimate support for cosmos as the sthithi karanam. Ultimate

support means that which supports everything but is not

supported itself by
anything.

Tvam Avyayaha: You are the changeless
reality without decay. So, Sri Krishna is not a personal god
with a body
anymore.

Sashvat Dharma Gopta: You maintain
harmony of creation. You maintain the physical laws and moral
laws of universe.
He is creator and maintainer of universe. These are all
natural laws. Human
beings alone violate these natural laws. Whenever such human
beings are born on
earth; God is born to destroy the cause of disharmony. Citing
an example, our
health is natural; malady is not natural. So you treat malady
to get back your
natural health.

Sanatana: means you are
always there; ever present, the all pervading one, being the
universal form, you are
everywhere because the very akasha is seen as
the body of the Lord.

Avataras: Whenever there
is a disturbance in our body, my health principle causes an
avathrara. This avathara
comes up and cleanses the malady.

Whenever
there is a threat that is universal, God comes out as an
Avathara and acts. You
are eternal protector of eternal Dharma.

Purusha:

Means

all pervading one. Even Akasha is seen as body of god. There is no akasha less space.

Shloka # 19:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय
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ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय 11.19

**I see You as without beginning, middle and
end, possessed of infinite valour, having innumerable arms,
having the sun and
the moon as eyes, having a mouth like a blazing fire, and
heating up this
Universe by Your own brilliance.**

Anadimadhyantam: means without beginning, middle and an end. Citing a story, a great Sanskrit scholar was there but he was very poor; now, generally, where Sarasvati is there, generally Lakshmi does not stay along with her; there seems to be some tiff between them! So this person is a great scholar Sarasvati is there, Lakshmi, money is not there; so he was wearing only rags; tattered clothes; and being poet, everything he can put in verse form; he was looking at the tattered rags and was chanting this verse. The poem basically says:

And

Lord is dasha hinam; he does
not have any dasha; shani, rahu dasha; you are also
dasha hinam Oh Lord;
and my dress is also dasha
hinam; puratanam; my dress
is also the most ancient one; and Oh Lord you are puratana;
Then
advitiam; matchless,

you are also matchless, and you can never find a cloth like mine; advitiam aham, the Lord who is like my vastram, to that Lord, I prostrate; namaskara.

Anantabahum: You are Lord of infinite powers; omni potent, with endless arms (not a god with countless hands rather a god with hands of all people that belong to God alone).

Shasi Surya

Netram: Your eyes are the sun and moon. Eyes make things visible. Sun and moon make universe visible. So Vishwarupa is not a special form, rather it is our universe itself.

Tatva

Bodha says, every sense organ has a presiding deity; thus sun presides over eyes. Whatever is presiding deity of organ is organ of the Lord, thus Surya is the eye of the Lord.

Diptahutashavaktram

Agni

devata is mouth of lord;

And

why do we say agni is the mouth of the Lord; two reason, first reason, in Tatva

bodha we have seen the presiding deity of the vag indriyam is agni devatha; therefore agni devatha becomes the mouth of the Lord.

Second

reason is mouth swallows everything during a ritual. So he is

mouth of Lord.

Arjuna says, I am looking at your mouth, which is on fire; it is also a well-kindled fire.

Seeing the fiery mouth of God, Arjuna turns away. The fiery mouth scorches the whole world with its radiation.

When you feel the discomfort, it is an experience of Vishwa Rupa.

Shloka # 20 :

॥ इदमध्यावप्रथिव्योरिदमन्तराह्निव्याप्तम् ॥
॥ इदमध्यावप्रथिव्योरिदमन्तराह्निव्याप्तम् ॥
॥ इदमध्यावप्रथिव्योरिदमन्तराह्निव्याप्तम् ॥
॥ इदमध्यावप्रथिव्योरिदमन्तराह्निव्याप्तम् ॥ 11.20 ॥

Indeed, this intermediate space between heaven and earth as also all the directions are pervaded by You alone. O exalted One, the three worlds are struck with fear by seeing this strange, fearful form of Yours.

Idam dyavapr thivyoridamantaram hi vyaptam:

Between earth and heaven, you pervade the entire gap or the space. Entire space is your nabhi.

Upper sky is your head. The blue sky is nila kanta. Everything is totally pervaded by you.

I am able to appreciate this wonderful form of yours, which was there before

also. But before I could not enjoy this wonder because I was looking at the universe from my personal angle; the moment I look at the universe as a person; then immediately the world is

fragmented;

I just divide a certain portion as favorable; therefore raga vishaya; and another portion as unfavorable dveshah vishaya; and once that private colored vision comes, I can never enjoy; I will be worried about my future; ahamkara mamakara

etc.

everything will come. Previously I could never stand and stare at the stars and appreciate You; but now I have forgotten myself as Arjuna and I do not remember

anything as my possession; I and mine are not there; therefore You alone are; therefore it is adbhutam.

Arjuna has seen the fiery mouth of Lord as destroying principle. We are able to enjoy and admire Srishti and sthiti karanam but Laya karanam is fearsome. Arjuna has both wonder and fear (ugram); looking at the Vishwa Rupam is frightening. Nobody wants death for himself or his close ones. This is a big insecurity we all feel. Everybody has got this running sense of insecurity

constantly

throughout and therefore Arjuna says; lokatrayam; in all the lokas; even the animals

have got instinctive fear of death; therefore all the three lokas including devas, asuras; manushyas, pashus, pakshis, insects, even an ant; they are all frightened of You; the death principle, represented by the fiery mouth; 0 Mahatman means 0 Vishva rupa.

Shloka # 21:

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Those very groups of gods enter into You;
struck with fear, some extol (You) with joined palms. Groups
of great sages and
perfected beings praise You with elaborate hymns, saying 'May
it be well!'

How do different people respond to Vishwa Rupa Ishwara? All devas, relatively enlightened ones, appreciate Vishwa rupa and approach you with prayers. They understand that even the destructive aspect is constructive. Some other people also approach you out of fear. Fear is required to keep a person in his path until maturity; later, it should be replaced by a wisdom-based appreciation of the Lord. There are several shlokas that are chanted to get over one's fears. They chant these prayers approaching you.

Groups of Rishis and
sidhas also approach you saying, let there be auspiciousness.
Let good be

protected. They glorify you with hymns that are complete and comprehensive.

Shloka 22:

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Those who are the Rudras, the Adityas, the Vasus and the Sadhyas [sadhyas: A particular class of celestial beings.-V.S.A.], the Visve (-devas), the two Asvins, the Maruts and the Usmapas, and hosts of Gandharvas, Yaksas, demons and Siddhas-all of those very ones gaze at You, being indeed struck with wonder.

Arjuna says the vishwa
rupa is available to all people with divya chakshu.

Vishwa Rupam comes into being with creation. People who miss it do so because of ahmakara and mamakara that denies them the whole and un-fragmented vision of Lord. Therefore, those who have got lesser ahamkara and mamakara; they are already appreciating Me. They include:

- Rudras, eleven of them
- Adityas, twelve of them
- Vasus, Eight of them
- Sadhyas
- Vishve, Countless of them
- Ashwini, two of them
- Marutis, Fortynine of them
- Usmapaha, Pitr devatas

Thus Ravana saw Rama but not God; it was the same with Kamsa as well who did not have a prepared mind. For Vishwa rupa

Ishwara darshanam I need a prepared mind;a mind with a changed attitude, which is not only appropriate knowledge; it requires the knowledge that Lord alone manifests as the creation, thus, a cognitive factor is involved. And in addition to this cognitive factor, there should also be the purity of mind; a mind free from raga dvesha, a mind free from kama krodha, a mind,which is free from ahamkara and mamakara.

Soone needs a pure mind plus an enlightened intellect. This is Divya Chakshu.Thus Divya chakshu with the mamsa Chakshu gives us Vishwa rupa darshnam. Arjuna lacked this; so Sri Krishna gave him this Divya chakshu and he now gets the vision.

Arjunais dumbfounded by the vision. During this silence when Sri Krishna was blessing Arjuna with Divya chakshu, Sanjaya comes back on stage. Sanjaya has the benefit of Vishwa rupa darshanam as well. How did Sanjaya get this power? Vyasacharyagave him the power to be able to see everything in the battlefield. Not only that he could also read peoples minds. So, Sanjaya reads Arjuna's mind. Inshloka # 13, the shariram of god is the akasha. And in the akasha Shariram of the Lord;we saw the whole universe, which has been divided in manifold ways; in the form of galaxies and solar systems and planets and continents and island.

Thus Sanjaya saw Arjuna's seeing.

Shloka # 14:

तदा तं द्रष्टुमर्हन्ममैवास्मिन्महामुनेः
द्रष्टुमर्हन्ममैवास्मिन्महामुनेः॥११.१४॥

Then, filled with wonder, with hairs standing on end, he, Dhananjaya, (Arjuna), bowing down with his head to the Lord, said with folded hands.

Because of change in perspective, Arjuna had a great impact from the vision. Sanjaya describes the emotional impact of the vision on Arjuna. He gives his description in a poetic form.

Arjuna was stuck by wonder, because of his new perspective towards an ordinary thing, this world of ours. His wonderment was so deep that it was felt at the physical level. His hairs were standing and he was thrilled, says Sanjaya. He appreciated Lord in the form of the universe. He felt he was a speck of dust in front of the Lord. He performed namaskara by bowing his head down. He could not speak. He collected himself. Then, Arjuna spoke.

Shloka # 15:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

ॐ देवा देवैर्देवैर्देवा देवैर्देवा
ॐ देवा देवैर्देवैर्देवा देवैर्देवा
ॐ देवा देवैर्देवैर्देवा देवैर्देवा
ॐ देवा देवैर्देवैर्देवा देवैर्देवा॥११.१५॥

Arjuna said O God, I see in Your body all the gods as also hosts of (various) classes of beings; Brahma the ruler, sitting on a lotus seat, and all the heavenly sages and serpents.

Arjunais describing Vishwa rupa as seen by him. Vyasacharya wants to highlight Vishwarupa. To high light, he changes the meter of the shloka for all of us, the devotees. Arjuna goes through several emotions from this experience. He goes through three stages of experiences.

Fir ststage is Vismaya; the world is an ascharyam when you look at it from your pointof view (personal). This is called jiva drishti and is subjective; this is because of raga dvesha ahamkara, mamamkara. He is no more seeing a Jiva drshti.

Then you may ask: Swamiji; would you say the world is wonderful; even after the terrorist attack; how can you see the world is wonderful? I would say still the world is wonderful; because when you talk about the world; you are looking at the earth; and that too only the land; and there

also only the few human beings; and that too those who have got Asuric thinking. If you are going to look at the totality of cosmos; all these devilry are nothing but a mosquito bite only; Even if the entire earth is blown up, it is nothing from the stand point of total cosmos; a blot appears big if you are taking a square inch but the very same blot is nothing, if you have got a larger vision.

Often other wonderful things are not reported. We don't have a total picture. In totality even a world war is a small spec.

So, Ishwara srishti is wonderful even with a few negative points. Shlokas # 15 to #22 is a description of Arjuna's astonishment. From Shloka # 22 onward another emotional change is described.

Anything huge creates wonderment in us. Thus Niagara Falls is astonishing due to its hugeness. So also Vishwa rupa is a wonder.

O lord I am seeing all the gods in Vishwa rupa sharira. I see multitudes of living beings, smallest to highest states of evolution. I also see Brahmaji sitting on a lotus. Here the word Isha is not Shiva but Vishnu. I see all celestial Rshisi's. I see divine serpents; I see all 14 Lokas as well.

This leads to a question. Did Arjuna see the physical world or did he see celestial worlds; the shloka says, he saw all worlds. It is more a poetic description of Vishwa rupa and not a literal one. Later, it says Arjuna saw Bhishma, Drona and others entering Lords mouth and getting crushed. Is it literal or poetic? If the description is literal, then where is the reason for Arjuna killing them? Hence it is poetic. Suppose you say, it is not poetic and that he really did see the higher lokas. Then remember seeing higher lokas is not goal of Vishwarupa darshanam. Seeing higher lokas does not give liberation. What is important is, Vishwa rupa darshanam. This darshanam is seeing the ordinary world as manifestation of

Lord. So manner of seeing is more important than the object of seeing. So how you see is more important than what you see.

Shloka # 16:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय
अहं त्वं दृष्ट्वा भगवन्मूर्तमच्युतं
अहं त्वं दृष्ट्वा भगवन्मूर्तमच्युतं
अहं त्वं दृष्ट्वा भगवन्मूर्तमच्युतं॥११.१६॥

I see You as possessed of numerous arms, bellies, mouths and eyes; as having infinite forms all around. O Lord of the Universe, O Cosmic Person, I see not Your limit nor the middle, nor again the beginning!

Heret hings become clear. Vihsva rupa darshanam is not an extra ordinary vision; but an extra ordinary attitude towards the ordinary things of creation.

I see your Vishwa rupa with many faces or mouths. Swamiji says we should not conceive this comment as a body with many faces rather it all hands, mouths, faces of all people in universe that Arjuna sees.

O lord you have limitless form. Thus, each one of us is unique.

What a wonderful creation they say; one thump impression will not be the same as another; and one denture, teeth alignment will not be the same as another; in forensic department they use this information; and once skull is joined it will not be like another; Even with the population of the world; each one of us is unique; thus each one us is Vishva rupa Ishvara.

I don't see your middle, beginning and end. Scientists too have not yet found the edge of cosmos. If we don't see beginning end and how can we see the middle?

O Lord you are the limitless Vishwa Rupa, the one whose body is the world.

Shloka

17:

ಶ್ರೀಮದ್ವಿಷ್ಣುಃ ಸರ್ವಾಃ ಸರ್ವಾಃ ಸರ್ವಾಃ
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I see You as wearing a diadem, wielding a mace, and holding a disc; a mass of brilliance glowing all around, difficult to look at from all sides, possessed of the radiance of the blazing fire and sun, and immeasurable.

Arjuna says You have thousands of crowns. It is all the crowns on heads of all kings that are God's. I see you with thousands of maces and chakras. You are a mass of effulgence shining in all directions. Your effulgence is so glaring that I cant open my eyes fully. All this is Vishwa Rupam.

Swamiji cited a trip he took to Amarnath with many devotees who were all over 60. Amarnath lingam is of ice and if it melts you can't get saguna darshanam. Now, what we wanted did not happen. There, we saw the nirguna Brahman darshanam. This route of about 48 Kms is a wonderful sight all around. The people, however, did not see the spiritual aspects, as travel was arduous. These deities are in such remote locations to help us develop Vishwa Rupa darshanam. Towards last kilometer of journey we had to walk over snow and with the reflection of sun it was a dazzling sunlight. It reminded us of a lord whose effulgence is like a blazing sun. It is an incomparable vision.

Shloka # 18:

ಶ್ರೀಮದ್ವಿಷ್ಣುಃ ಸರ್ವಾಃ ಸರ್ವಾಃ ಸರ್ವಾಃ
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You are the Immutable, the supreme One to be known; You are the most perfect repository of this Universe. You are the Imperishable, the Protector of the ever-existing religion; You are the eternal Person. This is my belief.

Arjuna's reverence for Sri Krishna is increasing with his wonderment. You are the imperishable god, both saguna and nirguna. Remember creation is always there in manifest or unmanifest form.

Maya is known as vatapathra; vatapathram means banian tree; symbolic of Maya; In maya, the Lord has withheld the whole creation. Thus the world is eternal; during pralaya it is unmanifest; during srishti, it is manifest; Therefore even the Vishva rupa Ishvara eternally exists in avyaktha or vyaktha rupa and therefore Vishva rupa is eternal and of course nirgunambrahma is also eternal; You are the highest eternal principle, the nirgunam Brahma that is to be known by all.

You are the ultimate substratum of entire creation; you are sarva adharam. Why ultimate support of everything? One support is relative while another is permanent. A desk supports a book; but desk itself is supported by something else. Ultimate support is one that supports all, but it itself is not supported by anything. Chaitanyam supports even space. Even space has arrival and departure therefore there is locus for space; therefore try to conceive of this; everything has got a locus in space; but space itself has a locus; if you say how to conceive of it; that is called vedanta; conceiving the inconceivable; Therefore chaitanyam is the support of even akasha; paramnidhanam.

You are in exhaustible and not affected by time. Arjuna is describing nirgunam Brahman. How does he know nirgunam Brahman? He knows of it from description of scriptures and he repeats it.

Take away:

Vishwa

Rupa Darshanam: So manner of seeing is more important than the object of

seeing. So how you see is more important than what you see.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Baghawad Geeta, Class 143: Chapter 11, Verses 7 to 13

Shloka 11. 7:

सर्वं लोकांश्चैव भूतानि भूतानि चैव भूतानि
सर्वं लोकांश्चैव भूतानि भूतानि चैव भूतानि॥११.७॥

See now, O gudakesa, O Gudakesa (Arjuna), the entire Universe together with the moving and the non-moving, concentrated at the same place here in My body, as also whatever else you would like to see.

Continuing his teaching, Swamiji said, Arjuna asked for Vishwa Rupa darshanam. This darshanam involves two set of eyes; first the laukika chakshu and second the divya chakshu; Divya chakshu here means a purified mind, a mature mind, an informed mind, a religious

mind, also equally important a second invisible eye; which is figuratively presented as the third eye and in the Gita 11th chapter it is called divya chakshu. When both eyes, our normal vision combines with a pure mind, only then Vishwa rupa darshanam is possible.

Citing some examples, Swamiji says, even though Lord Rama was available to both Shabari and Ravana, Shabari got her darshanam as she had performed sadhanas for a very long time; however, even though Ravana saw Rama he did not see the divine in him, as he was not prepared with a pure mind. Lord's universal form is available to all of us, all the time; even so we don't feel its impact; hence most of us don't get the Vishwa rupa darshanam. So the defect is not in my normal vision but in my refined mind (divya chakshu). **The refined mind has to be free of kama, krodha, raga, dvesha, ahamkara and mamakara.**

So, Arjuna, Vishwa rupa darshanam is easiest as it is always in front of you. So, I, as the akasha, having the akasha as the body, am available in front of you and the whole creation is my shariram alone; you can see the Vishwa rupa right in front of you; O Gudakesha. Gudakseha means satva guna pradhana. Arjuna you can; it only requires some refinement, it is possible for you.

This vision includes all moving and nonmoving objects that consist of the body of the Lord. Not only can you see all this but you can see anything else you wish to see as well. So, Sri Krishna offers to cooperate with Arjuna in giving him this darshanam.

Shloka 11.8:

॥ अहं तव शरीरं पश्येत्स्वप्नसंस्थितभूतम् ॥
 पश्यन्मया दत्तं दृष्ट्वा योगं योगं योगं ॥११.८॥

But you are not able to see Me merely with this eye of yours. I grant you the supernatural eye; behold My divine Yoga.

Sri Krishna introduces the requirement for two types of eyes. He says, you can't have Vishwa rupa darshanam with laukika eyes alone; you need the second invisible Divya Chakshu as well. Some people say even the Tilakam is symbolic of a third eye, of a prepared mind also known as Bhavana Chakshu.

Imagine a tourist taking pictures in a Hindu temple. He may see the antiquity, the age of statues etc but he will not perform namaskaram to the idols, as he is not imbued with a sense of the divine in them. It is in our culture that we see the divine even in a stone idol due to our attitude.

When Vibhuti comes we apply it on our forehead. Ash itself is worth nothing; it is our attitude, however, that makes it the Vibhuti. And what is that ash worth; its worth can be seen only by Divya chakshu; and therefore Sri Krishna says Vishva rupa darshanam requires divya chakshu; to do namaskaram, to revere, requires divya cakshu; to do the prokshanam of the river water requires Divya Chakshu; without that it is not possible and Arjuna I shall bless you with that divya chakshu.

And once that attitudinal change comes, you see my divine glory. Thus, even pancha maha bhuthas Become Lord Shiva; thus akashalinga is worshipped in Chidambaram, vayu lingam is worshipped in Kalahasthi; agni lingam in Thiruvannamalai, water becomes God as in Jambukesvaram, and earth becomes God as in Kancheepuram. And initially you worship the panchabhuthas, only in those respective temples, but that is not enough; later I should see the same divinity in the pancha bhuthas all over; and the day I can revere the pancha bhuthas, then the products of the pancha bhutas, they too all become divine for me.

I can no more go away from God, as everything is god as without god it is only maya.

Now there is silence as Sri Krishna blesses Arjuna with divya chakshu. So now Sanjaya comes and fills up the silent time. So, now Sanjaya speaks.

Shloka 11.9:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

Sanjaya said O King, having spoken thus, thereafter, Hari [Hari: destroyer of ignorance along with its consequences.] (Krsna) the great Master of Yoga, showed to the son of Prtha the supreme divine form:

Sanjaya spoke:

O King (dhritrashtra), Sri Krishna (hari) addressed Arjuna. Krishna here is Vishnu or Hari. Hari means one who absorbs all papams from devotees mind. Maha Yogeshwara means one who can purify. Normally purification is a long process consisting of practicing Pancha Maha Yagna's. Here, Sri Krishna gives this temporary purification of mind to Arjuna.

Hari addressed Arjuna as in previous shloka saying you need, both, Laukika chakshu and Divya chakshu. Thereafter, Sri Krishna showed Arjuna the Vishwa Rupam, the greatest rupam. Why is it the greatest rupam? All other rupams are finite and mutually exclusive (one displaces the other) and are subject to arrival and departure,

Whereas Vishva rupa is the most unique one, because it is all pervading and secondly it need not exclude any form; Vishva rupa includes Rama rupam, includes Krishna rupam, Shiva rupam; all the possible rupams are included in Vishva rupam; therefore it is all inclusive; and finally, since Vishva rupam is right in front of me, it can neither arrive nor depart.

Even sandhyavandanam addresses it as we do namaskara to top, bottom, east, west etc. So we do namaskara to god everywhere; for us Bhagavan being everywhere, I do namaskaram all over. These are all the training given right from our young age. In fact, all our trainings are meant for seeing the world itself as God. This is the culmination in vyavaharika Ishvara darshanam; not paramarthikam, vyavaharika Ishvara darshanam; is the relative appreciation of Lord; the highest vision is to learn to see the very universe as the Lord; so our culture is

oriented towards giving us this Vishwa Rupa Darshanam.

Shloka 11.10

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Having many faces and eyes, possessing many wonderful sights, adorned with numerous celestial ornaments, holding many uplifted heavenly weapons;

So we get Sanjaya's description of Vishva rupa; Sanjaya describes and from this we come to know that Sanjaya is also getting Vishva rupa darshanam. He also sees by association the many faces, and many mouths; many eyes; how are we to understand the Lord with many eyes; does it mean that eyes are sticking all over; and if mouths are all over, how eyes will be all over; therefore do not imagine a form with countless eyes and ears; Arjuna learns to see all the mouths of all the people as the mouth of the Lord. There is no more it is my mouth; that is called ahamkara.

When I myself am not there; there is no individual separate from totality; There is no Tamil Nadu; separate from India; there is no wave separate

from ocean; there is no vyasti separate from samashti. When the egoist "I" do not exist anymore where is the question of saying my mouth, my eyes; my land etc.

As somebody said, **it is better to have a heart without words rather than words without heart behind it.** And therefore that bhavana is important; all the mouths are Bhagavan's mouth; all the eyes are Bhagavan's eyes Innumerable wonders, all of them belong to God. Lord is wearing many ornaments; all ornaments in universe are god's abharanam. In our culture, before wearing an ornament it is placed in front of Lord. I am only taking it on lease. I will use it without claiming ownership or mamakara is the spirit behind it.

Lord with countless weapons in his raised hands. Sanjaya mentions weapons as Gita is occurring in a battlefield; all these weapons belong to the Lord. How is a weapon divine?

Two reasons are given:

1. When weapon is in the hand of a person, it is laukika but in hand of god, it is divine. If everything is in God, everything is sacred.
2. All weapons are for protecting Dharma as such associated with Lord or divine. God is in form of order and harmony in creation.

Shloka # 11:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ११ ॥
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ११ ॥

Wearing heavenly garlands and apparel, anointed with heavenly scents, abounding in all kinds of wonder, resplendent, infinite, and with faces everywhere.

In all these shlokas a verb is not given, only adjectives are used. Shloka 10 and 11 are all adjectives to Divya Rupam. The verb is, Sri Krishna showed to Arjuna. The word showed here means God removed obstacles in mind of Arjuna resulting in an attitudinal change and thus a change in perspective only.

Lord is wearing garlands and dresses; it means all malas worn by all people and all dresses worn by all people; Vishnu rupam smeared with divine perfumes; meaning different perfumes used by many different people. Hence, when we apply chandanam we should utter his name and say, I am decorating body of god.

Lord with faces in all directions means people with faces in many directions. Anantam means whose limit is not visible. Even scientists do not know outside limit of the universe. Furthermore, it is an expanding universe; if so where is the limit?

Purusha suktham says that this limitless universe occupies only an insignificant part of Vishva rupa; even this limitless universe itself is in Bhagavan's one corner; then what should be the size of the Bhagavan; anantam; limitless, both spacewise, and timewise.

So, Vishwa Rupa Ishwara is the greatest wonder.

Shloka 11.12:

सूर्योऽप्येकं न भवेत्तु सूर्याणां त्रयोऽसृजं
सूर्याणां त्रयोऽसृजं त्रयोऽसृजं त्रयोऽसृजं॥११.१२॥

Should the effulgence of a thousand suns blaze forth simultaneously in the sky, that might be similar to the radiance of that exalted One.

What is brilliance of the Lord? I am not able to even look at the sun; sun being an ordinary star. I can't withstand looking at the sun. Imagine if I can see the brilliance of a thousand suns; imagine if I can see the brilliance of all stars. Sanjaya says, suppose the brilliance of a thousand suns rises simultaneously, that is the comparison for the brilliance of Vishva rupa Ishvara; it will be indescribable.

So that will be the brilliance; that will be the comparison for the brilliance of the mahatma; mahatma means Vishva rupa Ishvara; So that is the brilliance, it is indescribable. Mahatma Here means the infinite body that is the Lord

Shloka 11. 13:

तदा तदा तदा तदा तदा तदा तदा तदा तदा तदा
तदा तदा तदा तदा तदा तदा तदा तदा तदा तदा॥११.१३॥

At that time, Pandava saw there, in the body of the God of gods, the whole diversely differentiated Universe united in the one (Cosmic form).

Sanjaya continues; saying Arjuna saw everything in the

infinite body of the Lord. It is divided in manifold forms; Arjuna saw in manifold forms in the body of the Lord. Yashoda also saw the whole universe in Sri Krishna's mouth. Sharira here is not the limited body rather it is the vast space itself.

Sanjaya reports that before obtaining the Divya Chakshu, Arjuna saw the world as a persecuting world; problematic world; unfaceable world, burdensome world. Now the very same world has become totally different and therefore after being blessed with Divya cakshu Arjuna saw the Vishva rupa.

Take away:

"It is better to have a heart without words rather than words without heart behind it." This is the bhavana required.

Divya chakshu is the refined mind free of kama, krodha, raga, dvesha, ahamkara and mamakara.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Bhagawad Gita, Class 142: Chapter 11, Verses 3 to 8

Shloka # 3:

॥ श्रीकृष्णाय नमः ॥ श्रीभगवत्पूज्यपाद गुरुभ्यो नमः ॥

॥ श्रीकृष्णाय नमः ॥ श्रीभगवत्पूज्यपाद गुरुभ्यो नमः ॥ 11.3 ॥

Supreme Lord! Highest Spirit! It is even as you have described yourself. Yet I would like to see this lordly form of Yours.

Continuing his teaching, Swamiji said, Chapter # 11 is dealing with Vishwa Rupa Ishwara Darshanam. We should have a clear understanding of this Ishwara darshanam. It talks of a very thrilling, electrifying experience for devotees. Shabari waited for years for a glimpse of Sri Rama and at last when gets it and the great thrill she enjoys has been described. Similarly Thyagaraja also sings about Shabari's Darshanam of Rama. Similarly, Sri Krishna darshanam is also talked about. All darshanams are considered mystic ones.

Now, to have an experience, the object of experience must be available to me; also there must be an experiencer, who is prepared for the experience. Let us say I talk about Carnatic music; but unless the listener has some idea of Carnatic music he cannot enjoy my talk, as he is not prepared as a listener. Normally we focus on the object of experience and forget the experiencer. This is true of Ishwara Darshanam as well. Shabari got Sri Rama Darshana Ananda but it was not only due to Sri Rama but also because Shabari was prepared for the darshanam.

How to prove this? Swamiji says, the very same Rama was available to Ravana as well but nothing happened. Object was available but subject was not prepared; Ravana's mind did not change even after darshanam.

So preparation on part of person is important else even god is helpless.

How about Kamsa? He too had Sri Krishna darshanam but he never changed one bit. Several Rakshasa's even used the darshanam for negative purposes; Basmasura is one that comes to mind. So, for Ishwara darshanam I need a tremendous amount of preparation.

Vishwa Rupa Ishwara is Lord in form of Universe. If you know

it's meaning, you know he is right in front of you. God's first name in Vishnu Sahasra Nama is Vishwam. He is already available in front of me. If we don't get thrill of darshanam, it is because of non-preparedness of devotee. That preparedness is nothing but purity of mind, a mind without kama, krodha, moha, madha, lobha and matsarya. These are the obstructions to this darshanam. When the cataract of the obstacle of kama, krodha, ahamkara and mamakara impurities are removed, God need not come; I begin to appreciate the already available Vishvarupam.

Arjuna says, O lord, I understand you are jagat karnanm. I can understand intellectually that you are in all namas and rupas; but I don't get its impact.

So, what is missing? A prepared mind is missing and it is also known as Divya Chakshu. It is like one person is interested in Carnatic music but another person is not. So he asks Sri Krishna to help him get darshanam.

"In shloka # 3, you describe Vishwa rupa but nothing happens to me. Where is the lacuna? I would like to see your Vishwa rupa", says Arjuna.

Shloka # 4:

श्रीकृष्ण उवाच ॥ विश्वरूपं त्वं दृष्टुं न शक्यसे ॥
अतः श्रद्धां वृद्ध्वा त्वं तत्पश्यस्व ॥११.४॥

So we have seen the object of perception is available, Vishva rupa and still if I do not see it, the defect must be only in the observer. There must be some problem with me; therefore I do not feel the divinity when I experience the world. And, therefore, O Sri Krishna, is it possible for me at all; to have that divinity or Vishva rupa darshanam, can you prepare me to have this darshanam? Please help me!

Purity of mind cannot occur overnight. It requires a lot of Karma yoga and sadhana and the transformation is slow; and it

is not a revolution. Is there any method I can get this purity of mind, O Yogeshwara! asks Arjuna.

Shloka # 5, 6, 7 and 8:

सर्वं त्वं पश्यसि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि
सर्वानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि ॥11.5॥

The Blessed Lord said O son of Prtha, behold My forms in (their) hundreds and in thousands, of different kinds, celestial, and of various colors and shapes.

सर्वानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि
सर्वानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि ॥11.6॥

See the Adityas, the Vasus, the Rudras, the two Asvins and the Maruts. O scion of the Bharata dynasty, behold also the many wonders not seen before.

सर्वानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि
सर्वानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि ॥11.7॥

See now, O Gudakesa (Arjuna), the entire Universe together with the moving and the non-moving, concentrated at the same place here in My body, as also whatever else you would like to see.

सर्वं त्वं पश्यसि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि
सर्वानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि भूतानि ॥11.8॥

But you are not able to see Me merely with this eye of yours. I grant you the supernatural eye; behold My divine Yoga.

Now, Sri Krishna answers:

Even though Vishva rupa is right in front of me, to get the impact of Vishva rupa darshanam, I should have prepared the mind, which I call, Divya chaksu or purification and purification is a very slow and gradual process. It involves a long religious life and it also involves following dharma or

values of life. If devotion and values are not there, for such a mind, the benefit of Vishva rupa darshanam will not be available.

Here, Arjuna was lucky to have Sri Krishna in front of him. He requests a temporary purification of mind.

But the purification will only be temporary; it does not last like a dialysis. Similar temporary purification can even be obtained from a Mahatma.

Since this purification is artificial, its full benefit is not realized. So, later in Chapter # 11, when Arjuna gets the darshanam, he is not able to stand Vishwa rupa darshanam. He tells Sri Krishna, I don't want this Vishwa rupa darshanam. Only a truly purified mind can absorb such a darshanam.

So, Sri Krishna accepts Arjuna's request. Just as one needs a 3 D glass for some movies, Sri Krishna says, I will bless you with a Divya Chakshu so that you can see many of my forms, varied in nature; all divine; of different colors and shades. When you will see rupa in many colors it is not a particular form, rather it is all forms and colors of universe, as all are Ishwara varnanam.

Citing an example Swamiji says, form does not belong to the bangle; it belongs to gold. Thus, Sri Rudram describes Shiva in many colors. This rupam is available to all cowherds. They are all the colors of Vishwa rupa Shiva. The green hairs of Shiva are the green trees. My mind should see it as Vishwa rupa darshanam. Thus, we see same colors, but we need to see them with a different attitude; it is like seeing a laddu from Tirupati, it becomes divine; it is appreciated by the mind that has devotion.

Vishwa rupa has many heads. All heads of peoples are the head of god.

Verities of devatas, representing natural forces are described

next. The eight Vasus with different forms are Agni, Prithvi, Antarikhsam, Intermediary lokas, Vayu, Aditya, Chandra, and Stars. May you see the eight Vasus in Vishwarupa.

Twelve Adityas are the sun gods' different changing stages in the twelve months of the year. In each month he has different powers. May you see the Adityas as Vishwarupa.

Our ten sense organs and mind are called Rudra Devata. May you appreciate the Rudras.

Ashwini Kumaras are the ones presiding over Pranas. May you appreciate them as well.

Marut Devatas are different aspects of Vayu Devata. You have not noticed all of them as Vishwarupam.

And therefore rain is a wonder; earth is a wonder; Sun is a wonder; anything you take it, is a wonder,

it is the glory of the Lord. May your see that; temporarily drop your day-to-day business; temporarily keep your cell-phone somewhere. After its (cell phone's) coming, there is no time for anything; so wherever you go drop it; and just watch the universe.

So in Me the Vishva rupa Ishvara; whose body is the very sky itself, see the entire universe.

When Yashoda asks Sri Krishna to open his mouth she saw all the 14 Lokas; and then she said, shut up. She was not prepared. Sri Krishna is blue as sky; it means vast blue sky is a form of Sri Krishna, with galaxies floating in it. The whole universe is contained in Me.

Last week or so, some student; I do not remember who that student is, gave a cutting; so I just read through it; it is a very interesting write up, I will read only the first paragraph alone. It describes the Universe.

It says, consider a puff of dust a meter in diameter. Consider every grain of dust is a galaxy with many stars. We live near an ordinary star and are member of an ordinary galaxy. Every night we are shown that the universe has a beginning but most of us simple regret, use or enjoy the dark without perceiving that; it brings knowledge; If you are willing to learn from darkness, he says; even though so many stars are there; between the stars there is a vast emptiness is there. Think what must be the size of the universe; which accommodates all these galaxies and stars. This universe, with vast emptiness and galaxies are accommodated in space; so what must be size of the space; and that space is the

size of the Lord; Meditate upon that, Try that.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Baghawad Geeta, Class 141: Chapter 11, Verses 1 to 3

Continuing his teaching, Swamiji said, having completed chapter 10 known as Vibhuti Yoga, now we are entering Chapter 11 known as Vishwarupa darshana yoga. The word yoga attached to each chapter refers to the episode or the topic. So vishvarupa darshana yoga means the episode, which deals with vishvarupa darshanam. It means Vision of God as Vishwa rupa. What is Vishwa rupa? Rupa means form and Vishwa means world,

or Lord whose form is the very universe itself. Then the question comes up, how to get such a vishwa rupa darshanam? When a devotee wants to see God such as Rama, Krishna or Devi, scriptures tell us how to get that darshanam. **Scriptures prescribe tapas or meditation or concentration. The devotee decides which form he wants to see. Then he concentrates on that form as per dhyana shloka. He has to learn the dhyana shloka to be able to concentrate on that form.**

He has to visualize that particular form and generally a mantra is also taught, just as narada taught mantra to Dhruva, Prahlada etc. and the devotee has to do the Purascharanam of that mantra; Purascharanam means you find out how many letters are there in that mantra; say if there are six letters, you multiply it with as many lakhs; say if it is Gayathri mantra with 24 letters then japa is performed either for 24 lakhs times or 24 crore times. So you do dhyanam; you do Purascharanam, as described in the scriptures; and if a person follows this kind of tapas, the shastras prescribe that the devotee will have the darshanam of the Lord in that particular form.

This is not our mental projection, but the Lord himself through his maya Shakti gives darshanam, in a particular form, to the Devotee. And this exercise is called Devatha sakshatkarah.

Thus devotees such as Tyagaraja and Meera have had darshanam of Rama, Krishna, respectively. Now the question is if he wants to have a vision of God as the world itself, how to do it?

Do we have to invite god to come in form of Vishwa rupa; if so, we have not understood the meaning of Vishwa rupa darshanam. Vishwa rupa means I want to see God as world, but I can't invite him in this form as he is already in this form. What then should I do to obtain darshanam in the form of the world?

There is only one answer. I have to learn to see the world in the form of god. I should learn that this very world is Ishwara, and then Ishwara alone is giving darshanam to me in the form of the world. There is no other method.

Japa mantras are for Rama, Krishna darshanam, not for Vishwa rupa darshanam. If so, how do I train myself? Here again there is only one method; I must assimilate the teaching that God is material cause of the universe and that he alone manifests as the universe. Here, every vision in front of me is a different version of God. I should clearly understand this teaching and with this my perspective changes. **This new perspective is called Divya Chakshu or the mystical eye.**

Citing an example, some one gives you a laddu and then tells you it is from Tirupati temple; then immediately your perspective changes; you now, consider the laddu a prasadam and you first apply it to your eyes before eating it. The status of prasadam is not physically evident; it comes from understanding that the laddu is from Tirupati. **This prasada is adrishtam or divination of laddu through a change in perspective.**

This is the idea communicated by Sri Krishna here. He teaches us as to how to look at world as divine; then I will see that god is giving darshanam all the time, to us.

Sri Krishna says it is better to have God's darshanam 24 hours rather than one, which comes and goes (Aya Ram Gaya Ram). This nithya ishvara sambandha is Vishwa rupa darshanam obtained by a change in perspective through the teaching.

So Vishwa Rupa darshanam is not like Rama, Krishna darshanam. Here you see God everywhere as described in Chapter 11.

Shloka # 1:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

By the words You have spoken, supreme, occult and spiritual, in order to bless me, this delusion of mine has gone.

Here Arjuna addresses Sri Krishna. In the first eight verses, we get an introduction to the topic of Vishva rupa Darshanam and it begins with the Arjuna's summarization and what he has learned in the previous 10 chapters

In two shlokas he summarizes his learning so far. In shloka # 1 he summarizes chapters 2 through 6 that he says is essence of Jiva rupa varnanam or essential nature of Jiva. Physical body is only a temporary dress, which will be shed at death. Similarly mind is also a temporary instrument that I use in waking and dream states but shed in sleep.

Therefore neither body, am I; nor am I the mind; but I am of the nature of chaitanyam; the consciousness principle. And do you remember the description of consciousness I have given. Consciousness is not a part, product or property of the body; consciousness is an independent entity which pervades and enlivens the body, consciousness is not limited by the boundaries of the body; and consciousness survives even after the fall of the body; that eternal all-pervading consciousness is my nature. Sri Krishna gave a brilliant description of this essential nature of Consciousness, in the 2nd chapter from the 12th shloka, up to shloka No.25. Then he talked about that in the 3rd chapter, in the 4th chapter and in the 5th chapter.

Thus, in Chapter 2, shlokas 12-25, Consciousness is the focus. In Chapters 3, 4, 5, nature of Jiva is presented. Arjuna says I have understood all that very well.

Teaching given by you, purely for blessing me, is for saving me from sorrow (Arjuna Vishada Yoga). They are most sacred words that reveal atma, the reality. They are greatest secret not easily available in the world, from a rare Gyani. The words are spiritual teachings. Through this teaching my

delusion is gone.

So you should remember the context of the Gita teaching; Arjuna surrendered to Lord Krishna due to his confusion. On one side, my mind says killing my kith, kin and Guru is not OK, but on the other side I can kill for protection of dharma. Now my doubts are getting cleared regarding confusion as to what is right and wrong. It is confusion about ethics and philosophy. Gita deals with ethical and philosophical confusion.

Normally the veda purva bhaga is meant to resolve

ethical conflict; veda antha bhaga is meant to resolve philosophical confusion. Gita is a unique Shastra, which deals with ethical conflict; as well as philosophical confusion. And therefore Arjuna says; I am getting clearer and clearer.

Shloka # 2:

॥ कुरुक्षेत्रे भेटोऽहं श्रीकृष्णस्य तदा ॥
॥ अर्जुनस्य हृदि निवसन्निभोऽहम् ॥११.२॥

About the birth and dissolution of beings I have heard from You at length, O Lotus eyed one! As also about your immense grandeur.

Arjunas reverence for Sri Krishna as a teacher is increasing. The word Kamalapatra in shloka means God with Lotus Eyes or eyes like lotus petal that describes God's inner beauty. This was dealt with in Ishwara swarupa chapters 7-10. Chapter 8 is an odd man out. You defined God as jagat karanam. You defined God as material cause of universe. Out of god alone universe comes, rests and resolves; that is Srishti, Sthiti and Laya Karanam. Everything comes from you alone. If waves are born from ocean and resolve in ocean, then there is no separate wave from ocean.

All the things and beings; this whole creation of things and

beings is from you alone, as the very adhara, as the very ashraya. That means what? If waves are born out of the ocean and resolves into the ocean, it means there are no waves separate from the ocean; in fact wave is only an additional name given to the very ocean itself; similarly the whole creation is like a wave in the ocean of God. Shankaracharya beautiful presents in atma Bodha that the entire cosmos of several billions of galaxies is nothing but bubbles; so each galaxy can be compared to a small bubble and all these bubbles of galaxies are rising from you; and there are no bubbles separate from ocean. Similarly there is no creation separate from God or to put in another language; God is in the form of world, I heard this very clearly, and how did you teach, very elaborately. The upanishadic teachers are not detailed; rather they give the srishti and all within a few mantras.

The teaching is also for a madhyamadhikari such as me. In chapter 10 you also revealed your glories, Vibhutis, spread all over the universe. These glories are in exhaustible, the Vishwa rupa mahima. Mahatyam and Vibhuti mean the same. The proof is that my delusion is almost gone. It finally goes away completely in chapter 18.

If delusion is gone what is Arjuna's next question?

Shloka # 3:

सर्वशक्तिप्रदं सर्वभूतहितं ज्ञातुं शक्यं
पश्येत्पुरुषं परमं योगीन्द्रमब्रवीत्॥११.३॥

Supreme Lord! Highest Spirit! It is even as You have described Yourself. Yet I would like to see this lordly form of Yours.

In every shloka Arjuna adds some more glories of God.

Parameshwara: means supreme Lord who sustains physical law of creation. It is also name of Shiva.

Purshottama: means supreme Lord. It is also name of Vishnu.

It's philosophical significance is taught in chapter 15 on topic of Nirguna Brahman.

So Vyasa talks of Vishnu and Shiva as equals. So, O Krishna! whatever you are teaching me is perfectly understandable because it is a systematic teaching; if Bhagavan is the cause, and world is effect; the logical consequence that the effect cannot be separate from the cause; therefore the world cannot be separate from God. It is a very logical conclusion; and if the world is non-separate from God; all the non-glories of the world should naturally belong to the Lord; because of that, I have no resistance in accepting that teaching.

Arjuna says, I am able to intellectually understand that whole world is manifestation of God and that everything is holy. So there is no question of dividing world into acceptable and unacceptable. If I could see world as divine then I will not have Dvesha towards anything. However, the reality is that I have Raga and Dvesha. My intellectual and emotional personalities are not harmonized. I need them to be harmonized. What should I do to get it? I would like to have Vishwa rupa darshanam, while I am interacting with the world.

Dayananda swami beautifully says; we do not have a sacred-secular division in our culture. In many other cultures, sacred is obtained in a temple while everything outside the temple is secular. However, for a Hindu or for a vaidhika, there is nothing called secular, everything is sacred; eating is puja; remember we are doing puja daily; eating is puja, brushing the teeth is puja; snanam is puja, everything that I do is puja and this puja occurs only when I always remember that I am in the presence of the Lord as Vishwa rupa. How can I have contact with that rupam; the vishvarupa Ishvara, you should help me. This is Arjuna's request, the details of which we will see in the next class.

Take away:

The mode of repetition of a Mantra with feeling and in a particular manner, a definite number of times, with right observances, until a fixed number of Japa is reached, in order to obtain substantial benefit out of the Mantra, is called Purascharana.

Vishwa rupa darshanam:

I have to learn to see the world in the form of god. I must assimilate the teaching that God is material cause of the universe and that he alone manifests as the universe as well or we can say God is both matter and spirit. Here, every vision in front of me is a different version of God. I should clearly understand this teaching and with this my perspective changes. This new perspective is called Divya Chakshu or the mystical eye.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy