

# Baghawad Gita, Class 203: Verses 15 to 19

Continuing his teachings Swamiji said,

From the 7th verse of the 16th chapter, Sri Krishna is talking about asuri sampat, which we have to know as an obstacle to spiritual growth; and therefore, we should take all pains to avoid these traits; And asuri sampat includes, rakshasic Sampath. Asuri sampat means raga pradhāna life; a life in which raga or attachment is dominant; rajasic raga is dominant and rakshasic sampat is that in which dwesha pradhāna behavior, tamasic behavior is dominant. In raga pradhāna life, one is utterly selfish and in dwesha pradhāna life, a person harms other people. Only difference is when I am selfish, I do not directly and immediately harm the people, but in the long run, a selfish person affects the society because he takes more and gives less to the society. And therefore, this behavior will create a disharmony in the society in due course, and it will hurt the society and also the very selfish person himself. but this disturbance is not immediately felt, it is a gradually poisoning of the society. Thus, a raga pradhāna person hurts the society very gradually, whereas dwesha pradhāna person hurts the society immediately and directly. But both of them harm the harmony of the society and both of them harm themselves, ultimately. And Sri Krishna is describing both asuri people as well as the rakshasic people; both are included.

And we generally call them materialistic people; or artha kama pradhāna people who do not value dharma and moksha. And we should remember when we criticize the materialistic people or materialism, we are not against the materialism totally.

Criticism of materialism must be carefully understood. We are not against materials, because we need them for our living; we

require money for food, we require money for shelter. So, we are not against money and materials; we do not want to hate money and materials; but what we are criticizing is the over-emphasis of artha kama to such an extent, that this person has no time for dharma and moksha. And therefore, if we are not careful from attachment to money; we may go to the other extreme of hatred of money. If attachment to money is an evil; hatred of money is also equally an evil. And that is why in our culture money is seen as Lakshmi devi. Please give respect to money; even a sanyasi has to respect money, because money alone fetches the food that he eats; money alone fetches the dress that he is wearing; and if he has an ashram, money alone runs the ashram not Gita and Upanishads. Therefore, attachment is an evil; hatred is an equal evil. A balanced attitude towards money is what we are recommending and what is a balanced attitude? Use the money for spiritual growth; earn the wealth and use it for spiritual growth of yourselves as well as the other people. And these materialistic people do not have this balanced vision and therefore, they are obsessed with materialistic thing, they do not understand that behind the matter, there is spirit. Behind the body, there is atma, respect the body, respect the atma also. This is the balanced approach which the asuric people are missing.

And ,therefore, Sri Krishna is describing their thought pattern; what preoccupies their mind most of the time; they are obsessed with what type of thinking most of the time; our scriptures point out that one should start the day with thought of the Lord, as I said; think of Lakshmi, but have some time to think of Narayana also. How can you be so selective concentrating on Lakshmi only and miss Narayana? These people do not have the balance. And therefore what happens, we were seeing from verse No.13, the pattern of their thinking all the time is calculative wondering what all things they have acquired in life, and what all things they plan to acquire and how they want to implement those desires; And not only they are interested in things, they are interested in

wealth also, only for their wellbeing and anybody who obstructs this, they consider as a competitor; a rival and they do not have any scruples at all. They want to finish off all those obstacles without any compunction.

Just as big companies swallow the small companies. They say in globalization, at the end, there will be only a few international giant companies and they can adjust the market itself in such a way; because they can afford that all these small people will be swallowed and they will be so powerful that they can even change the government.

These are the materialistic people; and their thinking is, I am the most powerful person; I alone enjoy, power and money; I am the most successful person, the strongest and given to all types of enjoyment.

### Shloka 16.15:

[illegible]

16.15 'I am rich and high-born; who else is there similar to me? I shall perform sacrifices; I shall give, I shall rejoice,'-thus they are diversely deluded by non-discrimination.

These are the thoughts of the materialistic people.

I am the richest person and I belong a noble family, although it is doubtful if he even knows the Gayathri.

A culture which has started from millennia before, all of them have been surrendered at the altar of money.

Bhrthari in his Vairagya shatakam looks back: Oh Lord in search of money what all I did; I dug all part of earth, hoping to get some wealth from ground; I went in search of all types of ores, to extract the metals, gold, silver, etc. I went in search of; I went all round the globe in search of the

wealth and for this travel, I have to please so many bureaucrats and politicians and counsels and all types of people; I did not propitiate the devatas and gods; I propitiated all these arrogant human beings;

What all should not have been eaten, I ate, all for the purpose of business promotion; I went to the black money people , I ate all kinds of things which are banned in the religion, what all should not be drunk, eaten, everything I did contrarily, in concentrated form; At least am I happy now; at the fag end of my life; I have not improved anything at all; only losing the culture and tradition; is only the thing that happens; You read Bhrthari, you will feel like running away; so powerful is his writing;

So, he says; I belong to wonderful family but I did not make use of the advantage that I had; I squandered this manuṣya Jenma advantage and the rival won and I lost.

Bhrthari says such a person is the embodiment of arrogance. He does not believe in the scriptural study or puja, but still he wants to perform certain rituals, not for

inner growth; but for the publicity. And therefore, he says; I will do big rituals and make sure that it is captured in the photos and videos so that my name will

spread. Even puja is done only to pump his arrogance.

I will give charity but I will make sure that my name appears in the appropriate newspaper in the appropriate magazine;

When person after person comes and glorifies me, institutions glorify me, because they need my money, they will glorify and all adding to the ego which is the cause of spiritual destruction. More bloated the ego is, less the chances of spiritual growth.

And Sri Krishna says, thus, all these people are utterly

deluded and confused; they do not know, they are digging their spiritual grave, they do not know what is good and what is bad; and they are suffering. In fact, Lord is angry with those people and only feels pity for them. And Lord has provided methods of avoiding these traps. We have got mahatmas to guide us; we have got the scriptures to guide us; from these traps; but the problem is that he does not make use of them, because his arrogance does not allow him to go to a Mahatma or even read a few verses of the Geeta.

And therefore, Bhagavan says, medicine is there; but he does not make use of it

And Bhagavan cannot come and force the medicine down his throat. Bhagavan has given us something called grey matter.

Therefore, Sri Krishna says: he is deluded by utter ignorance. And as I have often said, ignorance itself is not a sin; because all of us are born with ignorance; In

fact, that is our capital; that is the only wealth we all uniformly brought. Therefore, ignorance in itself is not sin; but perpetuation of ignorance is the greatest sin;

because Bhagavan has provided methods for the removal of ignorance, he has provided wonderful pramanams, but these people do not expose themselves to them.

### Shloka 16.16

00000000000000000000 000000000000000000  
 0000000000 0000000000 000000 0000000000000000**16.16**

**16.16 Bewildered by numerous thoughts, caught in the net of delusion, (and) engrossed in the enjoyment of desirable objects, they fall into a foul hell.**

Therefore deluded by ignorance; carried away by the abovementioned thought patterns; given in the previous three slokas, 13, 14, and 15, they are immersed and lost in, a

network of moha or delusion, or misconception, the misconception being that money and possessions will give the ultimate goal, will give the ultimate security, will give everything that I want. Thus, we have a set of beautiful sayings: **They say money can buy a house, but it cannot buy a home; money can buy bed, but money cannot buy sleep; money can buy people; but money cannot buy love. In fact, money can buy many things; but all-important things in life, like peace, knowledge, love, all these things money cannot buy; But these people do not understand this and it is called moha.**

A materialistic society will use all its resources only to improve methods of entertainment. That is the indication of a materialist society; whether there is material resources or scientific advancement, all

of them will be used to improve sense pleasures and they think that is the growth of the society; and that is why, you can find in India, any scientific improvement comes first, it will be used in religious field; TV, Ramayana and Mahabharata serials. All swamis will start appearing in TVs. that is our culture; any

scientific advancement, we imagine, we think of using for spiritual purpose; that is called a healthy society; a materialistic society will think of improving sense

pleasures; and these materialistic people are lost in entertainment and enjoyment of sense objects.

And even medical advancement, they want to use the body to become younger and younger so that again that the body can be used not for spiritual sadhana but for, how I can be young at the 90th year.

So, what will happen to them?

Sri Krishna gets so wild; he says they will go to hell. Animals are the only living beings which have got only two

security; animals work for their enjoyment; animals do not know what is dharma; animals do not know what is moksha; animals do not require veda purva; animals do not require veda anta.

### Shloka 16.17

When our dharma shastras talk about a dharmic way of life, it is a way of life in which I maintain harmony at all levels. It starts with internal harmony; harmony between my thought, word and deed, is internal harmony. Even my eating, sleeping, etc.

uncomfortable I should feel at home. That is why it is called a home; inter-action should be smooth, well-oiled, there should not be any friction

And similarly, I should have harmony in the society; and therefore, social customs, social manners, politeness, etiquette; all of them are also part of dharma.

Dharma is not mere religious activity but even social interaction must be in keeping with harmony. And therefore, every refined civilized society has its own manners all indicating my refined conduct and behavior expressed in my body language.

The way you stand; the way you sit; the way you talk, the way you eat; because the body language communicates something and therefore in our culture, they say; we all have as children, we have experienced, when some mahatma or somebody comes, our

parents will say sit properly, how you hold your hands, your head, your legs; therefore these are all body language should convey, respect, love, humility; and not only body language should convey my refinement; even my words should convey my refinement; that in a group, I do not dominate by talking all the time.

And Sri Krishna says when a materialistic person grows in money and power, chances are he becomes more and more puffed up with power and pride. He becomes more and more gross. He becomes more and more desensitized and he does not bother about his behavior; his conduct, his manners, his language and the

first causality is humility; and the unfortunate thing is when I become a man of power and wealth, there will be always a coterie of sycophants around me. They want to take advantage of my power and money; and therefore, they will come and they will glorify me

An oft quoted shloka says: Once you have got money and power, everybody would come and say, that you are beautiful, you are cultured; and your language is

wonderful, you are educated, they will do namaskar. Already arrogant, these people already pumped and their ego gets bloated and bloated, First humility goes



and then devotion to God disappears. Arrogance and Īśvara bhakti cannot go together. You study the life of all our rakshasas, whether it is Ravana or Kamsa, or

Hiranyakashipu, or Hiranyaksha, as money and power comes, arrogance comes, humility goes, and then devotion goes.

Once humility and devotion goes, the mahatmas will begin to avoid me; because where there is ego, the great people do not go there, as God is absent; and therefore mahatmas avoid; Therefore my few chances of correcting myself is also gone; if I have at least some great people around; they will tell me as it is.

Brhathari says:

A few cultured and refined people you associate with; they will guide me; but in the case of this person, Mahatmas go away gradually; and sycophants surround me, and they will further see to it that all my culture, manner, politeness, all of them go away as well. As we have read in purana, Kamsa refused to even to get up, when Sri Krishna came. So, these are all the problem.

Therefore, Krishna says, every namaskara I receive from others, can bloat my ahamkara; that is why there are people who do not take namaskara from

others; there are some swamis who do not allow; or if at all they do, they say that you do not receive the namaskara, quietly hand over to your guru; let him handle it; and what will your guru do, he will give his guru; and ultimately it will go to God, no problem, because God deserves all the namaskara.

Therefore, glorification is deadly and these people, they

are egoistic, power hungry, arrogant, full of materialistic desires; and full of anger, because they can get away with any

form of behavior; because money and power

compensates. Therefore, nobody will criticize me, nobody will correct me; They will be dominating any group.

Because of dhanam, wealth, they have these weaknesses; they do lot of puja alright, but the puja should give them more humility; but if puja is not approached properly, instead of giving humility, that puja itself will add to arrogance; he will say that I have done this, I have done that; means pujas for names sake only; there is no heart in the puja but for pomp and show.

### Shloka 16.18

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ १६.१८ ॥  
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ १६.१८ ॥

**16.18 Resorting to egotism, power, arrogance, passion and anger, hating Me in their own and others' bodies, (they become) [As the finite verb is missing in the verse, we have supplied 'they become'. S. adds the verb prabhavanti, wax strong, from verse 9, and constructs the last portion thus: 'ॐ. the envious ones wax strong.' Following S. S., however, one may combine this verse with the preceding verse by taking 'perform sacrifices' as the finite verb.-Tr.]] envious by nature.**

So, all the refinement in his behavior is the causality; all the social etiquettes, humility, politeness in manners everything goes away, because there is nobody to correct him; and he can get away with all those things. Therefore, what all things happen? His life is dominated by ego, power; born out of status; with resulting arrogance; and desire and anger. And gradually this will lead to a nasthika svabhava also; because it is unconducive to devotion and therefore devotion will gradually get eroded.

So, they begin to hate me, says Sri Krishna; not only he

begins to hate the Lord, he begins to hate the scriptures also; he becomes highly critical of the scriptures, which are supposed to be the gifts from the Lord himself.

### **Shloka 16.19:**

ममैव हि सर्वदा दुष्टा दुष्टा दुष्टा दुष्टा दुष्टा दुष्टा  
दुष्टा दुष्टा दुष्टा दुष्टा दुष्टा दुष्टा दुष्टा दुष्टा 16.19

**16.19 I cast for ever those hateful, cruel, evil-doers in the worlds, the vilest of human beings, verily into the demoniac classes.**

So thus, religious life disappears from them; religious life goes away; religious practices goes away; and of course, spirituality also disappears.

They feel bad declaring that I am a Hindu; I am a vaidhika; they consider themselves secular.

We do not want to declare to anyone, and even the names are chosen in such a way, and you

do not know what they are; original name is Meenakshi, Kamakshi, but now they keep pinky, chinky, etc. but they do not want to reveal their identity.

They are also very rude in their behavior, lacking politeness, culture, and refinement. So, they are representatives of ashubha; ashubha means deterioration in spirituality; amangalam, means dharma and moksha deterioration, they are representatives of amangala.

And Sri Krishna says what can I do; I have to throw them into naraka. First, I try through scriptures and mahatmas; hoping that the scriptures and mahatmas will change the society; and when the society is so corrupted, that even the mahatmas and scriptures cannot change, I will take avathara and I will annihilate them.

**Take away:**

They say money can buy a house, but it cannot buy a home; money can buy bed, but money cannot buy sleep; money can buy people; but money cannot buy love. In fact, money can buy many things; but all-important things in life, like peace, knowledge, love, all these things money cannot buy;

**With Best Wishes,**

**Ram Ramaswamy**

---

## **Baghawad Gita, Class 202: Verses 9 to 14**

**Shloka 16.9:**

**16.9**

**Holding on to this view, (these people) who are of depraved character, of poor intellect, given to fearful actions and harmful, wax strong for the ruin of the world.**

**Greetings,**

Continuing his teachings Swamiji said, In our scriptures, they talk about four goals of human life, known as purusharta's.

**Purusha**

meaning human being, artha means

goals. Therefore, purushartha means human goals. They are called human

goals; because human beings alone can fix a goal and work

consistently to accomplish that, because fixing the goal and working for that requires a freewill and human beings alone are endowed with this freewill and therefore they alone can have short-term and long-term goals and consistently work for their accomplishment and since freewill and these goals are unique to human beings, they are called purushartha; Of these four purushartha's, the first one is well-known and every human being naturally goes after that; and it is called artha; artha means material possession that make sure that the life is secure.

So material possessions for the sake of my security is very natural for even animals and certainly it is instinctive and natural for human beings and all material possessions are called artha; it may be in the form of money, in the form of shares, land etc.

And the second is kama, kama means all forms of sense pleasures or entertainment. This is a season of entertainment and therefore people know what entertainment is; it is sense pleasure. This artha and kama are called material pursuits and this is very natural to human beings. One need not have any special training; we do not require gurus; we do not require scriptures to train people in these two pursuits.

But Vedas say that these two are human goals; but do not stop with these two; there are two more human goals; uniquely human, not available to other animals and the third in that list is **called dharma, by which we mean inner refinement; or refinement of the mind.** In

Sanskrit we  
call it samskara;  
chitta samskara. In fact,  
we have several ceremonies from conception to death; 41 such  
ceremonies are  
mentioned. Each ceremony is called a samskara.  
Garbhaadharana, pumsavana samskara,  
seemanthonanyana, jathakarma, nama karana,  
choula, annaprasana,  
upanayana, vedavrathini, vivaha; 41 such  
samskaras are  
mentioned; the culmination being the rituals done at the time  
and immediately  
after death. All of these are samskaras, because they are  
supposed contribute to  
the inner refinement;

And not only the rituals contribute to the inner samskara,  
even a life of values contribute to this inner refinement. All  
the ethical values are part of the inner samskara and not only  
rituals and values, even healthy attitudes contribute to the  
inner refinement; our attitude towards the parents; matru devo  
bhava; pitru devo bhava; Our attitude towards elders; which is  
unique to our culture, we are asked to do namaskara. Namaskara  
indicates our reverence for age; our reverence for experience;  
because certain type of refinement can come only through  
experience. Therefore, attitude towards wealth; attitude  
towards people, attitude towards the environment; attitude  
towards the world in general, they all form part of the  
lifestyle; contributing to inner refinement. **This chitta  
samskara is called dharma; Thus, the third unique human goal  
is mental refinement;** In Vedanta it is called sukshma buddhi.

But unfortunately, this inner refinement is  
not a tangible goal. Money is a tangible goal; people can  
understand it. And  
entertainment is tangible; I can switch on a show; but dharma

is an intangible goal. Therefore, it takes time for the human beings even to know the value of this goal; Why is dharma an important human goal? Even to appreciate that it requires sensitivity. Plus, dharma is inner refinement, attained through combining religious life as well as ethics and morality. And this will lead to inner refinement. This is called dharma purushartha or in the language of sixteenth chapter; daivi Sampath or inner wealth or invisible wealth.

And then the fourth purushartha, which is the culmination of these three is moksha, otherwise called spiritual enlightenment or spiritual knowledge. Spiritual wisdom is the fourth purushartha, which is called moksha. Moksha means freedom from ignorance. Knowledge will give me freedom from ignorance. And freedom from ignorance means freedom from problems created by ignorance and according to our scriptures; all human problems are caused by ignorance. And this spiritual knowledge or wisdom is also an intangible goal; I also cannot show what is moksha.

Dharma is an intangible inner goal; moksha is also an intangible inner goal; but the scriptures say they must be included. And Vedas say, even if you do not know the worth of these two higher goals, even if you do not understand what is dharma; even if you do not understand what is moksha; it does not matter; you follow the lifestyle that I prescribe; then if you follow that; in due course you will know the value of dharma and moksha. Like a mother, cannot teach everything to the child; because child is too young to understand what is

hygiene. Child cannot understand; therefore, mother blindly commands: wash your hands before eating. The child does not understand the significance of washing, infection; hygiene; bacteria and disease; mother cannot teach a small baby; therefore, the mother says, do what I tell you now.

Even though the child may be unhappy because the mother is forcing too many things; but mother does not feel bad, the motive of the mother is the wellbeing of the child. Therefore what the Veda's say is: You may not understand the significance of inner growth; you may not understand the significance of a value based life; you may not understand the significance of religious life itself; even if you do not understand, follow with faith in the Veda's; with the attitude that veda is my mother; whatever it tells will be for my good. And even if I do not understand the significance now; as I grow, I will understand. Thus, dharma and moksha purushartha's also should be included even as a person is pursuing artha and kama. Such a person is a religious person; a person given to daivi sampath.

And Sri Krishna says the problem with the materialist people is they will value only artha kama purusharta. A materialistic person is defined as that person, who looks upon only two goals in life; artha and kama alone. He will not understand what is dharma; he does not want to understand what is dharma; He will not understand what is moksha; He does not want to understand; At least if he blindly follows the vedas, it will be fine; but he does not have faith in the Vedas; So, no faith in god; no faith in vedas ; no faith in gurus; and himself, he cannot understand as well.

These people, artha kama pradhana, are called materialistic people.

Sri Krishna is very strongly criticizing these materialistic people; he said; their goal is work for 5 days, enjoy for 2



and then die.

They do not know the higher possibilities of human life, the wonderful ananda born out of dharma and moksha; they do not understand what is inner growth; they are short sighted people; And when I try to talk about dharma, they only argue.

They say, I do not value dharma or ethics, morality or devotion; I see many dharmic and religious people going through all types of problems. Devotees are suffering; ethical people are suffering; while all those adharmic people are enjoying. This is the argument they give. They ask, what is the use of being a bhaktha?

This is the silliest argument, because, if you look at life in this manner, you cannot accept any law of life. For example, there are so many rules prescribed for good health in health magazines. They talk about do's and don'ts with regard to health. But if you observe, you will certainly find that there are many people who follow all the health rules and they fall sick. They do not smoke; they do not drink; they do not eat meat; they exercise regularly and yet they suffer heart attack. And, there are others who violate all the health rules and yet enjoy without any diseases.

Now can I argue, therefore, that all the health rules are meaningless. They say cigarette smoking is injurious to health; yet there are people who smoke, and who are healthy. And there are people

who do not even touch a cigarette and have cancer. Therefore, can you say that rules of health are meaningless. We can never give such an argument. Similarly, we say dharma is good; adharma is bad. This is based on a shastric vision. To argue that dharmic people suffer while adharmic people enjoy, is the silliest approach.

So, we should not argue that dharmic suffer and adharmic people enjoy. Adharma is not good for our spiritual health. Dharma alone protects our spiritual health and this asuric people will not accept and they argue.

We can only pray for them.

Therefore, Sri Krishna says, they are short sighted and they will take to violent lifestyle; because even though himsa is adharma, they do not believe in adharma, whatever is an obstacle to them, they want to destroy; and thus, they are enemies of the world. As I said in the last class; violation of dharma will create an imbalance in the cosmic order; imbalance in the cosmic order will cause the destruction of the universe. And therefore, they are enemies of the world and they cause destruction.

**Shloka 16.10:**

**Giving**

**themselves up to insatiable passion, filled with vanity, pride and arrogance, adopting bad abjectives due to delusion, and having impure resolves, they engage in actions.**

There

is no limit to materialistic desires. Fulfilment of worldly

desires can never  
give total satisfaction. So, it is like a mirage; from  
distance there seems to  
be water; when I go near, it recedes further. And similarly,  
we have a false  
hope that the fulfilment of materialistic desires will give us  
satisfaction,  
but we find once, one set of desires are fulfilled; the next  
set is ready;  
Swami Chinmayanand nicely says: Happiness is the Number of  
desires you fulfil  
divided by the Number of desires you have.

But  
the problem is we only study the increase in the numerator  
while we are  
assuming that the denominator, the number of desires, will  
remain stationery.

The  
problem is that the denominator also increases very fast. You  
will find that you have fulfilled so many  
desires; but instead of increasing, the happiness decreases,  
because there is  
no end to the fulfilment of desires.

Therefore,  
Sri Krishna says, nobody is satiated; and they say it is like  
pouring ghee into  
the fire; you want it to subside; you want it to quench;  
reality is that they  
will never quench by offering of ghee; it only increases. So,  
having fulfilled  
their petty desires; they get dambha, pomp and show,  
ostentation; and mana meaning  
pride and mada; meaning haughtiness or arrogance; they are  
full of these  
negative traits. All because of delusion. Now, what is the

delusion? Finite

plus finite is equal to finite only. By effort whatever I achieve in life; will be limited both in time and in size. I start as a finite being; by adding any number of finite goals, I only go from finitude to finitude; infinitude will not come. This they do not understand, because of delusion.

So, it means they believe in false values that the external objects will give me security not realizing that the external object itself is insecure. Money is insecure; inflation problem and interest is coming down; And the expenditure is increasing; cost of living increases, and the interest decreases; What security do we have? Therefore, money is insecure, property is insecure, people around are insecure; job is insecure; so, by holding on to other insecure things, how can I find security. But the human being never thinks.

They have all kinds of vratams; which are all asuchi or Evil resolves; So instead of taking the religious vratams, like sabarimala vratams they take to evil resolves. In the olden days 41 days Vratam was taken to go to Sabarimala; now no vratham are taken anymore.

But these people have got asuchi vratams; What is their resolve or Vratam? Resolves such as, I will finish that competitor. Their resolves are usually negative ones.

Their vratham are like those of rakshasas. They also follow

religious discipline but for the destruction of the world.

## Shloka 16.11

### 16.11

**Beset with innumerable cares which end (only) with death, holding that the enjoyment of desirable objects is the highest goal, feeling sure that this is all.**

These materialistic people learn only to depend more and more on external factors; their very acquisitions indicate they want happiness and security that are based on external factors. Therefore, the number of external factors they depend upon increases gradually. Whereas the vedanta tells us to reduce dependences. The fundamental motto of **Vedanta is sarvam paravasham Dukham or dependence on external factors is sorrow.** External factors may be person; may be things; may be situations. **Vedanta says, sarvam atma vasham sukham or Non-dependence on external factors or self-dependence or independence is joy.** Whereas materialistic society is a consumerist society; And the more the number of external factors are, the more unpredictable my life will be; because which factor will fail, how and when, I do not know; so therefore, hidden variables will increase, unpredictability increases. Therefore, I do not know what will breakdown tomorrow and therefore whether I am happy or unhappy will depend upon perfect functioning of so many gadgets from telephone; computers and so many things. And, therefore, the problem is, the more life becomes unpredictable, the more the stress will be. Unpredictability leads to stress and strain; And the materialistic person depends upon more unpredictable external factors for his comfort and happiness; whereas the spiritual person requires only one thing; *atmni eva atmana tushta*; Fortunately, *atma* will not break down; and therefore, these materialistic people are full of stress and strain.

So, they have limitless worry and sleepless nights,  
whereas, a devotee who is a karma yogi, a  
man of daivi sampath, he says, let whatever happen, happen.  
Let not my peace  
depend upon these unpredictable factors, Oh Lord. Therefore,  
Oh Lord give me  
the inner strength, spiritual strength.

This devotion, the materialistic person does  
not have. His worries have no end at  
all.

He remains committed to money and entertainment.

These materialistic people are miserable and unfortunately,  
they convert other people also to materialism because that is  
a more tempting  
philosophy.

#### **Shloka 16.12:**

##### **16.12**

**Bound by hundreds of shackles in the form of hope, giving  
themselves wholly to  
passion and anger, they endeavour to amass wealth through foul  
means for the  
enjoyment of desirable objects.**

So, these materialistic people  
are shackled by countless attachments; whereas the daivi  
sampath approach is, I  
do not own anything. His attitude is everything belongs to the  
Lord; I use them  
with the grace of the Lord, that is why when I build a house,  
I do not enter  
without placing the picture of the Lord. The idea is this  
house is not my  
house, it is a temple; and I am using that house with the  
grace of the Lord.

Therefore, a satvic person disowns everything;  
whereas the rajasic, tamasic and materialistic people; they  
hold on to things.

They are rich in kama and krodha. And unfortunately, a  
materialistic society praises only these rich people. When  
there is a humble  
person who has value for dharma; society does not honor him.  
Vedic society always valued  
renunciation. If Buddha was valued it was because he renounced  
everything.

A materialistic society will  
value possessions.

They are also given to kama and krodha as the ultimate thing.

They  
are busy people, workaholics; and they have no time for pancha  
maha yagna. They  
work for amassing wealth and all is done for entertainment.  
Earning money  
itself is not bad; when you earn more and own less; you become  
a blessing to  
the society. In fact, a karma yogi is one who earns more and  
owns less. A karmi  
is one who earns more and owns more; because when I earn more  
and own  
everything I earn; he has no money to share with others.

While  
Karma yogi is the most important person because he earns  
plenty and owns less;  
that means he has a big buffer which is available for pancha  
maha yagna.

Therefore,  
we are not against earning, but what we are against is earning  
and owning all.

These are the people who earn wealth and but do not give to others.

**Shloka**

**16.13:**

**6.13**

**'This has been gained by me today; I shall acquire this desired object. This is in hand; again, this wealth also will come to me.'**

So generally, these people are busy and their philosophy is: Time is money.

Therefore, they do not waste time, they utilize all the time to convert into money. This is the philosophy; therefore, generally they do not have free time; and even if they have some free time, they only think of how to increase their money and not about God.

In these three verses, Sri Krishna talks about the thought pattern of the materialistic person.

And what is their thought pattern?

They are always calculating the money they possess and planning to expand their possessions. They do not have time to think of anything other than artha and kama.

In short, the idea is: he also meditates; only

difference is the object of meditation is Lakshmi rather than Vishnu. Therefore, his is money dhyanam.

**Shloka 16.14:**



## 16.14

**'That enemy has been killed by me, and I shall kill others as well. I am the lord, I am the enjoyer, I am well-established, mighty and happy.'**

And once there is inordinate greed, naturally I will see all other people as my competitors. So, greed means I see enemies everywhere; as obstructing my goals; and therefore, shatrus increase; And in business field, liquidation of the competition is part of the program, and therefore different normal and abnormal methods are used to finish off the other people. So big companies swallow the small ones.

They even use goondas and even physically liquidate the people, because of their inordinate greed.

Initially there may be some guilt but after sometime, their heart gets benumbed that there will be no regret or guilt also.

Once I have destroyed all the competitors and I have got the monopoly in that field, nobody can come in front of me. I am the one who will enjoy all the wealth as the Siddha or successful person; I am the most successful person, but how he attained success is a big question.

I am the strongest person, even the law cannot do anything because police are in my hands, because I know what is their rate; once I know the rate, everybody can be fixed. And politicians no problem. So therefore, I hear that all the politicians are in the hands

of big business  
groups. So therefore, all are in my hands.

He  
thinks, I am the happiest person in the world; thus, these  
people dream their  
future.

### **Take Away:**

Dharma  
means inner refinement or refinement of the mind.

Vedanta says  
dependence on external factors is sorrow. External factors may  
be persons,  
things or situations.

Vedanta  
also says, non-dependence on external factors or self-  
dependence or  
independence is joy.

**With Best Wishes,**

**Ram Ramaswamy**

---

# **Baghawad Gita, Class : Chapter , Verses 4 to 9**

**Shloka 16.4:**

**16.4**

**0 son of Prtha, (the attributes) of one destined to have the**

**demoniacal nature**

**are religious ostentation, pride and haughtiness, [Another reading is abhimanah, self-conceit.-Tr.], anger as also rudeness and ignorance.**

Greetings,

Continuing his teachings Swamiji said,

In the 16th chapter of the Gita, Sri Krishna is talking about two types of lifestyles, one that is conducive to spirituality and moksha and the other one non-conducive to spiritual goal and these two lifestyles are called daivi sampath and asuri sampath.

We can roughly translate it as spiritual value system and materialistic value system; and the based on this, the spiritual value systems were mentioned in the first three verses; and the materialistic value system, Sri Krishna summarized in the 4th verse and he will elaborately deal with that from the 7th verse up to 21st verse later on. But before elaborating the asuri sampath, Sri Krishna points out that if you want to gain moksha, then your life style should be governed by daivi sampath. This is mentioned in the 5th verse and we will read:

**Shloka**

**16.5:**

**16.5**

**The divine nature is the Liberation, the demoniacal is considered to be for inevitable bondage. Do not grieve, O son of Pandu! You are destined to have the divine nature.**

Sri Krishna says, the spiritual value system which I gave out in the first three verses will take you towards Moksha. It is

conducive to self-knowledge. Whereas the asuri sampath, the materialistic value system; will keep you in Samsara and bondage. And naturally Arjuna is worried as to which category he belongs to, therefore, Sri Krishna pats Arjuna and says, Arjuna fortunately, you are with daivi sampath only.

You  
are born with spiritual inclination. You have a value for spiritual growth; Interest  
in spirituality is possible only if inherited from the previous birth.

Sri Krishna  
has said before that spiritual development takes place through many janmas. If  
we had such a lifestyle in this birth, we will have a natural inclination for  
religious or spiritual life. Arjuna, you are born with such an inclination. You  
have got a satvic tendency; you are a guna brahmana by birth itself and  
therefore you can feel happy. And you can nourish that spiritual tendency more  
and more.

## **Shloka**

**16.6:**

**16.6**

**In this world there are two (kinds of) creation of beings: the divine and the demoniacal. The divine has been spoken of elaborately. Hear about the demoniacal from Me, O son of Prtha.**

So, here, Sri Krishna says, O Arjuna, the entire humanity can be divided into two groups. Not merely Indians; not merely the vedic people, the entire humanity can be divided into two

groups; based on their tendencies; their values.

One group of humanity we can call daiva group, which means naturally having a spiritual tendency. They might be born in a materialistic society; but something pulls them towards spiritual people, spiritual books, spiritual topics, something attracts them, they themselves do not know the reason.

And there is another group, asuric; utterly materialistic group, down to earth group, as a Yamadharma raja said in kathopanishad. Yamadharmaraja calls them Shreyas and Preyas group. So Asura meaning People with materialistic tendencies; even though they born in a spiritual family; surrounded by Vedas, surrounded by Brahmanas, surrounded by temples; father himself may be a Gyani, but in spite of all these influences; these are people who turn towards materialism. Therefore, known as asuraha.

And, I have talked about the daiva group, the spiritual people, who have a spiritual value system, I have talked about them in the first three verses, but I have not elaborately talked about the materialistic value system. and I have briefly mentioned that in the fourth verse, but Sri Krishna feels that it should be elaborated. Therefore, he says the elaborate study of Asuri sampath, Arjuna, may you learn from me; so that you can avoid such a tendency. Thus, Sri Krishna gives an introduction to the asuri sampath; and hereafter He will elaborate on that.

## **Shloka 16.7**

### **16.7**

**Neither do the demoniacal persons under-stand what is to be done and what is not to be done; nor does purity, or even good conduct or**

**truthfulness exist in  
them.**

All the human beings by nature and by birth are materialistic in character. Nobody knows that there is a such a goal called Moksha. And nobody knows that there is such a thing called dharma, because dharma is not visible to our eyes; moksha is also not visible to our eyes. Both of them are called apaurusheya purushartha; goals not available to our sense organs; or even to science. And since these two goals are not known, every human being has got only two purusharthas called artha and kama. Artha means money, and wealth. And the second thing is kama pleasure or enjoyment; therefore, everybody by birth has a value for artha kama purushartha's; and therefore, our mind develops its own raga-dvesha's. raga means likes and dvesha means dislike. Right from birth, our life is governed by raga-dveshas, our instinctive likes and dislikes; which are again based on artha kama purushartha; and our scriptures point out that this raga-dvesha based life is OK in the beginning stages. But once a stage is reached when we are capable of discrimination and thinking, this raga-dvesha based life should be changed; and a new value system should replace the old value system; and the new value system that is prescribed by our scriptures is the spiritual value system. And we do not know the importance of spiritual goals, because we are immature people at that time. And, therefore, we should be guided by the scriptures which we look upon as Veda mata.

Just as a baby does not know what is good for it and what is bad, a baby surrenders to the mother, and the mother decides what is good for the child. And as long as the child goes by the mother's decision, it is ultimately for the good of the baby only. Just as mother decides what is good and bad for us, because we are immature. Similarly, Veda is the mother, who decides what is ultimately good for us and as per Veda the ultimate goal of human life has to be spiritual alone. Therefore, the shruti says: You do not know what is good for

you. I am deciding what is good for you and therefore follow what I tell you. And the Shruti replaces the materialistic value system by a spiritual value system. It tells what is good and it is called vidhi. Vidhi means a thing which is good for me and nishedha means that which is not good for me. vidhi means kartavyam; Nishedha means akarthavyam and the **Shruti asks us to replace the raga- dvesha based life by vidhi-nisheda based life.** And this transformation from the materialistic value system to spiritual value system is considered the second birth of the human being. This transformation is from the prakrta to the samskrta purusha; and it is generally symbolized by the sacred thread ceremony.

Sri Krishna says that the asura purushas are those people who do not go through this transformation of life. Because they do not want to follow the spiritual value system prescribed by the scriptures. And therefore, he says **people who are materialistic people, asuras, who are governed by raga-dveshas, likes and dislikes,** they do not educate themselves scripturally. They are literate materialistically, because they may know physics or chemistry or economics, but spiritually they are illiterate. And therefore, this transformation does not take place.

They do not know what is to be done, for spiritual growth.

They do not have dharma adharma viveka. And, therefore, they do what they like.

So, the vedic scriptures give us a daily routine to be followed for spiritual growth. The scriptures give us instructions on what we need to do from the moment we wake up every

morning till we go to bed.

So, the first advice the scriptures give is to get up before Sunrise. Most of us don't follow this.

So, Shashtra says wake up before sunrise so that Surya Bhagavan can bless us.

This is the first spiritual value or achara.

And thereafter **start the day with lighting the lamp and then doing some prayers, apply some tilakam, and this is supposed to be the greatest protection against materialism.** The onslaught of materialism is so powerful that if you have to protect, they say put some kumkum or chandan or vibhuthi.

The vibhathi is prepared by chanting a lot of mantras. Vibhathi preparation is a very elaborate ritualistic process, and therefore, it is not an ordinary ash, it is an ash with lot of mantra. And not only it has mantras' spiritual values, even when a person is applying vibhuthi he is supposed to chant mantras or names of the Lord or namas. And that is why in vaishnava sampradhaya it is called nama.

Vibhuthi means Bhagavan mahima. When you are wearing the Vibhuthi, one has to chant the triyambaka mantra.



This mantra says that Vibhuthi means it is glory of the Lord. Since you remember the glory of the Lord, the ash itself got the name Vibhuthi and since this tilakam is associated with God, it is supposed to protect us from the onslaught of materialism. Therefore, get up early in the morning; do snanam, light up the lamp, chant the prayers, and remember the Lord and remember the goal of life as well. And until you complete all these things, not even a drop of water should be drunk.

Start your day with achara. There is no sense of religious purity at all for materialistic people; So, they walk with the night dress all over the world, with the half-cleaned teeth, with the brush in the mouth, with toothpaste, walking all over with a newspaper. It is certainly not a vedic lifestyle.

Even brushing the teeth is a religious rite and there is a prayer mantra addressed to vanaspathi devatha, because in the olden days, they used the twigs of the trees for cleaning the teeth and therefore prayer to the twig: Hey Vanaspathe, I am brushing my teeth to remove my danta malaha, the impurities of the teeth; along with that, Oh Devathe, cleanse my mind also". And for what purpose? For Atma Gyanam. All these are wonderfully designed by the Veda right from the very young age to be followed; materialistic people do not believe in any one of them.

So, they do not have the religious Discipline; what about values? They do not believe in the values also; their argument is, whatever is convenient is value; I will speak truth also when it is convenient.

So, values also they do not believe in. This is the beginning of materialism. Now we can imagine the details.

### **Shloka 16.8:**

#### **16.8**

**They say that the world is unreal, it has no basis, it is without a God. It is born of mutual union brought about by passion! What other (cause can there be)?**

They are totally irreligious people. They do not connect with religion or spirituality, which is based on the vedic scriptures. First, they do not believe in the Vedas or believe in Asthayam. Sathyam here means Veda pramanam, Asathyam means that they do not believe in Veda pramanam, even though Veda is like thousand mothers.

Shankaracharya tells us, elsewhere, that the Vedas are superior to thousand mothers and fathers; it is interested only in our wellbeing but in spite of that; they do not believe in Veda pramanam. They are utterly nastika people. And if they do not accept Veda pramanam; they also do not believe in Dharma. Pratishtha means dharma; dharma means moral or ethical order of the universe. Vedas say Dharma or morality alone sustains the creation.

Dharma means that which sustains the universe. Moral order alone sustains. Once the morality goes from the society, there will be utter distress and confusion and a society cannot survive for long; And therefore, scriptures talk about Dharmas and these people do not believe in dharma because dharma is not visible to our eyes. They believe in the physical order of the universe, because it is scientifically provable. They believe in the scientific laws of the creation; like the law of gravitation; like the ecological laws, etc. but the laws of

dharma they do not believe because it cannot be scientifically proved. And therefore they say there is no dharma or adharma; there is no punyam or papam and therefore, there is neither previous birth or next birth. Enjoy this life; following whatever you feel like doing.

And then who is the creator of this universe?

They do not believe in God as well.

They say creation can come by itself; the scientists have proved that the big bang took place at such and such time, thereafter the world has evolved by itself with the help of chemical and physical laws; we do not see any intelligent principle behind it; and therefore we do not require a God.

They reject everything; they believe in only money and entertainment. Therefore five days of a week, earn and two days of a week, go all out and enjoy. Continue that till death. This is the philosophy of materialistic people.

Whereas what is the belief of the traditional people? We say, God is the creator of the world; and along with the world, God has created the Vedas also. And Vedas are the manuals which are meant to guide our life; so that we can extract the best out of this human life. And the best we can extract is moksha itself.

So, do not have materialistic friends; until you clearly understand the Vedas and understand the value of dharma. Until you understand the concept of pramanam, avoid materialistic people.

These people argue that there is no Ishvara; no Vedas and there is no dharma.

Then how did this  
creation come?

We are created by  
our parents because of the male-female union, which is caused  
by kama or  
passion, we are born. And how are our parents born? because of  
their parents;  
and how are their parents born; because of their parents. Why  
is God required  
for this? They argue that spending money on temples is  
useless, rather give  
money to the poor.

And when we listen to those arguments, we also start having  
doubts, perhaps they are correct; whereas Vedas says spending  
money on God or dharma or puja etc. can never be a waste; it  
is like pouring water at the root of the tree; when you pour  
water at the root of the tree; water directly goes to the  
root; but in an invisible manner the water goes to all the  
branches; I do not see it, but every cell of the tree gets the  
benefit.

Similarly, Bhagavan is the root of this creation;  
where did we see this? In Bhagavat Gita chapter 15.

Abhisheka you do, naivaidyam you do,  
nothing goes to waste, ultimately it is for the benefit of  
humanity. But a  
materialistic person will not accept that.

**Shloka 16.9:**

**16.9**

**Holding on to this view, (these people) who are of depraved  
character, of poor  
intellect, given to fearful actions and harmful, wax strong  
for the ruin of the  
world.**

So, these Asuric people hold on to the materialistic philosophy. Their philosophy is whatever sense organs can see that alone exists. That there are things, beyond our sense organs and which can be known through other means of knowledge, they do not accept. It is like a person with four sense organs. Imagine a person has only four sense organs by birth. He does not have eyes. He has got ears, tongue, nose and skin.

And I talk about the field of colors, I say that there is a world of colors. He says, I do not believe in that; I do not accept that; because I am not able to appreciate the colors with my four sense organs. And I say no, that you cannot know that, because the available four sense organs do not have access to the colors. It has to be known through the fifth sense organs, eyes, I tell. But this person argues that I do not believe there is a fifth sense organ. I want to prove the colors with the help of the 4 sense organs I have; he wants the proof for the colors through the ears, or prove the color through the nose, through the tongue, skin, through the available four pramanas. He is not interested in the fifth sense organ which reveals a field not available for these four.

Similarly, our culture talks about a sixth sense organ. What is the sixth sense organ?

It is called Veda. And we want to prove that with the help of the available five sense organs, we can only say that the available sense organs do not have access to that; you have to use the sixth. And if a person refuses to use the eyes, which is the fifth sense organ, who is the loser? If I will not use the eyes, I alone am going to be the loser, neither the eye nor the world of colors. If I should benefit from the world of colors, I should be

willing accept a fifth sense organ called the eye; which sense organ can never be proved by the other four sense organs. Veda is the sixth sense organ which can never be proved or disproved by the available five sense organs. You use the Veda pramana and study with faith, you will be opened to a new and wonderful field, which is not accessible to science; which is not acceptable to the sense organs.

By rejecting the Veda, Veda is not the loser; I am going to be the loser. But materialistic people will never understand the significance of the sixth sense organ. They claim that they are rational people, they will believe in only those things which can be sensed through five sense organs. Like the fool who wants the proof for the color with the help of the other 4 sense organs; how can I prove it; it is not possible.

And therefore, the materialistic people will never understand. They are lost souls, because they are losing a huge chunk of the creation which is accessible only through Veda pramana. The very definition of the Veda is what: Veda is a sixth sense organ as it were; which will reveal a new world which is not accessible to these regular five sense organs. How can you define the fifth sense organ the eye; eye is a fifth sense organ, which reveals the colors, which are not accessible to the other four sense organs. Similarly, Vedas reveals a completely new field. It is for you to operate or make use of the Vedas; otherwise you are going to be the loser.

So, they are lost souls. All because they do not understand the concept of pramana. What the eyes reveal, the ears can never prove; the ears can never disprove; what the eyes reveal. Suppose I say this is orange color is revealed by eyes; suppose the eyes want to verify the orange color. No, the ears are great; but the ears can never prove or disprove, because their field is different.

Similarly, Vedic field is different;  
scientific field is different. Science has got access only to  
a particular  
field; therefore, science has no right to prove or disprove  
the Vedic teaching.  
This is the significance of pramanam.

Therefore, they try to prove the Vedas  
scientifically. That is the greatest foolishness. It is like  
trying to prove  
the colors with the help of the ears. They will never succeed;  
and when they do  
not succeed, instead of understanding their foolishness, they  
reject the Vedas.

Vedas are unscientific and therefore I won't believe. That is  
the greatest foolishness to have. Therefore, Sri Krishna says:  
idiots; they try to prove Vedas through science; They hold on  
to a materialistic philosophy and once artha and kama becomes  
dominant in life; when dharma is not valued, then compromise  
with values become natural. Violation of values become  
natural. Telling a lie will become very comfortable; first it  
will prick, second lie it does not matter, the third lie we  
are comfortable; thereafter, lying become natural, cheating  
becomes natural, himsa becomes natural; therefore, they will  
be hurting the moral order of the universe. Ugrakarmanaha  
means they are people of violence. Violating what? the ethical  
or moral order of the creation; violating dharma which is the  
health of the universe. It is like violating the rules of  
health; by following the rules of health; I keep my body fit.  
If I violate those rules, the body dharma is disturbed; which  
becomes sickness physically, similarly when dharma is  
violated, the society becomes sick. Adharma is the sickness of  
the society. A sick body cannot survive; a sick society cannot  
also survive.

And therefore ugrakarmanaha, they hurt dharma; and the society  
indirectly prabhavanthi;

And jagataha kshayaya; they become the cause of the destruction of the humanity; And the tragedy is when the scientific knowledge increases, and value for dharma decreases, the scientific knowledge also will be used for adharmic purposes. And science gives enormous power and the increased power will be used for consistent akramaha. If medical science increases and kidneys can be replaced; kidney racket comes up. Thus, Knowledge without wisdom becomes dangerous. Knowledge is material knowledge, wisdom is dharmic knowledge; When material knowledge increases, without dharmic knowledge, that society will have problems. They will then cause destruction of universe. Militants will increase; terrorists will increase, train accidents will increase; naxals will increase. They will have even atom bombs and chemicals. Science will become a curse of humanity. Science will be blessing only when it goes along with dharma.

Therefore, these people will become a curse to the society.

Therefore, they become enemies of humanity.

Thus, educated people without dharma will become enemies.

Sakshara rakshasa bhavanti. Sakshara means literate people, they become Rakshasa.

### **Take Away:**

Asuras means Materialistic people.

Shruti

asks us to replace the raga- dvesha (likes and dislikes) based life by vidhi-nisheda (good vs bad) based life.

**With Best Wishes,**

**Ram Ramaswamy**



---

# Baghawad Gita, Class 200: Chapter 16, Verses 2 to 4

## 16.2

Non-injury, truthfulness, absence of anger, renunciation, control of the internal organ, absence of vilification, kindness to creatures, non-covetousness, gentleness, modesty, freedom from restlessness;

Continuing his teachings Swamiji said, in the beginning of the 16th chapter, in the first three verses, Sri Krishna is giving a list of virtues which He names daivi sampath; and when a person lives a way of life; taking into account these virtues; then it will become conducive to atma Gyanam. We completed first verse in the last class and in the first verse, I had left out one word and I am happy that the students noted the omission and pointed it out to me. First, I will take up the omitted word, tapaha, in the second line.

If you split it; the word tapas or Tapaha has several meanings. Sri Krishna will talk about tapa elaborately in the 17th chapter, and He will divide tapas into three types, satvika, rajasika, and tamasika tapas. Here we will see one of the meanings of the word tapa; it is deliberately and willfully going through a painful experience for toughening one's physical and mental personality. Voluntarily, deliberately going through some painful experience; of course, within a limit, in a controlled way; going through a painful experience, so that my body and mind will get toughened enough, immunized enough, to withstand pain or difficulty. So, immunization of the body, toughening of the body is the

purpose of any form of tapas. And we have got many types of tapas, in the form of vrthams. For example, those who go Sabarimala, the Ayyappa temple in Kerala, they take a 41 day or 48 days of vow. And during these days; they willfully give up certain comforts. Certain types of physical comforts are given up, and the body is allowed to go through discomfort and similarly they walk 48 miles through thorns, stones and all those, without wearing a chappal; is a voluntary invitation of physical pain. Even though nowadays they can go through a very short route; they do that; Sometimes we can see people going to the Himalayan shrines of the Kedarnath and Badrinath, at higher altitudes, very cold; there also they go without proper cover, without chappal they go; this is a clear invitation to physical pain; but you do not call it suffering. A suffering is a suffering only when it is forced upon me by somebody else.

Whereas a suffering becomes a tapas when I myself, voluntarily, force on myself for the sake of toughening my body and mind. I have talked about this before; the difference between fasting and starving, is purely based on the attitude. When I want to eat food, and food is not available, it is starving; but food is available, but deliberately today happens to be Ekadasi and one stays away from food.

In Srirangam there are people who fast the whole day, even when food is available; I deliberately forgo and go through the pang and discomfort of hunger; and this voluntary suffering is called tapas. Shankaracharya calls it sharira pidanam; pidanam word he is using; but it is voluntary. The benefit, advantage of this tapas is the body gets a capacity to tolerate; tolerance of heat; tolerance of cold; tolerance of pain; **so, increase of titiksha or tolerance is the benefit.** And in Vedanta, tolerance is considered to be a very useful sadhana. It will help a person in several ways spiritually. One benefit is that if I toughen myself and develop tolerance when I have to go through choiceless pain. Everyone will have

to face pain in life. Sometimes there are remedies, but there are occasions when a person is forced to go through pain and there is no cure or remedy. Like incurable disease or anything, I have got tolerance, choiceless pain in life will not disturb me too much. Thus, tolerance prepares myself to face choiceless pains in life; which is caused by prabhala prarabhada.

Durbhala prarabhda, gives me pain but I have remedy for weaker prarabhda, but there are prabhala prarabhda, which will give me pain for which I can have no remedy. How to face such choiceless pain? There is only one way; I have to raise my level of withstanding power; just as the military people develop that power; so, they have to learn to starve for days together; living with water; they have to survive with whatever they get; They have got endurance tests; thus, every human being requires increase in endurance power; And therefore, titiksha is useful to face choiceless situations.

The second benefit of tapas or increase of tolerance is we can avoid impulsive reactions to situations. Any impulsive reaction is because of lack of tolerance. I cannot tolerate nonsense. I cannot tolerate adharmic action; I am extremely sensitive; many people say. When I am sensitive and intolerant, the greatest disadvantage that I face, I impulsively and immediately react to the situation without thinking. Any thoughtless action is reaction; and any thoughtless reaction is improper; because we are not even judging whether our actions are right or wrong. The only solution for impulsive reaction is developing the tolerance power, so that even if somebody is doing improper action, I can wait, analyze, think well and react at

the proper time.

And when I react at proper time deliberately thoughtfully, it is no more a reaction; it is an action. If I have to postpone my reaction, and deliberately act, I require titiksha or tolerance and that tolerance comes by practicing tapas. This is the second benefit;

The third benefit of tolerance is this. Bhagavan has kept pain in life; not merely for hurting us. The role of pain is not merely wounding us, but Bhagavan wants to teach certain important lessons through pain also. So, sufferings also have a very important role in human life. And the important role of suffering is teaching; especially spiritual teaching; and if I should have the capacity to learn from suffering, I should enjoy an undisturbed mind. If suffering emotionally disturbs me, I will not be able to learn from suffering. I will go through sufferings but will continue to be where I am. So how can I learn from suffering? Only when my mind is calm, I can go through suffering and learn; and that is possible only when there is titiksha; there is tolerance. Therefore, the third benefit of tolerance is developing the faculty of learning from pain. Learning from suffering.

In fact, the very first chapter of the Gita is Arjuna vishada yoga. So Arjuna's suffering taught a lot; At least he learned that he requires external help to solve the problem of raga, shoka and moha. And that is how he decided to surrender. Therefore, pain also has a role in spiritual growth; and I can make use of it only if I have tolerance. Thus, tapas plays a very important role in developing tolerance and therefore it is included in spiritual sadhana.

And now coming to the second verse, we saw the word Ahimsa, satyam, krodha and tyaga. The word tyaga, I pointed out, refers to renunciation; renunciation can be either external or

internal. External renunciation is taking to a monastic life; internal renunciation is mentally dropping the ownership notion; I do not own anything. Bhagavan is the only owner; I am a trustee; I am supposed to only maintain things or maximize the use of things for the time being. This freedom from mamakara is called tyaga; mamakara tyaga.

The next value is shanti; shanti means the equanimity of mind; poise of mind; tranquility of mind; freedom from stress and strain. Another word they use is anayasa; inner relaxation. And this Shanti is a virtue, which we have to try to maintain throughout the day, which Sri Krishna called samatvam yoga uchyate. The very karma yoga way of life is to maintain this poise. And why is this shanti important? Only when the mind has shanti, intellect will be active and functional.

When the mind is disturbed, it will jam the intellect and it will not work. A Vedantic student has to do sravanam, mananam and nidhidhyasanam, all the three require an equanimous mind; therefore shanti. We can say, it is the samatvam attained through karma yoga. It is otherwise called samaha.

Then the next virtue is: Apaishunam. apaishunam means not publicizing the defects of other people. It is very enjoyable thing; it is a very juicy topic; to talk about the things happening in the neighborhood. Therefore, whatever defects are there; whatever deficiencies are there; whatever weaknesses are there, I enjoy talking about and whatever virtues are there; I carefully avoid. Shastra says it is never correct. If at all you want to talk about others, talk about their virtues. Cover up your virtues; publicize others' virtues.

Therefore, he says apaishunam; never talk about the other people's weaknesses.

Then the next virtue is Daya bhuteshu. Daya means compassion, bhuta means all living beings; human beings, animals, towards all of them, have compassion, i.e. learn to look at their suffering by standing in their shoes. Temporarily imagine what will it be if I am in their position. So, then, certainly it will be impossible for us to injure others.

Therefore, bhuteshu daya, or bhuta daya is considered to be a very important virtue.

Then the next one is aloluptvam; aloluptvam means not yielding to the temptations of sense objects. So the world is full of maya. And the world is full of temptations, my sense organs can very easily become an addict to anything. So even when such temptations are there; not yielding to them, that self-control is called aloluptvam. Previously we saw the word dama; dama is in a general sense control; aloluptvam is specific sense control; when there are temptations.

Saying No to drugs; because there are certain temptations like drug, liquor, cigarette, etc. We have to yield only once; first time it is a deliberate mistake, and second time, that object becomes the master and I become a slave. First, I am master, the cigarette is slave; second time, the cigarette become stronger; then time, it will still become stronger; after sometime, I am utterly helpless that I cannot even imagine giving it up.

You will find that once a person becomes an addict, it is almost impossible to get out. You have to read the book of Alcoholic Anonymous. They say God alone can help such an addict; For that, one has to surrender to God. even that becomes difficult. And therefore, always say

No first.

Therefore, better not to go in front of it, at all; and therefore alooluptvam.

Then the next one is mardavam; mardavam means gentleness, in handling people, in handling things, gentleness or politeness in manners; Not being rude is called mardavam.

The mind of the wise people is very unique. It has got two opposite virtues. One angle it is stronger and harder than even diamond; and from another angle they are tender; more tender than even flowers; How come one mind is both hard and tender. It is said when they are receiving experiences such as people insulting, people criticizing, people misbehaving; when they are facing adverse situations, their mind takes the mode of hardness; the mind is so strong that any adverse situation cannot affect it; like the rock of Gibraltar, it will not get affected; but the very same wise people when they are handling other people, when they are talking to other people, their language and behavior is more tender than even flowers. So, as a karta they have a tender mind; as a bhokta they have a diamond like hard mind. But the problem of the ignorant person is the other way around. He also has a hard and soft mind. When he faces situation, it is too soft; that at the slightest insult he is affected; When he handles people, it is so rock like and rude, neither he is happy nor the other people around are happy. So, gentleness in handling other people.

Then hrih means modesty, and also a sense of shame; a healthy sense of shame. There are two types of shame, one is a healthy shame. A healthy shame is defined as that, which obstruct a person from doing wrong actions. Sometimes we feel ashamed to do certain things in front of others, when that shame restrains us from doing adharmic actions, that

sense of shame

is a worthy sense of shame and it has to be cultivated. Shamelessness in that respect is an evil thing.

Therefore, healthy shame is called hrih or modesty.

Then the next virtue achapalam; chapalam means restlessness expressed at the body level. Restlessness which is primarily a mental condition and when the mind is highly restless, it overflows to the body level and through the body language, the person shows he is uncomfortable. Hands and legs are moving; face is twitching. He is biting the finger; first nails then finger. They eat pencils and pens; all kinds of things happen; fidgety character is called chapalam; where the body does lot of movements purposelessly. Moving the legs purposelessly, moving the hands purposelessly. All of them are called cheshtai. When we are children, parents used to tell us sit quietly without doing any cheshtai. That indriya cheshta is called chapalam; achapalam is freedom from that; body also is relaxed.

### **Shloka 16.3:**

#### **16.3**

**Vigor, forgiveness, fortitude, purity, freedom from malice, absence of haughtiness-these, O scion of the Bharata dynasty, are (the alties) of one born destined to have the divine nature.**

Then next virtue is tejaha. teja means not being a victim of exploitation; goodness; Simplicity, it does not mean ideocracy. Being simple does not mean, being simpleton, it is not required; Be gentle; be good; be tolerant; all these virtues are very good; that does not mean that we should become door mats of other's exploitation. If somebody is committing a mistake; if somebody is improperly behaving; it



should not mean I should silently suffer and be a victim. I can certainly take appropriate action. I need not be taken for a ride in the name of being a Gita student. Do not cheat and do not get cheated.

It does not mean I should impulsively react and get angry. It is not necessary, we can study the situation and first, then we can use non-violent methods of handling and later, even if we have to take violent steps; by all means take violent steps. If that is the ultimate necessary evil.

So not victimizing one's self is called tejaha; because just as we should not hurt others, we should not hurt ourselves also. We have a duty to our own body; our own mind; it does not mean I should unnecessarily suffer; it does not mean I have to put up with non-sense. Need not. So, a no-nonsense attitude is tejaha.

Then the next virtue is Kshama. Kshama is otherwise called Shanti in the 13th Chapter and it is called titiksha in the 2nd chapter.

And this word Kshama has several meanings; one meaning is tolerance, which we saw before; Kshama is the benefit gained through tapas. While explaining Tapas I said, by practicing tapas, a person will get forbearance or tolerance. This is one meaning.

But, Shankaracharya gives another meaning for the word Kshama by contrasting it with the word akrodha. Akrodha means capacity to handle anger. When the anger rises inside; before it is expressed outside, I allow that it to go through the filter of discrimination. Before expressing, if I can use my discrimination, discreet expression of anger; or discreet non-expression of anger; or discreet partial expression of anger;

that is the management of anger. This was called akrodha in the second verse; Shankaracharya says **kshama here means the mind becomes free from anger**. Very tough; In the first stage, anger was allowed but it should be under your control; let it be but it should be within your control; but **kshama means enjoying a mind in which anger does not rise at all**. So **non-arrival of anger is kshama; management of arrived-anger is akrodha**. Is it possible for a person to avoid the rise of anger at all; looks it is almost impossible. In fact, even psychologists say anger is a healthy sign; healthy part of a regular mind; psychologists will not accept that; But Shankaracharya says it is possible. but he does not say how. We get a clue in the third chapter; we get the clue in the third chapter. There **he defined anger is nothing but expectations converted to irritation; when it is obstructed; obstructed expectation gets converted to irritation**. And since irritation is the converted form of expectation, if you have to handle irritation, you have to handle your expectation. Lesser the expectation, lesser the scope for anger; and even if expectations are unavoidable, try to make them into preferences.

And therefore, reduce the expectation and whatever minimum you have, have non-binding expectation or we can call it preference.

That is the only way to avoid anger. There is no other remedy. Therefore, Kshama is anger-lessness.

Dhrti means fortitude, perseverance, or will power is called dhrti; the capacity to continue a sadhana in spite of obstacles, in spite of hurdles, is called will power.

Sri Krishna will talk about the importance of willpower in the 18th chapter; And there He will talk about three types of willpower; satvic willpower;

rajastic willpower and  
tamasic willpower. I will not talk about it now; I hope you  
will have the  
willpower to continue the classes until the 18Th. Therefore,  
dhrti; Dru means  
holding on to. Dru, dharane; holding power; willpower.

Then the next  
virtue is Shaucham. This also has come in the 13th chapter.

Shaucham is  
cleanliness and orderliness. It should not stop with  
cleanliness only. We  
should include orderliness, of the surroundings, from our  
street, visible from  
the surroundings. We have the best teaching and least  
implementation; we have  
got the best scriptures in the world; but we never implement.  
And the other countries;  
they do not have such scriptures; and they seem to implement.  
We have the  
enclosure for putting the rubbish; but it is put everywhere  
else, but in that particular  
place. So, therefore, cleanliness of the surrounding;  
cleanliness of our dress;  
cleanliness of the body. And above all, the toughest is the  
purity of the mind;

I have talked in  
the 13th chapter, and therefore, I do not want to go to the  
details.

Then the next  
virtue is Adroha; adroha is ahimsa at the mental level; not  
even desiring to  
harm others; not even tending to harm others. So, they will  
not even think himsa.

Shankaracharya says, not only you should not hit others, even raising the hand saying that I will hit, not doing that is adroha; not even intending to harm others is called adrohaha;

Then the next one is natimanita. This is amanitvam of the 13th chapter.

Freedom from pride, freedom from superiority complex, or positively put, humility; humbleness is called natimanita. This is supposed to be a very important virtue for a spiritual student. Because, a spiritual student has to do the namaskara to the guru.

If I have got arrogance, namaskara is the most difficult thing. And that too, namaskara to another human being is very difficult; and if a person does not have that humility; knowledge will not flow down; because if something has to flow down; it has to be from higher level to lower level. If the knowledge should come; I should bend humbly. And therefore, natimanita means Humility;

All these virtues will be present in a person who has got daivi sampath; who is born with daivi sampathi. So, one who is born with satva guna, or one who is a satvic person, he or she will have all these virtues and if these virtues are not there from birth; we have to cultivate them. Most of us do not have them. Therefore, in Vedanta, cultivating these virtues alone will take more time. **Vedantic study really does not take time; maximum time is in getting this daivi sampath;**

**Shloka 16.4:**

#### 16.4

O son of Prtha, (the attributes) of one destined to have the demoniacal nature are religious ostentation, pride and haughtiness, [Another reading is abhimanah, self-conceit.-Tr.], anger as also rudeness and ignorance.

So having talked about the daivi sampath, that is the virtues belonging to a spiritually oriented person. Now Sri Krishna wants to talk about asuri sampath; which is naturally there; in a materialistic person. As I said asuri sampath does not mean a person who has got the protruding teeth like a demon, it means one with materialistic tendencies. And what are they? Sri Krishna is going to enumerate them in this verse, He presents them in a nutshell and later, from the seventh verse, He will elaborate the very same asuri sampath, till verse No.21.

What is materialism? We get a very beautiful list. What are they?

Dambhaha means

pomp and show; exhibitionism of their wealth; their position; their status etc.

which is also called ostentation;

Then the next materialistic tendency is darpaha. Along with money and power, comes arrogance. Disrespecting people, disrespecting elderly people etc.,

Therefore, darpaha means arrogance.

Then abhimana; superiority complex, looking upon oneself as puja yogya. One who deserves honor, reverence etc.

The difference between darpah and abimana is; darpaha is externally expressed arrogance; manitvam is unexpressed internally thought. One is at bhavana level another is at the

karma or action level;

Then krodha; krodha is anger; because there is power; because there is position; and therefore, he does not mind ill-treating anyone; krodha means anger; rudeness, harshness, impoliteness; mannerlessness; all are called krodha.

Then Agyanam, means ignorance and here the word ignorance means ignorance of Dharma Shastra. We are not talking about spiritual ignorance; because we are not dealing with philosophy in these two chapters. Chapters 16 and 17 are dealing ethics and morality; And therefore, the word ignorance here means ignorance of ethics, ignorance of morals; dharmadharma aviveka.

These are all naturally there in a person who is born with rajasic and tamasic tendencies. Especially if he belongs to a rich family, then he may not know what is humility, and that becomes a very big obstacle.

### **Take Away:**

Anger is nothing but expectations converted to irritation; when it is obstructed; obstructed expectation gets converted to irritation. And since irritation is the converted form of expectation, if you have to handle irritation, you have to handle your expectation. Lesser the expectation, lesser the scope for anger; and even if expectations are unavoidable, try to make them

into preferences.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

---

## Baghawad Gita, Class 199: Chapter 16, Verses 1 & 2

Shloka # 16.1:

16.1 The Blessed Lord said Fearlessness,  
purity of mind, persistence in knowledge and yoga, charity and  
control of the  
external organs, sacrifice, (scriptural) study, austerity and  
rectitude;

Greetings,

Continuing his teachings Swamiji said, as I said in the last class, Sri Krishna is dealing with the way of life that a spiritual seeker should lead, so that it is conducive to the reception of spiritual knowledge; as well as the assimilation of spiritual knowledge and this way of life, Sri Krishna calls Daiva marga. And this daiva marga, the spiritual path, the satvic path involves the observation of certain virtues in daily life, and Sri Krishna enumerates those virtues in these verses, which the Lord calls Daivi sampath. In the first three verses, we are getting the list of these virtues. We were seeing the first verse in the last class; abhayam, satvasamshuddhi, Gyanayogavyasthiti. Abhayam means spiritual courage; to cross all the hurdles which come in the way of my spiritual path; the inner courage, satvasamshuddhi is the

purity of mind. Then Gyanayogavyasthiti, which means, Vedanta sravana manana nidhidhyasanam. Gyanam, means sravana, mananam, and yoga means nidhidhyasanam. So Gyana plus yoga is equal to sravana manana nidhidhyasanam, I have talked about this before, I hope you remember. And this one is the primary sadhana which should go along with the others, without Gyana yoga any amount of virtues will remain incomplete. Without morals, Gyana yoga is impossible, without Gyana yoga, a moral life is incomplete. It can never lead to liberation; therefore, they are complimentary; therefore, they should be given due importance.

**Gyanayogavyasthiti**; the word vyasthiti means committed pursuit. It is nishta, it is a sincere and serious and pursuit therefore he uses the word vyasthiti; commitment.

### **Danam:**

Now we will go to the second line; danam or charity is another important virtue highlighted in the scriptures. Brihadaranyaka Upanishad enumerates the three virtues of Yajna, danam and tapas as the most important disciplines and Sri Krishna himself highlights these three virtues again. So danam means charity and why do we say danam is a very important virtue and also a very difficult virtue; we can follow everything else but danam is difficult. Why do we consider this important?

Danam has significance from different angles; the first benefit of danam is that it serves as a remedy for a very serious mental problem called lobha. Lobha is a very serious mental problem; which is caused by the sense of insecurity. One fundamental human problem is continuous sense of insecurity.

This insecurity, continues all the time. And we do not know



why the insecurity is caused; and the generally we have a misconception that this sense of insecurity will go away if we hold on to external possessions. We think that possessions are the only remedy for the problem of insecurity; even though there is no truth in that conclusion. Because there are people who have lot of possessions and continue to be insecure. And there are many people who do not have any possessions and they have full sense of security. From this it is very clear people with possessions continue to be insecure while people without possessions feel secure; from this it is very clear, that the possessions and the security have no connection; but even though this is the truth; we have got the strongest moha that the insecurity will go away as we increase our possession. And this sense of possession is so strong; and this alone is called lobha; and this lobha or sense of possession expresses in two-fold ways; one way is, it wants to grab more and more; get more, get more, get more. The other expression is: whatever you get, you very carefully hold on to and never give away.

Therefore, get more and give less. This is lobha. In English we translate it as greed and miserliness is equal to lobha and this greed miserliness problem, lobha, is because of the misconception that the greater the possession, the greater the security.

And this lobha leads to several problems in life. The first problem is that a person wants to grab more and more; and therefore, unknowingly he begins to compromise with dharma; because beyond a limit; greed will force a person to cut corners to comprise with dharma. Thus, it will lead to adharma; it will lead to papam; it will lead to himsa; thus, lobha is a very serious mental problem. and not only this is the problem, this person with lobha begins to suspect every human being who comes near. Because we do not know whether he is coming for me for whether he is coming for my money. Whether he loves me or my money? Thus, the eye of suspicion

will be there all around, even I look at my family members differently.

Thus, lobha is a serious problem and the only remedy for lobha is gradually developing the sense of charity. Danam is the only remedy for lobha disease. And therefore, danam is important.

And the second significance is, if danam is not there in society, a person goes on amassing and accumulating without sharing, there will be a big disparity between the rich and the poor and when this gulf increases, then that society will have lot of problems like crime etc. Most of the crimes, economic crimes like kidnapping for ransom; murdering for gain, burglary, all these things will happen when there is a big gulf between the rich and the poor. And when we read such news items more and more in the newspapers, the rich person will feel, more and more insecure than secure. The irony is that he has got lot of money for security; the very same money has thus caused insecurity, because of the fear burglary, kidnapping and all those things. And therefore, a healthy social order requires people who are willing to able to share with one's who need. Therefore, danam takes care of social order.

And the third significance of danam is that it is the only touchstone to find out whether

I have detachment or not. If I do not have detachment, danam will be the most painful affair; even though for social purposes, I give, it will be with a lot of heart burn. If I have got

inner detachment, danam will be the happiest discipline or sadhana that I practice. Therefore, danam becomes a test for my detachment. And therefore, danam is significant.

And fourthly, danam is considered a very important prayascitha karma. We all have acquired lot of papams; durithams; for

which we have to do prayaschittams and varieties of prayaschittams are mentioned in our Shashtra; and one of the prayaschittam karma is danam and that is why at the time of death; or immediately after death; varieties of danam are given. In fact, we are supposed to do that before we die; but we will not have that mind; we will rather lose our life rather than loosen the purse. So, Danam is a very important prayaschitta karma. This is the fourth significance;

And fifthly and finally, danam is a beautiful sadhana, which makes our death peaceful; because death is an event in which everything that I have carefully earned will be taken away from me. Whether it is house or bank balance; anything I have earned, everything including my physical body; after death, I cannot even own my physical body; everything I have to give back to the World, God or Lord, as you look at. This release of all my possessions should be comfortable to me, I should have practiced danam in my earlier days; and if I have enjoyed danam in my life; I will look upon death also as a form of danam.

Till now, I held on to every possession and then Yamadharmaraja snatches them away and I die painfully.

Death will be peaceful for a person who has learned to enjoy giving away. **Therefore, danam is a very, very significant spiritual sadhana.** Initially at least we should give away what we do not want.

They say, among a hundred persons there will be one Suraha, courageous person; there will be one scholar at least among one thousand people, among one lakh people, at least you can find one good teacher. Even though they are

rare, a real giver is very difficult to find. It is difficult, but we have to practice as I said, start giving what you do not want; and thereafter we can find whether we can give even those things that we want. If it is useful for somebody else more. Therefore, Sri Krishna says, danam.

### **Damaha:**

Damaha means indriya nigraha or sense control. Sense control does not mean suppression of sense organs; we never encourage suppression, because any form of suppression is an oppression. It will lead to depression, we never encourage.

By damaha, what we mean is voluntarily directing the sense organs which is born out of my conviction. I decide what is good for me for my spiritual growth and I decide what is not good for me; and with conviction, I myself turn away the sense organs. It is called mastery over the sense organs.

But when I turn the sense organs away; because of somebody else's enforcement. then it is called suppression.

The difference between suppression and mastery is, when I do it for another's sake, it is suppression, when I do it out of my own conviction, it is never a suppression; It is called indriya jayaha. It is victory. Suppression will lead to mental health problems; mastery will lead to mental growth. Therefore, damaha is mastery of the sense organs.

### **Yagnaha:**

Then the next virtue is yagnaha. Yagnaha literally means

worship of the Lord. Yaj means to worship; yagnaha means the practice of worship and our scriptures talk about two forms of worship; one is the regular ceremonial worship, in the form of puja and homas or puja in the temple etc. which is the regular ceremonial ritualistic formal worship. And there is a second form of worship which is conversion of all our activities themselves into a form of worship. As the well-known saying goes; work itself is a worship and this conversion is brought about by a change of attitude which is called karma yoga attitude; **I look upon every karma as an offering to the Lord and therefore I cheerfully do all the karmas; Enthusiastically wholeheartedly, sincerely, cheerfully, I do, whether it is mundane action or the most important action.** And that is called Ishvara arpana bhavana and more importantly I prepare my mind to face any consequences that will come out of my action. This is called prasada bhavana; Ishvara arpana bhavana with regard to karma; prasada bhavana with regard to karma phalam will convert every karma into a yagna.

And therefore, formal external puja is a must and in addition to that, we also require second type of puja, of converting every action into worship. Karma yoga rupa puja; and in this yagna itself, in the third chapter, I talked about pancha maha yagna.

### **Svadyaya:**

svadyaya means scriptural study. So, this is waning from our society; previously these things were there; but slowly we are forgetting that; this was called in the third chapter, we named it Brahma yagna. All part of the Hindu society; it was all part of vedic karma. So therefore, scriptural study is called svadyayaha. This study is two-fold, one is called parayarana. Parayarana means recitation, which is considered to be a beautiful kavacham against any type of evils, including materialism. In fact, whether ghosts are there or not, I consider the most powerful ghost is materialism. It is catching up fast with our society and our culture is eroding;

Everybody may not or need not know sandyavandanam; some prayer chanting is a must. It is called shabda avriti. And there is another type of svadhyaya; which is artha avriti; dwelling upon the meanings of the scriptures. So, first one is shabda pradhana, the second one is artha pradhana, the first one is simple recitation, even without knowing the meaning, the recitation will bless the home; This is svadhyaya.

### **Arjavam:**

Then the next virtue is Arjavam. Arjavam means integrity. Uprightness, enjoying a harmonious personality; we have talked about five layers of personality in Tatva bodha; annamaya, the physical body; pranamaya, the pranic personality; manomaya, the emotional personality; vignana maya, the rational or intellectual personality; all the different layers of my personality, which is normally expressed as the thought, the word and the deed; all of them should be harmonious. So harmonization, integration, concordance of all my personality is called Arjavam; all my personalities are in one line. I do not have a crooked personality; There is no hypocrisy. A hypocritic person says one thing but does something else. They lead a very stressful life. Hence Arjavam is essential.

### **Shloka # 16.2:**

#### **16.2**

**Non-injury, truthfulness, absence of anger, renunciation, control of the internal organ, absence of vilification, kindness to creatures, non-covetousness, gentleness, modesty, freedom from restlessness;**

### **Ahimsa:**

The next virtue is Ahimsa. This also I have talked about elaborately in the thirteenth chapter; therefore, I do not want to go to the details and we also know its importance.

ahimsa is avoidance of non-violence at the kayika, vachika and manasa level. And the simple rule is what I give to the world, that alone I will get back ultimately. So therefore, it is like throwing a ball against a wall; when I throw the ball, it hits the wall and comes back to me only. And the force of the ball will be directly proportional to the force with which I throw. And therefore, we should remember that **the ultimate truth is what I get will be what I give**. From the bank what I can take is what I have deposited in the bank. If I deposit violence in the bank called the world, it will come back to me alone, if not now, later. And therefore, for my own peace of mind, I have to avoid himsa. Of course, we never say that ahimsa is absolute.

There may be occasions when himsa becomes a necessary evil. And the best example is the Bhagavad Gita itself.

In several places, Sri Krishna talks of Ahimsa, then he asks Arjuna to fight as well. Is Sri Krishna contradicting himself? Here we should remember, ahimsa is a general value, but every value has an exception, including ahimsa, as there are cases when nonviolent methods miserably fail. And when non-violent methods fail, and for the protection of dharma, the only available means is himsa; then there is nothing wrong in taking. In fact, Sri Krishna goes one step further and says: This dharma yuddha will not give you papam, on the other hand, it will give you punyam. And therefore, we should not blindly talk about ahimsa.

Misplaced ahimsa will have very, very negative consequences. Imagine a doctor who does not want to treat the patient, because it is painful. A Doctor has to do that; and therefore, judicious ahimsa is a value.

### **Satyam:**

Then the next value is Satyam. Satyam means truthfulness; or more correctly, avoidance of untruth. Because if speaking the

truth is going to hurt a person; then we have to follow the value of ahimsa and avoid speaking the truth; but that does not mean that we should speak untruth; avoid speaking untruth. So therefore, Satyam is equal to asatyavarjanam.

And suppose you have to tell the truth to correct a person, and telling the truth is going to be painful; what to do? We have to tell the truth for correcting the truth; it may hurt; may be your own child, may be your own family members. And what is the method; speak some other pleasant truth; there are unpleasant truths; but there are so many pleasant truths; therefore, talk about the pleasant truth predominantly and when the person's mind is well-cushioned, speak the unpleasant truth; do not dwell upon the unpleasant truth. Speak more of pleasant truth; dwell upon pleasant truth; Therefore Satyam.

### **Akrodhaha:**

Then the next one is Akrodhaha; akrodhah means learning to handle the problems of anger. Anger is a very powerful emotion; which can hurt the angry person, and which can hurt the people who are around the angry person. And therefore, one has to necessarily learn to handle anger. How to do that? Several methods are there; one of the methods is understanding anger as a form of emotional pain. Understanding anger as a form of expression of mental pain or emotional pain; because anger is the name of a mental condition. Anger is an emotion belonging to the mind; shouting cannot be called anger; Shouting is a consequence of anger. Hitting is not anger; it is a consequence of anger; anger has nothing to do with the body. Others know only the expressions of anger; anger is purely a mental condition; which is a form of pain. And this mental pain is very similar to physical pain. If you understand the role of physical pain, we can understand the role of mental pain or anger.

Any pain indicates that things are not functioning properly; therefore, it is red light. And therefore, management of



anger is understanding anger as an internal signal. I should intelligently use it to find out a remedy to the cause of that anger; This is called akrodha; so, management of anger.

### **Tyaga:**

Then the next one is Tyaga that means sanyasa or renunciation. The moment we say renunciation, everybody gets jittery. So the renunciation is two-fold, one is the external renunciation; such as taking taking to a monastic lifestyle; Monasticism is one meaning of tyaga.

And there is another meaning for the word tyaga; which is not external renunciation, but inner renunciation called detachment; so vairagya or detachment is called tyaga. And what is detachment; it is an appropriate attitude towards my possessions. A right attitude. What is the right attitude towards the possession? It is the understanding that I really do not possess anything; I really do not possess anything; everything belongs to the Lord and Lord alone; and God out of his infinite kindness, has provided me with certain possessions for my use; and growing spiritually; and I am supposed to use them and grow; and it has to go back to the Lord alone; I can never hold on to anything; including my own body. So, everything belongs to the God; and God can choose to take back anything as he wants.

And if God chooses to take away anything from me, I will voluntarily return it to the Lord, with a note of thanks. This attitude is called tyaga.

So, therefore, this readiness to lose anything is called renunciation.

### **Shanti:**

**Shanti** is next virtue.; Shanti means equanimity of mind. Freedom from violent emotional disturbances. Balance of mind is called

Shanti.

**Take Away:**

Ahimsa is avoidance of non-violence at the kayika, vachika and manasa level. And the simple rule is what I give to the world, that alone I will get back ultimately. So therefore, it is like throwing a ball against a wall; when I throw the ball, it hits the wall and comes back to me only. And the force of the ball will be directly proportional to the force with which I throw. And therefore, we should remember that the ultimate truth is what I get will be what I give.

**With Best Wishes,**

**Ram Ramaswamy**

---

# **Baghawad Gita, Class 198: Chapter 16, Verse 1**

**CHAPTER – 16: Yoga  
of division of attributes, divine and demoniac.**

Greetings,

Continuing his teachings Swamiji said, having completed the 15th chapter, now we will enter into the 16th chapter of the Gita. The two chapters 16th and 17th have a subject matter, which is different from the main subject matter of the previous three chapters, 13th, 14th, and 15<sup>th</sup> respectively.

There  
is a shift in Sri Krishna's teaching. And this shift in the subject matter is based

on a very important principle and that principle is that the goal of life of a person; a person's goal of life and a person's way of life, both of them are closely related. The way of life and the goal of life; when I say goal, the primary top most goal of life, these two are closely connected; each one will influence the other; **the goal of life will influence my way of life, and my way of life in turn will influence my goal of life also.** Therefore, these two things cannot be separated and therefore, if a person wants to successfully accomplish his goal of life, he has to take into account his very way of life also. One cannot ignore the way of life, and fix the goal of life alone. One should pay attention to the way of life, and ensure, that there is alignment between the way and the goal.

The way of life should be conducive to the accomplishment of the goal. This our scriptures consider as very important. You cannot hope to lead any way of life, and yet hope to accomplish goal of Life. Just as the environment and the type of plant, both are interconnected. You cannot grow any type of plant in any type of atmosphere. It is impossible; both are interconnected.

And therefore, the Veda purva bhaga, the beginning portion of the Vedas concentrate upon the way of life while the final portion of the Veda, the Vedanta concentrates on the goal of life. Indian culture can never be understood without keeping Vedanta in mind. And, therefore, Sri Krishna feels that he has talked about the spiritual goal of life; He has talked about the self-knowledge as the goal of life, in the 13th, 14th and

15th chapters, and now he feels that His teaching is complete only when He talks about the complimentary part; viz., the way of life, which is conducive and which will promote the goal that He has presented in the previous chapters. Therefore, previous three chapters deal with the goal, these two chapters, 16th and the 17th deal with the way of life, because they cannot be separated.

And the way of life, a person leads is heavily determined by the character that a person possesses. The way of life is heavily influenced by, determined by, controlled by, directed by, the character, the personality, the make-up of an individual.

Therefore character determines the way of life, and the way of life will determine the goal of life. Therefore all these three are inter-connected; Character, Way and Goal. And trying to tamper one alone, without taking into account the other two, will be a lopsided approach, which will not be successful. All the three, we should take into account. And based on this, our scriptures divide the character of the human being. Our scriptures have made a thorough study of the possible human characters; because character will determine life, which will in turn, determine the goal.

And this human character is divided into several types in different contexts; sometimes they classify into four types; sometimes they classify into three types; sometimes they classify into two types; different classifications are there, depending upon the context. And for our study, we will see the three-fold classification of human character. The three-fold classification of human character is:

The first classification is called dvesha pradhana svabhava, a character in which lot of dvesha or dislike is predominant. We do not know why; it may be because of purva janma; it may be because of present janma; it may be because of the childhood experiences; it may be because of the parental upbringing; it

may be because of the friendship; whatever be the cause, that we do not study now, one type of character is dominantly dvesha pradhana; a character in which I dislike most of the things. I have complaint almost against everything, almost a cynical character. I have complaints against the government system; complaint against family members; complaint against television; and complaint against God as well.

And this dvesha pradhana character, as he accumulates this dvesha, because one is not able to express outside, because of suppression, parental suppression where child was asked to shut up often; the child has lot of complaints but could not express. And this accumulated dvesha leads to lot of anger suppressed inside; anger against everything. So dvesha pradhana character is generally krodha pradhana character and this leads to himsa pradhana character; a person who is highly short tempered, highly volatile. Even the smallest incidents will cause an earthquake or volcano. The shastra class it rakshasa svabhava. Why does the shastra call this rakshasa svabhava? Because when a person is so volatile and short tempered, about to explode all the time, what will be the attitude of other people? Do the other people love to come near him; or will they try to run away from him? Try to avoid him at all cost. Swamiji says that in some houses, when the father comes from office, all the children say: appa has come, let us go inside; as though volcano is coming; In some cases, it may be an amma as well. So therefore, rakshasa svabhava is that svabhava from which people want to protect themselves; hence called rakshasa. It is derived from raksha to protect; a svabhava, from which people would love to run away. This is called dvesha pradhana svabhava.

It is generally, insensitive to others' feelings. Generally, rude and gross minded and generally goes on hurting people, often without awareness about it.

This

character is not conducive to spiritual growth and still worse; this character brings a person down spiritually. It leads to spiritual regression. Not progression.

Then comes the second character is Raga pradhana svabhava. An svabhava, which is heavily raga-oriented; attachment oriented; which leads to lot of kama; lot of desires; what type of desire? Desire for name, fame, money, possession, position, revelry and merry making. Life is meant for enjoyment and therefore, they have no goal. It is a let go philosophy. They do not harm others; but they like raga and kama and this svabhava are also supposed to be unconducive to spiritual progress, because a person does not have time or inclination to turn inwards. Raga pradhana svabhava is an extrovert; all the time bothered about these few little things like my status, etc.

And this svabhava does not lead to spiritual downfall, because this person does not harm others. But this person or character will lead to spiritual stagnation. There is no downfall; but there is no scope for spiritual growth because generally, these people do not consider religion and spirituality is relevant for life. They wonder for earning money and enjoying life why do we require God. One lady was telling that she wanted to bring her husband also to Gita classes. And that person argued it seems: Religion is meant for the weak minded and sick minded people; I am healthy and fine; I do not have any problem at all; why are you unnecessarily introducing me to all these things? Most of these people, belonging to the second variety, they are harmless, even well behaved, and good mannered but they tend to be nasthikas. They consider religion is not required; Vedanta is not required to lead a comfortable and happy life. In fact, they may even go one step further and say religion is a problem. According to them, religion and

spirituality contributes to only problems in society. In fact, they feel if they are banned or abolished; it is better. This is the second variety. They are Materialistic people, in simple language. They won't negate God often; but they feel God is not relevant to our life. Spirituality is not relevant, scriptures are not relevant; it does not appeal to them. And in fact, most of our youngsters are tending to this alone.

There was an article, somebody gave me, in Indian Express it seems, whether it was fact or fiction, I do not know. A couple had visited a family and it is in connection with some marriage proposal and after the visit, the couple had gone, this girl says, I do not want to get married to this family at all. Why; because they are all Talibans, Afghan Muslim fundamentalists. This girl's parents were shocked; why are you calling them Talibans? The reason is that both the parents have come with lot of religious marks on their forehead. Our children do not believe in it. They think that it is religious fanaticism. And that girl argued that because of these clear cut religious marks alone, we are dividing the society as Hindus, Christians, Muslims and it is only causing, division, disparity and quarrel, therefore why do we require it. Simple application of the vibhuthi or kumkum, the younger generation looks upon as religious fundamentalism. It may be a fiction, but what I want to say is the tendency of the next generation. This is raga pradhana svabhava and they are not bad or evil or immoral. They are wonderful children; thinking children, but they end up as materialistic people; totally away from our culture, which is a non-materialistic culture. This is the second group of people and Sri Krishna calls them asura svabhava. Asura does not mean people with tusks and horns, and all; it is derived from asusu ramante iti asuraha. asusu means the sense organs. Ramante means revellery. Asurah means a person or a society or a group, which values sensory revelry; noise making, merry making alone. So this is asura svabhava. These people will not fall down in spirituality; but there is no scope for spiritual growth. Therefore the second character

leads to spiritual stagnation while first one that leads to spiritual regression or downfall.

Then

comes the third character, which is Gyana pradhana. Which considers spiritual knowledge

as the goal. That is why a child is initiated into Sandhya vandhana mantras, for

knowledge. And knowledge, especially the spiritual knowledge, is symbolized, as

lamp in our culture and therefore lighting the lamp is the first thing that we

do, whatever be the undertaking. Early morning starts with lighting the lamp.

Any function starts with lighting the lamp; even the so-called secular

functions such as Film festivals. They show all violence, but the cinema actors

come nicely dressed, showing all the 32 teeth's and they light the lamp,

because even when India turns materialistic, spirituality cannot be taken away

from India. Therefore, Gyana pradhana, those who consider that Gyanam is the top priority and

whatever is required for that Gyanam that also is top priority. Not that they

dislike money or name or fame; it is not they are against them, but they never

think of that; at the cost of spiritual growth. Keeping in mind the spiritual

growth, whatever can be accomplished, whatever entertainment is there; or

music, dance; the whole family can watch the dance, because the theme is

Krishna, Bhagavatham, Ramayanam; and the

Jivatma, pining for Paramatma;

that is our dance theme, and the lyrics also written by saints



and sages. There is a scope for all, but it is in keeping with spirituality, similarly, in dance. There is program called deepa pradakshinam as is Radha Kalyanam. Alternatively Overnight pubs are also coming up.

In our culture we have dancing and singing all centered on spirituality. It is Gyana pradhana way of life; that is the third svabhava; and Sri Krishna calls them daiva svabhava.

Daiva svabhava: means it stands for knowledge, wisdom and brightness.

So, these are the three svabhavas; deva or daiva; asura; and rakshasa svabhava. All these three characters are compared to a wealth that a person possesses. All these three people possess their own wealth, in the form of these characters. And these characters are compared to wealth because with that character, they can buy; they can accomplish their goals. How? Character decides the way of life. Way of life, decides the goal; therefore character purchases your goal. And therefore it is called sampath.

Therefore in the 16th chapter, Krishna wants to talk about daivi sampath; otherwise called daiva svabhava; which is the inner wealth of character; which will accomplish a particular type of goal; then, asuri sampath or asura svabhava, the 2nd type of inner wealth or character, which will purchase another type of goal. And the third one is rakshasi sampathi.

And having presented the three characters or inner wealths,  
Sri Krishna  
wants to say:

O Arjuna, if your goal is spiritual knowledge, or moksha,  
the only conducive way is daiva svabhava. If you do not value,  
spiritual knowledge, I have nothing more to tell.

But Sri Krishna says if you value spiritual knowledge, if you  
value

Moksha

then the way of life, which is in alignment, which is  
conducive to it is daiva

svabhava. Therefore you have to take into account, your way of  
life,

every small or big thing that you do, right from the food that  
you eat, right

from the entertainment that you have, right from the type of  
magazine that you

read, right from the TV programs that you watch, right from  
the type of the

friends you move with, right from the type of the way you  
spend your leisure

time. Every minute thing contributes to the way of life, which  
is in the

long-term going to determine the goal; whether you reach it or  
not.

And therefore Arjuna! I have talked about the goal;

I have talked about the Veda anta bhaga;

better let Me talk about the Veda purva

bhaga

also, because Veda purva and Veda anta are inseparably

interconnected and therefore the 16th and 17th chapters deal  
with the way of

life conducive to this spiritual goal. And the subject matter  
is picked from

the Veda purva bhaga. The previous three chapters are about Veda anta bhaga. These two chapters are about Veda purva bhaga. With this background, we will enter into the chapter.

## **Shloka**

### **# 16.1:**

**16.1 The Blessed Lord said Fearlessness, purity of mind, persistence in knowledge and yoga, charity and control of the external organs, sacrifice, (scriptural) study, austerity and recititude;**

Sri Krishna begins the teaching, even without Arjuna's asking for it, because he feels that this teaching is complete only when he talks about this topic.

Atma Gyanam can work only when a particular way of life is adhered to. That is why culture becomes very important. And in the olden days, when they glorified our culture, and banned our people from mixing with other cultures, it is not because, we look down upon other cultures, every culture is beautiful, but we had values, because this culture is designed for a particular goal. Others are designed for their particular other goals. There is no inferior or superior culture; but what you want in your life, and therefore Sri Krishna feels the teaching is complete, only when the way of life is also prescribed. Therefore in these three verses, he gives a list of virtues or traits, that are conducive to Vedantic study, initially, and later conducive to Vedantic assimilation. Both are equally important; reception of knowledge is important; assimilation of knowledge is equally important, only after reception and assimilation, transformation can take place. And therefore he gives a list of virtues called daivi sampath. And

they are not new; Sri Krishna has talked about them, in the thirteenth chapter; from verse No.8 to 12th.

In  
the four or five verses, Sri Krishna even gave a name to those virtues, the  
name of Gyanam.

So  
the lists of virtues are as follows. The first virtue that Sri Krishna emphasizes  
is said abhayam. Abhayam means courage. Self-confidence. Faith in myself; faith  
in God is important; faith in Guru is important, faith in the scriptures is  
important, but above all, faith in myself that I can follow and accomplish. **This self-confidence is important because spiritual life is an adventure. It is a greater adventure than reaching Everest, than going to Artic circle or Antartic circle.** So many adventures are there; but this is the greatest adventure; the most challenging adventure. And therefore, it requires tremendous inner courage or inner strength.

Mundaka Upanishad says:

A man who does not have the inner courage cannot succeed in spirituality, and therefore it is an adventure or challenge. And a person can continue with perseverance only when he appreciates its value, which is not that easy. Value of money you can easily appreciate. Even a child knows that. Value of position everybody knows. Value of possessions everybody knows. Value of power, everybody knows.

If  
I have to perseveringly continue I should know the worth of spiritual goal. And  
since this requires lot of inner maturity, it is a very rarely understood thing.

Most of the people do not know its value; therefore most of the people will not vote for this; Sri Krishna said in the 7th chapter that we are in the minority.

Spiritual seekers all are always in minority, and therefore the spiritual journey is often a lonely journey. Therefore it requires tremendous courage to continue.

Therefore,

Abhayam, means self-confidence, courage to continue in spite of obstacles and

in spite of being in a minority. How to get Abhayam? One is, once I have a

value for the goal, I would not mind the obstacles. **So the size of the obstacle will depend upon the value for the goal that you have. If the value is lukewarm, the obstacles appear bigger, and if the value is intense, the obstacles will appear smaller. Obstacles do not have a size of its own; the size and the**

**weight are determined by your subjective projections. There are people who go**

**to Everest while there are people who hesitate even to walk to the bus stand if there is a little rain.**

Therefore

one method of discovering courage is learning to appreciate the value of the goal.

Courage

will come from somewhere. The second is of course, surrender to the Lord; seeking strength from the Lord.

Imagine

a person who becomes a sanyasi,  
without having any security around him. It is surrender to  
Lord that gave him  
courage. And therefore through Bhakthi and Viveka one has to  
discover abhayam,  
fearlessness.

The next virtue is satvasamshuddhi. Purity of mind, Satva here  
means antakaranam, samshuddhi means purity. And what do you  
mean by purity; these are types of thoughts that keep the mind  
healthy. Those which are not toxic to the mind or mental  
health; just as for the physical body, we have got items which  
are conducive to health and which are not conducive.

For the mind, the toxic ones are, certain patterns of  
thinking; certain types of thoughts like jealousy; hatred,  
fear; These are all toxic thoughts, which if they remain in  
the mind for longer time, they will cause erosion and make the  
mind weaker. And therefore satvasamshuddhi means maintenance  
of healthy thoughts.

Then

the next virtue is Gyanayogavyasthiti.

In and through all this way of life, you should not forget  
what is the goal or  
purpose for which this way of life I am following that is  
spiritual knowledge.

And knowledge never happens naturally; knowledge never happens  
naturally. Many

other things happen in time, you need not work for it;  
wrinkles, you did not

work; just survive; wrinkles will come; grey hair; you need  
not work, it will

come; Tooth loss, you do not require a sadhana;

it will come. Many things will happen in time; **knowledge is  
one thing, which can never naturally happen;** any

knowledge including physics knowledge does not happen in time  
it is a separate

pursuit you should undertake; you require a physics guru, a physics book and you have to study and only then physics knowledge comes.

The word bhododayam should not be misunderstood; Buddha got bhododayam, Buddha got enlightenment under bodhi tree and many people sincerely believe that knowledge happens; either a leaf might fall, or a fruit might fall, knowledge will not fall or descend down, you have to work and work hard.

Therefore

Sri Krishna says: committed pursuit of Gyana yoga, which means sravanam, which is consistent and systematic study of the Vedantic scriptures for a length of time, under the guidance of a competent teacher.

Therefore, sravanam, then mananam, reflecting over that and understanding and removing doubts and nidhidyasanam, internalizing to such an extent that between my life and my knowledge, there is no disparity; what I know and what I am, there is no disparity.

Vyavasthithi

means commitment to Gyana yoga.

### **Take Away:**

The

goal of life (Vedanta) will influence my way of life (Veda purva), and my way of life in turn will influence my goal of life also.

Abhayam: Self-confidence is important because spiritual life is an adventure. It is a greater adventure than reaching

Everest, than going to Artic circle or Antartic circle.

Vedantic

knowledge is one thing, which can never naturally happen. One has to work at it.

**With Best  
Wishes,**

**Ram Ramaswamy**

---

## **Baghawad Gita, Class 197: Chapter 15 Summary**

Continuing his teachings

Swamiji said, today

I will give you a summary of the fifteenth chapter of the Gita, which we completed in the last class. The 15th chapter, titled Purushottama yoga, is a very popular chapter. Many people learn it by-heart, because in many places, people have to chant

it compulsorily to get food!! Therefore, many people learn it by-heart and some people learn it because it is one of the shortest

chapters, and therefore useful for regular parayanam and some people learn it because it is one of the most significant and complete chapters

of the Bhagavat Gita. This contains

all the important features of the Upanishads. The essence

of Upanishads is contained in this chapter and therefore this is a very significant

chapter. And for the convenience of



our summarization, I will divide the chapter into five portions and then summarize each portion.

□  
The first topic is samsara varnanam, the description of samsara or transmigration.

□  
The second topic is moksha sadhanani, the spiritual disciplines leading to liberation.

□  
The third topic is Brahman sarvamatkatvam, Brahman being in the form of everything, Brahman as everything.

□  
Then the fourth topic is Brahmanaha purushottamatvam, Brahman being purushottama,

□  
And then the fifth and final topic is Brahma Gyana phalam; the knowledge of such a Brahman and the benefit of such knowledge.

These are the five topics of this chapter. We will take one by one and summarize each.

## **1. Samsara varnanam.**

The first topic is samsara varnanam, which we get in the first 2-1/2 verses. In this, Sri Krishna compares the whole universe to a huge Ashvatta tree, a huge fig tree or peepal tree, because of the several common features between the tree and the universe. And Sri Krishna himself mentions several common features between the tree and the whole universe; but I do not want to go into those details. I have enumerated several common features. And among several common features, there is one significant feature, we have to note and remember. And Sri Krishna has not mentioned that feature in the 15th chapter but we have to borrow that from the Upanishads, because this comparison is not Sri Krishna's own invention but it is borrowed from two Upanishads. One is Kathopanishad and other is Mundako Upanishad where this comparison is elaborately given.

There is a Kathopanishad mantra, from which Sri Krishna has borrowed this imagery.

Also the same comparison comes in Mundaka Upanishad as well.

In Kathopanishad, the tree is called Ashvatta vrksha, and in Mundakopanishad, it is called pippalam; Ashvatta and pippalam means the same. In the Mundakopanishad, all the living beings are compared to the birds, which are seated or perched on the samsara tree. If the whole universe is comparable to a tree, all the living beings are comparable to the birds, which are seated on different branches of the tree, higher, lower and

middle branches. And not only we are the birds seated on the samsara tree, we are constantly consuming the fruits which comes in the samsara vrksha and therefore the jiva bird is eating the fruit which comes in the samsara tree. And those fruits produced by the samsara tree, are of two types, and one is called sukha phalam and another is called dukha phalam, the fruit of pleasure and the fruit of pain. One is tasty fruit; another is a bitter fruit. And therefore through this imagery, Sri Krishna points out that the universe is going to constantly give us pleasures and pain. Even as the tree produces tasty and bitter fruits, the world will constantly produce pleasures and pains and as birds, we the jivas, will also have to constantly experience pleasure and pain. Which means nobody can uniformly expect pleasures, nobody need worry about uniform pain as well; life will give you a mixture of pleasure and pain. **And therefore pleasures and pains are like the two sides of one coin; you can never have one alone; just as a one-sided coin is impossible; mere pleasures also are impossible; mere pain also does not exist.**

And

therefore in life, we have only two options.

Welcome the pleasures and be ready to consume the attendant pains as well, are first option.

And

the second option is to reject all the pains but along with the pains, you have reject or forego the worldly pleasures as well. Either accept both or reject both.

The

idea of welcoming one alone and giving up the other is simply is not impossible.

So

accept both or reject both.

But

the problem is if we have to accept both or reject both options it requires tremendous mental strength.

Because

when you are accepting both, you should have the mental strength to withstand the pain. When you reject both; you should have the mental strength to give up the worldly pleasures. Both require mental strength.

And the problem of human being is, he is weak in his mind. The problem is not with the world; the problem of the human being is, he is weak in mind and therefore neither is he able to accept both nor is he able to reject both. Sometimes he feels like accepting everything, so that he can enjoy a wonderful life; and when the pains also come, then he says, Swamiji, I want to run, leaving everything. When he runs away to a quiet place, he cannot stay there for more than a week. That then becomes a miserable life; then he feels coming to the city and living with everything is wonderful. **When in Chennai, Rishikesh seems to be wonderful and while in Rishikesh, Chennai seems to be wonderful. Problem is neither with Rishikesh nor with Chennai, the problem is inside us.**

And

therefore samsara is because of the mental weakness of the human being, because of which he is neither able to accept both pleasures and pain, nor is he able to renounce both pleasure and pain. Neither he is able to take to grihastha ashrama nor is he able to take to sanyasa ashrama. In Grihasthshrama, sanyasa ashrama seems better,

and in sanyasa ashrama, grihastha ashrama seems the best.

The problem is not with the ashrama; the problem is inside us. **And therefore the solution is not changing the world, because the nature of the world is that it is a mixture of pleasure and pain. Therefore the solution is removing the weakness from the mind by gathering and collecting inner strength.** Once I gather inner strength; I can choose any of the option; I will have the strength to give up both; or I will have the strength to accept both; I will be able to remain in Grihastha ashrama or I will be able to remain in Sanyasa ashrama; I will be able to remain in an active life or I will be able to remain in a secluded life. **So secluded life is also not better; active life is also not better; problem is neither with activity nor with seclusion; the problem is with the mind; and therefore freedom from samsara is freedom from mental weakness. Therefore moksha is transformation of the mind. Mind alone is the cause of bondage; mind alone is the cause of liberation.**

### **The weak mind**

**is the cause of bondage; strong mind is the cause of liberation.** So this idea is indirectly conveyed through samsara varnanam, in the first two and half verses of this chapter.

## **2. Moksha sadhanani.**

Then

comes the second topic from the second half of the third verse up to the 6<sup>th</sup>

verse. Verse No.3 to verse No.6, is the next topic. How do you make the mind strong?

What is the method of strengthening the mind, so that I can be in grihastha ashrama and enjoy

the pleasures of the family members and also the problems

caused by  
relationship. Every relationship has two sides. Either I can  
give up all relationships  
and take sanyasa or enjoy all  
relationships. Sri Krishna prescribes four fold disciplines to  
strengthen the mind.  
Four sadhanas are  
mentioned: They are:

1.Vairagyam.

2.  
Sadgunaha;

3.  
Sharanaagathihi and

4.  
Atma vichara or Shastra vichara

What  
do you mean by vairagyam?

**Vairagyam is freedom from addiction. Freedom from addiction to  
tamasic  
and rajasic pursuits of life. What do you mean by tamasic  
pursuits? Any  
adharmic activity, unrighteous activity, improper activity,  
unethical activity or  
pursuit is called tamasic pursuit; I have to give up all such  
addictions and  
pursuits of improper nature. That is de-addiction No.1.**

And the second de-addiction is from rajasic pursuits. And that  
is dharmic materialistic activities are called rajasic  
pursuits. I take to dharmic activities only but they are all  
materialistic in nature. They are called rajasic pursuit. The  
tamasic addiction will lead to spiritual downfall, rajasic  
addiction will lead to spiritual stagnation.

**And therefore  
reduction of the adharmic activities and the reduction of  
dharmic materialistic  
activities is called vairagyam.**

And how do you remove those two addictions; or at least reduce those two addictions. The method is forming a new addiction. You have to remove one thorn using another thorn.

Remove  
addiction with addiction. **Tamasic and  
rajasic tendencies are balanced, or reduced by forming satvic  
addictions; like attending Gita class;** I have to make sure that you keep coming. So, therefore, satvic addiction or good addiction will reduce tamasic and rajasic addiction.

Then  
you will ask Swamiji how to handle satvic addiction. Let satvic addiction come first; why are you bothered about handling that now; we will see that when we face that problem.

We do have methods of handling satvic addictions also later and therefore, satsanga as well as Shastric study, etc. are satvic addictions, which will promote vairagyam.

**Satsangatve, nissangatvam. This is Vairagyam.**

The  
second **sadhana is sadgunaha.** Developing vedanta friendly virtues. Developing virtues, which are conducive to Vedanta, conducive to spiritual growth. We have already seen a big list in the 13th chapter, from the 8th verse up to the 12th verse, Amanitvam, adambitvam, etc. Sri Krishna reminds us of them in this chapter.

Thus  
develop healthy virtues. Thus developing moral values is the

second spiritual  
discipline.

Then

the third one is sharanagathi. What is sharanagathi? It is a very important spiritual discipline. It is developing a particular attitude in life.

What

is that attitude? Whatever choiceless situations, I face in life; whatever

helpless, choiceless situations I face in life, they are all specially sent by

the Lord for me, for the sake of my spiritual refinement and growth. It is a very

difficult attitude but we have to cultivate it. It will not come easily. You

will only get angry with God whenever a choiceless situation comes, especially

unfavourable choiceless situation. When any unfavourable choiceless situation comes, I cannot change the situation.

Swamiji how to change the choiceless

situation? I have said that it is choiceless; since **choiceless situations cannot be changed; work on changing your attitude. Intelligence is working to change what can be changed.**

Therefore in all choiceless and unfavourable situations, I have to work on 'my mind', because I can work only on my mind only. And what is the direction of the work? Changing the attitude. And what is the attitude? I require that situation for my improvement and the Lord has specially designed it and he has sent it to me. This is a very, very, difficult attitude. If you can develop that attitude, it is called sharanagathi. This is the third sadhana.

And sharanagathi includes, seeking Lord's help for the



spiritual

growth, so that I will convert the choiceless situations into a spiritual

ladder. **Seeking Lord's help so that I**

**will convert choiceless situations into a spiritual ladder or stepping-stone.**

**This is called sharanagathi.**

Vairagyam, sharanagathi and sadguna are all over.

Then the fourth one is shastra vichara or study of Vedantic scriptures for a length of time under the guidance of a competent acharya or guru. All these four will cumulatively contribute to the reinforcement of the strengthening of the mind, which will lead to moksha. Moksha means freedom from mental weakness.

Arjuna, the bravest warrior, was tormented by mental pain when a

crisis arose. And how does this work with the four-fold sadhana's? That also Sri Krishna says the four-fold sadhana's will

lead you to Brahma prapthi. It will take you to Brahman, which is the only

source of strength in the creation. It will lead you to Brahman, which is the only source of strength in this universe.

And of course you should make a note, when we say that it will lead you to Brahman, do not imagine, Brahman is sitting in Mumbai, Calcutta or somewhere, and the sadhana will lead you to Brahman, which is your inner higher real nature. You will fall back to yourselves. This Brahma prapthi is called moksha.

And then Sri Krishna defines that Brahman also in an important verse #15.6.

It

is a very important definition of Brahman based on the upanishadic mantra, occurring in Kathopanishad and Mundakopanishad. Sri Krishna points out that Brahman **is nothing but the pure consciousness, which is a formless and all pervading entity; which objectifies everything and which itself cannot be objectified by anyone.** It is an unobjectifiable-subject. That consciousness; that witness chaitanyam is Brahman; Satyam, Gyanam, Anantham Brahma.

3.

Brahmana sarvatmakatvam.

Now we will go to the third topic, from verse No.7 to 15 and in this Sri Krishna points out that Brahman alone appears or manifests in the form of the world. There is no world other than Brahman. Brahman is the only substance. Consciousness is the only basic substance. There is no such thing called matter. And this Brahman, this consciousness alone with different names and forms appears as the material universe. Consciousness plus names and forms is equal to space. Consciousness plus name and form is equal to air. Consciousness plus name and form is fire, akasha, vayu, agni, apaha, prthvi and all the elemental products.

Are

you understanding? So if you think that there is a substance called ornament, it is a delusion; there is no substance called ornament, the substance is only gold; we are wrongly attributing substantiality to ornament. We are wrongly attributing substantiality to the furniture. Furnitures are not there; then what is there; wood; This, the wooden headed fellow does not understand. Clay

headed fellow does not understand that the clay is the truth.  
Wooden headed  
does not understand that the wood is the truth. Similarly  
Vedanta says that  
there is only one substance called Consciousness; the formless  
Consciousness  
manifests as the formed materials of the creation. The  
intangible consciousness  
manifests as the tangible material universe.

And  
here also the whole world is nama  
rupa, but in this  
nama rupa also, there  
are two varieties. One variety of nama rupa is that which  
manifests the  
existence-nature of Brahman. But, that nama rupa, is not able  
to manifest the  
chit aspect and therefore that part of the creation exists but  
it is only inert  
in nature.

But  
there is another set of nama  
rupa, which is  
able to manifest, not only the existence, the sat nature, but  
also it is able  
to manifest the chit or consciousness nature as well. Like the  
physical body it  
manifests Brahman's existence as well as consciousness. Here  
Sat and Chit, both  
are visible outside. Thus, when you look at this mike it's  
existence you are  
able to appreciate; but consciousness, it is not able to  
manifest.

To  
give another example, let us say, you heat a piece of metal

and a glass of water. The heat principle, the fire principle will pervade the metal, the fire principle will pervade the water as well, when it comes in contact with fire. We know the fire has got two attributes; heat and light; it has got ushnatvam and prakashatvam; the fire pervades the metal also; the fire pervades the water also. But you find, interestingly, the metal, because of the contact with fire, borrows the heat from the fire. Therefore the metal becomes hot; if you have doubt, touch and see. And not only the metal borrows the heat, the metal becomes bright as well, shining, with a red-hot glow. Therefore metal manifests ushnatvam and prakashatvam of the fire.

Whereas water when it comes in contact with fire, it borrows only the heat part of the fire, water never becomes bright. It does not borrow the light. Both are materials; but one is capable of borrowing only one feature, the other is capable of borrowing two features.

Similarly, in the universe, some part will borrow the sat amsha while another part borrows both the sat and the chit amsha's. Thus, wherever sat and chit are there; it is called sentient part of the universe, but wherever sat alone is manifest, it is called insentient universe. **Thus Brahman is manifest in the universe in the form of sat in some portions and in the form of sat and chit in some; and when the chit is**

**manifest in some portion, it is called the jiva. while when sat alone is manifest, it is called jagat.** Thus Brahman alone is in the form of the insentient jagat; Brahman alone is also in the form of sentient jiva as well. Thus Brahman is everywhere.

And

Sri Krishna concludes that portion saying when Brahman is manifest in this whole creation, just as gold is manifest in all ornaments, Brahman is also manifest. If a person misses this Brahman, which is evident everywhere, that person must be a very gross and unrefined person. Like looking at the ornaments and missing the gold.

It is like looking at the electrical gadgets and missing the electricity. Similarly looking at all human beings, I miss the consciousness in everyone, My capacity to talk is an expression of the consciousness principle and your capacity to hear is an expression of consciousness principle; minus consciousness, I cannot talk and you cannot hear. And if a person misses this consciousness it is a problem. And for a person who has prepared the mind; Brahman is appreciated everywhere. So, this is the third topic: Brahman being chetana-achetana prapancha or sarvatmakatvam.

4.

Brahmana purushottamatvam.

Then

the 4th topic from the 16th to 18th verse is Brahmana purushottamatvam; Brahman being purushottama. And to convey this idea, Sri Krishna divides the whole universe into three parts; three components.

First

part is manifest matter; the material universe which is manifest; manifest meaning visible to the sense organs.

Second

part is unmanifest matter; that matter which is not sensorily perceptible or tangible. You can call it energy. We will use the word unmanifest matter.

Third

part: And then beyond these two matter and energy, there is the third part, which is the all-pervading consciousness principle, which is a distinct entity; which alone, we called in Tatva bodha, the original consciousness or OC.

It

is not part of matter; it is not product of matter,

it

is not property of matter, but it is an independent entity. The first one is called kshara purusha, the second one is called akshara purusha and the third one is called uttama purusha.

And

Sri Krishna says, of these three factors, the third one; consciousness alone is the greatest principle. It is the highest principle. The word uttama means the greatest.

Why

greatest? Because, matter cannot exist independent of consciousness; whereas,

consciousness can exist independent of matter. Consciousness alone lends existence to the matter. Therefore, Kshara purusha and akshara purusha both are inferior. When I say matter, it includes the reflected consciousness as well. Even if I do not say, include it. RC is also included in Kshara purusha. And akshara purusha is also RC.

Just take it that, as matter is inferior, OC the original consciousness is uttamaha purusha. And this uttama purusha alone is reversed and called purushottama.

And

Sri Krishna says that uttama purusha or purushottama is My real and higher nature; which was called in the 7th chapter, as Para prakrti. The uttama purusha of the 15th chapter is the para prakrithi of the 7th chapter. Therefore Arjuna: real God is formless consciousness and that God is not located in any one place. That formless, intangible consciousness, which is the real God, is all pervading. Thus all the forms attributed to God in the religious scriptures are temporarily given as a stepping-stone to go to the formless god. From the form, you go to the formless. Form is the steppingstone to the formless one.

Every

person, in the beginning, is not capable of appreciating the formless God. The attributeless God, everybody cannot understand. For them you give a support in the Rama form, Krishna form, and that is why we have no quarrel with any form that you choose

as a Ishta devatha; you  
can choose any form, but form is only a steppingstone, the  
destination is not  
form. Destination is the formless. And when you reach the  
destination,  
formless-Vishnu is identical  
with formless Shiva, who is identical with formless Krishna,  
who is identical with  
formless Rama. Why do you quarrel saying that I am Shaiva; I  
am Vaishnava etc.  
Religious quarrel is meaningless if religion is understood  
properly. That is  
why somebody said that we have enough religion for quarrel; we  
do not have enough  
religion to live harmoniously, because it is not understood.

Thus,  
the formless purushottama  
is the real Sri Krishna,

So  
this is the purushottama topic. A  
very important because of which the chapter is called  
purushottama yoga.

5.  
Brahma Gyanam.

Then  
the last topic ends with verses, 19 and 20 and Sri Krishna  
talks about Brahma  
Gyanam.

O Arjuna, everyone has to attain this Brahma Gyanam to derive  
mental strength, so that you can live a life of a grihastha or  
you can live a life of sanyasi, without any burden. Therefore  
Gyanam is the destination of all; and the benefit of this  
Gyanam is that you will attain total fulfillment in life. You



will feel that the life has been a meaningful one. To make the life meaningful, you have to attain this Gyanam. With this Gyanam and phalam, the fifth and final topic of the 15th chapter is over.

Thus  
ends the fifteenth chapter named Purushottama Yoga in Srimad-bhagavadgita which  
is the essence of the Upanishads,  
which deals with Brahman-knowledge as well as the preparatory disciplines, and  
which is in the form of a dialogue between Sri Krishna and Arjuna.

### **Take Away:**

And  
therefore pleasures and pains are like the two sides of one coin; you can never  
have one alone; just as a one-sided coin is impossible; mere pleasures also are  
impossible; mere pain also does not exist.

When  
in Chennai, Rishikesh seems to be  
wonderful; while in Rishikesh, Chennai  
seems to be wonderful. Problem is neither with Rishikesh nor with Chennai, the problem is inside us.

And  
therefore the solution is not changing the world, because the nature of the  
world is that it is a mixture of pleasure and pain. Therefore the solution is  
removing the weakness from the mind by gathering and collecting inner strength

So  
secluded life is also not better; active life is also not

better; problem is neither  
with activity nor with seclusion; the problem is with the  
mind; and therefore  
freedom from samsara  
is freedom from mental weakness. Therefore moksha  
is transformation of the mind. Mind alone is the cause of  
bondage, mind alone  
is the cause of liberation.

The  
weak mind is the cause of bondage; strong mind is the cause of  
liberation.

Reduction  
of the adharmic activities and the reduction of dharmic  
materialistic  
activities is called vairagya.

Seeking Lord's help so that I will convert choiceless  
situations  
into a spiritual ladder or stepping-stone is called  
sharanagathi.

**With Best  
Wishes,**

**Ram Ramaswamy**

---

## **Baghawad Gita, Class 196: Chapter 15, Verses 15 to 20**

**Shloka  
15:15:**

And I am seated in the hearts of all. From Me  
are memory, knowledge and their loss. I alone am the object to  
be known through  
all the Vedas; I am also the originator of the Vedanta, and I  
Myself am the  
knower of the Vedas.

Continuing his teachings Swamiji said, with this 15th shloka, which we completed in the last class, Sri Krishna completes the important topic of Brahmana sarvatmakatvam. **Brahman sarvatmakatvam means Brahman alone is in the form of everything. This is the essential teaching of all the upanishads.** In the Mundakopanishad we saw a shloka that says, what is in front is Brahman, what is behind is Brahman, what is on the right, on the left, above and below, everything is Brahman, just with different names and forms, which causes only a superficial difference. So the world is superficially different, but in essence the whole is Brahman; there is nothing other than Brahman. And Sri Krishna has mentioned this in the 4th chapter; shloka 4.24 also conveys the same idea. Brahman alone is everything. And this topic Sri Krishna started from the 7th verse and he concluded this in the 15th verse, and we should remember that the ultimate discovery is that Sarvatmakam Brahma is nothing but myself. It is not enough that we say Brahman is everything; then the sadhana is incomplete; I should finally say that, "That Brahman I am". Then the statement would be reworded; instead of saying Brahman is everything; we say I am everything. Aham Annam, Aham Annadaha, Aham Slokakrt, Aham eva idagum sarvam. This is called sarvatmabhava and we completed that in the last class.

Now in the following three verses, 16, 17, and 18, Sri Krishna gives the definition of the word purushottama and based on this word alone, the very chapter is called purushottama yoga.

What is purushottama and who is purushottama, Sri Krishna tells us in these three verses.

## Shloka

15:16:

**15.16 There are these two persons in the world-the mutable and the immutable. The mutable consists of all things; the one existing as Maya is called the immutable.**

First I will give the gist of these three verses, so that you will

get a total picture, then understanding these verses becomes easier. To reveal

Purushottama, Sri Krishna divides the whole universe into three portions

or three components or amsa trayam.

The first portion is the visible universe, which is accessible, perceptible to our sense organs. This sensorially visible, tangible universe is one component and this we can call the manifest matter. Manifest matter is this visible universe; is made up of matter, that we know of. Scientifically it has been shown that the world is made up of matter and even scripturally we know that the world is made up of pancha bhutani, akasha, vayu, apaha, prthvi, and all of them are matter, inert-matter principle. Therefore, the first component is manifest matter and Sri Krishna gives it a technical name and calls it Kshara purusha.

Normally,

matter is indicated only by the word prakrti. or referred to as prakrti tatvam,

but this is an exceptional context in which the manifest matter is called kshara purusha.

Then Sri Krishna talks about the second component. When matter is destroyed; what happens to matter? We know scientifically, logically and shastrically that matter cannot be totally destroyed due to the law of conservation of matter and

therefore when matter is destroyed, it will get converted into an unmanifest form, you may call it energy form, but it goes to the invisible intangible, unmanifest form and therefore at the time of total destruction of this universe, at the time of pralaya, the matter will continue but not in the form of manifest matter, but it will survive in the form of unmanifest matter and therefore the second component of the universe is matter in unmanifest form. So unmanifest matter, which is also inert in nature, is the second component. Sri Krishna gives it the name of akshara purusha. This is also an exceptionally rare usage because normally, the word akshara purusha is used for Nirgunam Brahma or consciousness. That is the general usage; but in this exceptional context; the unmanifest matter, you may called it energy; is named akshara purusha; it is also called Maya, because in Vedanta, Maya is unmanifest universe, and that maya tatvam, the unmanifest matter principle, in this context, is called aksharam purusha. So we have manifest matter; unmanifest matter; kshara purusha and akshara purusha.

Consciousness principle, chetana tatvam, is the third component, because according to our scriptures, consciousness is distinct from matter. Remember, consciousness is not a part, product or property of matter. Consciousness is a distinct and independent entity; it is neither a part of matter; nor a property of matter, nor is it a product of matter. Material sciences think that consciousness is a product or phenomenon in matter; Vedanta strongly rejects that view and vedanta says consciousness is independent of matter and this independent consciousness is the third component or part of this universe. And this consciousness principle, Sri Krishna names it Uttama purusha.

Now, if you make a comparative study of these three components, we will see certain important differences among them. The three are: manifest matter, unmanifest matter and consciousness. Of these three, the first

two components being matter, both of them are achetana tatvam, inert principle, whereas the third one being consciousness, it is chetana tatvam. The first two, are inert, the third one is sentient. Then the first two principles being matter, or material, it is full of varieties of properties or attributes or qualities. In Sanskrit, we call it guna; therefore the first two components are sagunam in nature, whereas the consciousness according to vedanta is free from all the attributes; hence nirguna tatvam. So one is chetanam, the other is achetanam; one is sagunam and the other is nirgunam.

Then the third difference, both manifest and unmanifest matter is subject to modification and or violent changes. Matter can never remain the same. It is constantly undergoing changes. In fact, manifest and unmanifest matter themselves are inter-convertible.

Manifest matter can be converted into unmanifest matter; unmanifest matter can be converted into manifest matter. In scientific language, we say matter and energy are inter-convertible.

The whole  $E=mc^2$ , the equation, is only revealing the fact of the inter-convertibility of matter and energy. In fact, at the time of creation, unmanifest matter is getting converted into manifest matter and at the time of pralaya or dissolution, the manifest matter is getting converted into unmanifest matter.

We had seen a parallel idea in the 8th chapter.

Therefore the first two are savikaram, whereas consciousness is nirvikaram. You cannot say that manifest consciousness getting converted is into unmanifest consciousness. You cannot say that because if you talk about the transformation of consciousness into manifest and unmanifest matter, consciousness also will be subject to change, but it is not so. So achetanam, chetanam, sagunam, nirgunam, savikaram, nirvikaram are the qualities.

Then the fourth difference is, the matter principle, both manifest and unmanifest are subject to divisions. They are subject to divisions; it is divisible principle. This body itself can be divided. This carpet can be divided. In fact our body gets divided; teeth is missing after some years; After some time, hair will disappear; one by one it will disappear; whereas consciousness principle is indivisible. One is savikalpam as matter, savikalpam is divisible; nirvikalpam is consciousness.

And

finally and most importantly, matter does not have an independent existence of its own. It does not have the svatantra satta. Therefore it is called mithya

Therefore kshara purusha and akshara purusha both are mithya whereas uttama purusha, the consciousness principle alone has independent existence and therefore it is called satyam and therefore uttama purusha alone lends existence to kshara and akshara purusha; Just as the screen lends existence to the movie drama going on; similarly, the uttama purusha lends existence to the kshara, akshara purusha drama going on which is called creation and destruction. Matter manifests, then matter goes into unmanifest form; and this drama, is sustained by the

screen called uttama purush, the chaitanyam.

And therefore of these three components, Sri Krishna says that the third component is the supreme one. Why? Because that is sarva adharam; Vishvadharam gagana sadrsham is uttama purusha.

And having said this much, Sri Krishna adds that the uttama purusha, the consciousness alone, is my real nature; this chaitanya tatvam alone is my real nature and therefore I would like to claim myself not as kshara purusha, I won't claim myself as the akshara purusha also, but I would like to claim myself as Uttama purusha, which is chetana nirguna, nirvikara, nirvikalpa tatvam. And since I am the uttama purusha, whole world knows me as Purushottama.

This  
is the saram; the  
essence. Now we will go to the verses.

In this cosmos, in this creation; firstly there are two purushas. The third one will be introduced later. First he talks about two purushas, and they are known as; kshara purusha and akshara purusha. Sri Krishna himself defines them as all the things and beings, which are visible matter, the visible material universe. The word 'beings' represent our physical body, and the word 'things' represents all the objects. Both the body as well as the objects, comes under visible matter.

Remember the body also comes under matter principle, because the  
body is made up of iron, sodium, carbon, nickel, cobalt, etc.  
You will know it  
when there is deficiency.

It is made of all those things; and therefore, sarvani bhutani, the entire visible matter is kshara purusha and kutastha, the unmanifest matter.



In this context, the word kutastha means unmanifest matter or maya tatvam. And since this maya is relatively eternal, it is kutastha. kutastha means relatively eternal.

Kutastha, the unmanifest matter, is also called akshara purusha. So in this shloka He says; manifest matter is kshara purusha; and unmanifest matter is akshara purusha. After that:

### **Shloka 15:17:**

**15.17 But different is the supreme Person who is spoken of as the transcendental Self, who, permeating the three worlds, upholds (them), and is the imperishable God.**

Anyaha: means there is a different principle, a third principle, other than kshara and akshara purusha. Other than the manifest and unmanifest matter, there is a principle, which is called chaitanyam. Since we used the word consciousness, we have to supply anyaha that means the chetana tatvam.

And what is the chetana tatvam? Uttama purusha is the third component of this creation. And what is its nature? The uttama purusha or chaitanyam is nirgunam, nirvikaram, nirvikalpam and satyam. That satyam must be remembered very well.

Even though we have enumerated three tatvams, kshara, akshara and uttama, still we say advaitam because two of them are mithya; mithya means unreal; and therefore, those two cannot be counted. Satyam is only one. And therefore it is uttama purusha that is the satya tatvam.

And this *uttama purusha*, the *chaitanyam*, is known as *paramatmetyudartaha*. In all the *upanishads*, this consciousness principle is called *paramatma*.

What is the function of this *uttama purusha*?

We know the functions of manifest and unmanifest matter, because all the sciences are dealing with matter and energy. And all the advancements are in the field of matter and energy.

Sri Krishna says: This *uttama purusha* is pervades (pervades, penetrates, inheres) all the three universes; all the three worlds.

And here the word *loka trayam* represents *kshara* and *akshara purusha*.

What does the *uttama purusha* do? *Bibarthi*, means sustains; supports, and lends existence; exactly like gold pervades all the ornaments and lends existence. Wood pervades all the furniture and lends existence. Water pervades all the waves and lends existence. Minus gold, no ornaments. Minus wood, no furniture; minus water, no wave; minus *uttama purusha*, there can be neither *kshara purusha* nor *akshara purusha*. No matter or energy is possible without consciousness principle. Consciousness is the substance behind both matter and energy. Even though the consciousness pervades the changing matter, consciousness itself does not undergo any change. In the movie, the characters may move, the vehicles may run, but the screen does not run. In fact, in the presence of the stationary screen alone, all the movements are possible. **Similarly in the presence of the motionless consciousness alone, all the changes of the universe are possible. That anchor of the universe is consciousness.**

Therefore

*avyayaha*; *avyayaha*

means

changeless it also means Ishvara.

Ishvara means this

consciousness, even though it pervades the changing matter, the consciousness

is not affected by, not tormented by, whatever happens in the material

universe. The body may be born; it may grow old, and it may die at the

individual level; upheavals may take place in the cosmos; there may be atomic

explosions; whatever happens to matter, consciousness is unaffected;

Therefore

it is called master; Ishvaraha means master of

matter; not the slave of matter. Consciousness is not a slave of matter; that

means whatever happens to matter, consciousness is asangaha.

All the navagrahas may affect the body; Navagrahas cannot affect the chaitanya atma tatvam. Therefore, Consciousness is the real God or Ishvaraha.

**Shloka 15.18:**

**15.18 Since I am transcendental to the mutable and above even the immutable, hence I am well known in the world and in the Vedas as the supreme Person.**

This third component, viz., the consciousness principle is ksharam. Consciousness is superior to manifest matter.

Consciousness is superior to even unmanifest matter. It is superior to even all forms of energy. That is why **we should remember that consciousness is not a form of energy.**

**Consciousness**

**is a principle, distinct from and superior to all forms of energy, because**

**energy is only unmanifest matter.** Therefore Sri Krishna says consciousness is superior to manifest matter and unmanifest matter.

And  
in Sanskrit, the word *uttama* means  
superior most.

Being  
the superior most, the consciousness, is known as *uttama purush*, and if you  
reverse it, it is *Purushottama*.  
The consciousness is well known as *Purushottama*, both in the  
world of people as well as  
in the scriptures.

Here  
Sri Krishna does a small mischief, instead of saying  
Consciousness is superior,  
Sri Krishna quietly identifies with that consciousness,  
claiming it as His real  
nature. And therefore Arjuna, that consciousness is myself. Do  
not look at my  
body. My body is *kshara*  
*purusha*. I am the  
consciousness principle behind the Sri Krishna *shariram* and  
therefore that is  
My real nature and therefore I would say I am the *Uttama*  
*purusha*. And therefore  
I am called *purushottama*.

Therefore  
Sri Krishna says: *Aham* That is myself, instead of the word  
*chaitanyam*. Sri Krishna  
is *purushottama*.

We are referring to the *nirguna* Sri Krishna, who is *chaitanya*  
*svarupa*. And therefore, I am *Purushottama*.

So with this, Sri Krishna concludes the definition of the word Purushottama. And because of this reason alone, this chapter is called Purushottama yoga and now Sri Krishna says the aim of every spiritual seeker is the knowledge of Purushottama.

### **Shloka 15.19:**

**15.19 O scion of the Bharata dynasty, he who,  
being free from delusion, knows Me the supreme Person thus, he  
is all-knowing  
and adores Me with his whole being.**

So here the Lord says all the intelligent people of the world will

not go after kshara purusha; they will not go after akshara purusha, they will

go after uttama purusha; purushottama, the nirgunam brahma.

Whereas

deluded people alone will be materialistic people. What do you mean by

materialistic people? The one's going after manifest matter or unmanifest

matter; are the deluded people, whereas a viveki, a sadhana chatushtaya

sampanna will go after uttama purusha, or Purushottama, by following karma, upasana and Gyana yoga.

Ultimately they will come to know purushottama; the nirguna, nirvikara, nirvikalpa, chetana, brahma tatvam. So intelligent people who know the purushottama,

they are called the omniscient ones, because by knowing Brahman, they have

known everything because Brahman alone is everything. And therefore,

knowing Brahman is knowing everything. And thereafter he will continue to

worship me, but his worship will be of a higher order. So Sri Krishna says such

a Gyani will worship me in totality; wholeheartedly and fully.

And what do you mean by wholeheartedly or fully worshipping? Shankaracharya says the worship will be in the form of the knowledge that that purushottama is none other than "I", the atma chaitanyam. It is the all-pervading consciousness residing within my body-mind complex. And therefore, Gyani worships in the form of advaitha bhakthi. So sarva bhavena means advaitha bhavena, abheda bhavena.

And in the 7th chapter, Sri Krishna talked about four layers of

bhakthi: artha bhakthi, artharthi bhakthi, jignasu

bhakthi and Gyani bhakthi; and there Sri Krishna says Gyani bhakthi is the

highest bhakthi and that is advaitha bhakthi.

Sri Krishna now concludes:

**Shloka**

**# 15.20:**

**15.20 O sinless one, this most secret**

**scripture has thus been uttered by Me. Understanding this, one becomes wise and**

**has his duties fulfilled, O scion of the Bharata dynasty.**

This teaching about sarvatmakam brahma, this teaching about purushottama, both are one and same; sarvakatma brahma, or purushottama, are same. This teaching about Brahman or purushottama, is the greatest secret that is not easily available. You may go all over the world, there may be so many universities giving varieties of courses and there may be additions of newer and newer courses, but all those courses will be dealing with either kshara purusha or akshara purusha. All the researches in the world happening are dealing with kshara or akshara; all objective sciences are material sciences, all the material sciences are kshara, akshara purusha vidya, and Mundaka upanishad calls them, apara vidya,

they are all inferior sciences; whereas para vidya is that which is the study of purushottama, the nirguna chaitanyam. In fact some of the scientists claim that the material sciences can never study consciousness.

Therefore, that rarely available knowledge, O Arjuna, I have told

you. And why did I choose you for the teaching? Firstly, because you asked,

that is important; and secondly you deserved the teaching as well as you are

anagha or pure minded. Agam means papam, anagha means papa rahithaha or shuddha

purusha. Since you are a pure one, I choose to give you this teaching.

May you receive this teaching and assimilate this teaching; and

how should you assimilate it, by practising that uttama purusha, I am. I am neither

the body, which is the kshara purusha, nor the mind, which is also kshara purusha,

nor even the karana shariram, which is akshara purusha. I am the Turiyam of

Mandukya Upanishad, which is the Uttama purushaha. May you become buddhiman.

May you become a wise person.

Then you will ask the fundamental question what will I get out of it? Sri Krishna says, there is a practical benefit that this knowledge alone will give fulfillment in life. Krita krithyaha bhava. Nothing else will give you fulfillment; even if it gives fulfillment, it is a fake and temporary fulfillment. Sooner or later, you are again ready for next thing. Therefore the journey of fulfillment ends only when you get this wisdom.

Thus

ends the fifteenth chapter named purushottama yoga in Srimad-bhagavad Gita which is the essence of the upanishads, which deals with Brahman-knowledge as well as the preparatory disciplines, and which is in the form of a dialogue between Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna.

### **Take Away:**

We should remember that consciousness is not a form of energy. Consciousness is a principle, distinct from, and superior to, all forms of energy, because energy is only unmanifest matter.

Brahman sarvatmakatvam means Brahman alone is in the form of everything. This is the essential teaching of all the upanishads.

Mandukya Upanishad, the last chapter, shloka # 79, says that the benefit of this knowledge is that one will not develop Raga and Dvesha towards material world. He will not run after material objects. (not from Gita).

**With Best  
Wishes,**

**Ram Ramaswamy**

---



# Baghawad Gita, Class 195: Chapter 15, Verses 12 to 15

Shloka

15:12:

15.12 That light in the sun which illumines  
the whole world, that which is in the moon, and that which is  
in fire, -know  
that light to be Mine.

Continuing his teachings

Swamiji said, after

defining Brahman in the 6th verse of this chapter, Sri Krishna  
establishes in the

later verses, that Brahman alone is in the form of everything.

And in Sanskrit,

this is called sarvatmakatvam

and here Sri Krishna talks as one with Brahman; He says: I  
alone am appearing  
as everything.

I

am everything. He has already talked about this in the  
seventh, ninth, tenth,

and eleventh chapters. In the fact the very vishvarupa  
darshanam

is revealing this fact that Bhagavan is everything and that  
sarvatmakatvam is briefly dealt with in

these verses and for this purpose, the whole universe is  
divided into two, the

sentient, the living beings, and the insentient objects of the  
creation. Sri Krishna

says that I alone appear in the form of chetana jiva, I alone  
appear

in the form of the achetana

jagat also. Of these we have seen the first part, from verse No.7 to verse

No.11. In the first part he says, I alone am in the form of the chetana jiva. We have

entered into the second part, from verse no.12, which I introduced in the last

class. And this part is I, the Brahman alone, am in the form of achetana jagat

also. So from the 12th verse, up to the 15<sup>th</sup> verse, Brahman or Bhagavan is everything.

And in this context, Sri Krishna does not give the logic behind this conclusion because the logic has already been given in the previous chapters. Why do we say that Bhagavan is everything? Bhagavan being the cause of everything, Bhagavan alone has to be everything. Remember the example, gold is the cause of all ornaments and therefore gold alone is in the form of all the ornaments. So cause of the ornaments means, it is in the form of ornaments, because there are no ornaments other than gold. Wood is the cause of the furniture, means wood alone is in the form of furniture; there is no furniture separate from wood.

Generalizing, cause alone is in the form of all the effect; extending that, Brahman or Bhagavan being the cause of everything, Brahman or Bhagavan alone is in the form of everything. In short, there is no creation different or separate from Ishvara and this is the uniqueness of the vedic teaching, because that is why, we worship the Lord in any form and every form. We worship animals as God; we worship human beings as God; we worship trees as God; we worship rivers as God; we worship even the five elements as God; the reason is these do not exist separate from Bhagavan or Brahman. And therefore Bhagavan is in the form of everything. And therefore Sri Krishna has to say, I am the table, I am the chair, I am the pen, I am the book, I am you, I am he, I am mike; if Sri Krishna has to enumerate everything in the creation, the 15th

chapter will not end at all.

And therefore Sri Krishna wants to take a few important things in the creation and he points out they are my own manifestation. Just a few samples are taken to point out that Bhagavan is in the form of them and from that you can extend to everything else also. And what are those few samples Bhagavan takes? They are the fundamental natural forces that we experience all the time, which we have not created, but they are very much part of this creation. Without these natural power or forces or energy, we cannot think of the creation or its survival. What are the natural forces that Sri Krishna takes up? He takes three of them. One is surya Shakti, The solar energy. The solar power called surya Shakti and the second one is the lunar power, the chandra Shakti. Sri Krishna uses the word tejaha instead of Shakti; therefore surya teja, chandra teja, teja is Shakti, energy, power and the third one is Agni Shakti and Agni teja. The power of the fire. So these are the three natural and very important forces or energy; the more you study their glory, the more you admire. The scientists have been studying the sun for years, decades, for centuries and they are still studying; still they have not completed the glory of the Sun.

Sri Krishna enumerates them first and says I am in the form of Surya Shakti and I am in the form of chandra shakti and I am in the form of agni shakti. That is said in the 12th verse, which we read in the last class.

And

even those people who feel that all other sources of energy will be exhausted;

they think that ultimately we have to tap the solar energy only. And

especially, we the people in the tropical country, we have got solar battery,

solar cells; so many things are solar based.

Sri

Krishna says that energy belongs to me; the energy located in the sun, which illumines the entire universe;

So

he says; akhilam jagat bhasayate; meaning the energy of the sun never ends.

And

yat chandramasi; that energy, which obtains in the moon, the moonlight or the lunar energy, of course it is borrowed from the sun.

The

original sunlight is getting reflected in the moon; that reflection itself is so powerful that on a full purnami day, you can even read a book.

And

what is the third one, it is the energy which is stored in agni; agni means the fire principle, agni shakti, all these three powers belong to me.

That

is why in the vedic discipline, the day begins with the worship of the sun. And all the prayers are surya prayers.

So

this Sun alone sustains the living beings. Sun alone sustains the earth.

The brilliant light and energy and lot of nutrients like vitamin

D, etc are there due to the sun. Our skin requires sunlight. And even our sleep and waking is connected to sunlight; And that is why they say, do not take heavy meal in the night, because, everything slows down including digestive power. So the more you study the Sun, the more its glory is. Therefore morning begins with the Surya Namaskara and on most pauranami days, we have got some festival or the other; every month you see pauranami is special for us, because we worship the moonlight. And then of course Agni worship is fundamental to vedic religion.

Do not take powers of Surya, Chandra and Agni for granted.

In the following verses, Sri Krishna is going to talk about the glory of each shakti. What is the contribution of sun light? What is the contribution of moonlight? He is going to explain in the following verses. We will read.

### **Shloka 15:13:**

**And entering the earth I sustain the beings through (My) power; and nourish all the plants by becoming Soma [According to S. and most other translators, Soma means the moon.-Tr.] which is of the nature of sap.**

The first line talks about the contribution of the surya shakti, which is a blessing from the Lord. So Sri Krishna says: regularly the solar

energy, through the rays of the Sun, penetrate or enter on to the surface of the earth;

It pervades all the directions and blesses all the jiva rashis with ojas or prana shakti.

Having entered the earth, the sun rays or the solar light penetrates into every being, that is why we are asked to get up before sun rise and we are supposed to expose ourselves to the morning sunlight and therefore they go to the rivers for bath.

We are all exposing our body to the solar energy; which is called pranic energy. And that is why the pranic healers talk about drawing energy from the Sun and handing over to our prana maya kosha.

The entire pranamaya kosha is sustained by the Sun. And therefore, all the living beings, I sustain. Sri Krishna says: I sustain through the solar energy, by blessing the living beings with ojas, or prana Shakti or pranic energy or vital force. And this is supposed to be responsible for the health of the annamaya kosha. And it is also responsible for the health of manomaya kosha.

directly pranamaya kosha; indirectly annamaya and manomaya; **That is why, one of the most powerful daily prayers is aditya hridayam. If you do not know it, learn it; and daily chant it in the morning; it will take care of the annamaya kosha health;**

**pranamaya**

**kosha health; manomaya kosha health, and vignana**

**maya kosha health,** those who do not know

gayathri mantra, those who do not chant gayathri, they can replace their

sandhya vandhanam with Aditya Hridya, because it is invoking aditya Shakti.

Then what is the contribution of the soma Shakti? or Moon energy. He says: I myself become the moonlight or lunar energy and what type of moonlight it is? It is a light which is full of the plant nutrient; according to shastra, the moonlight has got lot of energy or nutrition, which is directly given to the plant kingdom. So here rasa means the sap of the plants, the nutrient power for the plant is here called rasa and I become that. And through that, I nourish all the plants. **So through Surya Shakti I nourish the human beings; through Chandra Shakti, I nourish the plant kingdom; i.e. why they say, some of the farmers, they expose the seeds to the moonlight;** they say it is very good, to expose the seeds to the moonlight; before sowing them; it will draw energy from the moon. So I am chandra teja. Then what is left out; it is agni teja.

**Shloka**

**15:14:**

**Taking the form of Vaisvanara and residing in the bodies of creatures, I, in association with Prana and Apana, digest the four kinds of food.**

So in this verse, the agni shakti or agni tejas or power is talked about. In the shastra, agni tatvam is divided into two types; one is called bhahya agni, the external fire principle; which is the popular one; and the shastra says there is another internal fire principle; which is within our stomach, which is called anthara agni; the internal fire; this anthara

agnihi, is known by different names. It is called jataragni; jataram means stomach; jataram, means within the stomach; so jataragni, the fire within the stomach; And, it is also known by another name, vaishvanara agni and this fire is called the digestive fire, which cooks the eaten food, the second time; before the body assimilates the food, the food should go through two types of cooking; one is the external cooking; another is the internal cooking; and in each cooking; the food gets transformed. Initially you gather the food in the form of vegetables; grains, cereals etc. and you do not directly eat the grains; normally we do not eat directly, and vegetables also generally we do not eat directly unless you are a naturopath and all the time living on salads only. Cooking is banned for them. Eat with the skin is their motto. Skin has got more nutrients than the original fruit. There are some who eat the skin and leave the fruit.

The

first transformation takes place in the external cooking; where the vegetables are converted into variety of foods, so that we have the taste; we have to do lot of 'dressing' so that it becomes eatable.

First conversion is make it edible, tasty for the tongue. and once you have eaten all the varieties of vegetables, it goes inside. but remember, idlis and dosas, cannot be directly taken; a second cooking has to take place, wherein the eaten food items have to go through second transformation. And after that alone the body can absorb; and this is done by the digestive fire; vaishvanara agni. In science they are called digestive juices, the enzymes and acids, and we have lot of acids and enzymes.

That

is why if you do not feed the body, the acid begins to eat your own stomach, which is called ulcer.



Therefore

you have to feed the internal fire, which cooks the food a second time.

And once the second time cooking takes place, all the idlis and dosas, have been converted into carbohydrates, fats, proteins, minerals; all these conversion takes place and the body absorbs this converted food alone. So first conversion is called cooking outside; the second cooking or conversion is inside; first cooking is done by bahya agnihi, the second cooking is done by anthara agnihi; vaishvanara agni.

And Sri Krishna says, that cooking power belongs to me alone, which is otherwise called samana prana; the digestive power is Bhagavan's power and that is why, before we eat the food, we worship Bhagavan and consider the food as an offering to the Lord; the Lord who is in your stomach. And what type of Lord he is? vaishvanara agni; and that is why, that offering is also called another form of agni hotram. According to Chandogya upanishad, eating itself is a form of agni hotra ritual called pranagni hotram.

Therefore Sri Krishna says I am that power.

In Brihadarnya upanishad,  
there is a special upasana upon vaishvanara  
agni; you meditate upon your hunger, or digestive power as the Lord. Have you  
heard of Hunger upasana anywhere? And how do you detect your hunger. The Upanishad says, when you are hungry within the stomach, you hear of  
varieties of noises; so that noise represents the digestive power, the hunger that  
is asking for food, and therefore meditate upon the sound as Bhagavan.

So Sri Krishna reminds us of that; he says; I myself am in the form of anthara agni Shakti and the bahya agni Shakti as well.

Sri Krishna does not talk about here that we can supply; here he talks about only the internal digestive fire. And where do I reside?

I reside in the body of every pranani.

What is my job? I cook all forms of foods that are offered inside; in this second cooking; converting the food into the respective nutrients called carbohydrates; fats, etc. So I, digest the food, assimilate the food; What type of food;

There are four types of food; which a human being consumes; what is the chaturvidham annam?

They say all the food consumed all the living beings can be classified into four types, based on the mode of consumption; not-based on the type of food, not like Gujarati food, Tamil food, etc. etc.;

Here we classify the food based on the type of consumption, method that we used to eat; and accordingly we use four types; they are called bhakshyam, bhojyam, lehyam and chokshiyam; these are the four types of eating. What are those four:

bhakshyam means, those types of food which are masticated, which you bite and masticate and swallow

Second type is bhojyam; those types of food, which you directly swallow; liquid type of food, like milk or soup or coffee or tea, which are directly swallowed. You do not

require to masticulate  
them.

The  
third one is called lehyam;  
lehyam means that  
which has to be licked and consumed; You cannot directly pour  
into the mouth;  
like honey, honey you should not directly pour, it is viscous  
liquid, if you  
directly take, one could even be dead; it has to be licked; or  
lehyam.

The  
fourth one is chokshiyam, which has to  
be sucked inside, like the sugar cane, etc., or modern day  
example is the way  
you consume the soft drinks with a straw.

So  
bhakshyam, bhojyam, lehyam and chokshiyam; these are the  
only four types of eating; intravenous feeding, nasal feeding  
are all irregular  
and exceptions. Sri Krishna says all these types of foods, I  
cook or I digest  
in the form of digestive fire and naturally, the question is  
how the external  
fire is fanned; a normal fire is kindled by fanning.

So if the external fire is kindled by fanning; the question  
comes  
how is the digestive fire kindled; Sri Krishna says that is  
also done by  
fanning; You require another type of fanning; prana,  
apana,  
breathing in, and breathing out is the fanning of the  
digestive fire; and  
therefore, Whenever you do extra activity; breathing becomes

faster, and when  
breathing becomes fast internal fire is kindled and the  
vaishvanara  
agni becomes big, when vaishvanara agni is kindled, you  
feel hunger, therefore you eat more.

When the breathing slows down, hunger slows down; and  
breathing increases; hunger increases; from that it is clear,  
breathing is the fanning of the digestive fire; therefore Sri  
Krishna says, prana, apana, prana means breathing out, or  
exhalation; and apana here means breathing in, inhalation,  
supported by, activated by the breathing, I, in the form of  
vaishvanara agni, digest the food; and that is the agni  
shakti. And therefore, O Arjuna appreciate me in the creation;  
in the form of surya shakti, chandra shakti, and agni shakti.  
And therefore I am everything. And now Sri Krishna concludes  
that topic.

**Shloka**

**15:15:**

**And I am seated in the hearts of all. From Me  
are memory, knowledge and their loss. I alone am the object to  
be known through  
all the Vedas; I am also the originator of the Vedanta, and I  
Myself am the  
knower of the Vedas.**

So here concludes the topic, pointing out that I am  
everything; I am in everything; he says, sarvasya hrdis aham  
sannivishtaḥ. **O Arjuna, I, the paramatma, reside in the heart  
of everyone. So everybody is like a temple; the heart  
represents the mind, the mind represents the sanctum or garbha  
griham; and in that mind, I, the paramatma, am present as the  
jivatma; witnessing every thought occurring in the mind.**  
Therefore, Hrdis sakshi chaitanya rupa; in the form of the  
very consciousness, I am in every living being; And mattaḥ;  
because of me, the consciousness alone, all the functions of

the body are going on and all the mental faculties are alive. What are some of the faculties; Gyanam means the capacity to learn, learning faculty; is alive because of me. Then smrtir, learning should be followed by remembering; remembering faculty is because of me.

And some people may say, I do not have remembering faculty, I have got forgetting faculty. Remember, we think forgetting is a curse, remember, forgetfulness is also important, we go through lot of painful experiences in life, in due course we have to forget; imagine if you remember all the painful experiences, you will be terrible; and that is why we say time is a healer; because in time, we forget those things. So remembering is an important faculty. Forgetfulness is also an important faculty.

Sri Krishna says what is to be remembered and what is to be forgotten; both faculties are a blessing; and both of them are my glory alone. And one commentator (name not given) gives a special meaning to these words.

He says Gyanam refers to the waking state; because in the waking state we are gathering fresh experiences. Smrti represents the dream state; because in dream, we do not gather anything new, only what is already registered that is projected again; therefore smrtir indicates svapna avastha.

And apohanam means forgetfulness and forgetfulness represents sushipthi

Avastha, as in sleep, we forget everything. Therefore Gyanam,

jagrath, smrtir, svapna, apohanam, sushupti, all these three avasthas are because of me alone. So I am in everyone, responsible for their experiences in all the three states. And not only that; sarvai vedaiha aham eva vedhya; I am the subject matter of all the scriptures; because scriptures are dealing with the Lord alone, the veda purva bhaga is dealing with Saguna Ishvara; Veda antha bhaga is dealing with Nirguna Ishvara. In short the entire veda is dealing with Ishvara alone. Therefore, he says, through all the four vedas, I am the one to be known. And vedantakrt aham; and I am the one who is the initiator of the vedantic tradition; vedantic tradition includes the vedas and the entire vedic tradition; so, therefore, what is known through the veda, I am, and the vedas themselves are nothing but my creation; or myself

Then

what about the students of the vedic teaching; he says the students are also myself; so vedavit; the students; the knower of veda.

**So the knower I am; the known I am; the means of knowledge, I am; pramata, pramanam, prameyam, the entire triputi I am. Therefore I am everything.**

So

with this Krishna concludes the second topic that I am in the form of the insentient world too. Previously he said I am in the form of the sentient living beings also; therefore, chetana-achetana prapancha aham asmi. This is called sarvatmakatvam.

**Take Away:**

So

the knower I am; the known I am; the means of knowledge, I am; pramata, pramanam, prameyam, the entire triputi I am. Therefore I am everything.

I, the paramatma,  
reside in the heart of everyone. So everybody is like a  
temple; the heart represents

the mind, the mind represents the sanctum or garbha griham;  
and in

that mind, I, the paramatma, am present as the jivatma;  
witnessing every thought occurring in the mind.

One of the most powerful daily prayers is aditya hridayam. If  
you  
do not know it, learn it; and daily chant it in the morning;

---

## **Baghawad Gita, Class 194: Chapter 15, Verses 7 to 12**

**Shloka # 15.8:**

**5.8 When the master leaves it and even when he  
assumes a body, he departs taking these, as wind (carries  
away) odours from  
their receptacles.**

Continuing his teachings Swamiji said in the first six verses of the 15th chapter, Sri Krishna talked about samsara and also the means of crossing the ocean of samsara; otherwise called moksha and he defined moksha as merging into Brahman; that brahman which happens to be the very root and base of the creation. Brahma aikya prapthi or merger into Brahman is not a physical event, it is only dropping the notion, that I, the Jivatman, am away from the Brahman. Dropping the notion, which is purely a cognitive or intellectual event, is called moksha, that is why Vedanta Gyanam and moksha are treated

synonymously, because Moksha is dropping the notion or wrong notion and any wrong notion is removed by right notion (we cannot say that) or by right knowledge. And Sri Krishna gave the definition of Brahman in the 6th important verse, which is based on the well-known upanishadic mantra: na tatra suryo bhati na chandratarakam, which essentially means that Brahman is the all-pervading consciousness.

Chaitanya

svarupam Brahman is

one which can objectify everything but which itself can never be objectified by

any means; it is the unobjectifiable subject, unobserverable observer; chaitanya

svarupam brahma.

And having defined Brahman in the sixth verse, from the seventh verse onwards, Sri Krishna introduced two important topics to show that Brahman alone appears in the form of everything. Just as God alone appears as varieties of ornaments, wood alone appears as different kinds of furniture or waker alone appears in the form of the dream universe; similarly, Brahman alone appears in the form of the universe. This is called sarvatmakatvam; Sarvatmakatvam means Brahman is everything. For the sake of convenience, the entire universe is divided into two parts; one is the chetana Jivas, the sentient living beings, and the other achetana prapancha, the insentient objects. So the creation is chetanam plus achetanam, the sentient Jiva plus the insentient jagat and in these verses Sri Krishna points out Brahman alone appears in the form of jiva also; Brahman alone appears in the form of jagat also. Jiva api brahmaiva, jagat api brahmaiva, sarvam brahma mayam jagat; which is beautifully revealed in all the upanishads, especially in the well-known Mundaka Upanishad Mantra, II.11.

Whether

you experience a sentient living and you are experiencing an



insentient object,  
everything is Brahman alone and of this from verse No.7 up to  
11, Sri Krishna says  
Brahman alone is in the form of Jiva.

This  
is from verse No.7 to 11. Then from verse no.12 to 15, Sri  
Krishna says Brahman  
alone is in the form of the inert universe also. Of this we  
are now seeing the  
first part. Brahman alone is in the form of jeeva. And in this  
particular portion,  
as I said in the last class, Sri Krishna is referring to  
himself as Brahman and  
therefore the Brahman is replaced by the word I, in the first  
person singular; therefore  
whenever we hear the word aham, or I, we should replace it by  
the word Brahman.  
Therefore Sri Krishna said,

**Shloka 15.7 &  
15.8:**

**15.7 It is verily a part of Mine which,  
becoming the eternal individual soul in the region of living  
beings, draws (to  
itself) the organs which have the mind as their sixth, and  
which abide in  
Nature.**

**15.8 When the master leaves it and even when  
he assumes a body, he departs taking these, as wind (carries  
away) odours from  
their receptacles.**

I, the original all-pervading Consciousness, alone am present  
in every living being as the reflected consciousness; the  
chidabhasa chaitanyam obtaining in the mind. And this

chidabhasa alone makes the body sentient and alive. Just as the pervading electricity alone makes the filament bright and the brightness of the light only makes the filament bright, appreciating the light, my mind has to appreciate the invisible electricity which is expressing as the light in the bulb; as the motion in the fan, as the magnifying power in the mike, as the heat in the ironing machine. So different expressions I experience, they are blessings of the one invisible electricity. Similarly, all our physical bodies are like bulbs, very fragile; and our subtle body, the sukshma shariram is like the filament; and atma or Brahman is like the electricity; or Brahman is comparable to electricity. Bulb is visible, filament is visible, and electricity is invisible. Similarly body is visible, mind is partially visible, whereas Consciousness is invisible. But the presence of electricity can be discerned through the functions of the bulb, fan, mike, radio, television, etc. Similarly, if all of us are alive and sentient, as Taittiriya upanishad says: If our breath is going out and coming in; all these are because of the chidabhasa obtaining within and chidabhasa itself is possible because of the original chit. And therefore Sri Krishna says every function of every organ reveals the presence of Brahman. And this is said beautifully in Kenopanishad as: Prana is prana because of the presence of consciousness; Eye is an eye because of the presence of consciousness and Ear is ear because of it. And this chidabhasa alone leaves the physical body at the time of death; after which alone the body which is so sacred, which is so divine, which is very much decorated bathed and shampooed and painted and lipsticked and all those things we do because it is alive; but the moment that chidabhasa quits; chit quits (be careful) the moment reflected consciousness leaves along with the reflecting medium; the mind is the reflecting medium, the mind leaves the body, the chidabhasa leaves the body and the sacred body has become an impure corpse.

It has become asoucham and the sooner it is disposed the

better it is. What makes the difference between the dead body and live body? The scientists, the doctors; can only say that the functions have stopped but they can never say what was responsible for this function and what has left the body, they do not know. They cannot understand what is life, they cannot understand what is death. All others they know. What all others? What others, when there is only two. When the chidabasa leaves, it takes the all the pancha Gyaendriyani, pancha karmendriyani, and goes to another body, and starts its new business in a small shop.

And when this Jiva leaves this body, and shariram takes another body; we make such a big fuss about this change. And the rent is karma. Punyapapam prarabhda is the rent and when that is gone; it goes to another body; how does it go; along with a huge lorry of all the things. And he gave the example, just as the invisible wind carries the fragrance from the visible flower; the invisible chidabhasa carries the fragrance of life.

What

is the fragrance of life? Not powder and snow. The fragrance of body, is the very life in the visible body; it goes to another set up. What does it do there?

Again

start the old business of LKG, UKG, college, get married, get children, get grand children, then what? Pop off; then what; and again go to another place, it will go on like that.

**Shloka 15.9:**

**15.9 This one enjoys the objects by presiding over the ear, eyes, skin and tongue as also the nose and the mind.**

So

this invisible chidabhasa,  
the reflected consciousness carries the entire sukshma shariram and  
sukshma shariram includes all  
the organs, pancha Gyanendriyani,  
pancha karmendriyani panchca prana, manah, buddhi; and  
all the sense organs. Sense organs means not the eye ball. It  
does not carry  
the eye ball; but behind the eye ball, the perceptive power is  
there; which is  
carried with the sense organ, that is taken.

When a new body comes, and there also only if the next body is  
a human body, where all the five sense organs can be used, if  
it is a tree body, the tree does not have five sense organs;  
so the tree has only the skin; the other four sense organs are  
not utilized. So therefore this sukshma shariram of the tree  
has got all the sense organs but they do not have the physical  
medium for utilization.

Here, Sri Krishna assumes, the Jiva goes to another human body  
and in that human body, the chakshur indriyam is placed in the  
chakshur golakam; the srothram indriyam, the invisible part,  
is placed on the srothra golakam, which is the called the  
physical part; **indriyam is the invisible part, golakam is the  
visible part.**

Similarly,  
the srothra, tvak, chakshu,  
rasana, all of them are placed in the respective slots that is  
said here. srothram,  
ear, chakshu, the eye,  
sparshanam, the skin,  
invisible organ of touch, rasanam, the invisible organ of  
taste, grahnam, the organ  
of smell, all of them are placed in the respective golakas and  
also adishtyaya mana. All

the sense organs have to be backed by the mind and therefore the mind also must be located appropriately and according to the shastra, hrdayam is the location of the mind; not the brain. According to shastra, hrdayam is the golakam for the indriyam called mind. Which hrdayam? The physical heart is golakam. The physical heart is the golakam, because golakam should be visible Golakam must be the tangible part of the body, the tangible physical heart is the golakam; mind is the indriyam; which is located there.

Adhishtaya means resorting to all these six organs, pancha Gyanendriyani and plus one anthakaranam, resorting to all of them. What does the Jiva do; start experiencing the new environment. If the parents are wonderful parents, the child would have a gala time. If the parents are terrible, the child would have only misery; poor innocent child, has harsh experiences right from the birth itself and what determines the type of experience? It is not child's freewill, child was not consulted as to who should the parents; spouse can be chosen by svayamvaram; parents cannot be chosen, you are already born with parents; therefore what determines the innocent child's life? It is determined by the purva janma karma. If it is punya karma; wonderful mom, wonderful dad, wonderful siblings, wonderful neighbour, wonderful place; if karma's are not good, we are hearing lot of child abuse and all, and child cannot even protest; Now only some methods are suggested; child has to silently suffer. All because of purva janma punya and papa.

And remember all these are possible; the experience of pleasures or pain; both are possible because of the chidabhasa alone; A dead body cannot experience pleasure; nor can it experience pain. Therefore experience reveals the presence of

life, which is chidabhasa. Which reveals the presence of Brahman, which is the chit, the all-pervading consciousness.

And therefore Sri Krishna says; every moment of life reveals Brahman, for a discerning mind. Every moment of life reveals Brahman. Just as every letter you read in your book, reveals the presence of the light all over; the presence of light is not revealed at a particular moment, every letter you read is because of the presence of light. Similarly every word I speak and every word you listen is because of Brahman. And a person asks for the proof of Brahman. It is like when mother asked her son to ask neighbor's house to see if they had power or not. And the child was an obedient child; the child enters the neighbors house and sees the fan is on; the light is there; TV is running; Yet he tells them: My mother asked me to check up with you whether there is current in your house. A child can do that but if a grown up person asks, you will laugh. Similarly an immature person can ask for a proof of God; but for a mature person, the very question is a meaningless and ridiculous question. That is stated in the next verse.

#### **Shloka 15.10:**

**15.10 Persons who are diversely deluded do not see it even when it is leaving or residing (in this body), or experiencing, or in association with the alities. Those with the eye of knowledge see.**

So

while the previous verses were preparatory verses, this is the crucial verse.

So here alone Sri Krishna says, for a discerning mind, Brahman is recognizable

in every activity of the individual, in every function of the Jiva. Just as the

invisible electricity is discerned in every function of the electrical gadgets,

in every function of the Jiva,  
Brahman is discerned. Of course, directly discern the function  
from the  
functions, we discern the chidabhasa; reflected consciousness;  
and from the reflected consciousness;  
we discern the original Consciousness, because we know that the  
original  
consciousness alone appears as the reflected consciousness.  
When you want to apply kumkumam or chandanam or vibhuthi,  
you see the mirror and you see the face upon the mirror in  
front of you, and  
when you want to apply, you see the mirror but  
apply the tilakam, where; on your face, and not on the mirror,  
because you know  
that there is no difference between that face and this face.  
What you see is  
that face, but what you discern or recognize  
is this face. And if you find a black dot on your face, but  
you wipe here. What  
does it mean? Seeing the abhasa  
mukham, you  
discern the original mukham. Similarly, I experience  
the abhasa chaitanyam, every moment, I understand the original  
consciousness  
and therefore Sri Krishna says mature people appreciate God in  
every breadth.

Gyanachakshu means people who have the eye of discernment,  
because it is not the physical eye that sees the electricity.  
Physical eye sees only the moving fan but I have got a third  
eye, called Gyana chakshu that tells me that behind the  
visible moving fan, there is an invisible electricity blessing  
it; because I know a fan by itself cannot move. If a fan can  
move by itself the increase in electricity tariff will not  
affect you. Similarly, this body is like the fan; and I  
discern through my third eye, the invisible Consciousness,  
which touches the body. Gyana chakshusa means the people who

have the eye of understanding.

And what is the understanding? Body is inert by itself, mind is inert by itself; but both are now as though sentient; because of an extraneous factor. That is called chakshusa atma anatma viveka. Gyana chakshusa, those people, pashyanti, they discern, not through the physical eye, but the eye of understanding. What do they discern? The chidabhasa, the Jiva, which is none other than Brahman which has descended down; Brahman's avataram is Jiva; because the original face alone has descended down on the mirror; Similarly, chit alone is in the form of chidabhasa, and that Brahman they recognize; Brahman in the form of chidabhasa.

And in what all ways that chidabhasa is playing in the body? sthitam; First we will take the word sthitam, which is very much present in the body, keeping the body alive. So sthitam means residing in the body. What is the proof; that very question is possible because of the chidabhasa or Brahman is there.

Bhujanam means this Jiva alone, this consciousness alone, experiences everything including shabda, sparsha, rupa, rasa, gandha in the world.

I am aware of the sound; I am conscious of the So, Bhujanam means experiencing the world. So it resides in the body, experiences the world and as even the experience comes; every experience generates a response; some of joy and some of sorrow.

Responses are broadly divided into three types: satvic response, rajasic response and tamasic response.

Shankaracharya calls it sukha, dukha and moha responses. And that is called here as said gunanvitham.



Thus the Jivatma is endowed with these threefold reactions and every reaction reveals the presence of the Brahman in the body.

Therefore every response reveals the presence of the Jiva. Therefore gunanvitham, Jivam, all these words are adjective to Jiva, which is an image of what? Brahman. And such a Brahman, gyana chakshu perceives or mature people recognize.

But vimudha, the immature people, the indiscriminate people, don't see this. They think that the body has got consciousness of its own. Their philosophy is that consciousness is the property of matter, the material body. Such a philosophy is charuvaka matham, they do not believe in God. They say body has got natural life; God need not enliven the body. That is called materialistic philosophy. What do we say? Body can never have a life of its own; If body has life it is the gift of the Lord alone. Therefore vimudha do not recognize this.

**Shloka**

**15:11:**

**15.11 And the yogis who are diligent see this one as existing in themselves. The non-discriminating ones who lack self-control do not see this one-though (they be) diligent.**

So here Sri Krishna talks of the two types of people; the discerning, the vivekis and the non-discerning, aviveki. Just as I see only one fan, but I have discrimination, I know that there are two things; what I see is one; what I understand is two. These two are, the **invisible** electricity and visible fan. They are both intimately associated, but they are not one and same; they are separate entities.

Even after the destruction of the fan, the visible fan, the electricity continues to be there. Immediately he will

recognize if one puts the hand inside. What I see is one; what I recognize is two. Similarly what I see in every living being is only one, but if I study vedanta, I know, there is a visible body and an invisible consciousness. Body will perish; consciousness will survive. And consciousness is, you have to remember, is not a part, property, or product of the body; it is an independent principle.

So Sri Krishna says yoginaha; yoginaha means the discerning people, mature people recognize this Brahman, which is present in the body as Jiva. They recognize this paramatma, present in the body-mind complex.

Present in what form? It is in the form of the reflected consciousness, RC.

Here atma  
has to be translated as body, mind complex.

Thus, body is a temple; Mind is the garbha griham, the sanctum;  
and the consciousness is the deity.

Hence for moksha,  
let me worship atma lingam residing in the body.

Thus sadhana chatustaya  
sampanna or qualified people, recognize this. And how do they accomplish that? Yathantaha  
means putting appropriate effort. So, the discovery, this recognition is through  
yathanta kurvanthaha. And what is prayathnam? All the spiritual sadhanas  
are the prayathnam, which means what? One has to follow karma yoga, Upasana  
yoga and Gyana yoga. In short by going through all the sadhanas,

Including attending the classes they recognize this great

truth. Whereas

the other people who have not qualified, whose mind is not pure never recognize the Lord in their hearts.

And that is why every day, before doing the puja, puja starts with atma puja, because the Lord is very much in the sanctum in the Mind and after atma puja, we invoke the Lord outside and they do bahya puja. So atma puja should be the beginning and the end as well.

## **Shloka**

**15:12:**

**15.12 That light in the sun which illumines  
the whole world, that which is in the moon, and that which is  
in fire, -know  
that light to be Mine.**

With the previous verse, the first topic that Brahman alone is present in every body as the chidabhasa, the Jivatma is over. Paramatma alone resides in every body as Jivatma and that is why in our culture, anybody we meet we greet with namasthe; that means, tey namaha, my namaskaram to you; we know very well that person does not deserve namaskaram, but we still offer, because we know that behind this body mind, there is paramatma alone in the form of Jivatma, behind a unclean body mind; but paramatma, the Jivatma is ever shuddhaha.

## **Moving**

to next topic, from 12th to 15<sup>th</sup> verse, we are entering topic that

Brahman alone is in the form of the jagat; the inert universe as well.