

Link:—In the next verse, the Lord, reveals the occasion of His manifestation.

यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत ।
अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम् ॥ ७ ॥

yadā yadā hi dharmasya glānirbhavati bhārata
abhyutthānamadharmaśya tadātmānaṁ sṛjāmyaham

Whenever, there is a decline in righteousness and an upsurge in unrighteousness, O Arjuna, I then manifest Myself. 7

Comment:—

'Yadā yadā hi dharmasya glānirbhavati bhārata abhyutthānam-adharmaśya'—When righteous, innocent, weak, pious and spiritual people, are exploited by unrighteous, cruel, strong, wicked and mundane people, and when moral values are lost and immorality prevails—that state, is the state of a decline of righteousness, and upsurge of unrighteousness.

The terms 'Yadā yadā' (whenever) show, that God manifests Himself, whenever there is need for His manifestation. Example—when the seas were churned, God in the form of unconquered Lord Viṣṇu, churned the seas as a divine Tortoise, held Mandarācala (mountain), pressed it hard, as a being with a thousand arms, and as a bewitching woman distributed the nectar among the gods. Thus, God manifested Himself, in different forms, at the same time.

The root, of the decline of righteousness and the rise of unrighteousness, is its attraction towards the perishable. As the body of a child, is inherited from the parents' bodies, so, is the universe created, by nature (prakṛti) and God. Out of these, (nature and its evolute), the world ever-undergo modifications, while God and His fragment, the soul, ever remain uniform, without the least modification. When a man, has a desire to derive pleasure out of mundane objects, he starts having a fall.

The more he is attached to worldly pleasures and prosperity, the more increase there is, in unrighteousness. The more this unrighteousness rises, the more vices, such as sins, strifes and riots etc., prevail, in the society.

There is a decline of righteousness through the Satya age, to Tretā, Dvāpara and Kali ages, respectively. In the Satya age righteousness flourishes. In Tretā, the decline begins, in Dvāpara there is a rapid decline and in Kali age, unrighteousness prevails. Then, God manifests Himself, for the establishment of righteousness.

'Tadātmānam srjāmyaham'—Whenever, there is a decline of righteousness and rise of unrighteousness, then the Lord manifests Himself for the destruction of unrighteousness and for the establishment of righteousness.

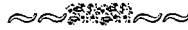
When there is a decline of righteousness and increase in unrighteousness, people are inclined to unrighteousness, which leads them to a downfall. The Lord, is the disinterested friend of all beings, so He manifests Himself, in order to check their fall.

When actions are performed with a selfish motive i.e., for reward, there is a decline of righteousness; and when a man, having deviated from his duty performs forbidden actions, there is rise of unrighteousness. It is desire, which is the root of all unrighteousness, sins and injustice etc., (Gītā 3/37). Therefore, God manifests Himself, in order to root out this desire and propagate the principle of the performance of actions, without expectation of any reward.

Here, a doubt may arise why at the present, in the wretched Kali age, God does not manifest Himself, when there is such a decline of righteousness and rise of unrighteousness. The clarification is, that the time is not yet ripe. During the Tretā age, the demons having killed many sages, piled up their bones. But, at present righteous persons are leading a pious and peaceful life, and nobody kills them. Secondly, when there is decline of

righteousness and rise of unrighteousness, by God's direction saints come to earth or true strivers reveal themselves; these establish righteousness. Sometimes, the liberated souls living in divine abode also come to earth, to help the people to attain salvation, as representatives of God. Where, there are such strivers and saints, there is, neither so much decline of righteousness, nor so much increase in unrighteousness, as at other places where there are, neither strivers nor saints.

When people do not follow the teachings of strivers and saints, but start to kill them, and when there are left, only a few righteous persons to propagate righteousness, and there is a decline in righteousness, then God manifests Himself.



Link:—Having described the occasion of His manifestation, in the preceding verse, the Lord now reveals, the aim of His manifestation, in the next verse.

परित्राणाय साधूनां विनाशाय च दुष्कृताम् ।
धर्मसंस्थापनार्थाय सम्भवामि युगे युगे ॥ ८ ॥

paritrāṇāya sādḥūnām vināśāya ca duṣkṛtām
dharmasamsthāpanārthāya sambhavāmi yuge yuge

For the protection of the good as for the destruction of the wicked as for the establishment of righteousness, I manifest myself from age to age. 8

Comment:—

'Paritrāṇāya sādḥūnām'—God manifests Himself, in order to protect the good, because they destroy unrighteousness and propagate righteousness.

The term, 'sādḥūnām' (of Sādhus) has been used for those good men, who naturally are inclined towards the good of others, who remember and chant the name, and think of form, qualities,