

Concise Gita



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Preface

In today's fast-paced world, where everyone is busy with their lives, the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita might seem too complex and lengthy to dive into. That's why I decided to create "Concise Gita."

This book is all about making the wisdom from the Bhagavad Gita simple and easy to understand. It's like a quick guide to the Gita, focusing mainly on the questions and answers it contains.

I got inspired to do this because of my brother, who was really curious about spiritual knowledge. I wanted to create something that could help not only him but also students and anyone who's curious to explore these teachings.

Acknowledgment

I want to express my thanks to Lord Krishna, the ultimate source of wisdom, for guiding me on this journey.

I also want to give special thanks to Shrila Prabhupada for his incredible work "Bhagavad Gita As It Is." It has been a huge inspiration for me.

And I'd like to acknowledge the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) for the wealth of knowledge they provide. "Concise Gita" uses questions and answers from various ISKCON publications.

Credits

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals and entities for their valuable contributions and support in bringing this book, "Concise Gita," to fruition:

- **Krishnan Sharma:** My brother, whose unwavering enthusiasm and anticipation for this book inspired me to embark on this journey. His dedication to the pursuit of spiritual knowledge has been a constant source of motivation.
- ISKCON : I extend my sincere appreciation to ISKCON for their profound literature, especially "Poorna Gyan" in Hindi, which I translated into English. The teachings and wisdom contained in ISKCON's publications have been instrumental in shaping this book.
- ChatGPT: I am indebted to ChatGPT, the AI language

model, for its invaluable assistance in the translation process. ChatGPT played a pivotal role in ensuring the clarity and accuracy of the content.

(This doesn't mean that I wrote the whole book using ChatGPT)

Your unwavering support and encouragement have been instrumental in the creation of this book. May it serve as a source of knowledge and inspiration for all those seeking the path of Krishna consciousness.

- Krish Vishwakarma

For any inquiries, questions, or discussions related to this book, please feel free to contact me through the following channels:

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1. What is 'Aatma'?

According to the Bhagavad Gita, the "Atma" is described as eternal, unchanging, and indestructible. It is the innermost essence of a living being, distinct from the physical body.

2. What is the size of the Atma (soul)?

The size of the Atma is described as being one-ten-thousandth the size of the tip of a hair (Anu or Anur) in Bhagavad Gita (2.17).

3. How can we see the soul?

The soul is so small and subtle that it cannot be seen with any physical instrument or through external means. Its infinitesimal nature makes it beyond the scope of ordinary perception.

4. What is the source of soul?

The soul (aatma) originates from the god (paramatma), and when it enters the material world, it becomes entangled in various bonds and acquires a subtle body. Before assuming a physical form, the soul resides in the association of great

souls and ultimately returns to the Supreme Soul (paramatma) through self-realization (moksh).

5. What is the nature of the eternal soul according to the Bhagavad Gita?

The Bhagavad Gita (2.20) describes the soul as eternal, indestructible, and beyond the physical body. It cannot be cut, burned, or destroyed.

6. How does the Bhagavad Gita explain the soul's relationship with the body?

In the Bhagavad Gita (2.22), it is explained that just as a person changes worn-out clothes, the soul changes bodies, leaving the old and acquiring a new one.

7. What is the ultimate destiny of the eternal soul?

the soul is never born and never dies; it simply undergoes cycles of reincarnation until it attains liberation (moksha) by realizing its true nature.

(Source: Bhagavad Gita 2.24).

8. How does one realize the eternal soul?

By controlling the mind through yoga and meditation, one can perceive the soul's eternal nature and attain spiritual enlightenment.

(Source: Bhagavad Gita 2.70)

9. What is the significance of understanding the eternal soul's nature?

Understanding the eternal soul's indestructible nature leads to freedom from fear, attachment, and suffering, ultimately leading to liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

10. What does the word 'Bhagavan' mean?

'Bhag' means richness or abundance, and 'van' means someone who has it. Bhagavan means someone who has complete richness in six aspects: strength, fame, wealth, beauty, knowledge, and renunciation.

11. Does Bhagwan has a shape or they are shapeless

God has a form , but not the materialistic shape. God is Sat (eternal), Chit (knowledge), and Ananda

(bliss), which means He is eternal, full of knowledge, and blissful. However, the light that emanates from Lord Krishna's body, known as the Brahmajyoti, is formless.

12. What is the evidence of the existence of God?

The evidence of God's existence is obtained from scriptures, which tell us that God is the cause of the creation, maintenance, and dissolution of the entire universe. For example, just as your house wasn't built on its own but required the specific intelligence of a person to construct it, this creation didn't manifest on its own but was created by the specific intelligence of a divine being, who is Lord Shri Krishna.

13. Where does God reside?

God resides in various forms in places like Vaikuntha, Dwarka, Vrindavan, and other spiritual realms. Additionally, He dwells within the heart of every tiny particle and every living being as the Supreme Soul, known as Paramatma.

14. Why does God manifest in this physical world?

God manifests in this world to protect the righteous, establish dharma (righteousness), and destroy the wicked. Primarily, God manifests to perform His divine pastimes. By hearing, chanting, and remembering these pastimes, we can transcend the struggles and sufferings of the material world and return to the spiritual abode of God.

15. How can we distinguish between a real and a fake God?

You can identify the real form of God by referring to scriptures, guidance from spiritual teachers, and authentic sources. Particularly, divine scriptures have already prophesied about God and all His incarnations in advance.

16. What is the difference between Lord Krishna and Lord Vishnu?

In essence, there is no difference between Lord Krishna and Lord Vishnu. Lord Krishna resides in

Goloka Vrindavan, and Lord Vishnu resides in Vaikuntha. Lord Krishna is the original source, and Lord Vishnu is His incarnation. In Goloka Vrindavan, devotees relish the sweetness of love with Lord Krishna, while in Vaikuntha, they experience the opulence and majesty of Lord Vishnu. It's similar to how a person who is a judge in a courtroom is very serious and everyone follows their orders there. But when the same person returns home, their child joyfully plays with them, and there's no distinction. Similarly, by cultivating pure love for Lord Krishna, we can reach Goloka Vrindavan and enjoy the loving service of God there.

17. Who is the most superior god?

Certainly, here's the picked up paragraph from Shrila Prabhupada's Bhagavat Gita As It Is (4.12):

`` There is a great misconception about the gods or demigods of this material world, and men of less intelligence, although passing as great scholars, take these demigods to be various forms of the Supreme Lord. Actually, the demigods are not

different forms of God, but they are God's different parts and parcels. God is one, and the parts and parcels are many. The Vedas say, 'nityo nityānām': God is one. Īśvaraḥ paramaḥ kṛṣṇaḥ. The Supreme God is one—Krishna—and the demigods are delegated with powers to manage this material world. These demigods are all living entities ('nityānām') with different grades of material power. They cannot be equal to the Supreme God—Nārāyaṇa, Viṣṇu, or Krishna. Anyone who thinks that God and the demigods are on the same level is called an atheist, or pāṣaṇḍī. Even the great demigods like Brahmā and Śiva cannot be compared to the Supreme Lord. In fact, the Lord is worshiped by demigods such as Brahmā and Śiva ('śiva-viriñci-nutam'). Yet curiously enough there are many human leaders who are worshiped by foolish men under the misunderstanding of anthropomorphism or zoomorphism. 'Iha devatāḥ' denotes a powerful man or demigod of this material world. But Nārāyaṇa, Viṣṇu or Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, does not belong

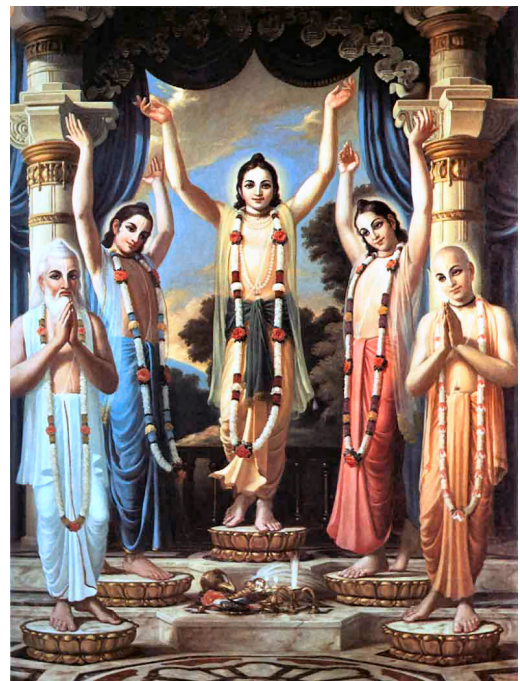
to this world. He is above, or transcendental to, material creation. Even Śrīpāda Śaṅkarācārya, the leader of the impersonalists, maintains that Nārāyaṇa or Krishna is beyond this material creation. However, foolish people ('hṛt-añjana') worship the demigods because they want immediate results. They get the results, but do not know that results so obtained are temporary and are meant for less intelligent persons. The intelligent person is in Krishna consciousness, and he has no need to worship the paltry demigods for some immediate, temporary benefit. The demigods of this material world, as well as their worshipers, will vanish with the annihilation of this material world. The boons of the demigods are material and temporary. Both the material worlds and their inhabitants, including the demigods, and their worshipers, are bubbles in the cosmic ocean. In this world, however, human society is mad after temporary things such as the material opulence of possessing land, family, and enjoyable paraphernalia. To achieve such temporary things,

they worship the demigods or powerful men in human society. If a man gets some ministership in the government by worshipping a political leader, he considers that he has achieved a great boon. ```

18. Who are the Pancha-tattva?

The Pancha-tattva consists of five divine personalities:

Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (Lord Krishna Himself), Nityananda Prabhu (Lord Balarama), Advaita Acharya (Lord Maha Vishnu), Gadadhara Pandit (Radha Rani), Srivasa Pandit (Narada Muni)



These five personalities represent the divine manifestations of God.

19. What happens after death?

After death, there are two possibilities:

1. Those souls who have completely surrendered to Lord Krishna by taking His holy name are liberated from material suffering. They attain a spiritual body and engage in eternal service to God.

2. Souls with selfish desires leave their physical body made of the five elements. However, their subtle body, composed of mind, intellect, and ego, carries the karmic effects of their actions. Due to good or bad karma, they experience happiness or suffering and take on various bodies according to their consciousness. In this way, the soul goes through a cycle of 8.4 million different types of bodies based on its karma.

20. How many types of souls are there?

There are two types of souls:

Nitya-baddha: These are souls who do not serve God and become entangled in the material world due to the influence of the three modes of material nature. They struggle with suffering in the physical world.

Nitya-mukta: These are souls who have resided in the spiritual realm, in the abode of God, from time immemorial, and they always remain in a state of bliss.

21. How many types of living beings are there in this material world?

In this material world, there are 8.4 million species of living beings. This includes nine hundred thousand species of aquatic life, two million species of plants, 1.1 million species of insects, one million species of birds, three million species of animals, and four hundred thousand species of humans.

22. What is the real problem or suffering of living beings?

The real problem or suffering of living beings is birth, death, old age, and disease.

23. What are the three main sources of suffering for living beings in this world?

In the material world, living beings experience

three types of suffering known as "kleshas":

Adhibhautika klesha: These are the sufferings caused by other living beings, such as attacks from snakes, mosquitoes, thieves, and oppressors.

Adhidaivika klesha: These are the sufferings caused by natural calamities like droughts, storms, floods, and earthquakes.

Adhyatmika klesha: These are the sufferings that arise from our own bodies and minds, such as illnesses and restlessness.

24. How many types of consciousness do living beings have? Please provide examples.

Living beings have five types of consciousness:

Covered consciousness, like mountains and trees.

Restricted consciousness, like animals and birds.

Mixed consciousness, like ordinary humans.

Developed consciousness, like humans engaged in devotion.

Fully developed consciousness, like those who have

achieved spiritual perfection through devotion.

25. What is the ultimate goal of the soul?

The ultimate goal of the soul is to re-establish a lost connection with the Supreme Lord, Bhagavan Shri Krishna, through devotional service, which means attaining pure love for Krishna.

26. What are the functions of the three gunas (modes) of nature?

The three gunas of nature are: 1) Sattva Guna (goodness), 2) Rajas Guna (passion), and 3) Tamas Guna (ignorance).

When the pure consciousness, the Atma, comes under the influence of these gunas, it affects the consciousness. As a result, living beings engage in various activities in the material world based on these influences.

27. How can one become free from the influence of the gunas (modes) of nature?

When the individual soul (jivatma) engages in selfless, loving service to the Supreme Lord with a pure and unselfish attitude, they can transcend the influence of the modes of nature.

28. What is the material world (jada jagat)?

The material world, or "jada jagat," is a place created by the external energy (bahiranga shakti) of the Supreme Lord. It is a realm filled with suffering and illusion that can distract living beings from their spiritual path.

29. From which elements is the material world created?

The material world (jada jagat) is constructed from the following twenty elements: the five gross elements (pancha mahabhuta), the five working senses (pancha karmendriya), the five knowledge senses (pancha gyana-indriya), the five sense objects (pancha indriya-vishaya), mind (manas); intelligence (buddhi); ego (ahankara); and pradhana (the unmanifested material substance). These twenty elements form the basis of the

material world and its various manifestations.

30. What are the five great elements (Panch Mahabhuta)?

Earth (Prithvi), Water (Jal), Fire (Agni), Air (Vayu), Ether (Akash).

31. What are the five organs of action (Panch Karmendriyas)?

Speech (Vak - Vakya), Hands (Pani - Haath), Feet (Pada - Paanv), Anus (Payu - Maladwaar), Genitals (Upastha - Jananendriya).

32. What are the five organs of knowledge (Panch Gyanendriyas)?

Eyes (Aankh), Ears (Kaan), Nose (Naak), Tongue (Jihva), Skin (Twacha).

33. What are the objects that attract the senses (Indriyas)?

Form (Roop), Taste (Ras), Sound (Shabda), Smell (Gandh), Touch (Sparsh).

34. What is the gross body (Sthula Sharir) made

of?

The gross body is made of the five elements - Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Ether.

35. What is the subtle body (Sookshma Sharir) composed of?

The subtle body is composed of the mind (Man), intellect (Buddhi), and ego (Ahankar).

36. What is the connection between God and the material world (Jad Jagat)?

The material world (Jad Jagat) is created by the external energy (Bahiranga Shakti) of God.

37. Why does God create the material world?

The material world is like a prison. Those souls who violate the divine laws created by God are placed in this prison. Here, the external energy of God, represented as Goddess Durga, oversees the maintenance of the material world and imparts lessons to souls through the experiences of the threefold miseries. God creates the material world to teach souls the importance of renouncing selfish

desires and attachments and to encourage them to engage in devotion to Lord Krishna. Through devotion, souls can return to the spiritual realm, Bhagavad-dham, and re-establish their connection with God.

38. How can God's various powers be divided?

God's infinite powers can be divided into three categories: Antaranga Shakti (Internal Potency), Bahiranga Shakti (External Potency), and Tatashta Shakti (Marginal Potency).

Antaranga Shakti - This is the power that governs the spiritual realm and the souls within it. It is controlled by Yoga Maya Shakti.

Bahiranga Shakti - This is the power that governs the material world and the illusory energy (Maha Maya) that bewilders living beings.

Tatashta Shakti - This refers to the marginal energy, which includes the individual souls (jivas) who have the power of choice and can exist in either the material or spiritual realms.

39. Why do living beings experience suffering in the physical world?

When living beings forget their eternal relationship with God, it becomes the cause of their suffering and distress.

40. How is a hypocrite (pretender) described?

A person who externally controls their senses but internally dwells on material desires is considered a hypocrite, as they deceive themselves and others.

41. What is the difference between desire (kama) and love (prema)?

Desire, or "kama," refers to the desire to gratify one's senses or fulfill materialistic cravings. On the other hand, love, or "prema," is the deep affection and devotion directed towards God, as exemplified by the loving sentiments and actions of devotees towards Lord Krishna. In the hearts of living beings, there exists a pure and eternal love for God (prema), which continually grows and brings everlasting joy, whereas desires (kama) offer temporary and

diminishing pleasures for a brief period.

42. What is the root cause of the suffering of living beings?

The root cause of the suffering of living beings is forgetting Lord Krishna. When a living being forgets their eternal connection with Lord Krishna, they identify themselves with their physical body, which leads to the experience of suffering.

43. Why do humans commit sinful actions even when they don't want to?

Lord Krishna explained in the Bhagavad Gita that living beings, influenced by the mode of passion (rajoguna), engage in sinful actions due to their selfish desires. This influence of material qualities can lead them to act against their better judgment.

44. How can a person be liberated from all kinds of sins?

The simplest way to be liberated from all kinds of sins is to chant the Hare Krishna Mahamantra and engage in the service of Lord Sri Krishna.

45. How many types of Yogi(s) are there?

There are four types of yogis:

1. Karma Yogi 2. Gyan Yogi
3. Dhyana Yogi 4. Bhakti Yogi

46. Which yogis worship the formless Brahman (God without a form)?

Gyan yogis worship the formless Brahman.

47. Which yogis meditate upon the Supreme Being in their hearts?

Ashtanga yogis or Dhyana yogis meditate upon the Supreme Being in their hearts through the practice of meditation (Dhyana).

48. Which yogis directly worship the Supreme Lord?

Bhakti yogis (devotees) directly worship the Supreme Lord.

49. Which yogis are called Bhakti Yogi?

Bhakti yogi are those who have an intense desire for loving devotion to Lord Shri Krishna and who remain absorbed in devotion to Lord Shri Krishna through their love.

50. Among the wise (Gyani), yogi, and devotee (bhakt), who is the best and why?

The devotee (bhakt) is considered the best because of their unique and loving relationship with the Lord, which allows them to be closest to Him and attain His presence directly through their love and devotion. This is why Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita considers devotees as the best.

51. What is Ashtanga Yoga?

Ashtanga Yoga is a spiritual practice consisting of eight sequential steps: Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dharana, Dhyana, and Samadhi.

52. The "Ashtasiddhi," which are ephemeral and impermanent, are what??

Anima, Mahima, Laghima, Prapti, Prakamya, Ishita,

Vashita, Kamavasayita are ephemeral and impermanent.

Anima: The ability to become infinitely small.

Mahima: The ability to become infinitely large.

Laghima: The ability to become weightless or almost weightless.

Prapti: The ability to access anything anywhere.

Prakamyā: The power to fulfill any desire.

Ishita: The ability to control natural elements.

Vashita: The ability to control other living beings.

Kamavasayita: The power to have anything at will.

Steps of Ashtanga Yoga:

Yama: Control of the senses.

Niyama: Observance of ethical principles.

Asana: Practice of physical postures.

Pranayama: Control of breath.

Pratyahara: Withdrawal of the senses from external objects.

Dharana: Concentration or focused meditation.

Dhyana: Deep meditation.

Samadhi: Complete absorption or enlightenment.

53. Where is the ultimate source of joy, and how can it be obtained?

The ultimate source of joy is Lord Sri Krishna, the embodiment of truth, consciousness, and bliss. To attain this joy, individuals must re-establish their eternal loving relationship with the Supreme Personality, Lord Sri Krishna.

54. Why Bhagavad Gita is considered the greatest scripture?

The Bhagavad Gita is considered the greatest scripture because it contains direct teachings spoken by Lord Sri Krishna Himself. It is a source of comprehensive knowledge encompassing not only

the wisdom found in other scriptures but also unique insights not available elsewhere.

55. What are 'preya' and 'shreya,' and which one should one choose in life?

The result that is quickly obtained and initially seems sweet but ultimately leads to sorrow is called 'preya.' The result that is obtained through hard work and delay but is stable and brings happiness is called 'shreya.' In our lives, we should choose 'shreya'.

56. What is the true 'shreya' of life?

The true 'shreya' of life is to know one's real nature (identity), and without any expectation, engage in the service of Lord Shri Krishna's lotus feet.

57. How does the soul attain contentment?

The soul attains contentment when it relinquishes its selfish desires and re-establishes its lost connection with Lord Shri Krishna, the eternal and beloved, by engaging in His loving service. This is when the soul achieves contentment.

58. By pleasing the Lord, does the entire world become pleased?

Yes, when the Lord is pleased, the Creator of the entire world, the whole world becomes pleased. Therefore, by pleasing the Lord, the entire world is satisfied.

59. What is real knowledge?

Real knowledge is that which imparts understanding about the soul, the Supreme Soul (Lord Krishna), and their relationship.

60. What is the simple way to attain the Lord?

The simple way to attain the Lord is through Bhakti Yoga. The company of the Lord's devotees helps in attaining devotion.

61. How can devotion be obtained?

Devotion can be obtained by associating with the devotees of the Lord.

62. What are the nine types of devotion?

Devotion to the Lord can be attained in nine ways:

by hearing about Him, chanting His glories, remembering Him, serving His lotus feet, offering Him prayers, worshiping Him, being His servant, being His friend, and surrendering oneself to Him.

63. Which great personalities obtained the Lord by practicing which type of devotion?

- Parikshit Maharaj: Hearing (Shravan)
- Shukadev Goswami: Chanting (Kirtan)
- Prahlad Maharaj: Remembering (Smaran)
- Lakshmi Devi: Serving His lotus feet (Padasevan)
- Akrura: Offering prayers (Vandan)
- Prithu Maharaj: Worshiping Him (Archan)
- Hanuman: Being His servant (Dasya)
- Arjuna: Being His friend (Sakhya)
- Bali Maharaj: Surrendering oneself (Atma Nivedan)

64. What is the formless aspect of God?

Lord Sri Krishna eternally resides in Goloka

Vrindavan. The radiant energy emanating from His divine form is also known as the Brahmajyoti. This radiant energy illuminates the spiritual realms and is referred to as the formless aspect of God.

65. What is the difference between Lord Sri Krishna and Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, who incarnated in Navadvipa Dham?

The difference lies in their specific purposes for incarnation. Lord Sri Krishna is the Supreme Lord Himself, and He incarnated primarily to give teachings on pure devotion (shuddha bhakti) and to relish the ecstasy of devotion through His own pastimes.

On the other hand, Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is the combined form of Radha and Krishna. He incarnated to reveal the deep secrets of divine love and to demonstrate how one can experience the highest joy of devotion through the loving service of the Lord. Lord Chaitanya's unique feature is His deep experience of the emotions of Radharani,

which makes His teachings and path of devotion distinctive.

66. What did Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu preach after His incarnation?

Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu primarily preached the chanting of the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra: "Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare." He emphasized that through the congregational chanting of this mantra, anyone can attain love for Lord Krishna. His teachings were centered around the practice of devotion (bhakti) and the path of pure love for God. He encouraged everyone to engage in the loving service of Lord Krishna through the process of sankirtana (chanting) and thereby experience spiritual ecstasy and attain the highest spiritual realization.

67. What was the prophecy of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu that Srila Prabhupada (founder of ISKCON) fulfilled?

The prophecy that "पृथिवीते आछे यत नगरादिग्राम । सर्वत्र

प्रचार हईवे मोर नाम ।" means that the holy names of the Lord will be chanted in every town and village around the world was fulfilled by Srila Prabhupada. He took the teachings of Lord Chaitanya and the practice of sankirtana (congregational chanting) to the corners of the earth.

68. What is Dharma, and who established Dharma?

Dharma refers to the religious or moral duties and righteousness as prescribed by the scriptures. The establishment of Dharma was done by Lord Krishna Himself. He imparted the knowledge of Dharma in the scriptures and also demonstrated it in His life. Dharma is what is given by God, and ordinary human beings cannot create it.

69. What are the different means of attaining the Lord in various ages (Yugas)?

In different Yugas (ages), different means of attaining the Lord are prescribed. In Satyuga, meditation (Dhyana) was the primary means. In Treta Yuga, performing sacrifices (Yajna) was

emphasized. In Dvapara Yuga, deity worship (Archanā) was prevalent. And in Kali Yuga, the congregational chanting of the Holy Name (Harinama Sankirtana) is the recommended means.

70. What is the greatest benefit of chanting the name of Lord Krishna?

The greatest benefit of chanting the name of Lord Krishna is not only liberation from the sufferings and tribulations of the material world but also the attainment of pure love for God.

71. Why should we chant the "Hare Krishna" Maha Mantra?

Chanting the "Hare Krishna" Maha Mantra is recommended because it is the most effective means to counteract the negative influences of Kali Yuga (the present age) and purify the heart. It bestows upon us the highest spiritual realization and divine love for Lord Krishna.

These answers provide insights into the teachings

of Lord Chaitanya and the significance of chanting the Holy Name of the Lord.

72. What is the difference between humans and animals?

Both animals and humans have intelligence for the purpose of acquiring food, sleep, mating, and defending, but humans possess an additional level of intelligence that allows them to inquire about the Supreme and seek spiritual knowledge. This higher intelligence enables humans to understand and connect with God.

73. What is the concept of animal killing (Pashu Bali) in Hindu mythology.

Here is a paragraph taken from the Shrila Prabhupada's Bhagavad Gita As It Is (2.31):

``the killing of animals in the sacrificial fire are not at all considered to be acts of violence, because everyone is benefitted by the religious principles involved. The animal sacrificed gets a human life immediately without undergoing the gradual

evolutionary process from one form to another` ```

74. Who is called a bipedal animal?

Those humans who live their entire lives like animals, only focusing on acquiring food, sleep, mating, and security, are called bipedal animals according to scriptures.

75. Why was Arjuna called Gudakesha?

The term "Gudakesha" means conqueror of sleep, and one who conquers sleep is also considered to have conquered ignorance. Arjuna was called Gudakesha because, due to his friendship with Krishna, he had conquered both sleep and ignorance.

76. Who doesn't take refuge in God?

Those who are utterly foolish.

Those who are the lowest among humans.

Those whose knowledge has been stolen by ignorance.

Those who embrace the atheistic nature of demons.

These four types of wicked individuals do not take refuge in God.

77. Who is the greatest benefactor?

Those devotees who spread Krishna consciousness and inspire everyone to become free from the sufferings and miseries of the material world through devotion to the Supreme Lord are the greatest benefactors.

78. Who takes refuge in God?

The distressed (those in suffering).

The inquisitive (those seeking knowledge).

The seekers of wealth (those desiring material gain).

The wise (those with knowledge). These four types of virtuous souls take refuge in God.

79. What is the difference between the birth and actions of Lord Shri Krishna and the birth and actions of individual souls?

The birth and actions of Lord Shri Krishna are divine. He is beyond the three material qualities, and He

incarnates in this material world willingly to uplift souls. On the other hand, the birth of individual souls occurs due to their ignorance. They are compelled to take on a specific physical body to experience the results of their actions. Souls take birth in this world according to their karmic debts, seeking refuge in the reproductive cells of males. The actions of souls are governed by the tri-guna (three modes of material nature) and the illusory energy known as Maya. Hence, souls experience the consequences of their actions. All the actions of souls are ultimately controlled by God.

80. How can social welfare be achieved?

If all members of society are absorbed in Krishna consciousness, then true welfare of society can be achieved, because Krishna consciousness is the highest level of consciousness.

81. Is the origin of the soul from inert matter? What is the primary cause of life?

"The source of life is life." For example, just as a father conceives a child, both the father and the

child are living beings. Is there any evidence that the father is an inert stone? In this way, it is straightforward to establish that the origin of the soul is from other living beings, and the primary cause of all souls is Lord Sri Krishna.

82. Is every living entity God?

The living entity is eternally a servant of God, not God Himself. We are like parts of God, just as a spark is part of a fire.

83. Can a living entity become God through the perfection of yoga?

God is complete. We are all eternal servants of God and can never become God. Our role is to serve the Supreme, not to become the Supreme.

84. What is the relationship between the living entity and God?

The relationship between the living entity and God is one of loving devotional service.

85. What should one pray to God for?

We should pray to God to grant us causeless devotion at His lotus feet and the fortune to serve His lotus feet birth after birth.

86. By worshiping any deity, can one attain Lord Sri Krishna?

No, by worshiping God, all other deities are automatically worshiped. God is the creator of the entire universe. God is the root of all. Just as by watering the root of a tree, all its branches, leaves, and flowers are nourished, in the same way, when God is pleased, all are satisfied. "Yasmin tushte jagat tushtah."

87. How should a person choose their food?

A person should consume only food that has been offered to the Lord. When we offer our meals to God, it becomes sanctified prasadam. This prasadam purifies us from all sins and bestows us with a healthy body and a clear mind.

88. How should a person choose their food to offer to God?

Bhagavan Krishna explains in the Bhagavad Gita (9.26) that if someone offers Him with love and devotion, fruits, flowers, leaves, and water, He accepts it. We should prepare various vegetarian dishes and offer them to God with love and devotion.

89. What are the three gunas of nature?

The three gunas of nature are Satoguna, Rajoguna, and Tamoguna.

90. What is the favorite food of those in the mode of goodness (sattva guna)?

The food that is dear to those in the mode of goodness is that which increases life, purifies one's existence, gives strength, health, happiness, and satisfaction. Such foods are juicy, fatty, wholesome, and pleasing to the heart.

91. What is the favorite food of those in the mode of passion (rajo guna)?

Foods that are too bitter, too sour, salty, hot, pungent, dry, and burning are dear to those in the

mode of passion. Such foods cause distress, misery, and disease.

(Onion and garlic are rajo guni)

92. What is the favorite food of those in the mode of ignorance (tamo guna)?

Foods that are prepared more than three hours before being eaten, those that are tasteless, decomposed, and putrid, and food consisting of remnants and untouchable things are dear to those in the mode of ignorance.

93. What are the six main enemies of a human?

Lust, anger, greed, illusion, pride, and envy are the six main enemies of a human.

94. How can these six enemies be conquered?

By serving the Lord through the body, mind, and words, by chanting and reciting the Hare Krishna Maha-mantra with faith, and by partaking of the Lord's prasadam as per the instructions of pure devotees, these six enemies can be completely vanquished. Following the devotional processes as

directed by pure devotees is the only way.

95. According to Vedic injunctions, what are the six kinds of aggressors, and what is the recommended action to be taken against them?

According to Vedic injunctions there are six kinds of aggressors: 1) a poison giver, 2) one who sets fire to the house, 3) one who attacks with deadly weapons, 4) one who plunders riches, 5) one who occupies another's land, and 6) one who kidnaps a wife. Such aggressors are at once to be killed, and no sin is incurred by killing such aggressors.

Source: Bhagavat Gita As It Is (1.36).

96. How can one attain liberation from the results of karma?

We can attain liberation from the results of our actions (karma) by offering the results of our actions to the Lord. When we surrender the fruits of our actions to the Lord, we can become free from the bondage of karma.

97. What is the definition of devotion (bhakti)?

Devotion is defined as the service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is the master of the senses, by one's senses. This is described as "hṛṣīkeṇa hṛṣīkeśa-sevanam bhaktiruchyate."

98. Why is Lord Sri Krishna called Hṛṣīkeśa (the master of the senses)?

Lord Sri Krishna is called Hṛṣīkeśa because He is the master of all the senses. He has perfect control over the senses and can guide them towards righteous actions and devotion.

99. What is the means to conquer all the senses?

The means to conquer all the senses is by engaging them in the service of Lord Sri Krishna. When the senses are utilized in the service of the Lord, they become purified and no longer lead to sensual indulgence. For example, the tongue can be controlled by partaking of the Lord's prasadam (sanctified food), the ears can be engaged in hearing the glories of the Lord, the nose can be used to smell the fragrant tulasi offered to the Lord, the eyes can be directed towards the darshan (sight)

of the Lord's deity, and the hands can be employed in cleaning and serving in the temple. This way, the senses are subjugated and directed towards devotion to the Lord.

100. What are the four pillars of sin according to the scriptures?

- i) Consuming non-vegetarian food (obtained through violence), such as meat, fish, eggs, etc.
- ii) Gambling.
- iii) Indulging in intoxicants.
- iv) Illicit relationships with any women or men

101. What is the significance of wearing a Kanthi Mala, and what are its benefits according to Hindu tradition?

A Kanthi Mala, typically made of sacred Tulsi beads, holds spiritual significance in Hindu tradition. Benefits include devotion to Lord Vishnu or Krishna, spiritual protection, purity, aiding meditation, and attracting blessings. Rules may include being satoguni, keeping it clean, not allowing others to

touch it, and using it during prayer and meditation, while also showing respect to the Tulsi plant, a manifestation of Tulsi Devi.

102. What are the four pillars of Dharma (righteousness)?

Truthfulness, cleanliness, austerity, and compassion.

103. What is the significance of chanting 16 rounds of the Hare Krishna Mahamantra?

The concept of chanting 16 rounds of the Hare Krishna Mahamantra is indeed profound. By chanting these 16 rounds, a devotee repeats the divine names of God more times than they breathe throughout the day. To break it down:

- The Mahamantra consists of 16 words.
- One round of chanting (using a mala) typically involves 108 repetitions.
- Therefore, 16 rounds equate to 16×108 repetitions, which exceeds the number of breaths an average person takes in a day. This practice

signifies the priority and devotion given to God's holy names in one's life.

"Harinam in each breath".

104. What is the concept of time , universe , yugas and brahma?

Bhagavat Gita As It Is (8.17):

``` The duration of the material universe is limited. It is manifested in cycles of kalpas. A kalpa is a day of Brahmä, and one day of Brahmä consists of a thousand cycles of four yugas or ages: Satya, Tretä, Dväpara, and Kali. The cycle of Satya is characterized by virtue, wisdom and religion, there being practically no ignorance and vice, and the yuga lasts 1,728,000 years. In the Tretä-yuga vice is introduced, and this yuga lasts 1,296,000 years. In the Dväpara-yuga there is an even greater decline in virtue and religion, vice increasing, and this yuga lasts 864,000 years. And finally in Kali-yuga (the yuga we have now been experiencing over the past 5,000 years) there is an abundance of strife, ignorance, irreligion and vice, true virtue being

practically nonexistent, and this yuga lasts 432,000 years. In Kali-yuga vice increases to such a point that at the termination of the yuga the Supreme Lord Himself appears as the Kalki avatara, vanquishes the demons, saves His devotees, and commences another Satya-yuga. Then the process is set rolling again. These four yugas, rotating a thousand times, comprise one day of Brahmä, the creator god, and the same number comprise one night. Brahmä lives one hundred of such "years" and then dies. These "hundred years" by earth calculations total to 311 trillion and 40 million earth years. By these calculations the life of Brahmä seems fantastic and interminable, but from the viewpoint of eternity it is as brief as a lightning flash. In the causal ocean there are innumerable Brahmäs rising and disappearing like bubbles in the Atlantic. Brahmä and his creation are all part of the material universe, and therefore they are in constant flux.

In the material universe not even Brahmä is free from the process of birth, old age, disease and death. Brahmä, however, is directly engaged in the

service of the Supreme Lord in the management of this universe-therefore he at once attains liberation. Elevated sannyāsés are promoted to Brahmā's particular planet, Brahmaloka, which is the highest planet in the material universe and which survives all the heavenly planets in the upper strata of the planetary system, but in due course Brahmā and all inhabitants of Brahmaloka are subject to death, according to the law of material nature. ```

**105. What is Para Shakti, and how does it differ from Apra Shakti?**

Para Shakti refers to the transcendental energy of the Supreme Lord, which is spiritual and eternal. It is beyond the material realm and constitutes the spiritual potency of God. In contrast, Apra Shakti is the material energy, which encompasses the physical world, including the elements, living beings, and everything within the material universe.

**106. What is the difference between heaven (swarg) and Vaikunth Dham.**

Swarg is the destination for the soul after death,

and if a person has accumulated good karma, they will go to Swarg. However, if they are liberated from the cycle of karma, they attain moksha and proceed to Vaikunth Dham.

**107. What is the difference between Golok and Vaikunth Dham?**

Goloka is the eternal abode of Lord Krishna, where He enjoys divine pastimes and loving exchanges with His devotees. It is the highest spiritual realm characterized by intimate devotion and love.

Vaikuntha, on the other hand, is the abode of Lord Vishnu, where He resides as the Supreme Lord. It represents a majestic and opulent spiritual realm focused on His lordship and the worship of the Lord in reverence.

**108. Why does the Bhagavatam caution individuals against attempting to do what God does, like Lord Shiva's act of drinking poison?**

"One should simply follow the instructions of the

Lord and His empowered servants. Their instructions are all beneficial for us, and any intelligent person will carry them out as directed. However, one should guard against trying to imitate their actions. One should not attempt to drink the ocean of poison as Lord Shiva did." (Bhagavatam 10.33.30)

We should always consider the position of the Ishvaras, those who can truly control the movements of the sun and moon, as superior. Without such power, one cannot imitate the Ishvaras, who possess immense abilities. Lord Shiva drank poison to the extent of swallowing an ocean, but if any ordinary person tries to drink even a fraction of such poison, it would prove fatal. There are many pseudo-devotees of Lord Shiva who engage in activities like smoking ganja (marijuana) and similar intoxicating substances, forgetting that by imitating Lord Shiva's acts, they are inviting imminent danger. Similarly, some pseudo-devotees of Lord Krishna seek to imitate the Lord in His rasa-lila, the dance of divine love,

without realizing their inability to perform such extraordinary feats, like lifting Govardhana Hill."

*(Source: Bhagavad Gita As It Is 3.24)*