

CHAPTER 8

DISCOURSE ON THE IMMUTABLE BRAHMAN

अक्षरब्रह्मयोगः

In the text, ‘...they know that Brahman, everything (about the individual Self)’ (7.29) etc., the Bhagavān has created scope for Arjuna’s questions. Consequently, by way of raising those questions —

Arjuna said:

किं तद्ब्रह्म किमध्यात्मं किं कर्म पुरुषोत्तम ।
अधिभूतं च किं प्रोक्तमधिदैवं किमुच्यते ॥१॥

अधियज्ञः कथं कोऽत्र देहेऽस्मिन् मधुसूदन ।
प्रयाणकाले च कथं ज्ञेयोऽसि नियतात्मभिः ॥२॥

1. O supreme person, what is that Brahman? What is that which exists in the individual plane? What is action? And what is that which is said to exist in the physical plane? What is that which is said to be existing in the divine plane?

2. O Madhusudan, how, and who, is the entity existing in the sacrifice here in this body? And at the time of death, how are You to be known by people of concentrated minds?

In order to settle these questions seriatim—