

*sri bhagavān uvāca*

*bahuni me vyatītāni janmāni tava cā 'rjuna ।*

*tāny ahaṁ veda sarvāṇi na tvaṁ vettha paramtapa ॥*

श्री भगवानुवाच *sri bhagavān uvāca* Sri Bhagavan said:

बहुनि *bahūni* many मे *me* my व्यतीतानि *vyatītāni* have passed away जन्मानि *janmāni* births तव *tava* thy च *ca* and अर्जुन *arjuna* O Arjuna तानि *tāni* them अहम् *ahaṁ* I वेद *veda* know सर्वाणि *sarvāṇi* all न *na* not त्वम् *tvam* thou वेत्थ *vettha* knowest परंतप *paramtapa* O Parantapa

The Blessed Lord said :

Many are the births taken by Me and you, O Arjuna. I know them all while you know not, O Parantapa. 5

Arjuna is a *Jivatman* bound by karma. So he has no memory of his previous births. But Krishna is an Incarnation of Iswara. He is therefore ever pure, ever free and omniscient. He can call to the mind how the Cosmic Intelligence assumed a form previously and enlightened Vivasvat.

Incarnations are all the personifications of Iswara. In the ocean of *Sat-chit-ananda* a wave rises up in one place at one time and it is called Krishna. Another wave rises at another place some time later and it is called Christ.

— Sri Ramakrishna

The bound souls are born to work out their karma. But the Lord is above karma. How then does He incarnate? The revelation comes :—

अजोऽपि सन्नव्ययात्मा भूतानामीश्वरोऽपि सन् ।

प्रकृतिं स्वामधिष्ठाय संभवाम्यात्ममायया ॥ ६