

श्री भगवानुवाच *śrī bhagavān uvāca* Sri Bhagavan said:

कालः *kālah* time अस्मि *asmi* (I) am लोकक्षयकृत् *loka kṣaya kṛt* world destroying प्रवृद्धः *prayṛddhaḥ* mighty लोकान् *lokān* the worlds समाहर्तुम् *samāhartum* to destroy इह *iha* here प्रवृत्तः *pravṛttaḥ* engaged कृते *ṛte* without अपि *api* also त्वाम् *tvām* thee न *na* not भविष्यन्ति *bhaviṣyanti* shall live सर्वे *sarve* all ये *ye* these अवस्थिताः *avasthitaḥ* arrayed प्रत्यनीकेषु *pratyanīkeṣu* in hostile armies योधाः *yodhāḥ* warriors

The Blessed Lord said :

I am the mighty world-destroying Time now engaged in wiping out the world. Even without you the warriors arrayed in hostile armies shall not live.

In spite of a life-long companionship with Sri Krishna, what Arjuna has come to know of Him is very little and what remains to be known is much. Hence rises the question, "Tell me who You are." The answer, "I am the mighty world-destroying Time" is one among the numerous definitions of Iswara. He is known as *Mahākāla*. This answer solves the immediate puzzle in the mind of Arjuna.

All events in Nature get buried in time. Relentlessly and constantly it is consuming everything. Again it is time that measures all events. As *ākāśa* contains all manifested things in itself, time contains all events or causation in itself. As one ascends a hill one sees the ups and downs below merging into a vast expanse. Similarly in the infinitude of time all the happenings in the universe get swallowed. This Time is verily Iswara.