

the growing virtue is the purpose of life. Arjuna represented the normal man. To a person of his type the message of the Gita was bound to prove most fruitful. Any person endowed with normal human traits is competent both to study and to put into practice, the teachings of the Gita.

Why preached on the Battle-field?

Vedanta or Self-knowledge is born of *śānti*, peace. The Rishis of yore resided in forest retreats and made calm inquiries into the principles governing life. The Upanishads had their origin in the seclusion of the forest. But the Bhagavad Gita among the Scriptural Trinity occupies a peculiar place. It did not emanate in the woods. War front was the place of its origin. An exciting setting was deliberately chosen by the Lord. The common notion that Vedantism was concomitant with quietism was repudiated. That passivity or escape-mentality was the goal of virtuous life was given the lie. Vedanta is as much the science of action as it is the science of actionlessness. Equilibrium of mind can be had as much in a sanguinary battle-field as in the solitude of a cave. Vedanta is the sovereign science of human life at all its levels. People in every walk of life profit by putting the Vedanta philosophy to practice. The application of Vedanta energizes man and unfolds the best in him.

Sri Krishna sets an example in regard to the attitude one should assume towards one's earthly career. Long before he commenced his teens his sprightly sports at Brindavanam had all been