**HH – BG - 10**

**PREACHINGS -**

Human life is of the highest value. Millions of species inhabit this world. Among these, humans have the capability for acquiring good knowledge. We need a means to enhance that knowledge. With the right means, we will have taken the **uttama janma** (the highest birth). As animals do not seek the right means, they live an ordinary life. The one finding that right means becomes the one with the best birth. To provide these means, our great **rushis** (sages), meditated upon **Vedas** while in **tapas samadhi** (the final stage of intense, deep concentration resulting in union with higher consciousness). **Veda** is a large body of knowledge. It is defined as that knowledge which one must know. **Vedanta** is that part of **Veda** which is regarded as the beautiful essence that one must grasp. It is the quintessence. In fact, this essential knowledge is **Bhagavan** (God) Himself. Hence He is called ‘**Vedanta Vedyam**', or ‘**Vedanta Thatthvam**'. This is why our Seers eulogize and bow to Him as the essential core of all **Vedic** knowledge.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** ve:da:ntha ve:dine: the: namaha

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** hey **Bhagavan**, my respectful salutations to you.

Why?

**SANSKRIT WORD =** na:tha:ya rukmini: sa:ya

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** your union with **Rukmini** accentuates your grace, showering your compassion on everyone, protecting those approaching you.

When Lord incarnated as **Sri Krishna**, **Rukmini** was His queen. Uncertain of why, people recently set **Rukmini** aside and rather call Him ‘**Radha Madhava**', the beloved of **Radha**. Though Lord may have no objection, we should worship Him as **Rukminiisa** during **Sri Krishna avathara** (incarnation) as we are responsible to learn the **tathva** as it is meant to be. Examining the entire **Srimad Bhagavatam**, we do not find any philosophy relating to **Radha**. Though some explain **Radha** with their own reasoning, letʼs keep that aside for now. **Rushi** (sages), detailed recommended ways to approach Him. **Sri Krishna** preaches appropriate philosophy via **jnana mudra**, leading us all as a **yogi** (as a leader). He provided us with the greatest of teachings, the ultimate philosophy, with necessary inspiration via **Bhagavad Gita**. “Hey **Bhagavan**! Please inspire us by showering us with that compassion. To do so, be with **Rukmini** always!” This is the mode of our prayer. We always worship him coupled with **daya** (merciful grace), not simply as God alone. Why? His innate quality of compassion is superseded by His authoritative qualities. We need a **tathvam** which brings compassion to the forefront. That **tathvam** is **krupa** (divine grace). When that **krupa** is personified, it is **Rukmini Thatthvam**. In **Sri Krishna** avatar, that **tathvam** is named **Rukmini**. In **Sri Rama** avatar, it is Mother **Sita**. In His natural form as **Narayana**, it is **Sri**. Hence He thrives with **Sri** and is known as **Srimannarayana**. In **Sri Rama** avatar, He is known as **Sita Rama**, In **Sri Krishna** avatar, **Sri Krishna Bhagavan** is known as **Rukmini Nadha**. Hence, our **agama** scriptures suggest we always worship God with **amma** (the universal mother). One may wonder if even in **Vaikunta** there are gender differences. That question is not necessary. Why? The qualities of **krupa** (grace), **daya** (compassion), and **kshama** (forgiveness) in God are of feminine gender in Sanskrit. His authoritative nature is described using masculine gender words such as **isithruthvam** (controlling authority), and **sarvesasvarathvam** (all powerful). Hence, His authoritative ruling nature is referred to in masculine terminology. His Compassionate nature is referred to in feminine terminology. These words are then given a form (to aid understanding). Are they simply words then? No. They are real, qualified forms. However, for our understanding, when given a wonderful form, **daya** becomes mother and authoritative power becomes **purusha** (man in this context). The union of these two is worshipable. Hence, we never worship Lord as male alone or female alone. Thus, how do we worship? We worship them together as the universal mother and father. We worship them together as **Lakshmi Narayana**, **Srimannarayana**, **Sita Rama**, **Rukmini Nadha**. We worship any **avatara** together with the name of **amma** that reflects Her quality.

Mother’s compassion encourages father, God, to take good care of the children, us, addressing our needs. She brings out the soft, compassionate side in Him, while calming His authoritative nature. She enhances His love for us, ensuring that our flaws are corrected and that our needs are attended to. She bridges the gap so that the children, we, all turn into worthy individuals. Hence, it is appropriate to think of Him, always accompanied by the divine Mother. Only then, He accepts our services. Conveying this, Elders gave a beautiful prayer.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** krushna:ya: ya:dave:ndra:ya: jna:na mudra:ya yo:gine: | na:dha:ya rukmini:sa:yaha namo: ve:da:ntha ve:dine: ||

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** We bow to **Krishna**, the king of the **Yadava** clan, the one who shows the **jnana mudra**, the great **Yogi**, the Lord of **Rukmini**, and the one who is the essence of all **Vedanta**.

He is **vedanta vedi**, meaning He knows the beautiful **tathvam** described in **Vedas**. He shares that same knowledge, the essence of **Vedas**, thereby liberating us. He is known as **Rukmini Nadha**. He is a **yogi**, the one who knows the proper means. Each one of us is at a different stage based on knowledge and maturity. However, regardless of stage, He is the only savior. If we are learning the alphabet, He becomes a teacher who teaches us the alphabet. If we are learning a few words, He becomes a teacher who teaches us words. If we are learning complex lessons, He becomes a professor who teaches us those lessons. If we want to recognize **tathvam** and worship it, He becomes a **yogi** to teach us. This prayer conveys how all of this is explained through **jnana mudra**.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** krushna:ya ya:dave:ndraya:

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** in the form of **Sri Krishna**

He incarnated in the **Yadava** caste, showing He doesn't care about what caste one belongs to. For anyone who has an appetite for knowledge, He takes a suitable form to deliver that necessary knowledge. When He was happy to be an animal, why would He hesitate to be a **Yadava**. When He had no issue being a fish, He would have no qualms in being a **Yadava**. He made **Yadava** caste worshipable across the world because He lived with them, took birth as one of them, and was close to them. He uplifts each caste and race that seeks His refuge. During **Sri Rama avathara**, He made monkeys worshipable. Interesting, right? We worship **Anjaneya Swamy** every day. It means that a **vanara** (monkey), can also become worshipable. When? When he receives Godʼs grace, remaining as Godʼs belonging. **Hanuman** proved this. Similarly he makes a caste noble, regardless of whether itʼs considered high, low, or middle. There is no place here for castes, which are assigned on the basis of **karma**. However, because of His incarnation in that caste, He brought honor to the **Yadava** caste, “**Yadavendra**!” He is **Sri Krishna**, the epitome of beauty, the source of happiness. He did not come simply to rest.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** jna:na mudra:ya

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** He is always preaching to us. He helped us all throughout.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** yo:gine:

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** providing all the necessary means to uplift us

He uses appropriate tools based on oneʼs level. When in class one, alphabets are to be taught. When in class ten, lessons need to be taught. If one is conducting research, relevant material has to be supplied. Appropriate means are provided based on the time and need. These tools are called **sadhanas**. He is the one who knows all the **sadhanas**. **Sadhanas** are terms as **yogas** when performed with **jnana** (appropriate knowledge). When one utilizes only the body to perform a task, it is called a **sadhana**. When one utilizes knowledge while performing a task, it is called a **yoga**. As He has all such **yogas** under His control, He has become **Yogi**, **Adi Yogi**. When did He become **Adi Yogi**? Not recently, tens of millions of years ago!

**SANSKRIT WORD =** yo: bramha:nam vidha dha:dhi pu:rvam, yo:vai vedha:scha prajino:thi tasmai:

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** When Lord brought forth **Brahma** from His navel, He positioned him in a lotus flower, gave him four heads to absorb and hold knowledge in the form of 4 **Vedas**.

That is when He became **Adi Yogi**, **Adi Guru**. He taught **Brahma** lessons then. That was then. However, afterwards, He became a disciple of those who sought His refuge. He totally disregarded caste and gender. Once He became a disciple to a young girl, our **Goda Devi**. **Goda Devi** taught Him lessons! Thus, she is known as **adhyapayanthi**, teacher. He did not back away from becoming a disciple when necessary, thereby protecting His teacher and subsequently, the entire world. He knows the appropriate means for the worldʼs benefit. If needed, He even uses coronavirus as a tool. He gives what is necessary for the present situation to enhance knowledge of human beings. However, if we misuse and overuse, His tools teach us lessons to correct our ways. That is why He is called **Yogi**. Letʼs understand and meditate on this. Only then, can we understand and digest this **Bhagavad Gita** as intended by Him.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** krushna:ya: ya:dave:ndraya: jna:na mudra:ya yo:gine | na:dha:ya rukmini:sa:ya namo: ve:da:ntha ve:dine ||

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** We bow to **Krishna**, the king of the **Yadava** clan, the one who shows the **jnana mudra**, the great **Yogi**, the Lord of **Rukmini**, and the one who is the essence of all **Vedanta**.

Letʼs pray that He graces us with the ability to understand Him through this teaching and continue this journey into **Bhagavad Gita**. Jai **Srimannarayana!**