**EPISODE-2, BG CHAPTER-1**

**PREACHINGS -**

Eternally, God has been attempting to uplift mankind. Scriptures describe His many **avatharas** (incarnations), descending to this world, making various attempts to do so. Humanity did not come into existence on this earth recently. Speculators with little knowledge say that mankind is only 10,000, or 25,000 or approximately 250,000 years old. This is not correct. Sages wonderfully preserved the history of mankind within scriptures and passed it on to us. Using **yoga-drishti** (seeing the past and future), and knowledge passed on by Elders, they documented the history of mankind.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** ithi sushruma pu:rve:sha:m ye:nasthad vya:cha chakshire:

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** through this literature, we are passing on whatever was told by our Elders, just as we heard it.

Unfortunately, we lost that documented history due to western invaders, particularly British colonizers. They desired their version of knowledge be studied by the entire world. Thus, they distorted world history with several modifications and passed it on to everyone. It was an imperfect, manipulative effort via guesswork, raising more questions than answers. However, our sages never gave any chance for doubt anywhere in their works. How so? They precisely grasped the history of mankind - starting from time immemorial - from Elders, and passed on this knowledge as-it-is, to later generations. We received **Mahabharatham** and **Sri Ramayanam** in the same fashion. We refer to both of these as ‘**itihasas**ʼ (history). Not just for **Bharath** (India) but for all of mankind. Sage **Veda Vyasa** has documented human history for us.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** prithivya:m sarva ma:nava:ha svam svam charithram sikshe:ran

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** any person on this earth – even in the most remote corner – on any continent – in any direction - east, west, north or south...

**SANSKRIT WORD =** prithivya:m sarva ma:nava:ha

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** whichever place one might be, if he wants to understand his own history, can refer to **itihasa** (history)

Not only to learn about oneʼs history, but also as a guide to lead a proper life.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** sikshe:ran svam svam charithram

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** he gave us such literature

That is the greatness of **Mahabharatha**. **Mahabharatha** is so valuable because it contains an elixir, a concise teaching, **Srimad Bhagavad Gita**. The dialogue between **Sri Krishna** and Arjuna famously became known as **Bhagavad Gita**. **Vyasa** incorporated this very nicely into **Mahabharatha** and gave it to us. Why was it necessary to prescribe **Bhagavad Gita**? We should understand why. God wanted to prepare mankind for an ideal life – both in this material world and in other worlds. Humans are the only species who need to be told in order to understand. Animals need not be told. They lead life on their own. Birds need not be told. They lead life on their own. All other species also live appropriately. The only species which cannot distinguish between right and wrong is human-kind. What can be eaten vs what should not be... ...what can be drunk vs what cannot be... ...what can be spoken vs what should not be uttered... ...mankind is the only species unable to distinguish between these. “Hence, it is important humans be taught, and this can be done only by Me. This responsibility should not be left to anybody else,” thought God.

With each **avatara** (incarnation), He made attempts. However, He manifested all aspects of His powers in **Sri Krishna avatara**. He needed to complete everything required in this **avatara** (incarnation) itself. This would be the last manifestation in which He would freely walk about. After **Sri Krishna avatara**, He will not manifest in a form which can move freely. “I will manifest in other forms as **archa murthi** (deity), a mountain, or a rock, etc.” “However, there will be no other manifestations free to walk about.” Hence, God decided, “I need to teach everything required now itself,” Yet, who is there to listen? Who has interest in listening? Who is there to ask Lord?

Among the contemporaries of that day, there were many learned Elders - scholars like **Bhishma**, **Drona** and others. However, due to their intense devotion, they did not feel the need to ask God. There were many great Kings. Due to their pride, they also did not ask. The remaining common people were not learned and hence did not think of asking. God made many attempts. He created many situations so that people might ask. However, nobody showed any taste. Thus, He had to create an appropriate ‘settingʼ. That became the great **Mahabharatha** war!

Let us recollect what happened just before the war. **Pandavas**ʼ **aranya vasa** (forest exile) and **agnatha vasa** (incognito exile), had come to an end. Later, **Pandavas**, the five sons of **Pandu**, tried to reclaim their rightful share of the kingdom. As part of those efforts, **Sri Krishna** took on the role as a messenger and went to **Hasthina**, the **kaurava** kingdom. In actuality, **Sri Krishna** did not go as a messenger of peace. His aim was to ensure there would be no peace agreement – in line with what **Draupadi** prayed for. Her husbands were calling for peace. Yet, there was one dastard who invited **Draupadi** to sit on his lap. There was another vile person who dragged her, by the hair, to the Kingʼs court. **Bhima** had vowed to tear the chest of the evil fellow who dragged **Draupadi** by her hair. However, he was also on the peace path following his elder brother. Amidst the council members, **Bhima** also vowed to break the thighs of the dastard who had insulted **Draupadi**. Yet now, obeying his elder brother, he was simply parroting the same peace mantra. Shouldnʼt both vows be fulfilled? Only if these two vows are fulfilled, could **Draupadi** feel justice. “My dear brother – you are clever, multi-skilled and unbeatable. You are going as a messenger now. You can achieve anything,” prayed **Draupadi**. **Sri Krishna** assured her. “I am going to achieve the same. All the earlier vows will be fulfilled and your hair will eventually be tied properly, my dear sister. Rest assured.”

When **Sri Krishna** came to **Hasthina**, **Duryodhana** was willing to do anything to win His alliance. **Duryodhana** ordered all the houses to be readied, delicacies to be prepared “At whichever house **Sri Krishna** decides to stay, I will arrange delicacies to be prepared and bring Him to my side,” thought **Duryodhana**. However, **Sri Krishna** skipped all those houses and went directly to **Vidura**ʼs home. **Vidura** did not expect that Lord would visit his house. He was so surprised that he even forgot to welcome **Sri Krishna** inside. He offered a small seat to Sri and started dancing on it. Lord asked, “I am the guest. Why are you dancing on the seat offered to me?” **Vidura** said, “Oh no! Apologies, **Sri Krishna**! Just as they did in the court earlier today, when your chair had a hole in it, I was afraid someone tampered with this one as well.” Lord was blissful with **Vidura**ʼs devotion. So much so, he thoroughly enjoyed even the fruit peels offered by **Vidura**.

When **Sri Krishna** returned to the kingʼs court, **Duryodhana** asked, “You are **Pundarikaksha** (the one with beautiful wide eyes).” “Didnʼt you notice we were all waiting respectfully at our doorsteps to welcome you?” If the Lord actually intended to arrange peace, what should He have said? “As **Vidura** is my old friend, I stopped by his house and he compelled me to have food there.” Lord said nothing like that, however. He said “one should not stay at the enemyʼs house, nor accept food there.” “If someone says ‘you are my enemyʼ, will there be any scope for peace?” He antagonized **Duryodhana** with His words, “Donʼt you hate **Pandavas**?” **Duryodhana** replied, “Yes, we naturally clash, we are cousin-brothers after all.” Lord said, “They are my internal life force. If you hate my internal energy, how can you possibly love me? I accept **Pandavas** as my **prana** (life).” Thus, He successfully broke down any chance of peace between both sides. He arranged for war to start, thus, accomplishing His mission.

He hoped that at least then, someone would ask Him [about the purpose of life]. Yet, even then, nobody asked. Both armies arrived face-to-face for war with weapons drawn. As a last resort, He used His **yogic** powers to transform Arjunaʼs heart and create a situation whereby Arjuna could express curiosity and seek instruction. Thus, His **avatara**ʼs (incarnation's) purpose could now be fulfilled. As if to address Arjunaʼs queries, **Sri Krishna** gifted the world this deep, yet lucid essence of **Vedas** as **Bhagavad Gita**. It is forever new. Whenever we take a dip in it, our doubts are cleared. It gives us fresh energy and is needed for all of us at this juncture. Let us try to enjoy it to some extent and strengthen our inner selves.