**Episode 45 – Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 1, Episode 45)**

**TOPICS:** The meanings of the names **Achyutha** and **Gudakesha**, God's boundless love (**vatsalya** and **asrita vyamoha**), and the role of **Sri Krushna's** divine qualities in guiding **Arjuna** and all of humanity.

**TAGS:** **Bhagavad Gita**, **Sri Krushna**, **Arjuna**, **Achyutha**, **Gudakesha**, **Draupadi**, **Pandavas**

Jai Srimannarayana!

Priya Bhagavad Bandhus,

In **Bhagavad Gita** chapter 1, **Arjuna** refers to **Sri Krushna** as **Achyutha**. **Achyutha** is a fantastic name. In **sloka** (verse) 21 -

**SLOKA WORD - se:nayo:r ubhayo:r madhye: rattham sttha:paya me: achyutha:!   
  
SLOKA MEANING - hey Achyutha, place my chariot between the two armies**

This was the order **Arjuna** gave. God tolerates unregulated (off-limits) conduct of His devotees at times due to his amazing quality of **vatsalya** (parental love). On top of that, He has a great fondness for **Arjuna** among all **Pandavas**. He has **asrita vyamoha** (intense adoration for those who take refuge in Him).

A great guru, **Pillai Lokacharya**, established that the prime cause of the Lord’s **avatara** (incarnation) as **Sri Krushna** is **asrita vyamoha**. He explains that **sausilya** (affability with everyone despite an exalted position), is the prime quality in **Sri Rama avatara**... and **asrita vyamoha**, deep adoration for devotees, is the prime quality in **Sri Krushna avatara**. **Vyamoha** simply means ‘crazy’ love. We may wonder if it is an appropriate word in this context. Generally, if we like something ordinarily, we name it **prema** (love). If this love grows, then it is termed **verri prema** (unbelievable love). If this unbelievable love grows even more, then it becomes **moha** (passionate desire). Even more, then we name it **vyamoha**, intense adoration. We must recognize the number of grades that love has evolved, and **Sri Krushna** has unbelievable, intense adoration for **Arjuna**.

He has **vatsalya** not actually towards **Arjuna**, but towards His sister, **Draupadi**. Because **Pandavas** tied her **mangala sutra** (the thread signifying their marriage), **Sri Krushna** developed **vyamoha** towards them. That’s why, He went through many ‘difficulties’ for their sake. He drove the chariot. He assumed the role of a messenger to **Kauravas**. He helped **Pandavas** in various ways, never questioning what is required. He did all this to keep His word given to **Draupadi** and to protect her. He wanted to teach a lesson to all those who insulted a woman. This is the essence of **Sri Krushna avatara**.

He is named **Achyutha**. In general, if we love any person, we tolerate mistakes they make. If we don't like a person, we show anger if they smile, cry or even take a step. Similar to that of a new mother-in-law watching over her new daughter-in-law in olden days. **Agama** scriptures say when God loves a devotee, He accepts anything he does...

**sirasa: grunha:thi vai svayam**

Even if they ‘throw’ a flower at Him, God likes it, accepts it, and decorates it happily on His head. That’s because of His love for them. He never leaves them alone. Otherwise, He would have abandoned **Pandavas** long back because of their various arrogant instincts. However, He never does that. It’s not His nature. Therefore, He is called **Achyutha**.

Truly, we are all that way too. We act like we have devotion, but when genuinely self-checking, we know that it’s all fake and unnatural. Not anyone in specific, but for a few. Most pray for **prasad** (Lord’s remnants), and stop once they receive it in their hands. It’s analogous to a beggar who begs only until he receives food. Again, not pointing to anyone among you! You, of course, are all honourable people! God never leaves His devotees, no matter what. Not only that, but He thinks of how to help them using His six divine qualities...

jnana, shakti, bala, aishwarya, virya, tejas

knowledge, power, strength, wealth, charisma, energy

He never lets them fall. He never fails to keep His promise of protecting his devotees. Therefore, He is called **Achyutha**. People like us always question His existence... “Is God really there? If so, is He simply watching everything?!” Even one of the great devotees, **Pothana**, once doubted God’s existence and sang...

kaladu kaladanu vadu kalado ledo

The one whom we all believe exists, does He really exist?!

In that case, what could have God done? “You question My existence while I am ensuring you are able to breathe as you sleep... I am ensuring your heart continues to beat while you sleep. Let me step away from you.” However, He doesn’t do that. He still stays within us and protects us. Why? Because He is **Achyutha**! He never breaks the promise of protecting us. He always attempts to benefit us in many ways. He is **Achyutha**. Because He is **Achyutha**, He uses **Hrishikeshatva** (ability to control one’s senses), to stabilize us, so He can further bestow us with **upakara** (divine benefit). It’s analogous to firmly holding a bolt to be fixed into the wall. Thus, out of **vyamoha** for protecting us, He first positions us in an appropriate and stable state. Then, He begins to exercise His plan for us. Thus, to use **Hrishikeshatva**, He must initially use **achyuthatva** (never letting us go). That is what He did. Therefore, **Arjuna** ordered **Krushna** to position his chariot in between the two armies. Lord exercised the order as it is.

**SLOKA WORD - e:vam ukthaha hrushi:ke:saha guda:ke:se:na bha:ratha! |   
se:nayo:r ubhayo:r madhye: sttha:payithwa: rattho:ththamam||   
  
SLOKA MEANING - Gudakesha ordered, and Hrishikesha exercised the command.**

They are both **kesha**. What a beautiful choice of words! We learned that **Hrishikesha** is the controller of the senses of all living creatures in this universe. Why is **Arjuna** called **Gudakesha**? As per **Amarakosam**, two actions are referred to as **gudakas**.

nidra: a:lasye guda:ka:syath

sleep and laziness are called gudakas

gudaka + isa

one who has taken control over sleep and laziness

So, **Gudakesha** is the one who has control over his senses. However, no matter how much one practices gaining control over senses, **Hrishikesha** puts the **gudakesha(s)** in His control. We know the greatness of **Arjuna** from the history given in **Bharatam**. He didn’t even get tempted by **Urvasi**, celestial damsel who tried to mesmerize him while he visited heaven. **Arjuna** is not an ordinary person. That is why **Sri Krushna** chose him as a means to grace the world with **Bhagavad Gita**.

gudakesaha

Gudakesha ordered

**Arjuna** gave an order to **Hrishikesha**. Whom did he order?

hrushikesam

he ordered Hrishikesha

What was his order? To place the chariot in between the two armies. What did He do after listening to the order?

senayor ubhayor madhye: stthapayithwa: rattho:ththamam

He positioned the best chariot, Nanda Gosha, between the armies.

**Arjuna** was placed between both armies, where he could see everything. Why did he desire this? He needs to be aware of everyone’s true state. We also need to learn about this. We need to be taught about life. God has given us life. He gave the human body as a tool. He gave the surroundings to support the body to survive. He gave the support of other humans. He gave different senses for us to use. So, we need to use all these carefully. Don’t harm each other. Support each other.

parasparam bha:vayanthah sre:yah param ava:psyatha

all should live happily supporting each other

This is why He bestowed life. Don’t sit idle or misuse it. If everyone lives this way, do we need any rulers, separate mechanisms, police or law or justice system? We wouldn’t need any of that. It seems, in **Kruta Yuga**, ancient times there was no need to have ‘the ruler and the ruled’ system. People understood the purpose of life and how to carefully use the tools given. There was no need for anyone to do anything for others. As experiences gradually grew, people’s minds weakened, intelligence took a wrong path, and human beings degraded. The more that humans degraded, various levels of protection kits became necessary. PPEs!

With the level of degradation, stricter levels of protection, law, and penalty systems came into practice. This was all because human beings became slaves for the experiences around them. Otherwise, none of these would be necessary. Such human beings must be brought back to a grounded state. It is not an easy task. It’s easier to go down than come up. Pushing a big rock onto a mountain requires tremendous effort, but with minor negligence, it rolls back to the bottom of the mountain. It may even crush those who were pushing it. This is a characteristic of our mind. Degradation is very easy, but stepping up for success is highly difficult. God’s quest is to pull all of us from a degraded position to the top position. Therefore, He drove the chariot between both armies and did something wonderful.

That is explained in the 25th **sloka**.

**SLOKA WORD - bhi:shma dro:na pramukhathaha sarve:sha:m cha mahi:kshi:tha:m | uva:cha pa:rttha! pasyaitha:n samave:tha:n kuru:n ithi ||   
  
SLOKA MEANING - Positioned between both armies, Sri Krushna looked at Arjuna, who had a clear view of the entire battlefield, and said one word. ‘Pasya’.**

We must realize that this transformed **Arjuna** tremendously. What was the change? Let us move ahead and try to find out.

**Jai Srimannarayana!**