**Episode 47 – Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 1, Episode 47)**

**TOPICS:** The power of God’s words, the story of Sage **Durvasa**, the meanings of the words **Pasya** and **Krupa**, and the transformation of **Arjuna's** perception on the battlefield.

**TAGS:** **Bhagavad Gita**, **Arjuna**, **Sri Krishna**, **Hrishikesha**, **Durvasa**, **Krupa**, **Pandavas**

Jai Srimannarayana!

Priya Bhagavad Bandhus,

God never offers superfluous or worthless messages. Even if only a single word or a few words, they are always purposeful. We need to understand this. The first chapter of **Bhagavad Gita** makes this very clear. The instruction given by God, in the midst of the battlefield, was a very simple word. What was that?

pa:rtha! pasya etha:n samave:tha:n kuru:n

Arjuna! Look at the Kuru warriors assembled here.

That is the order God gave to **Arjuna**. When **Arjuna** followed that order, he started seeing all of them as relatives instead of as enemies. That is the impact of God’s word.

We notice this in many instances. Once earlier, **Pandavas** experienced an incident in the forest. While in exile, **Duryodhana** wanted to somehow humiliate them. He wanted to see **Pandavas** face hardships and the wrath of **Rishis**. **Dhrutarashtra**, **Duryodhana**, and his friends have these malicious intentions. Thus, **Arjuna** refers to them as “**Dha:rthara:shtrasya durbuddhe:he:**” Earlier in **sloka** 23.

They always had bad intentions. Hence, **Duryodhana** and his friends once invited a sage who was very dear to them. That sage’s name was **Durvasa**. They sent him along with his 10,000 disciples to the forest. “Respected Sage! **Pandavas** are doing immense **tadiyaradhana**—respecting elders and devotees by feeding them to satisfaction. You should also grace them.” “They will offer their respects to you and benefit from your grace.” With ill-intent, they also suggested the sage to visit **Pandavas** along with his disciples at a specific time, in the noon.

**Pandavas** previously possessed a vessel named ‘**Akshaya Patra**’. This vessel was given to them by the Sun **Devata** (celestial being) before their forest exile. Using that vessel, **Pandavas** could feed any number of people to satisfaction. **Akshaya Patra** keeps providing food as requested. However, once **Draupadi** takes food, it does not give any additional food for that part of the day. That was the rule for **Akshaya Patra**. Wherever they went, **Pandavas** used to do **tadiyaradhana** every day with the vessel.

One day, they similarly completed this **tadiyaradhana** activity. Everyone was well fed. **Draupadi** ensured that everybody partook of the **prasada** (a sanctified meal offered to God). She had her own meal, washed the **Akshaya Patra** and put it away. **Duryodhana** planned that **Sage Durvasa** would arrive immediately after all this. **Dharmaraja** welcomed the sage, “Respected Sage! You arrived at ‘**madhyahnikam**’, at midday.” “It is my responsibility to host all of you.” “There is a river nearby. Kindly have a holy bath there and return. We will keep **prasada** ready by then.” The sage went to the river along with his disciples. **Dharmaraja** then informed **Draupadi** about preparing **prasada**. However, she had also taken **prasada** for the day. There was nothing left. She said, “Oh no! It’s all finished for the day.” **Dharmaraja** replied, “Alas! I have already assured the sage of hosting him and his disciples.” She said, “Really?! Without consulting me?!” He said, “The sage had already arrived. How could I refrain from showing hospitality?” She retorted, “Well, now you know! Always consult the lady of the house!”

The damage was already done. Sage had already proceeded to the riverside. To make matters worse, the sage who came was **Durvasa** himself. He is known to be very short-tempered. At the slightest indignation, he was ready to give great curses to his offenders. He had doled out curses many times, but still had not learned to conquer his anger. “Anyway, today he is here. What do we do now?” **Dharmaraja** was in a fix.

It is always the woman who saves the home from calamities. **Draupadi** took charge of the situation, went inside and prayed to **Sri Krishna**. “Whenever I am in trouble, You are the one who saves me.” “In my childhood, **Sage Vasishta** told me.” We must all remember this.

**SLOKA WORD - mahathya:padi sampra:pthe: smarthavyo: bhagava:n Harihi SLOKA MEANING - whenever we face any troublesome situation, we must pray to Sri Hari alone for help**

If we pray to any others here and there, the situation will not be addressed. It will only worsen. The case of Coronavirus is a live example for us. Somebody mentioned an example from either **Skanda Purana** or **Devi Bhagavatha**. Even in them, it is mentioned that we must pray only to **Vishnu**. Because **Sri Hari** is the only one who can protect us at any time, from any misfortune or calamity.

mahathya:padi sampra:pthe

even if the calamity is of huge magnitude, only Sri Hari can protect us

**Sage Vasishta** said this to **Draupadi**. That is the reason she prayed to **Sri Hari** when she was humiliated and troubled in the King’s assembly. She always experienced His protection whenever she prayed to him. Thus, she now prayed to **Sri Krishna** again.

He Listened to her prayers and personally arrived. Lord said, “Dear Sister, I am starving now. Can you first feed me something?” “I prayed to you to help me with this issue. I am struggling to find a way to feed the sage and his disciples... You are now asking me to feed you!” she exclaimed. “We will discuss that later, sister. But now, I am starving. Please give me some food.”, Lord said. “You are making fun of my situation, Lord. There is nothing left for the day. I have also taken **prasada**. In addition, I washed the **Akshaya Patra** clean.” He said, “I am famished now, sister.” She said, “I washed the vessel too, my brother!” He said, “Just bring that vessel to me. Let’s see. There might at least be some leaves left over.” She said, “No brother. I washed the vessel and kept it inside.” She used to take pride in her dish-washing skills. Fortunately she was not accompanied by her mother-in-law during exile. If her mother-in-law saw the state of the dish after cleaning, she would have taught her a lesson. As she was not present, however **Draupadi** washed the dish, there was nobody to question. “Brother! I washed the vessel and kept it inside,” **Draupadi** insisted. “Just bring it to me, sister. See inside if there is anything left over. Just see.” He said, ‘**Pasya**’. “See”.

Simply because the Lord said ‘**pasya**’, she went inside to fetch the vessel, there was indeed a little leaf stuck inside. Lord looked and said, “Wow. Something is indeed there.” He took that leaf and ate it. “Let all the three worlds be satiated”, Lord said. Just as He expressed His will, the sage and his 10,000 disciples who were finishing prayers after the ritualistic river bath, also felt overgorged as they are indeed part of these three worlds. They were supposed to come back to **Pandavas**' abode to take **prasadam**. However, they felt overly full, like after eating **abdikapubhojanam** (lunch offered during annual death ceremonies). At such times, they put a wet cloth over themselves and keep fanning themselves to address the uneasiness of being overstuffed. This sage and all his disciples were in the same stage. They were unable to move.

Meanwhile, **Draupadi** was looking at her brother expectantly. He said, “Sister! Now you can return to your other tasks.” She was about to ask, “Then what about...” He said, “Don’t worry about that. Take this vessel back and keep it inside.” Lord came out and spoke to **Dharmaraja**, “Fetch the sage and his disciples. Tell them that the food is all prepared and ready to be served.” “Brother-in-law, where is the food?” asked **Dharmaraja**. “You don’t worry about that. Just convey the message” said **Sri Krishna**. The sage and his disciples were not to be seen anywhere nearby. **Dharmaraja** called out to **Bhima**, “**Bhima**! It looks like they are not coming anytime soon.” “You are capable of fetching all of them, even if they are incapable of walking. Please go get them.” As the sage and disciples watched **Bhima** approaching, they understood that he would take them by force if needed to feed them. They thought, “Here he comes! No place for even a morsel of food. How do we now refuse?!” They wanted to escape before **Bhima** reached them. So, they started running away from him, rushing and rolling. They did not understand what had happened. It happened because **Sri Krishna** said, “**pasya**.” He simply said “see.” The scene there changed as per His wish. That is His capability, “**Hrishikeshatva**”, ability to control the senses of all beings.

The same goes for the battlefield as well. He simply told **Arjuna** to ‘see’.

pasya etha:n samave:tha:n kuru:n

see the Kauravas assembled here

See the descendants of **Kuru** dynasty. **Arjuna** then saw with his eyes open. He saw something that was not visible to him until then. God has a name, ‘**Kavi**’. **Upanishad** says,

**kavirmani:shi: paribhu: swayambhu:hu**

God can see everything that we can’t. In addition, He can show us as well. So far, **Arjuna** was only seeing enemies in the opposite camp. In life, we are not only surrounded by enemies but also by friends. We should know how to behave with friends as well. Similarly, we should know how to behave with enemies. You should know your limits and know how to behave with friends and enemies. **Bhagavad Gita** manifested to teach this. That is why Lord told **Arjuna** to ‘see’, to show the second relation **Arjuna** had with the people assembled there.

In this chapter, ‘**Hrishikeshatva**’, was first used when He sounded the divine conch filling enthusiasm in **Pandavas** and despair in **Kauravas**. Second, ‘**Hrishikeshatvam**’ was used when He inspired **Arjuna** to think of asking Lord to move his chariot to the center of the battlefield. Third, when He provoked **Arjuna** to be vocal and make him ask the Lord. Fourth, now evoking **Arjuna** to ‘see’. It gradually brings out a change in each of **Arjuna’s** senses.

Arjuna saw as soon as he was ordered by Lord to ‘see’.

thathra:pasyath sthitha:n pa:rtha…

…se:nayo:rubhayo:rapi

those in both armies

As soon as **Arjuna** saw the people of both the armies, what did he feel?

**SLOKA WORD - tha:n sami:kshya sa kaunthe:yaha, sarva:n bandhu:n avasthitha:n krupaya: paraya:vishtaha, vishi:dam idam abravi:th SLOKA MEANING - He felt deep grief.**

He felt deep grief. We discussed the sorrow felt by **Dhrutarashtra** earlier. We also discussed **Duryodhana’s** sorrow. Now, **Arjuna** also felt sorrow. **Arjuna** had arrived at the battlefield full of valor and bravery. Lord gradually transformed it into grief. What did **Arjuna** see, to grieve? Whom did he see? The **sloka** does not say ‘**sarva:n sathru:n avasthitha:n**’. It says ‘**sarva:n bandhu:n avasthitha:n**’. **Arjuna** started seeing only relatives. Facing an enemy, he will certainly fight. How can he fight against his own kin? This is a great combination of words. We should remember them carefully.

**sathruvu**, enemy / **bandhuvu**, relative

If he sees the opponent as an enemy, he will not hesitate to create the worst form of terrorism, forms of Jihad. Whereas, if he sees the other person as a relative, he will respect that person, no matter what. Our **Vedic** literature enlightens us about the relationship we have with the rest of the mankind. Many others teach only about enmity. **Bhagavad Gita**, which is the essence of our **Vedic** literature, teaches about the relationship across all species. That is the reason we need **Bhagavad Gita**. It is also the reason why we should be able to share this knowledge about **Gita** with everyone. If other cultures also can receive this, then those with extremist nature will mend. This is also wonderfully conveyed by **Swami Ramanujacharya**.

krupaya: paraya:vishtaha…

he was overwhelmed with ‘krupa’ (mercy)

…vishi:dan

filled with grief

…idam abravi:th

started talking to Lord Krishna

Let’s carefully listen to what he said to **Sri Krishna**.

**Jai Srimannarayana!**