**Episode 52 – Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 1, Episode 52)**

**TOPICS:** The dual role of **Arjuna** as a devotee and an advisor, the definition and actions of an **a:thatha:yi**, and the scriptural directive to deal with sinners.

**TAGS:** **Bhagavad Gita**, **Arjuna**, **Sri Krishna**, **Duryodhana**, **Dhrutarashtra**, **Visha:dam**, **Krupa**, **a:thatha:yi**

Jai **Srimannarayana**!

Priya Bhagavadbandhus

**Bhagavad Gita** clearly depicts the myriad feelings that we experience in life. It tells us how to channelize these feelings. It gives the means to tackle them. It also depicts the benefits of streamlining the feelings. That is why **Bhagavad Gita** eternally holds great significance on this Earth. In Chapter 1, **Arjuna**, although a devotee, turns into an advisor to his master, God Himself. In general, a superior passes orders to his subordinates, or advises and suggests them. Sometimes, the subordinate claims this advisory capacity. In general, people love being an advisor over being a doer. People want to be in advisory capacity even with God. Sorrow-filled **Arjuna** gets into an advisory mode with **Sri Krishna**, his charioteer, his master, guide, well-wisher and caretaker. We must examine the 34th verse.

**SLOKA WORD - a:cha:rya:h pitharah puthra:ha thatthaiva cha pitha:maha:ha | ma:thula:s swasura:h pauthra:ha syala:s sambandhinas thattha: || SLOKA MEANING - He, Arjuna, says, “Sri Krishna! The opponents are not my enemies, they are my relatives.” [Sri Krishna responds] “These opponents, too, have been aware of this blood relation since their childhood.” “However, did they ever behave like relatives? Never!” “They have in fact set the stage for the war.” “Is it not your duty to take up the battle and teach them their limits?” “Instead, you are lamenting that they are your relatives, teachers, uncles, sons, grand children…”**

Why this talk? What was **Arjuna** saying? **a:cha:rya:h pitharah puthra:ha thatthaiva cha pitha:maha:ha** | There are our grandfathers amongst those in front of us. There are children, father-like Elders, teachers, uncles, maternal uncles, grandchildren, brothers-in-law… …they are all my relatives.

**SLOKA WORD - e:tha:n na hanthum ichchha:mi ghnatho::pi madhusu:dana! | SLOKA MEANING - even if they slaughter me, I don’t want to fight or slay them**

The one who came to seek advice, is now being vocal about his decisions. This reflects **Arjuna’s** dejection reaching an extreme state due to the effect of **Hrushikesa** (controller of senses), God taking control of his senses. God started cleansing his heart completely. It led **Arjuna** to not only give orders to **Sri Krishna** and the others, but also to make decisions. In general, one experiences greater joy working in a team even if there is only one person making decisions. It gives a chance to teach the rest of the team too if he includes others in the team. However, the situation is different here. **Arjuna** has come to a state where he is not only advising **Sri Krishna** but also voicing his decisions aloud, indicating that he didn’t care about the outcome. **ghnatho::pi madhusu:dana!** let them butcher me, **Sri Krishna** **e:tha:n hanthum aham ne:chchha:mi** I do not want to kill them He did not stop there. He continued, “**Krishna**! I won’t do such an act even if all the three worlds are offered to me, let alone this small kingdom.” “I do not want even **Vaikunta**, the permanent abode of God, if it requires killing and torturing relatives and others.” Here, there isn’t anything, just a temple and open space.

**SLOKA WORD - api thrailo:kya ra:jyasya he:tho:h… e:tha:n na hanthum ichchha:mi SLOKA MEANING - even if all the three worlds are offered to me, I will not kill such people**

“Even after so much bloodshed, I will get a small kingdom, not even the three worlds.” “Not even the whole earth, just a small kingdom.” “Just for this, why should I go on a killing spree?” **kinnu mahi:kruthe:** Why go through all this just for a small kingdom?

**SLOKA WORD - nihathya dha:rthara:shtra:n naha ka: pri:this sya:th jana:rdana! | SLOKA MEANING - Hey Jana:rdhana! The word ‘Jana:rdhana’ is embedded with beauty. Do I feel happy by killing Dha:rthara:shtra:, Duryodhana and the rest of Dhrutarashtra’s progeny? Do you kill your relatives? Aren’t you Jana: + ardhana, the one who decimates the evils? You are not one who kills relatives, right? ka: pri:this sya:th jana:rdana! then why are you asking me to do that**

**Sri Krishna** asks, “What is wrong in punishing wrong-doers?” **Arjuna** responds, “**Krishna**! Though they may be committing sinful acts while in the kingdom, we are no less than them in this aspect.” “Are we not committing so many sins? Thus, there is no point in killing them, because…”

**SLOKA WORD - pa:pame:v a:sraye:d asma:n hathwaithan a:thatha:yinaha || SLOKA MEANING - “If at all we kill these sinners, who are my own cousins, we acquire sin.” “If we commit sins, how can we attain happiness?”**

**Sri Krishna** says, “Do you know who they are? They are **a:thatha:yis**.” **Sri Krishna** reminds **Arjuna**, questioning him on how he is able to show pity on those… “…who set your houses on fire…” “who drowned you and tried to kill you with poison...” “who insulted your wife in the assembly...” “Think about those atrocities.” **Arjuna** then answers **Sri Krishna**. **hathwaithan a:thatha:yinaha** They are all ‘**a:thatha:yis**’. Some mistakenly spell the word as ‘**a:katha:yi**’ , but it is ‘**a:thatha:yi:s**’ not ‘**a:katha:yi**’. ‘**A:thatha:yi:s**’ are those who commit six dreadful sins. Six or a few of the six dreadful sins.

**SLOKA WORD - agni: daha: garada:schaiva sastra pa:ni: hi dana:paha: kshe:tra da:ra:harascha shadaithe:hi, a:thatha:inaha: SLOKA MEANING - Today, he is showing pity on Kauravas. However, Kauravas committed all these sins against him and the rest of the Pandavas, in spite of being their relatives... ...without any pity and remorse. What did they do? Agni daha (they tried to set their house on fire), Gana: daha (they tried to poison them with food and then drown them in water), Sastra pa:nihi (they tried to kill them with weapons), Dana:paha (they tried to steal their kingdom and wealth), Kshe:tra da:rahara:schai:va (they tried to steal their land and wife forcefully).**

**Kauravas** attempted to this also with **Pandavas**. They usurped their kingdoms, and in the pretext of gambling, stole all their wealth. Finally, they insulted their wife in an unimaginable way. Hence they are rightly termed ‘**a:thatha:yis**’. Do you know what scriptures state about the punishment for such crimes? Any criminal is given punishment and hence justice is served. Not everyone is given the same punishment. Unfortunately, in our country, even after being proven guilty for trying to kill the prime minister of the country or worse, criminals are allowed to plead for mercy in high courts, or further in supreme court. He can continue to plead for mercy to the president of the country. Not sure how this is thought through or permitted, there are some recent instances of such.

**Kauravas** are ‘**a:thatha:yis**’. They committed all kinds of sins. **agni daha**, **gara daha** set fire, poisoned **sasthra pa:nihi** tried to kill them with weapons ...stole their kingdom, wealth and wife. Scriptures say,

**SLOKA WORD - a:thatha:yinam a:ya:ntham hanya:de:va avicha:rayan SLOKA MEANING - such persons should be decimated immediately without a second thought**

Because if such people are excused, they may perpetuate such sins further and harm more people. Such people can motivate others, form groups, and cause greater harm. Hence, they should never be excused. Even for their sake, so they do not commit more crimes, it is advised that an end is put to their actions. Scriptures dictate to kill such people immediately. Today, **Arjuna** is saying he does not want to kill them. He wants to stop the war. He is making all kinds of statements. **pa:pame:v a:sraye:d asma:n hathwaithan a:thatha:yinaha** **thasma:th na:rha: vayam hanthum dha:rtha ra:shtra:n saba:ndhava:n** “I don’t want to punish all these people related to **Dhrutarashtra**.” “They are like my brothers and relatives.” **na:rha: vayam hanthum** I’m not eligible to kill them, not eligible **Sri Krishna** asks, “Even if you feel so, would they remain passive? Wouldn’t they come to kill you?” Even for this question, **Arjuna** has an answer. Let’s listen in our next session.

**Jai Srimannarayana!**