**HH – BG - 08**

**PREACHINGS -**

There is nothing God is unwilling to do in order to uplift mankind. Once, He incarnated as a fish. Once as a boar. Another time, as **Narasimha** (half man, half lion). Even a beggar. Once, as the angry **Bhargava** to slay evil. He is ready for anything, without hesitation for any task. God loves us more than a mother, who even cleans her childʼs excreta with care for his well-being. To benefit humanity, Lord did so many things, including eagerly coming to Earth as a charioteer to bless us with **Bhagavad Gita**. In fact, charioteering is considered a menial job, but He was willing to take this task as well. Charioteers are not like modern-day drivers, who sit in a comfortable front seat and nicely drive cars. Even horse-drawn carriages we see today are similar. We do not find many horse-drawn carriages these days, but the few we see are luxurious and fun. Even in such instances, their usage today is different from prior ages. However, in the battlefield, charioteering is not a simple, common task. **Sri Krishna** did not hesitate when **Arjuna** asked Him to be his charioteer in the battlefield. We pay respects to the charioteer guise revealing how affable Lord truly is.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** pa:thuna su:tha ve:shaha

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** it’s painful for us to think about that He acted as charioteer

The warrior atop the chariot is not able to communicate verbally with the chariot driver... ...because that warrior must be alert, reacting to surrounding weapons, enemies, ammunition, etc. Yet, he must be able to give precise directions to the charioteer. Instead of verbal cues, he uses certain techniques to signal the charioteer driver. If the warrior kicks the charioteer on the left, itʼs a signal to steer the chariot to the left. If kicking him on the right, the chariot should steer to the right. When kicking the driver’s back, it signals the chariot to proceed forward. Following such a system, the warrior fights and charioteer drives the chariot. **Sri Krishna**, Lord himself, did not even hesitate to take the “menial” task of a charioteer, receiving the kicks of a man... ...solely for the intention of benefiting us. Desiring to bestow wisdom and mental strength, so that we may withstand enemies and evil forces all around. ...To come to us, He even became a charioteer, without any hesitation. Such **daya** (mercy), such **saulabhya** (affability)! Such **sushilya** (highly positioned yet sociable with anyone and everyone), such **vatsalya** (deep affection)! Intense affection for those who resort to Him is termed as ‘**ashritha vatsalya**ʼ. A step further, not simply affection, but **Sri Krishna** has intense love is unbelievably in love, ‘**ashritha vyamoham**ʼ, for those who surrender to Him. He cares so much about these devotees that He is ready to do anything for them. As proclivity matures - that fondness ripens into affection, affection ripens into love, love to intense love…which then becomes deep adoration. That finally ripens into mystic rapture, **vyamoham**. The great scholar, **Sri Pillai Lokacharya** declared in **Sri Vachana Bhushana** that Lordʼs primary characteristic during **Sri Krishna avathara** is ‘**ashritha vyamoham**ʼ. As **Sri Rama**, the essential characteristic quality He displayed was **sushilya**, affability with all kinds of people. As **Sri Krishna**, He showed intense admiration towards those declaring “**tavasmi dasaha** (I am yours, I belong to you)” by doing everything in whatever way He was asked to. He showers tremendous love. This is seen in **Sri Krishna avathara** as well. **Draupadi** took shelter of **Sri Krishna**. As a result, He gave the five **Pandavas** the gift of life. He destroyed all **Kauravas** and 18 **akshauhini** of battalions (millions of soldiers controlling chariots, elephants, and horses). Why? Because they all witnessed a woman’s humiliation. They watched and implicitly approved it. A few joined in and encouraged it. The rest, even when aware, did nothing or were indifferent. In reality, **Pandavas**ʼ army was 7 **akshouhini** and **Kauravas**ʼ army was 11 **akshouhini**, none of whom witnessed **Draupadi**ʼs abasement. However, they made the mistake of joining **Duryodhana**ʼs side. Then, what mistake did those who took **Pandavas** side, commit? Although aware of **Duryodhana**ʼs actions, they remained passive and chose not to interfere. When one is aware of a sinful act yet avoids rectification, then that person is also held accountable. If he thinks, “Itʼs not my business, why should I react?”, then he also is liable. Not only the sinner and his entourage, but also ones who are privy without reaction or all together indifferent, will also be punished. Thus, everyone who took **Pandavas**ʼ or **Kauravas**ʼ side was punished. Immediately, a doubt arises. Even **Pandavas** watched the humiliation meted out to **Draupadi**. True. Just as **Sri Krishna** destroyed 18 **akshouhini** forces with pain and aggression, He would have destroyed **Pandavas** as well. Why did He spare them? Because **Draupadi**, for whose peace of mind He was willing to do all of this, would weep if she lost any of the five **Pandavas**.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** avaludaya mangalasutrathikka:ha

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** her **mangal sutra** (sacred thread symbolizing her marriage), would be harmed.

Intending to preserve **Draupadi**ʼs sacred marriage, **Sri Krishna** carefully protected all five **Pandavas**. He eradicated the rest. This shows how much love **Sri Krishna avathara** has towards those who surrender to Him. The heart melts when we comprehend his **saulabhya** (approachability). Though Supreme, holding all worlds within and showing the entire universe from within Himself... ...He willfully received **Arjuna**ʼs kicks as a charioteer. We can confidently declare that His mercy has no bounds. His nature is described in a beautiful prayer. Humbly bowing our heads reciting this prayer strengthens our faith in Him, and ultimately helps us realize His love and affection for all of us.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** agre: kruthva: kamapicharanam ja:nunaike:na thishtan | pascha:th pa:rtham pranaya sajusha: chakshusha: vi:kshama:naha || savye:tho:thram karasarasije: dakshine: jna:namudra:m | a:bhibhrano: ratthamadhivasan pa:thuna su:thave:shaha ||

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** may His divine form disguised as a charioteer protect us.

Where is He?

**SANSKRIT WORD =** ratthamadhivasan

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** where - sitting in a chariot How is He?

**SANSKRIT WORD =** dakshine: jna:namudra:m a:bhibhra:naha

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** right hand with **jnana mudra** (indicating eternal knowledge) posture.

What about His left hand?

**SANSKRIT WORD =** savye:tho:thram karasarasije:

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** **savye** (in His left hand), **karasije** (holding a horse whip).

We discussed earlier, the whip is not for the horses, rather, for the armies of both sides. In fact, the whip is not needed. However, to fully adhere to a charioteer’s costume, to look complete... ...even in the guise of a charioteer, He wanted to be perfect. Thus, he wore everything that a charioteer needs. What is He doing?

**SANSKRIT WORD =** pa:rtham pranaya sajusha: chakshusha: vi:kshama:naha

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** with eyes filled in love, He is blessing **Arjuna**.

Why? Even after explaining once, twice, thrice... **Arjuna** is still not understanding. When explaining a concept, **Arjuna** responds with various rebuttals and non-sequitur questions. **Sri Krishna** clearly instructs adherence to oneʼs responsibilities, yet, **Arjuna** wanted to leave everything and pursue self-awareness. When asked to pay attention to **jnana** (when performing karma), **Arjuna** rebuffs, "Then why give a detailed explanation of karma at all?" He was constantly quickly responding without fully understanding. Fine, can we assume **Arjuna** is ignorant? No. He is not. He speaks as if he is a highly intelligent person, claiming as if he knew...

**SANSKRIT WORD =** pathanthi pitharo hyesha:m luptha pindo:daka kriya:ha

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** if we fight in this battle, all the ancestral souls might fall to hell.

This reveals that our instinct is tricky. Though knowing nothing, we behave as if we know everything. That too, with half knowledge and speculation. We feel what we know must be the ultimate. Seeing this kind of mental state, God pities us. Thus, due to tremendous love, prioritizing whatʼs best for us, He reiterates the same messages over and over again.

**SANSKRIT WORD =** pranaya sajusha: chakshusha: vi:kshama:naha

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** with eyes filled in love, He is blessing **Arjuna**.

Where is He sitting?

**SANSKRIT WORD =** agre: kruthva: kamapicharanam

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** reaching forward with one hand pulling the horsesʼ reins.

With the second hand...

**SANSKRIT WORD =** ja:nunaike:na thishtan

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** sitting with one leg folded, resting His hand in **jnana mudra** on the knee.

One hand in **jnana mudra**, one leg folded, the other leg stretched downward... ...on the outstretched leg, He has anklets tied by His mother during His childhood. **Alwars** (realized poetic devotees), wanted to see these anklets as well!

**SANSKRIT WORD =** kanaikazhal ka:nvadienhul kangale:

**SANSKRIT WORD MEANING =** great devotees desire to hear even the sound produced by His anklets while charioteering.

This is **Bhagavan**ʼs divine, auspicious form. This describes His majestic appearance while preaching **Gita** for our benefit. Letʼs feel this in our heartʼs abode and strive to understand the eternal truths of **Bhagavad Gita**.

Jai **Srimannarayana!**