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1. Episode Title: Episode 100 – Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 2, Episode 100)

2. Topics & Tags:

TOPICS: The importance of decisiveness and expertise in life, Understanding the significance of focused effort, The goal of liberation (moksha) versus material pursuits, The role of divine command in our actions, The teachings of the Vedas on life and purpose

TAGS: HH Chinna Jeeyar Swami, Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 2, moksha, karma, Arjuna, Krishna, dharma, devotion, Vedas, spiritual guidance

3. Main Content:

Jai Srimannarayana! Priya Bhagavadbandhus (Dear devotees of the Lord), when one has decisiveness and vast experience in a field, it bestows sre:yas (well-being) for him. There is a saying, “Jack of all trades and master of none.” Dabbling in many fields but not having proper experience in any of them does not benefit a person. It is important to gain proficiency in any particular field and lead life with that as the primary means.

Generally, when large companies manufacture a product, they assemble various components to make one primary product. For example, let's take a car manufacturing company. There are many parts like wheels, chassis, dome, items in the dome, steering, brakes, and an accelerator. Once we visited a car factory. There is a long assembly line, nearly a kilometer long. Assembly of the car starts at the beginning of the line. By the time it comes to the end of the assembly line, the car is completely assembled.

There are people at assigned stations to perform specific tasks in the line. One person will only fix tires, the next one for the windows, the next one for steering, the next one for the wipers, and so on. Each person has a task. When the car comes to them, they have to immediately fix the part in it, and then the car moves forward. The car is with him for 5 seconds. In these 5 seconds, he has to assemble the component perfectly in the car.

In the beginning, it takes time as he doesn’t have much experience. However, after a few days, he can do it blindfolded, as he becomes highly proficient. He focuses on that single-mindedly. He doesn’t get distracted from it. He has a comfortable chair, water to drink, nice air conditioning with a cool breeze, along with a noisy working space. However, none of these affect his mind, distracting him from his task. He simply focuses on fixing the part in the car when it reaches him. After which, the car immediately moves ahead. The person next to him assembles his component, and the car proceeds further.

In less than a minute, approximately 55 seconds, the car gets built from scratch and leaves the warehouse. A car per minute! A car per minute!! Maybe there are larger companies that can assemble even faster; we don’t know. In the company we visited, a car is getting assembled in a minute, meaning people at their assigned stations are totally focused on their task throughout the entire line. People there also pay close attention to the time, taking breaks when needed. They focus single-mindedly on their task while taking care of all other things without paying much attention. The task gets accomplished, and he also addresses his other bodily needs.

Similarly, for any being who came into this human body, getting rid of karma bandha (karmic bondage) and attaining moksha (liberation from karmic bondage) should be the only goal. Setting that as his goal, he has to perform any duties prescribed to him. He should do whatever is required for his livelihood. He cannot avoid doing that, regardless. However, nowadays we are seeing people who think making money is the only goal. Everyone has one goal - money, money, earn money somehow.

In whatever manner you earn it, through the demise of COVID patients or other nefarious means…just earn money, nothing else! Just earn money, earn money - shocking! What will you do after earning so much? We don’t know. What will happen to your riches once you leave the body? We don’t know. Who will take care of it all? We don’t know. When you come into this body, all these should be there, but these are not permanent. Don’t waste your valuable atma jnana (knowledge of the soul) for these things. You got that jnana for a higher purpose.

However, do the intermediary activities as you can’t avoid them. Whatever you need to use for the main purpose, don’t use it for temporary things. Let's say there is a company. There are some tasks to be done by workers like breaking the stones and moving them from one place to another. The owner has to think about how to develop his business. Every minute is very valuable for him. The worker does the physical work like lifting the stones, breaking the stones, putting them in a pile, putting them on the other side, etc. He can only do that much. He can’t do the work which needs to be done with the mind.

The worker’s activity is physical, while the owner has intellectual activity. Putting his mind to work, the owner can take care of thousands of such workers. He can provide them livelihood and support them. Instead of using his mind for that, if he says, “I will also sit and break stones,” and starts doing that, it means he is using a very valuable thing for something which is not worth it. It is like if someone gives you a vajra:yudha (weapon of thunderbolt), and you use it to slice onions. That is so inferior and lowly. Human life is so precious. We shouldn’t spoil it by using it for temporary purposes.

We should set our mind on the main goal. Whatever comes temporarily, enjoy them. We are not saying you should leave them. However, you shouldn’t forget the main goal by getting lost in temporary pursuits. It is not important to just do something in life. Few people say, “It is fine. He is doing something. Let him do it. How does it matter?” No! You should understand God’s tatva (eternal truth). Keep Him in mind. Do whatever you do as His ajna (divine command), and think of it as His seva (service) while doing it. If He and His command are not in your mind, you are losing in both ways.

“Does it matter which God you pray to? All one needs is bhakti (devotion). All Gods are one.” How will all of them be one? Whomever we are calling as Gods, their names, forms, work, and places are different. How can they be one? Veda teaches us about all of this, as God is not a familiar subject area to us. We don’t know how He is either. He is not accessible to our intellect. Veda has to tell us about it. Veda said, hri:schathe: lakshmi:scha pathnau e:ko na:ra:yanaha (He is Narayana).

Veda is explaining to us that He is Narayana. It clarifies that everything is under His control and we need to reach Him. Set Him as your goal. All the devathas (celestial beings) are divine forms under His control meant for a certain task. We shouldn’t criticize them, abuse them, or leave them. They have their place, task, and purpose. Don’t ignore them and don’t get absorbed in them. You should have a goal. Secondly, you should know the work you are doing is a means to attain it.

“How does it matter what we do as long as we do something?” That’s not correct. One person went to a large railway station with 50 platforms. He has to go to Delhi. Someone told him that he has to go to platform number 6 and board the train there. He went to the central bridge and noticed platform 6 was crowded and thought it a hassle to manage that crowd. He noticed platform number 2 was empty. He thought it was peaceful and went there. The train arrived. The train at platform 6 was full of people, but the train at platform number 2 was neat and empty. He felt, “Oh, it is so nice. I will just board this train instead.”

Thinking this, he sat and even slept on the train. The train started. “It’s important to take the journey irrespective of the train you take, right?” [sarcastically]. Just like certain people say, “All we need is bhakti; it doesn't matter which bhakti.” “Anything is good. All are one.” yad bha:va thad bhavathi (we attain whatever we think of). Hence, he got into the train and slept happily as it was empty. After half an hour, the ticket collector woke him up asking for a ticket. He presented his ticket.

[T.C] This ticket is for Delhi. Why did you get into this train?

[Man] Because this train was empty.

[T.C] This train goes to Madras.

[Man] I got in because it is empty. Anyway, it's going. How does it matter which train I take?

[T.C] First get down from this train, pay a 2000 rupee fine, and stay in jail for half a day.

He was put in jail and fined. Is it important to just go anywhere? Is it important to just do anything? No! We need to know where to go and how to go. It is also very important to have perfect decisive knowledge about it. That is named vyavasa:ya:thmika: buddhi (decisive intelligence) by Sri Krishna in verse 2.41.

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SLOKA WORD -

vyavasa:ya:thmika: buddhi hi ek:eva kuru nandana

SLOKA MEANING -

Decisive intelligence is only one, O son of Kuru (Arjuna).

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bahu sa:kha:hi anantha:scha buddhayaha: avyavasa:yi:na:m (Those who are not decisive have many branches of thought). He is not decisive. If he had decided to go to Delhi, he would have taken that train even if it inconvenienced him. However, that is not his goal. His goal is to comfortably go somewhere. That’s why he sat in the other train and ended up in jail. It shouldn’t happen this way. Thus, aim for only the moksha (the primary goal).

One may argue that Vedas themselves have said, “one should live a long life with mansions and other things.” True, that is said. “Why should they say that? It would have been better if they didn't mention those things at all.” “If you do this yajna (sacrifice), you get this benefit. If you do the other one, you will get other benefits.” “Why did it have to say this and divert our mind? It would have been better if it didn’t say it at all.” If it just stated one goal, it would have been fine. Thus, Veda is leading us down a wrong path. Since Veda said it, it is fine to do other yajnas. There are people who say this as well. Sri Krishna is giving us an upadesa (teaching) about such people in verse 2.42. Let’s learn about it.

Jai Srimannarayana!

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