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1. Episode Title: Episode 108 – Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 2, Episode 108)

2. Topics & Tags:

TOPICS: The essence of duty and its execution without attachment to results, Understanding the nature of desires and their impact on goals, The significance of listening in spiritual growth, The concept of moha (ignorance) and its overcoming, The relationship between love (prema) and attachment (moha), The teachings of Sri Krishna on renunciation and ultimate goals.

TAGS: HH Chinna Jeeyar Swami, Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 2, Karma yoga, Arjuna, Krishna, duty, desires, moha, prema, nirveda, listening, spiritual growth, renunciation

3. Main Content:

Jai Srimannarayana! Priya Bhagavadbandhus (Dear devotees of the Lord), Bhagavad Gita chapter 2 teaches how we can utilize our lifestyle for a good benefit. In fact, it is established that the second chapter is the summum bonum (highest good) of the entire Bhagavad Gita. If we understand the second chapter well, it means we have understood the entire Bhagavad Gita. Whatever has to be explained is described in a concise manner in the second chapter. To understand the underlying details, we need to go through the other chapters.

What is the essence of Bhagavad Gita? Do your duty. Do your duty, but don’t focus on desiring (wanting) temporary benefits. It doesn’t mean that you won’t get benefits, or you should leave the benefits, or that you shouldn’t expect results. You should have a goal. Before you reach the goal, whatever intermediary benefits you might get, …stop pining for them. If you desire them, you can’t reach the main goal. We need to understand this.

How is it possible to work without expecting anything? You may have such a doubt. Normally you won’t feel like working without any benefit. If you shouldn’t desire anything, then, how can we work? You can have desires. However, don’t desire small, temporary benefits. Desire the big goal. Don’t lose the opportunity of attaining the main goal by desiring small, temporary benefits. This needs to be explained. The Lord declares this in Bhagavad Gita verse 2.51.

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SLOKA WORD -

karmajam phalam thyakthva padam gachchanthi ana:mayam

SLOKA MEANING -

Renouncing the results of actions, they go to the place free from sorrow.

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To understand this clearly, we need to carefully listen. What happens by listening? The more you listen and understand… the more your prior developed interest towards temporary benefits and happiness subsides. That is called moha (ignorance).

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SLOKA WORD -

mo:ham vyathi tharishyathi

SLOKA MEANING -

You can escape this ignorance.

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Only then, we will feel nirveda (regret) for not yet attaining what we should have attained. We feel nirveda when we think, ‘For so long, we did not attain what we had to attain…’ ‘though we had an opportunity, we have lost it.’ This is a sort of sorrowful remorse. Sri Krishna described that we will feel regret this way in verse 2.52.

Only when we feel nirveda, moha will reduce. To feel nirveda, you should listen.

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SLOKA WORD -

sro:thavyasya shruthasya

SLOKA MEANING -

Because of the faith we have in whatever we have heard so far,

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and the interest we have in what we will hear in the future, we feel nirveda. What do we do when we feel nirveda? As discussed in verse 2.51, we can then renounce results. When we can renounce results…

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SLOKA WORD -

ana:mayam padham gachchanthi

SLOKA MEANING -

then we can attain permanent benefit.

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In general, common people’s interest towards petty objects is called ishta (liking). If ishta strengthens, we call it prema (love). If prema grows tremendously, we call it moha. If you have love towards something, it makes you always ruminate (think deeply). If love grows and becomes moha, then you will not remember anything else except that which you love. It will not let you pay attention to other things.

If we have to focus a camera lens on an object clearly, we keep rotating the angle of the lens, then that specific object will appear with clarity and all other surrounding objects will fade out. There is a mechanism for that. Similarly, you have to focus on what you love. When it blossoms into moha, you will automatically only focus on that, nothing else. If this increases further, it is known as vimoham (intense love) or vyamo:ham (consistent love). If one has this, one only sees that object or person, …with eyes closed or open and everywhere around him. In any situation, he can only see what he is thinking about.

It seems Ramanuja Acharya used to have that vyamo:ham. We have heard of Ramanuja Acharya. He was the great personality who gave a proper meaning to Bhagavad Gita …and clarified Sri Krishna’s intent by composing ‘Gita Bhashyam.’ We are learning from that now. He had great vyamo:ham it seems. Oh, but he is a sannyasi (renunciant), right? Yes! If he is a renunciant, he should be free of mohas, right? Yes! Then if he should be free of mohas, why are you saying he has vyamo:ham? He has it! He has great vyamo:ham!

What is that vyamo:ham? Our purvacharyas (previous teachers) explained. This vyamo:ham is not something which sways. It is consistent, always there.

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SLOKA WORD -

yo: nithyam achyutha pada:mbuja yugmarukma vyamo:hatha

SLOKA MEANING -

He who is always absorbed in the pair of lotus feet of Achyutha (the Lord).

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Generally, gold is the prominent commodity which invokes moha (excessive love) in us. Thus, even big countries try to increase their stock of gold. It is said whichever country has more gold, their economic strength will be great. Gold is an amazing metal which is loved by everyone. Not only recently, but for ages. Gold has been loved by everyone for a long time, it still is …and perhaps will always be loved in the future. Because it is one of the excellent glowing metals accessible to us. Based on its radiance and value, that kind of vyamo:ham will be there. Ramanuja also used to have vyamo:ham towards gold.

Can a sannyasi have such vyamo:ham? Yes! But what kind of gold is that?

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SLOKA WORD -

achyutha pada:mbuja yugma rukma vya:mo:hathaha

SLOKA MEANING -

The gold of the lotus feet of Achyutha (the Lord).

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What do you mean by two golds? Does it mean fake gold and real gold? No, both of them are real gold. What kind of yugma (pair)? It is a yugma, a pair of beautiful lotus flowers. Padma yugma - pair of lotus flowers. What kind of lotuses?

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SLOKA WORD -

pa:da padma

SLOKA MEANING -

lotuses of a pair of feet.

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Whose pair of feet?

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SLOKA WORD -

achyutha pada:mbuja yugma rukma vya:mo:hathaha

SLOKA MEANING -

The one who protects all of us, that Achyutha’s, Narayana’s, feet.

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They are called charanau (the pair of feet).

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SLOKA WORD -

simanna:ra:ya:na charanau saranam prapadhye

SLOKA MEANING -

Those feet are like amazing lotus flowers which have affection towards us.

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They are naturally fragrant and are pleasing to touch. They don’t leave those who surrender to them. ‘Thin kagal’ says our alwar (great saint). Even if we wish to leave them, they don’t leave us. That pair of feet is the gold. The vyamo:ham which Ramanuja has for that gold can’t be expressed. As that vyamo:ham grew, he ceased seeing everything else around him.

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SLOKA WORD -

thadhithara:ni

SLOKA MEANING -

everything else except those feet.

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SLOKA WORD -

thruna:ya me:ne:

SLOKA MEANING -

he renounced the rest, as one would a blade of grass.

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This is what Sri Krishna says. What do we need to increase? If we grow our vyamo:ham on the ‘gold’ called Lord’s feet, its value will always increase, and it will also increase the value of others by its touch. However, the other material gold which we know will melt someday, or someone might steal it from us. It will cause us loss. We heard of a story in Srimad Bhagavatam. The great Satrajith used to have a magnificent jewel which manifested gold for him. We read that story on Vinayaka Chavithi day. Satrajith went through great effort, obtained the grace of Lord through the Sun, and was bestowed with that jewel. He attained immense wealth. What ultimately happened? That jewel took his life.

Because of his vyamo:ham towards the jewel, even when Sri Krishna was accessible,

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SLOKA WORD -

thruna:ya me:ne:

SLOKA MEANING -

he renounced Lord as one would a blade of grass.

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At least, did the jewel protect him? No, it didn’t. It took his life. Someone killed him in his sleep and took the jewel. So, gold (other than Lord’s feet) is like that gold. However, achyutha pada:mbuja, that gold which is Narayana’s feet, is great. It doesn’t diminish. It won’t let the one who surrendered to be destroyed. It increases the respect and value of those who surrendered. If you want to desire, then desire for something like that. If one desires that, he becomes -

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SLOKA WORD -

janma bandha vinirmukhthaha

SLOKA MEANING -

the reason for his body, karmic bondage, will be broken.

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SLOKA WORD -

anamayam padham gachchanthi

SLOKA MEANING -

he will reach that place of gold which never gets destroyed.

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This is what the Lord said and this is what we have to listen to. Who will go there? Arjuna, whoever you think of as relatives, grandfathers, uncles, etc. are dehas (bodies). Bodies don’t go there. Bodies will certainly be destroyed here. Who will go there? Atma (soul) will reach there. The body will be destroyed. Atma won’t be destroyed. You should know this. The tatva (reality), which we should know isn’t visible. It can be heard. Hence, we should listen.

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SLOKA WORD -

sro:thavyaha manthavya:ha nidhi dhya:sithvyaha yatha drashtavya:ha

SLOKA MEANING -

You should see that which is permanent.

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However, for it to be seen, what do you need to do?

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SLOKA WORD -

sro:thavyaha manthavya:ha nidhi dhya:sithvyaha

SLOKA MEANING -

First, you have to listen.

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For us, listening is a big problem. We feel we don’t understand it, so we can’t listen to it. Firstly, we have a problem with listening. As soon as you start listening, you won’t understand everything. Yet, you have to listen. After listening for some time, you will feel… ‘this is a term we heard before.’ ‘I can relate to this’. It is a gradual growth. As listening is so important, you must start listening! The more you listen, the more the attachment you have towards other things will decrease.

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SLOKA WORD -

yadha:the mo:ha kalilam

SLOKA MEANING -

whatever is causing you ignorance, that dirt.

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SLOKA WORD -

vyathi tharishyathi

SLOKA MEANING -

your intellect can cross over it.

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SLOKA WORD -

thadha gantha:si nirve:dam

SLOKA MEANING -

only with listening [to the wise], will you get regret.

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What is important is that only with nirveda, you will know what needs to be known, attain atma sakshatkara (realization of the soul). You have to listen. Sri Krishna is now going to teach us about listening. Let’s understand what he teaches further. Jai Srimannarayana!

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