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1. Episode Title: Episode 25 – Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 2, Episode 25)

2. Topics & Tags:

TOPICS: The importance of seeking guidance from elders, Arjuna's internal conflict and sorrow, The nature of duty and responsibility, Understanding pride and humility in decision-making, Krishna's role as a guide and teacher

TAGS: HH Chinna Jeeyar Swami, Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 2, Arjuna, Krishna, sorrow, guidance, duty, pride, humility, Govinda, Indra, Gokulam, dharma

3. Main Content:

Jai Srimannarayana! Priya Bhagavadbandhus (Dear devotees of the Lord), When we approach the learned or elders, we should convey our problems to them. We should show our sincere interest in following whatever they decide is the right solution to the problem. In fact, we shouldn’t tell them about our ‘decision’. We shouldn’t put pressure on them to implement what we decide is the solution to the problem. But, in today’s world, people are not generally of that kind. We make our own decisions. The mindset that ‘everyone has to agree to my decision and there can’t be a better solution than this’ is prevalent today. Such [mindset] existed since Arjuna’s time.

When elders give advice, we must let them complete it, think how it is right and be ready to follow it. But instead, if we ask them for a solution and tell them our decision regarding it, why go to them, ask them, seek their guidance and waste their time? Arjuna expressed his sorrow to Sri Krishna. Then he should listen to what Sri Krishna says, right? Instead, he is proposing his own solution. This is surprising.

In the beginning of chapter 2, he said ‘I am your student…’

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SLOKA WORD -

E:ka:dasi Vratham

SLOKA MEANING -

I am your disciple and am surrendering to You. Please tell me what I need to do.

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This is good. But what does he say immediately following this, i.e. in verse 2.8? He conveys his own 'decision' and says there is no other solution than what he is thinking.

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SLOKA WORD -

nahi prapasya:mi

SLOKA MEANING -

no other solution than this

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Why did he express his sorrow to Sri Krishna when unwilling to take His instruction? Who knows, perhaps a sort of ignorance. Sanjaya is very surprised at this. In verse 2.9 he says,

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SLOKA WORD -

eva mukhtva hrushike:sa

SLOKA MEANING -

speaking with Sri Krishna this way…

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Arjuna is forgetting who he is talking to. Sri Krishna is Hrishikesa (the One who can control everyone's senses). Who is talking? Someone who thinks, “I know everything, I can do everything.” That is Arjuna; he is called Gudakesa (one who has conquered sleep) here.

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SLOKA WORD -

eva mukhthva: hru:shi:kesam guda:ke:sa:ha paramthapaha

SLOKA MEANING -

He is Gudakesa, thinking no one can face him.

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He is named Gudakesa; how did he get this name? Some people say he has long hair, guda:kam (hair) means hair. Therefore he got the name! That’s not true. Amarako:sam says, nidra:lasye: guda:ka:sya:th (sleep and laziness are given the same name, Gudakam). Arjuna has conquered Gudakam, which means he conquered laziness and sleep. Those two don’t influence him.

It is not the same for us. If we delay sleep time, it controls us as ’Jet Lag’. We can’t even begin to explain the impact of laziness. But Arjuna is the great one who proved in many instances that he has conquered both. Hence he is named Gudakesa. One who has conquered something should just know he can do it but not feel proud about it. However, Arjuna became so proud that he felt Krishna, who can guide him in the right direction, also shouldn’t talk against his decision. Sanjaya is shocked with Arjuna’s behavior.

That is why Sanjaya says -

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SLOKA WORD -

e:va mukthva:

SLOKA MEANING -

speaking with Sri Krishna this way…

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What did Arjuna say? In the beginning, Arjuna said, “Sri Krishna, I am your disciple, I have surrendered to You… please tell me what is right for me and what is nischitham (that which has already been decided as the right thing to do).” But then he immediately says, ‘I don’t see any other option than stopping this war’. He is declaring his own decision.

Arjuna, Gudakesa is contradicting himself while talking to Krishna, Hrishikesa - Bhagavan. He is proud of being Gudakesa!

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SLOKA WORD -

na yo:thsya ithi govindam ukhthwa:

SLOKA MEANING -

I will not wage war

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When he says he will not wage war, he is declining to perform his duty. We have to remember this. It is his duty to punish those committing offenses. Who is he talking to? To Govinda (the One who gives pleasure), one whose duty is to punish anyone who has made an offense.

We have to remember how he got the title Govinda. At one point in time, Indra’s attitude began to cross boundaries. It is not wrong of him to accept offerings. It is a custom to accept offerings from those who are under his shelter, but he did not do it with the right attitude. What's the right attitude? To offer it to the Lord, stating ‘Krishna:arpanam asthu’ (Let it be offered to Krishna). The same rule applies to Indra. For Brahma also, the same rule applies. The same applies to us or anyone else.

Because whatever is available to us on this earth is provided by God’s grace. Air, water, or prana (life force) - none of these are acquired with our own efforts. The same goes for food; it does not come out of the ground on our command. Even those who cultivate crops in soil need some support for it to happen. Support could be in the form of fertilizers or some other form. Only with magic would a sapling emerge from a seed without any support. That support is given by the Lord. Indra lost this perception on that day.

In Bhagavatam, we see that Nandagopa and his community performed Indraya:ga (an offering for Indra). Sri Krishna’s age was close to 5 years at that time. He asked, ‘What are you celebrating? Why are you cooking so many offerings, decorating, etc?’ Nandagopa said, ‘Indra is the one who gives us rain. So we offer for Indra every year.’ Is Indra the one giving them rain? It is actually He, Sri Krishna, Indra’s indweller who gives them rain.

When Sri Krishna is personally present with them, is it right of them to put Him aside and offer it to Indra? When the officer is present there, is it correct to respect the one who works for him for a salary while ignoring the officer? Now the situation has become like that [in Bhagavatam]. Since Sri Krishna is the One enabling everything by indwelling in all, keeping Him aside… they [residents of Gokulam] are making huge arrangements to offer everything to Indra thinking of him as the giver of rain.

Sri Krishna wanted to teach them thattva (eternal truth). He started making an effort to make them understand. He said, ‘Father, it is not Indra who is giving rain. It is the clouds who are giving it; clouds are formed by the sun.’ ‘Air carries the clouds. And those carried clouds will rain somewhere. This hill is the one who stopped clouds from going elsewhere and made them shower rain here.’ ‘Since the hill stopped the clouds, you have rain, the grass grows and the cattle eat it. They give you milk and you prosper with it. All this is happening because of Govardhana Hill, why are you giving credit to the invisible Indra?’

‘If you really have gratitude, you should have it towards this hill.’ ‘Clouds being formed because of the sun and they giving rain after being carried by air happens usually. But you are getting the rain because of this hill. It is stopping the clouds and making them rain here.’ ‘So whatever offerings you want to make, make it to the hill if you really have gratitude.’ The cowherd boys liked what Lord said and made offerings to the hill.

Indra got angry and caused a hailstorm in their village (Nandagokulam). The cowherds became frightened. Sri Krishna consoled them, “Don’t worry, let's ask the same hill to whom we made the offerings to protect us.” He went to the hill and said, ‘Hey Govardhan, become an umbrella.’ He lifted it up [to rescue them from the hailstorm] and saved their lives. That’s when Indra regretted his mistake. He realized, ‘I got carried away by ignorance, caused by hunger.’ ‘I invoked a hailstorm and made Sri Krishna, my Lord, angry. What should I do now?’ He pleaded.

OK, what more is required when one acquires the right knowledge? It is not important to punish someone; what is important is that one becomes knowledgeable. Punishment is given with the intention that it [enables retrospection and] enhances right knowledge. Since Indra got the right knowledge, Sri Krishna forgave him. Indra said, ‘No, since you did me a great favor, I will give you a title - Govinda.’ ‘You saved me, the knowledge in me, cows, cowherd boys and girls, hence you will be called Govinda.’

Sri Krishna reminded the cowherds about their forgotten duty. Their duty is to make offerings to Krishna thinking that it is Krishna everywhere - in the hill, in Indra himself, in clouds, and in objects. He helped them realize their offering must be made to Krishna. Hence, He became Govinda. He also became Govinda as He removed Indra’s ignorance and made him realize that whatever offerings he is accepting are to ultimately reach… the indweller Vaishwanara (Lord in the form of fire that digests food). Thus, there was a wonderful scenario that led Him to be called as Govinda.

That Govinda is in front of Arjuna and he is telling Him

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SLOKA WORD -

na yo:thsya ithi govindam ukhthwa:

SLOKA MEANING -

You are suggesting war but I won’t do it.

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Arjuna is thinking, ‘I think it is better to survive by begging; I don't need to work hard.’

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SLOKA WORD -

thu:shni:m bhabhu:va

SLOKA MEANING -

So far, he was trying to understand through dialogue. Now he declared that he won’t wage war.

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SLOKA WORD -

thu:shnu:m bhabhu:va

SLOKA MEANING -

now, he is declaring he won’t wage war.

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Sanjaya is telling Dhritarashtra that it is very surprising. Dhritarashtra felt happy when he heard this; why? He is also afraid that if the war happens, he will lose all his people as Sri Krishna is on the opposite side and is capable of anything. If somehow Arjuna decides not to fight, his sons (Dhuryodhana and others) can get the kingdom back without any trouble. They can enjoy the kingdom for another 13, 14, or 15 years or their entire lifetime. This is what wicked Dhritarashtra felt.

Dhritarashtra might have felt happy thinking his sons will be victorious. He was about to say, ‘What else will Krishna say apart from what Arjuna said?’ But Sanjaya didn’t let him say that as he had to tell him what happened there. Dhuryodhana wanted to wage war; Arjuna has decided not to wage war. However, Sri Krishna is not the one to see and tolerate injustice; His incarnation was not for that purpose.

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SLOKA WORD -

dharma samstha:pana:rtha:ya

SLOKA MEANING -

He came to establish the righteous practices.

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He took upon Himself the duty to ensure the activity of His people, the results, and the responsibilities reach the ultimate destination. Would He leave Arjuna even though he refuses to do his duty, declaring thu:shni:m bhabhu:va? Sanjaya said, ‘ha! surprising!’ Sri Krishna is commencing the revelation to convey to Arjuna what He wanted to and give him clarity about his duty.’ Sanjaya thus started expounding its preface to Dhritarashtra. Let's listen to how that continues. Jai Srimannarayana!

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