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1. Episode Title: Episode 64 – Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 2, Episode 64)

2. Topics & Tags:

TOPICS: The nature of life and death, Understanding the impermanence of the body, Krishna's teachings on duty and wisdom, The importance of following the right path, The consequences of actions and karma

TAGS: HH Chinna Jeeyar Swami, Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 2, Sankhya yoga, Arjuna, Krishna, dharma, wisdom, life, death, karma, Chithrakeethu Upakhyanam

3. Main Content:

Jai Srimannarayana! Priya Bhagavadbandhus (Dear devotees of the Lord), In Sri:man Maha:bha:ratha, after the Maha:bha:ratha War, Dhruthara:shtra starts grieving and shedding tears. Likely crocodile tears, insincere at best! Vidura then said to him, “Don’t cry unnecessarily. Is it needed for you at this time?” He says to Dhruthara:shtra something similar to what Sri Krishna says in Gita verse 2.28. What’s it?

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SLOKA WORD -

abha:va:di:ni bhu:tha:ni: bha:va madhya:ni bha:ratha

abhava nidana:nyaiva thathraka: paride:vana:

SLOKA MEANING -

Why do you cry? What can you accomplish by crying?

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Why do you cry? Your sons, step sons or kings, soldiers, and others are all pancha bhu:thas (five elements of Nature). They are all just formations of the pancha bhu:thas. Souls, their path, karma (actions), past records of the souls, punya (good deeds) and pa:pa (bad deeds), results of good and bad actions, right and wrong… if you are someone who thinks of these, you would not have encouraged the war. You do not have such wisdom. Also, you do not have such thoughts and belief. Your goal is to just keep your children, your sons, happy. Because you want only them to lead a happy life, you, with the intention of harassing them, have left Pa:ndavas (the righteous brothers), who do good deeds. You let your beast-like sons loose on Pa:ndavas, making them scapegoats. The result was that other than Pa:ndavas, you don’t have anyone alive, including your children. You are left alone.

For all these…

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SLOKA WORD -

abha:va:di:ni bhu:tha:ni

SLOKA MEANING -

Don’t know the beginning of these bhu:thas (elements)…

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They [bhu:thas] are here now. You thought they were your sons because they were born to you. You only wanted them to be happy and you did not think about what they did for that. Some people get into the habit of drinking for pleasure. Some people get used to taking various drugs for pleasure. They have only one goal, ‘Live this moment.’ Have ‘pleasure’ now. Don’t think about anything before or after. In pleasure now… be in heaven! That’s all he wants. You also were thinking the same way, thinking only of your sons’ happiness. You didn’t care even if they were trying to burn Pa:ndavas in the wax house. You didn’t warn and stop them even when they were poisoning Pa:ndavas. You couldn’t even open your mouth once to stop them from disrobing a woman in the middle of the assembly. What kind of a person are you? You put everything at stake for temporary happiness. Why are you crying now?

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SLOKA WORD -

adarsa:na:th a:pathathi:tha:ha

SLOKA MEANING -

not knowing where they are coming from, all these have formed

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Because they can’t be seen. If they are visible, we can recognize them. We did not see them before or after [death]. Someone asked, “What does it mean that they are not visible? What happens to them?” What happens [to them]? We brought matti (clay). We made pots out of it. The pots were beautiful. They broke into pieces, but they were good to play with. They broke into further pieces and then to powder. Then it became part of clay again. That which has become part of clay will somewhere, somehow become something else. It becomes part of clay again and will transform into a pot. However, we are not sure if it will come back here in the same town or not. We could dig the clay from here, take it to the neighboring town and get pots made there. Or take it to a neighboring state to get pots made there. Or it could have been necessary to be taken elsewhere as raw material where there is none and made into a pot there. We cannot see where it’s being reproduced. However, it will surely transform into another form. We cannot have its darshan (sight). Its beginning is also not visible to us.

Therefore…

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SLOKA WORD -

punascha:darsanam gatha:ha

SLOKA MEANING -

You have given birth to 100 kids. Did anyone tell you where they came from?

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Did you ask them to come from anywhere specific as your children? They were born to you, based on their karma (actions), past records. If they were born to a commoner, they would have been in a better state. He would have punished them and instructed them to be on the right path. “We shouldn’t step into their space.” “It is a question of their individuality.” “It’s their independence and we must not interfere.” “This is about their privacy, individuality.” This is what [some] ‘rich’ parents say. They spend lakhs and crores of rupees to put them into schools, not caring about where they go with their friends. At last, they become useless ‘products’ entering society. Then, they [parents] realize and turn to Swamis (spiritual teachers), temples, etc., seeking support in reforming their kids. It’s too late, what’s the use? Or they will cry, why cry now?

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SLOKA WORD -

adarshana:th a:pathitha:ha

SLOKA MEANING -

they will go back to that invisible state

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A pra:ni (living being) comes from an unrecognized state and goes back to an unrecognized state. It’s only a short time in-between. It is the quality of a wise one to utilize the short time in the right way. To decide what is the right way, the short time may not be enough. That is why, one must follow the path of knowledgeable people. Therefore, you must try to walk the path given by sa:sthra (scriptures). It is essential for you to take guidance from those people who can show that path. “Why? I don’t need to be told by anyone.” “I know what I am. I can decide my own future.” “I live independently.” It’s okay, but when will he know its consequences? How many such people are found worthy of being recorded in history? Every minute…

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SLOKA WORD -

uthpadyanthe: vili:yanthe:

SLOKA MEANING -

birth and death goes on

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Like insects born in the evening rain or the morning showers. In crores (millions) of numbers, he [ji:va (soul)] takes birth and dies, on and on! However, who remains [eternally]? The crores of raindrops all do not end up becoming pearls. It seems that the star Swathi makes one good raindrop lucky to become a pearl. That is also a raindrop. However, its value is higher and great. How many heads or necks will it adorn?! How it works to inspire the beauty of so many people! The beauty it has enhanced! That is also a raindrop. Do you desire to become that raindrop? Or one of the many crore raindrops that get washed away? Do you desire to be a cuckoo born somewhere on a tree, or a loud, wandering crow? Think. A silkworm is very beautiful. There are other crores of insects born in the rainwater. However, it [silkworm] is what gets value and recognition. Not the others.

Dear…

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SLOKA WORD -

punascha: adarsanam gatha:ha

SLOKA MEANING -

Neither they mean something to you nor you mean anything to them.

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Who becomes what to who here? Some bhu:thas (elements) came together and one form is made. Some bhu:thas came together and another form is made. They stay together for some time and later disperse on their paths. The same happened to you also now. Why do you cry about it?

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SLOKA WORD -

thathraka: paride:vana:

SLOKA MEANING -

One need not cry about these [bodies].

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You must utilize them properly. To do so, you must be bound to an authoritative source of knowledge. You must lead life bound by the words of the Wise. There is a section Chithrake:thu Upa:khya:nam in Bha:gavatham. After a long while, due to the grace of a great being’s teaching, a kid was born. It was said that he would live only for 4 years. However, he lived as an obedient and well-mannered child. He died and all of them wept uncontrollably. The same great being came back. [Parents of the boy] We want that child back. [The Great Being] Why do you want him? [Parents] He loves us. [Great being] Do you know that for certain? [Parents] Yes, we are sure. [Great being] I will call him. Ask him. If he really loves you that much, we will try to bring him back alive. Using his yogic power, he invoked that ji:va (soul) there.

[Great being talking to the boy’s soul] It seems these are your parents. They are asking you to come back. It seems you love them a lot. That ji:va responded. [Boy’s soul] Parents? In which number body? To which body? Because once this body is gone, another body comes followed by another. Hundreds of bodies passed by in the meantime for me. For everybody, there is a set of parents. How many parents can I satisfy? I am so sorry, he said! That’s when their eyes opened to the truth. Chithrake:thu Upa:khya:nam is a famous historic episode in Sri:mad Bha:gavatham. This is something in life that continues to occur with no beginning and no end. It doesn’t matter if you accept the existence of a soul or not. You may agree to the existence of a path of a soul or not. No matter if you are a theist or an atheist. There is no need to cry about the hardships you face while performing your duties. For this, one needs wisdom. Behave as a wise man. Do your duty properly.

There could be difficult times when performing your duties. A national guard at the border could get hurt when fired upon. As he crawls, his legs may get scarred. Or a thorn could get into his feet. As you are performing your duties, face any difficulties that arise. Once you return victorious, you may be awarded a medal in the presence of hundred or thousand people, and welcomed back with a huge party. Yes, it is also something that comes as a favorable part of your duty. Hence, it is not necessary to get overly excited. Or it isn’t necessary to get depressed otherwise.

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SLOKA WORD -

thathraka: paride:vana:

SLOKA MEANING -

It’s not the quality of a wise one to cry in such situations.

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Motivating Arjuna towards duty, Sri Krishna states that neither an atheist nor a theist needs to cry. Sri Krishna teaches about the thatthvas (ultimate realities), de:ha (body) and a:thma (soul) and moves further. Jai Srimannarayana!

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