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1. Episode Title: Episode 69 – Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 2, Episode 69)

2. Topics & Tags:

TOPICS: The wonders of nature and their impact on our perception, The eternal nature of the soul, The relationship between knowledge and amazement, The transient nature of worldly experiences, The teachings of Krishna on the soul's reality

TAGS: HH Chinna Jeeyar Swami, Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 2, Arjuna, Krishna, amazement, nature, a:thma (soul), a:thma thaththva (reality of the soul), parama:thma (God), technology, perception

3. Main Content:

Jai Srimannarayana! Priya Bhagavadbandhus (Dear devotees of the Lord), It is amazing to watch birds take off from their nests in the early morning hours. In the evening, birds fly back to their nests, together in a beautiful pattern, in a specific order. If one bird turns, the rest synchronize their movement accordingly; it is amazing. As the clouds in the sky move, we ‘see’ (them taking) various shapes. No one designed them to be that way. However, those shapes don’t remain the same. A cloud formation that looks like a monkey, or a crocodile, or an elephant gradually changes to something else as we continue to look at it. How amazing!

As the sun rises or sets, the vibrant red hue that beautifully spreads through the entire sky is so amazing. In the early hours, when we see Earth from above while in an airplane, a line-like image appears on the planet's surface resulting from the rising Sun’s bright light. How amazing! How amazing is it to see the ocean waves approach (the shore) steadily with no breaks! An arc-shaped beautifully colored rainbow that spreads across the sky in the rainy season, just before or after rain… How amazing! Everything is so amazing. In the world, everything we see in Nature is amazing. Because it is always different from what we once saw. It does not always remain the same; it is eternally changing.

If Nature itself has various amazing things, making one feel amazed when looked at, it’s not surprising that a:thma (soul), that is distinct from Nature, amazes one no matter how much or how many ways or times we hear about it (a:thma). If a:thma thaththva jna:na (knowledge of the reality of the soul), which is anu (subtle), is so amazing, then how amazing would be the knowledge of parama:thma thaththva jna:na (knowledge of the reality of God)? As vibhu (all-pervading enabler of the entire Universe)? How wonderful and how special would it feel? Such a unique feeling! In fact, anyone who is experiencing something like this would not want to leave it even for a second. If they come out of thinking about it even for half a moment, they would feel like they lost something huge.

Nowadays, our people have habituated little kids with smartphones. Game apps are installed on the phone. The child keeps playing with it. If you ever feel like he is not paying attention to your words and take the phone away from him, he cries as if his house is on fire, shouting “No, no…!” What it implies is that he is experiencing something amazing about it every second. Because he is experiencing that wow feeling, he desires to be with it. He does not want to come away from it or be separated from it. If he is separated from it, he feels like he has lost everything. We notice this in little kids.

Also, if anyone is forced away or called for something else when they are with a beloved one, we notice how sorrowful and painful that feels to people, so we are able to relate. People do not want to come out of even such experiences of this world. They generally do not want to talk about the separation. One who is talking about it doesn’t feel he is done talking about it. No matter how much he discusses it, he wants to talk more about it. Some people in the world keep talking about themselves, boasting to anyone who is ready to listen! They continuously talk. All they need is a listener. Even if the other person asks him to stop (feeling irritated), he won’t. Even if the other person tries to turn and move away, they hold them back asking him to listen to one last thing. If someone listens about him, or when he is speaking about what he wants, he feels the experience to be eternally new, so he wants to continue to speak something more. If he notices that the other person isn’t paying attention, he forces him and somehow manages to tell him what he wants to.

These are all the things that awe us. A:thma (soul) is the most amazing thaththva (reality). It is indestructible. Hence, there is no need to cry about it. As Sri Krishna teaches this to Arjuna in Bhagavad Gita, chapter 2, He says…

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SLOKA WORD -

a:scharyavath pasyathi kaschid e:nam

a:scharyavath vadathi thatthaiva cha:nyaha |

a:scharyavach chainam anyas sruno:thi

sruthva:py e:nam ve:da na chaiva kaschith ||

SLOKA MEANING -

No matter what anyone does, they will not know about it completely. However, it continues to amaze them.

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Let’s take for example a few worldly items, i.e., a radio. Someone invented it way back. When it was new, everyone wondered about the small box, how it is ‘talking’ and how cool it is! If you turn the knob to another station, some other person talks. We don’t see anyone inside. We hear words, songs, and many various programs. In those times when the radio was new, it felt like a fun magical box. After some time, we felt, is that all a radio is!? It (the awe) is over. The thaththva (reality) in it that made one feel amazed when encountering it the first time becomes less impactful over time. If one continues to look at it, listen to it, or speak about it for a period of time, it feels like there’s nothing much to it.

There are two ways. First one. One may feel somewhat indifferent towards something if he spends a lot of time with it. Second one. One may feel uninterested in it if he attains more knowledge in that topic as he knows it all. Later the radio was upgraded with a recording option. How surprising that was back then! Earlier, we would require a separate device to record. Later, we could record on the same device when a program was playing. That was very amazing. Gradually, devices began to evolve. The same device can click a photo, record, re-record, play on speakers for others to hear, etc. As each feature was added, it felt amazing.

When cell phones were new, someone gave us one. He said it is a great device, probably called a roaming phone back then. He gave it to us telling us that we can take it to any place, anywhere we go. It was of just a small size. It felt amazing. We thought we could use it properly. After a month, there was a bill of 25,000. We bid our farewell to it! Post that, we did not venture into any of that again. Even if anyone says they will give it for free, we stay away from it! However, when it was new, it felt amazing. If we see an object for the first time, it amazes us. After spending some time with it, “Oh, that’s all this is.” Also, someone who is more knowledgeable than that would feel, “Oh, that’s all this is.” What happens is that it gets old.

TVs have come. In the beginning, there were only sounds. Now, [with the advent of TVs] we see images. Someone who is somewhere else is seen [on the TVs], talking to us! We all know certain programs on the TV which give a contact number for one to call. When we call the number, someone interacts. This is even more amazing. Earlier, even if one in the next room, if somehow was visible in another room, it was amazing. Nowadays, people from one town can see others in another town, other countries too! We can see someone in any part of the world from our very room; how amazing this is! This was the case when TVs were new. Now, it’s gotten old.

Computers have come. It was so amazing when they were new. However, computers are not as amazing anymore. Having reached a state where so much technology is embedded in small devices, it’s not that amazing. Earlier, it was amazing. Gradually, it gets less interesting. As new languages and new packages get installed (over and over), it becomes less amazing. People who used to get intrigued are no longer amazed by them. Airplanes came. When they were new, it felt “Wow, journey in the air!” Nowadays, technology-wise there's so much more. Not only traveling in the airplane, but also (sky)diving from it. On ceremonial days such as Republic Day, military airplanes fly in various patterns. It seems amazing. When an experienced person watches it, he would feel it can be further improvised. It wouldn’t amaze him so much.

Another example, a rocket. The airplane (technology) itself was amazing, but rocket technology amazed us furthermore! A speed of twenty-five thousand miles per hour… Oh my! Traveling from one planet to another, amazing! It was amazing when it was new. Once we understand it further, it feels “Oh, that’s it!” Later, we don’t feel amazed as much. We notice this in the world. We see a magician in the world. He shows us a man in a wooden case on a bench. The bench is in the center [of the stage]. He saws the case into half! [Then] He brings the same man back to stage from the other side. Where is he coming from? Oh my! What kind of feat is this? [Now] He brings a cloth. He shows it being empty. Later, he folds it, then unfolds it to bring out a flying dove. Amazing! He brings a box, shows it being empty. He then pulls out something from it. He brings some other material, like pieces of cloth. He puts them in his mouth and ‘pulls them’ out of his ear! Amazing, right? It amazes us; however, if a higher-ranking magician looks at all this, he feels the first magician is only at the building blocks of magic…

There are so many such things in the world that are amazing. However, after a period of time, they stop being amazing. A:thma thaththva (the reality of the soul) is not like that. However long we hear about it, speak about it, perceive it… however much we know about it. Arjuna! As it is distinct from those that can be known about… a:scharyavath pasyathi, sruno:thi, vadathi… however much you work on it

sruthva:py e:nam ve:da na chaiva kaschith (It is impossible for anyone to know about it no matter how much you explain about it). This is a:thma thaththva. Saying this, Sri Krishna began to explain the soul’s innate qualities in verse 2.29 to Arjuna. Let’s move ahead and learn more gradually. Jai Srimannarayana!

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