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1. Episode Title: Episode 2 – Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 3, Episode 2)

Gi:thar:ttha Sangraha - Summary of Chapter 2 - Part 1

2. Topics & Tags:

TOPICS: Analysis of the Bhagavad Gita's structure into three shatkas (sections of six chapters); Explanation of the first shatka (atma shatkam) focusing on the nature of the soul; Explanation of the second shatka (bhakti shatkam) focusing on devotion to God; Explanation of the third shatka (purva sesha shatka) as a recap; Yamunacharya's method of summarizing each chapter of the Bhagavad Gita; Summary of Bhagavad Gita Chapter 1, detailing Arjuna's delusion, misplaced affection, compassion, and confusion regarding dharma (righteous duty) and adharma (unrighteous action); Arjuna's surrender to Krishna as a disciple; Summary of Bhagavad Gita Chapter 2, covering the eternal nature of the soul, the transient nature of the body, the concept of karma yoga (action without attachment), and the characteristics of a sthitaprajna (person with a steady mind).

TAGS: HH Chinna Jeeyar Swami, Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3, Episode 2, Yamunacharya, Gitartha Sangraha, shatka, atma shatkam, bhakti shatkam, purva sesha shatka, Arjuna, Krishna, dharma, adharma, compassion, delusion, surrender, disciple, karma yoga, sthitaprajna, soul, body, eternal, devotion, knowledge, Sankhya yoga, attachment, duty, scripture.

3. Main Content:

Jai Srimannarayana! Priya Bhagavadbandhus (Dear devotees of the Lord),

To research or learn Bhagavad Gita, if one can get a feel for its comprehensive form, observe what is described in each section, and then enter it, one can then clearly understand it. Ramanujacharya’s acharya Yamuna muni or Yamunacharya, also known as Alavandar, taught it in such a manner in Gitartha Sangraha (summary of the meaning of Gita).

Bhagavad Gita consists of 18 chapters, right? It is divided into three shatkas (sections of six chapters each). What is the summary of the first shatka? What is the summary of the second shatka? What is the summary of the third shatka? He explained all that wonderfully.

The first shatka consists of the first 6 chapters of the scripture. It is named atma shatkam (section on the soul), which elucidates the nature of the soul. To explain the nature of the soul, the body in which it resides also must be explained about. What is the soul? What does it do when it dwells in the body? How does it work? This is what He explains. If it knows and works accordingly, what happens to it? If the soul, when in a body, can accomplish what it needs to, it will then become free from karma (actions) which binds it to a body. The first 6 chapters of the scripture have emerged to explain this. Therefore, it is named atma shatkam.

The second shatkam, chapter 7 to chapter 12, is named bhakti shatkam (section on devotion), giving knowledge of devotion for God. To learn what love for the Lord is, we must know who God is. Are we God or is God different from us? We must know this because some believe that they are God and they declare it too. That’s okay. When looked at from one angle, that can make sense in a way. However, it is okay only when such statements are made knowing about how it is so. If one makes such statements with no clarity about it, people laugh at them. People will make fun of such a person. What does God look like? What are the things He can do? What is the love we must have for Him like? To get that love, does He exist everywhere? What does He do? How does He govern all that? Is He accessible to all? We must know all these, right? All these aspects are part of knowing about love for God. To explain these aspects, the second six chapters of the scripture have come through. It is the second shatkam, named bhakti shatkam.

There are another 6 chapters. Chapter 13 to Chapter 18. Arjuna heard everything but did not pay proper attention until He saw God’s viswarupa (Universal form). It is in the 11th chapter that God showed him viswarupa. After that, he started to listen attentively. However, by then He had already revealed all that needs to be. Our Arjuna started paying attention now. Hence, He felt it would be beneficial to recap everything. Whatever He explained earlier, He explained that vishaya (topic) in different ways from chapter 13 till chapter 18. Therefore, it is named purva sesha (recap), purva sesha shatka (recap section). It is the part that explains what had already been taught in a way that it settles in the heart properly. In all, it is 18 chapters.

Yamunacharya Swami explained these three shatkas in three verses. After doing that, he started with the first chapter. He first split it [Bhagavad Gita] into 6 chapters each. Now, he goes by chapters. It is 18 chapters, right? He gives one summarizing verse for each chapter. The first verse explains what’s to be learnt from the first chapter.

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SLOKA WORD -

a:pada:m apahartha:ram da:tha:ram sarva sampada:m

lo:ka:bhi ra:mam sri:ra:mam bhu:yo: bhu:yo: nama:myaham

SLOKA MEANING -

I repeatedly bow to Sri Rama, who removes all calamities, bestows all wealth, and delights the entire world.

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SLOKA WORD -

asttha:na sne:ha ka:runya dharma:dharma dhiya:kulam

pa:rtham prapannam uddhisya sa:sthra:vatharanam krutham

SLOKA MEANING -

The scripture (Bhagavad Gita) was revealed for Partha (Arjuna), who was confused by misplaced affection, compassion, and understanding of right and wrong, and who had surrendered.

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Bhagavad Gita is a shastra (authoritative scripture). Its appearance is nothing but God’s teaching. What is the reason for this?

asthana sneha karunya dharmadharma dhiya akulam (confused by misplaced affection, compassion, and understanding of right and wrong)

Poor Arjuna got worried. What was bothering him? He felt love where he shouldn’t. It is good to feel love but where and towards whom? If the other person is causing harm to him, he shouldn’t feel love for him. He should protect himself or stop him or send him out. He should do something of that sort. Everyone, including Arjuna, reached the battlefield and are ready to fight in the war. The entire stage is set for the war. It is his duty now to fight but he felt attachment to the people on the other side. This is wrong. Being attached, he felt sad that the arrows would hurt them. He thought about how they would lose life, their relatives would all be in sorrow. He felt karuna (compassion). With that…

dharmadharma dhiya akulam (confused by right and wrong)

He felt dharma (a righteous act) is adharma (unrighteous); and adharma (unrighteous) is dharma (righteous). What is the duty of a ruler? It is to curtail the wrong-doers and encourage the people doing the right things. Kauravas are doing the wrong things. They are doing many misdeeds like poisoning them, burning their home, taking another’s wife away. Not one, they have committed all the misdeeds there can be! A ruler must punish such people. He must put them on the right track. He is not allowed to forgive them thinking that they also are his people. He felt love for them. They are all my…

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SLOKA WORD -

a:cha:rya:h pitharaha puthra:h thatthaiva cha

pitha:mahaha e:than nahanthu miccha:mi

SLOKA MEANING -

Teachers, fathers, sons, and also grandfathers – I do not wish to kill them.

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Dharma (righteous duty) felt like adharma (unrighteous action). His duty is to rule the kingdom and perform the related activities. Instead, he wanted to beg and survive.

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SLOKA WORD -

sre:yo: bho:kthum bhyksham api iha lo:ke

SLOKA MEANING -

It is better to live by begging in this world.

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If one with a responsibility to rule wants to simply beg for living, who will carry out his responsibility? Therefore, he felt whatever was adharma (that which should not be done), as something that he should be doing. He felt compassion for those who should be punished. Whatever his duty was, he felt that it wasn’t the right thing to do. That caused a lot of distress in the mind and he felt sad. He became akula (confused).

prapannam uddhisya (aiming at the surrendered one)

Even earlier, Krishna was with Arjuna during the 12 years exile in forests and 1 year incognito. Back then, Arjuna and the rest never felt like asking Krishna what was the right thing for them to do. Now, Arjuna felt like it. That is why, in the beginning of chapter 2…

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SLOKA WORD -

ka:rpanya do:sho:pahatha svabha:vaha

pruccha:mi thva:m dharma sammu:dda che:tha:ha |

yachchre:yas sya:n nischitham bru:hi thanme:

sishyas the:ham sa:dhi ma:m thva:m prapannam ||

SLOKA MEANING -

My nature is overcome by the flaw of pity; my mind is confused about duty. I ask You, tell me decisively what is best for me. I am Your disciple, instruct me who has surrendered to You.

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I surrender to You. I am Your disciple. I am related to You. Hence, You decide and clearly tell me what is the right thing to do for me so that I am not in dilemma or distress again. I am ready for it. Also, I am explicitly asking You for it. After so long, he got the wisdom for it. Because he asked for it, because he stated that he is His disciple, and because he reached the state of a prapanna (surrendered one), it is right to teach him.

partham prapannam uddhisya shastravataranam krutam (the scripture was revealed for Partha (Arjuna), who had surrendered)

He brought out the entire Bhagavad Gita shastra (authoritative scripture) for him. This is the summary of chapter 1. Giving the summary of the entire chapter in 1 verse! This is the greatness of the talent in Yamunacharya Swami.

Coming to chapter 2, what does it say? We have heard 72 verses in it. What is its summary? Can we give the vishaya suchika (an index of topics), giving what it is all about? Yamunacharya Swami did that.

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SLOKA WORD -

nithya:thma asanga karme:ha go:chara: sa:nkhya yo:ga dhi:hi

dvithi:ye: sthithadhi: laksha: pro:ktha: than mo:ha sa:nthaye:

SLOKA MEANING -

In the second chapter, for the calming of his delusion, the characteristics of a steady mind, the eternal soul, and action without attachment, which are the subjects of Sankhya and Yoga, were taught.

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tan moha shantaye (for the calming of his delusion)

Arjuna was in moha (delusion), not knowing what he was doing. To relieve him from that,

prokta (it was taught)

It reached the world through Sri Krishna. It was taught. What was taught?

dvitiye sthitadhi laksha prokta (in the second chapter, the characteristics of a steady mind were taught)

sthitadhi (steady mind)

How should someone with sthitaprajna (a firm and stable mind) be? What are the qualities of such a person? He said that these are taught in Chapter 2. He didn’t jump into that topic directly. What did He say prior to this?

nityatma (eternal soul)

He taught about the eternal nature of souls. When the eternal nature of souls is explained, then the transient nature of the body is clear automatically. Soul is eternal. That clarifies that the body is not. There are only two. One is the body, and the other is something that is indwelling called jiva (individual soul), or atma (soul). Because it exists within, the body is functional. What is that which is indwelling? We don’t have any clarity on it and it is not visible in any way. There are many people trying to use various instruments till date. It is being researched with an intention to manipulate it for their benefit in some way. However, it is not something anyone can see. Therefore, it was necessary to explain about it. He clarified that it is eternal.

nityatma (eternal soul)

What must you do when in this [body]?

asanga karma iha (action without attachment here)

You must work. When you are in the body and doing any activity, it is called karma (action). You must do those activities with an attitude that it is not something happening because of you… and that the results of it are not just for you.

asanga karma (action without attachment)

One must have such a desire.

iha (here)

Then, he will realise…

Sankhya yoga dhihi (knowledge of Sankhya and Yoga)

Sankhya (knowledge of the soul) means atma (soul), Yoga (action) means karma (action). One must attain clear knowledge of the two. If he has such clarity in knowledge, he will be able to become a sthitaprajna (person with a steady mind). Saying so, Krishna clarified the qualities of a sthitaprajna. In this verse, Yamunacharya Swami taught the summary of the 72 verses chapter of the scripture. Let us get further insight into that verse. We will then enter chapter 3.

Jai Srimannarayana!

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