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1. Episode Title: Episode 29 – Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 3, Episode 29)

2. Topics & Tags:

TOPICS: Krishna's teachings on leading a life of Yajna (selfless action) for everyone, understanding the nature of God (Narayana) as the creator, sustainer, and dissolver of the universe, the significance of gratitude and love towards God, transforming daily activities into service to God, the concept of the four forms (Vyuhas) of God, and the path to liberation from karma through selfless action.

TAGS: HH Chinna Jeeyar Swami, Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 3, Yajna, Selfless action, Offering, Narayana, Krishna, Vasudeva, Sankarshana, Pradyumna, Aniruddha, Vyuhas, Creation, Dissolution, Compassion, Gratitude, Love, Karma, Liberation, Dharma, Daily activities, Divine forces, Devas, Scriptures, Upanishads, Vedas, Ithihasas, Puranas, Agamas, Pralaya, Srusti prakriya, Tattva, Nitya karma, Verse 8, Verse 12.

3. Main Content:

Jai Srimannarayana!

Priya Bhagavadbandhus (Dear devotees of the Lord),

In Chapter 3 of Bhagavad Gita, God instructs to lead life as yajna (selfless action/offering). There are some yajnas (selfless actions) that can be done by everyone. There are some yajnas (selfless actions) that can be done by a few. Those who study Vedas perform yajna (selfless action) in a process. Those who have a desire to fulfill have another process to follow to perform yajna (selfless action). There is one yajna (selfless action) that everyone can perform. In Chapter 3, God is clarifying that yajna (selfless action) which everyone can perform irrespective of differences. Because every human being is born along with yajna (selfless action). Therefore, they must lead life performing yajnas (selfless actions). One must not remove the sheath of yajna (selfless action) from any type of work that he does. In other words, we need a casing for every work we do. If that is gone, then the work you do becomes that which binds you.

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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 world.

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What is meant by yajna (selfless action)? It is devatha aradhana (worship of divine forces). Who are the devathas (divine forces)? They are those (divine forces of Nature) who exist as parts of God’s body.

angani anyaha devathaha sa athma (The divine forces are His parts, He is the Soul)

Who is that atma (Soul)? There are many scriptures that reveal srusti prakriya (the process of Creation), Upanishads, Vedas, Ithihasas, Puranas, Agamas. In all these, they described the process of creation clearly with no room for any questions. God out of compassion, from a sthana (abode) named pralayarnava (ocean of dissolution)…

so kamayatha (He desired)

He began to manifest these worlds. To do so, He took on 4 forms. Vasudeva, Sankarshana, Pradyumna, Aniruddha. Vasudeva is the controlling abode of the remaining. It is called controlling abode. Sankarshana is the abode where all that exists is absorbed into. When it is time for everything that was once absorbed to be given a body… there is an abode named Aniruddha which prepares an environment for giving bodies from Himself. There is an abode where everything that has emerged gets regulated from. That is called Pradyumna. They are the four sthanas (abodes). They are named vyuhas (emanations). They are referred to as Vasudeva, Sankarshana, Pradyumna, Aniruddha. Who is the one in these forms? Narayana. The Narayana as ekarnavasayi (one who rests on the primordial ocean) turns these four forms into vyuhas (emanations) in Him. He runs one task each from each [vyuha (emanation)] and governs the whole universe. We don’t know how many times this runs. He brings forth all the souls, giving opportunities to clear themselves from their sins/faults. He supports these souls to attain such a state that they don’t need to come to this world again. However, some end up adding more and more to their backlog instead of clearing it. In such cases where one doesn’t utilize the opportunity given… He will give another opportunity taking away the current form. This act is named pralaya (dissolution). He does not do this out of anger, revenge. He does so out of compassion and pity. Laya krutya (the act of dissolution) is also an act of compassion. Scriptures declare it. He draws them back, later creates [bodies and assigns them souls], governs them properly. When He thinks it’s no longer useful, He will draw them back [again]. This cycle continues to run. It is He who governs all of it. The governing One is Narayana alone. He is doing all of this out of compassion. The only being who can recognize it is a human being. It seems there are many species. People say 84 lakh (hundreds of thousands) varieties of species. 8.5 millions of species. We don’t know who counted or how it was done. “Computer statistics”. However, it is said that there are so many of them. None [other than human beings] have the necessary knowledge. Human beings are the only ones with that knowledge. They are the only ones with the ability to know this. Therefore, to facilitate learning of this knowledge, He taught it through various scriptures. They are called as sastra (authoritative scriptures). He states why and how He takes up what He does. He is not expecting any result. He is not expecting anything in return. We are not even expressing gratitude. Everyday, we are breathing in a lot of air, drinking a lot of water. We are eating everything that we can. “Oh prakruti (Nature)! Oh Bhagavan (God)! You bestowed the greatest benefit to me. I am so grateful to You.” Quite a few are living without even being able to think this way. As someone who can recognize what He has done… “I will mould physical, mental, intellectual acts such that, what He has done does not go in vain.” That’s all we must be doing out of gratitude, just through knowledge. If you can mould (an activity) this way, it becomes yajna (selfless action). Yajna (selfless action) does not mean bringing something new and putting on a coat. It does not mean putting on anything like a helmet. Or it does not mean taking something away [from what you do]. A nice bhavana (feeling, attitude). Oh Bhagavan (God), You are manifesting in so many forms around me and protecting me. Do it with love. We cannot get away from activities. We cannot get away from waking up in the morning, Eating something, sometimes before or sometimes after a bath. Drinking water, Going to places. Interacting with people around us. If life must be led with all of this, why cry about it? Lead the same with love. How simple it is. Lead it with love. What does love mean? It’s being grateful to what someone has done for your sake. Narayana is bestowing such great upakara (benefit) for me. Therefore, whatever I am doing is in His service. Think this way and do your work. How can everything become His service? He is somewhere else, isn’t it? He doesn’t sit elsewhere. In our Vedic sampradaya (tradition), knowledge passed on as a set of recommended Vedic practices… Bhagavan (God) is not said to be someone who sits in swarga (heaven), on a grand seat, holding a sceptre… Watching everyone go and come! He is filled in every anuvu (smallest particle). He watches every second. Therefore He exists in every object that you have and behind every activity you do. Realize this and do everything with love [for God]. A mother does not expect anything in return for what she is giving to her child. Anyone in love with someone does not expect any returning favor when they do something for them. If a man loves a woman, or vice-versa, anything they do for each other does not expect anything in return. They do so because they cannot be without doing things for them. Bhagavan (God) did the greatest favor by giving us life, that which no one can do and is impossible for anyone to do. He gave us a body, equipped with tools and strength to do all those works. He gave all those to function without contradictory complexity. He is enabling us to lead life so happily. If we don’t even feel that what we are doing is for Him, then what’s the purpose of living?

vayam sumappadu vambu (it is wrong for such a person to be even born on the Earth)

Such a person should be eased out from here. If one does something for his/her dear friend, will he do so for recognition or praise? Even if he gets scolded, he would do it if it's beneficial for him [the friend]. Even if it’s a difficult thing for him, he would do it if it’s beneficial for the friend. We are witnessing this with a mother. Even if the child is in dirt, she will pick him up and cleanse him. She does not do so expecting any gratitude from the child. She does so out of love, unable to hold herself back from doing it because of the small relationship. He is caring for us from countless yugas (epochs), lakhs (hundreds of thousands) of years. Without stepping aside from us even for a second, He is protecting us. He is not stepping aside from anything around us even for a second and bestowing the greatest benefit. We need to just change our attitude towards whatever we do and do it as His service. This is what He said earlier in the 8th verse, yajnardhath (for the sake of yajna). If you don’t do this, won’t you be stealing the show as it belongs to someone else [God] and is for everyone? Things in this world are not for you alone. We think everything is for us. We behave as if the entire world is for us. We are not claiming all the land only because things are not working out in our favor. Otherwise.. Wherever possible, aren’t there many people always trying to claim a foot, 10 feet, 1 acre, 100 acres of neighboring land? It could be an ordinary person or countries up in the north! They are trying to claim a bit more and more everytime they see an opportunity. This is the way they are living. Nature is made for everyone’s purpose. Instead of thinking of the happiness of everyone and the God who pervades everything… If one thinks only about his happiness and experiences them… I don’t care what happens to the tree even if it is destroyed, I just want to have all its yield. If this is how one thinks, what do we call him?

thair datthaha na pradayebhyaha yo bhunkte (He extracts from them but without caring, destroys them)

sthena eva saha (he is a thief)

He becomes eligible for punishment. God clarifies this aspect in verse 12 of Chapter 3. Therefore, live the way you are living and do what you are doing happily. You don’t have to compromise on anything. You don’t need to give up on what you need. You don’t need to impose anything new. Just remember one thing. The underlying supporting tattva (principle) behind your consciousness is Narayana. Everything you get from the surroundings is a result of Narayana. Therefore, you do it for His happiness, not for your happiness or for anyone else’s praise. Do every work or let everything happen for Narayana’s happiness. Whatever is an appropriate thing, do it without any dilemma. That is when you will be loved by God. That is when you will be liberated from karma. That is when whatever you do can be called yajna (selfless action). Sri Krishna is thus clarifying the process of transforming nitya karma (daily activities) into yajna (selfless action). He tells it to Arjuna to motivate him for waging the war [that needs to be fought]. He is thus gracing us all [with the message].

Vande guru paramparam (I bow to the lineage of teachers)

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