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1. Episode Title: Episode 63 – Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 3, Episode 63)

2. Topics & Tags:

TOPICS: Understanding the essence of the Vedas as presented in the Bhagavad Gita. The importance of performing one's prescribed duties (dharma) without abandonment. The concept of non-discrimination in fulfilling duties, regardless of personal relationships. The unique ability of human beings to think and act purposefully, distinguishing them from animals. An analogy of a mint worker to illustrate the principle of performing work without attachment or personal ownership. The jiva (individual soul) as an 'employee' within the body, responsible for its actions during its allocated time. The path to spiritual upliftment through proper conduct and understanding of one's role. The distinction between the body (deha) and the soul (jiva) as explained by Krishna.

TAGS: HH Chinna Jeeyar Swami, Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 3, Episode 63, dharma, duty, karma yoga, non-attachment, jiva, soul, body, discrimination, spiritual upliftment, Vedas, Krishna, Arjuna, mint analogy, human life, purpose, spiritual guidance, self-realization, rahasyas, upadesa, shatkam.

3. Main Content:

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

Bhagavad Gita is a small scripture that properly clarifies what is human life, the feelings, goal, and recommended lifestyle. Vedas (sacred texts) preach knowledge to human beings. However, it is difficult to learn the entire Vedas, understand, and then practice it. So, when God descended as Sri Krishna, He thought of delivering the essence of Vedas. As a result of His efforts for it, He found Arjuna in the warfield. He began to give the wonderful upadesa (teaching) called Bhagavad Gita to humankind using him as the reason. It has 700 verses. It enlightens humankind with many rahasyas (secrets), valuable knowledge not revealed unless sought.

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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 down to Sri Rama, who removes all calamities, grants all wealth, and delights the world.

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Some of these rahasyas (secrets) are related to daily life. Some are related to the process that a soul takes while traveling after the current life. Some are related to the goals that must be reached. There are so many such aspects that God embedded in it. Amongst them, He clarifies that "Human beings are not allowed to abandon daily life duties." From beginning to the end in Bhagavad Gita, it clarifies that a person must not give up his duties. It in fact starts off with it. Arjuna’s duty is to ensure the well-being of people and punish the wrong-doers. When wrong-doers are your relatives, what should one do? Yet, there is no excuse. He wanted to properly clarify it to humankind.

Generally, you have a soft corner for someone you think of as yours. We try to somehow get them to escape from it. If we think that someone is not ours, we somehow fix him with a crime and punish him. There should not be discrimination based on sva (mine), para (not mine), and one must be punished if guilty. If they are good, then they should be awarded with appropriate upliftment. Whatever it is, no one is allowed to turn his back on duties. He wants to clarify this to Arjuna. Teaching this to him, He talked about what human beings in general must do and how.

In this step, there is the first shatkam (set of six chapters), i.e., Chapter 1 through Chapter 6. What are the topics that we all must learn in general, excluding the topic of God? What must a human being know about himself? What should he know when he is behaving with other surrounding people? How should he feel/think about whatever he does? He felt that it’s important to teach these and began to do so. In Chapter 3, He is more clearly explaining it. Human beings are given great knowledge by God. That is where the difference is between human beings and animals. Animals behave and so do human beings. Human beings are one kind of animal. Other animals are four-legged and some have more than that. A human being is a two-legged animal. He is also an animal. His greatness lies in that he is qualified to think well. He needs to learn how to think about his work so it doesn’t take him away from his goal. This is what He is teaching: “Think and work.”

What should he think about and how should he do it? We all know something. Let’s say there is someone who works at printing money. The office is called a mint. This is where coins are produced or notes are printed. Such a place is called a mint. They print coins in thousands, i.e., in bulk. There are 1 rupee, 5 rupees, quarters or 50 paisa, etc. Earlier, there were those denominations. Nowadays, such denominations probably don’t exist. Today, it could be 5, 10, 20, 50 rupees, etc. They produce these coins. These are produced in thousands. There are people who work there. In some facilities, they print rupee notes in denominations like 50, 100, or 2000. These are also printed in bulk, like in lakhs. People working there use their own hands in the process of collection, packing into bundles, and dispersing them. They are all employees. They work for money. They also have needs.

However, despite using his own hands to process, pack, disperse to all locations, can he think any of those notes are his? As he is printing the coins, can he put some in his pocket because they are looking good? He is using his own hands. He gets scanned when he is sent to the office. Also, he is sent out after a scan. He should go in as one and return as the same. He is not allowed to bring back with him a single coin or pack any rupee note in a book of his. However, he is working with them. When he is working with them, he must be working with a certain knowledge. What is that knowledge? “All these objects belong to the government. I am serving the government.” “My responsibility is to print, pack, and disperse.” “It’s prohibited to put them into my account.” “These are not related to me.” “I do not own these.” Shouldn’t he have this clarity? In general, this is how clear they should be. Let’s assume that’s the case. That’s how they should be working there. If things are missing, there will be detailed enquiries by higher officials. If anyone is found guilty, there will be serious punishments. For as long as one is working there, he is not allowed to take any aspects out from there. It does not matter if it's just for fun or serious, he cannot discuss any internal information with others. He cannot disclose things like, “we printed these many. We did it this way. We used this technology.” If it’s already open to the public through rulers, then it’s okay to discuss. Otherwise, they cannot. It is a policy. If the rulers talk about it, they can talk. Despite being employees there who are always working with and being around them, they are not allowed to talk about them. They should be 100% committed to the work though.

He can do what he wants with the money that’s paid to him as salary at the end of the month. He may be getting the coins or notes as part of the salary. He can use only those. He can use them as per his wish. He can spend it on personal purposes. He can use it for family, relatives, and friends. He has the freedom to do what he wants with only whatever is allocated to him. He does not have any ownership, desire, or connection with anything that’s beyond it. We all know this.

Similarly, when a human being is living his life in this world, he is also an ‘employee’. Who is he here? He is the conscious jiva (individual soul) dwelling in the body, giving the necessary power for it to move. That is what ‘I’ means. If one is saying ‘I’, that means the indwelling jiva (individual soul) is being referred to. Whatever form you are seeing externally is called sharira (body). When there is jiva (individual soul) in it, the body works. When the jiva (individual soul) leaves it, there is no value to the body. We dispose of the body in some way. We all know this. He entered the body as an ‘employee’. Whatever time is allocated, he will be in it for that long. He should work while in it. When working, he will be working with the ones related to the body. He will need to work with the ones supporting the body. He will need to work with friends, enemies, rulers, assistants. He will also need to absorb what he needs from Nature. He will need to experience what he needs to. He will need to encourage what he needs to. He cannot escape doing all of these. We know this.

When working, what is the underlying thought process? What kind of [thought process] will enable him to be comfortably relieved from the current employment? Those who are working in the mint will retire with proper benefits only if they do not have any ‘black mark’. Or else, they will all be appropriately withheld. We know this. Similarly, when a jiva (individual soul) takes this employment, irrespective of male or female, unless the person works properly, he will not get the greater benefits post completion. Otherwise, he will end up falling from his current state. Nobody wishes for it. Everyone wishes for upliftment. If you want that upliftment, this is what you must learn about the way to do things. The essence of Bhagavad Gita Chapter 3 is to explain this topic clearly. In Chapter 2, Sri Krishna explained deha (body) and jiva (individual soul) to be different from each other. In Chapter 3, He is teaching and clarifying to Arjuna what process a jiva (individual soul) should follow. In the process, He is re-instructing humankind. That is what we are learning now. Let’s gradually move forward.

Jai Srimannarayana!

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