Bhagvad Gita Background

Bhagvad Gita is the most beloved scripture of India, a scripture of scriptures. It has eighteen chapters, and over 700 verses. It also called *Song of the Spirit* or the *Celestial Song.*  It is part of the epic *Mahabharata.* I will not belabor all you already know; however, I will present an alternative view that I have learned from many texts over the years. What if *Kurukshetra* is the human body, and the battle is within ourselves. Every human being must fight the battle of *Kurukshetra*. If we take this view, then how would we represent the characters of the great epic?

**Sanjaya** – Impartial Introspection

**Dhritarashtra** – Impulsive mental and sense tendencies or blind sense mind. It cannot see without the five senses

**Pandavas** – The discriminative qualities, ready to fight sense tendencies

**Duryodhana** – Material Desire, offspring of blind sense mind, it literally means one that is hard to counter in any way

**Drona** – Samskara, impressions left with past thoughts and actions, which create a strong urge for repetition

Bhishma – Inner-seeing Ego (*Asmita*)

Karna – Attachment

Kripa Acharya– Individual Delusion

Ashvatthaman – Latent Desire

Vikarna – Repulsion

Somadatti – Material Action

Jayadratha – Body Attachment

Drupada – Extreme dispassion

Dhrishtadyumna – Calm inner light of divine perception

Krishna – The Soul, the Self

Yudhishthira – Divine Calmness

Arjuna – Self Control

Bhima – Power of vitality, Life Control (*Prana*)

Sahadeva – Restraint, power to stay away from evil

Nakula – Adherence – power to obey good rules

Yuyudhana – Divine Devotion

Virata – Samadhi

Dhrishtaketu – Power of mental resistance

Chekitana – Spiritual Memory

Kashiraja – Discriminative Intelligence

Purujit – Mental Interiorization

Kuntibhoja – Right Posture

Shaibya – Power of Mental Adherence

Yudhamanyu – Life force control

Uttamaujas – Vital Celibacy

Abhimanyu – Self Mastery

*Source: The Bhagvad Gita Volume 1 by Paramahansa Yogananda*

So if we connect these characters to the story of Mahabharata, and see how the battle is raged within ourselves. I will leave this as an exercise for all of you to pursue. However, with this context we will have our sessions on Bhagvad Gita. It is our journey of Self Awareness, which is a key leadership skill.

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