

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BASICS OF BHAGAVAD GITA

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Abstract

Bhagavad Gita is considered as Fifth Veda. This is stated in Chandogya Upanishad and Bhavisya purana. It the essence of all Vedic knowledge and is the most important Vedic literature. We should one try to understand the Bhagavad Gita because; this human form of life is special. There are four activities common to humans and animals-eating sleeping, mating and defending. Human beings they inquire about the Absolute Truth then they are considered superior. Otherwise, human beings are considered good as animals. Human life, presents a golden opportunity for the attainment of spiritual perfection. Understanding the Bhagavad Gita provides us the key to enter into this sublime realm. Bhagavad Gita helps to make a permanent solution to the suffering in the world. One should accept the Bhagavad Gita as it is without twisting the meaning to suit one likes. Bhagavad-Gita should be understood in a spirit of devotion Otherwise; it will be like a bee licking on a bottle of honey from outside. The subject matter discussed in the Bhagavad Gita deals with Isvara(God),Jiva (spirit soul), Praktyi (material nature),Kala (time), and Karma (activity).To understand Bhagavad Gita, one must be inquisitive about the ultimate goal of life. This paper tries to give an introduction to the basics of Bhagavad Gita.

Key words: Bhagavad Gita, Principles of Bhagavad Gita.

Introduction

Bhagavad Gita is also known as Ghopanisad. The purpose of Bhagavad Gita is to deliver mankind from ignorance and to revive the eternal relationship of love between each soul and God (Prabhupada, 2014).Bhagavad Gita is a classic of timeless wisdom, the sum of spiritual truth. This great historical event occurred before the onset of the Mahabharata war between the Kauravas and the Pandavas on the battlefield of Kuruksetra, in northern India. Bhagavad Gita originally appears in the form of 700 Sanskrit verses, as an episode of the Mahabharata, a great historical epic, in which it occupies chapters 25 through 42 in the Bhisma Parva. It is originally written by the sage Vedavyasa, Bhagavad Gita deals with the mantra of self realization. Bhagavad Gita says how to lead a meaningful life. Bhagavad Gita should be taken or accepted as it is directed by the speaker Himself .The speaker of Bhagavad Gita is Lord Sri Krishna. There are three classes of transcendentalists, namely the njani, the yogi and the bhakta, or the impersonalist, the meditator and the devotee (Baladeva, 2006).We see that Bhagavad Gita is instructed to Arjuna. He was a devotee of the Lord, intimate friend of Krishna and a direct student of Krishna. A person should have the similar qualities of Arjuna to understand Gita. He accepted Krishna as the Supreme Personality. We have to approach Bhagavad Gita with a spirit of devotion. Otherwise, it is very difficult to understand. Bhagavad Gita deals with confidential knowledge and it is a great mystery.

The Basics of Bhagavad Gita-An introduction

What is the Bhagavad Gita?

Bhagavad Gita is called song of God. When Arjuna becomes emotionally disturbed in the battle field of kuruksetra, surrendered unto Sri Krishna, Lord Krishna pours over the nectar of instruction to Arjuna, that is Bhagavad Gita. This is the essence of Vedic wisdom. Krishna relieves Arjuna from

the miseries of material life. These instructions are not only for the Arjuna but also for the all mankind. The purpose of understanding Bhagavad Gita is to deliver mankind from ignorance. Bhagavad Gita is Sabda pramana. Bhagavad Gita is the word of God, the low book of life, a manual for the universe. Bhagavad Gita contains the means to understand God. It is filled with absolute knowledge. It is a perfect science. The relationship between the God and the soul, process of reviving the soul's relationship with God and attainment of love of God, is possible to understand by the study of Bhagavad Gita. The ultimate goal of life is love of God. Bhagavad Gita is not a mythological story, but as a true, historical event.

Principles of Bhagavad Gita

The subject of the Bhagavad Gita entails the comprehension of five basic truths. In the Bhagavad Gita the subject matter deals with the Isvara (the supreme controller), the Jivas (he controlled living entities), Prakrti (material nature), Time (the duration of existence of the whole universe or the manifestation of material nature) and Karma (activity) are discussed.(Prabhupada,2019).From Bhagavad Gita we must learn what God is, what the living entities are, what prakrti is, what is the cosmic manifestation, how time can control this, and what are the activities of the living entities. Isvara is the supreme controller. Material nature is not independent. It is acting under the directions of the Lord. Living beings are the part and parcel of the Isvara. Material nature is working with the mode of goodness, mode of passion and mode of ignorance. Above these modes the Time is eternal, and by a combination of modes of nature, under the control and purview of eternal time there are activities, called Karma. These activities are being carried out from time immemorial, and we are suffering or enjoying the fruits of our activities in every field of life we enjoy the results of our labor, suffer its results. Isvara, jiva, prakrti, kala, and karma are well explained in the Bhagavad Gita. Out of these five are eternal except karma. Prakrti may manifest as temporary, but it is not false. The position of isvara, the Supreme Lord, is higher than that of jivas, or the living entities. Individuals are the parts and parcels of the Lord Himself. The aim of his life should be realized by the human beings. The direction is given in all Vedic literatures, and the essence can be absorbed through Bhagavad Gita. Vedic literature is not for animals but meant for human beings. When we properly obey the instructions of Bhagavad Gita, then our entire life will become purified, and ultimately, we are capable to reach the destination which is beyond our material sky. The purpose of Bhagavad Gita is to revive our sanatana-dharma, which is the eternal occupation of the living entity. If our all activities are under the instructions of Lord, that is called our pure life.

All of the miseries we experience in the material world arise from the body, but one who leaves this body thinking of Lord, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, at once attains a sac-cid-ananda body. Based on the present karmas people get next body and next life after his death. Higher authorities, not the living entity he makes this decision. The present life is for the preparation to the next life. Human society is divided, according to work, into four divisions of social order-brāhmaṇa, kṣatriya, vaisya and sūdra. The brahmana class is called intelligent class is working in one way, the ksatriya class called administrative class is working in another way, and the vaysya and the laborers are all tending to their specific karmas. In the human society, all are work in order to maintain his existence. The Lord therefore tells Arjuna that he need not give up his occupation, but while he is engaged in his occupation, he should remember Lord. If he doesn't practice remembering the Lord while he is struggling for existence, then it will not be possible for him to remember Krishna at the time of death. If one adopts the instructions in Bhagavad Gita, he can lead a perfect life and he can able to make a permanent solution to all the miseries of life. This is the real mantra of the entire

Bhagavad Gita. Bhagavad Gita is a transcendental literature which one should read very carefully. One should properly follow the teachings of Bhagavad Gita. He is free from all the miseries of life. And he is also free from all fears in this life, and then one's next life will be spiritual-Gita mahatmya (Bhaktivaibhavapuri, 2000). One need not read any other Vedic literature. One should attentively and regularly read and hear Bhagavad Gita. In the modern age, individuals are so engaged in mundane activities. It is not possible to read all the Vedic literatures. But this is not necessary. Bhagavad Gita is sufficient instead of reading all Vedic knowledge, spoken by the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself.

Conclusion

The teaching of Bhagavad Gita is very precious. One must understand the basics of Bhagavad Gita. The knowledge about Isvara, jiva, kala, karma, and prakrity will leads to self-realization. Always think of Lord, never forget Lord. This is the sum and substance and the very purpose of all rules and regulations. Every moment of human life is precious. Once gone, it cannot be purchased even for a large sum of money. Therefore, one should use it for the purpose for which it has been given to us, namely, to develop pure Consciousness. Thus, following the dictum "Simple Living, High Thinking", we can make our human life perfect.

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