

M.A SEMESTER-IV

PAPER : BHAGAVAD GITA TEXT

TOPIC: ARJUNA VISHAAD YOGA OF BHAGAVAD GITA

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Bhagavad Gita which is translated as “Song Divine” in English is essentially a dialogue between Lord Krishna and Arjuna. Gita is a part of the famous epic Mahabharata believed to have been composed about five thousand years ago. Sage Veda Vyasa is credited with the authorship of Mahabharata which is a huge work consisting of one lakh stanzas. Gita is one of the basic books of Sanatana Dharma or Hinduism. Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads and the Brahma Sutras, moreover, together these three are called as Prasthan Thraye, meaning the three primary or basic books constituting the foundation of Hindu Religion which is today known as Hinduism. Adi Shankara, Madvacharya, and Ramanujacharya, who are the three greatest Acharyas or Masters of Hindu religion have written their commentaries on Gita which are called as “Bhashyams” in Sanskrit. Hundreds of books have been written on and about Bhagavad Gita which includes translations of Gita into all the main languages of the world. Great national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Subramania Bharathi and others have been inspired by the Gita and have written their commentaries on Gita.

Bhagavad Gita which also explains the circumstances under which this great work emerged in the form of a dialogue between Arjuna and Lord Krishna. As stated therein, the Gita forms part of the great epic Mahabharata. To be very precise it comes under the Bhishma Parva of the epic which is the sixth part of Maha Bharata. The Bhagavad Gita is split into eighteen chapters, and it consists of 700 stanzas. The following are the titles of the eighteen chapters of Gita.

1. Arjuna Vishaada Yoga
2. Sankhya Yoga.
3. Karma Yoga.
4. Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga.
5. Sanyaasa Yoga.
6. Dhyana Yoga.
7. Jnana Vigyaana Yoga.
8. Aksharabrahma Yoga.
9. Raja Vidhya Raj Guhya Yoga.
10. Vibhuti Yoga.
11. Vishwarupa Darshana Yoga.
12. Bhakti Yoga.
13. Kshetra Kshetragna Vibhaaga Yoga.
14. Guna Traya Vibhaaga Yoga.
15. Akshara Purushottama Yoga.
16. Daivaasura Sampad Vibhaaga Yoga.
17. Shraddha Traya Vibhaaga Yoga
18. Moksha Sannyasa Yoga



Here the word yoga does not have its traditional meaning of union with God; it just means a chapter.

Chapter One of Bhagavad Gita is titled as Arjuna **Vishada Yoga**. **Vishada in Sanskrit means “sorrow”**. Thus this chapter is fully devoted to Arjuna's sorrow. At this stage, it is better to visualize the opening scene of the Mahabharata War. The war was just going to commence, and suddenly Arjuna wants his charioteer Lord Krishna to position his chariot in between the two mighty armies, as he wanted to see the faces of those who have braved to fight with him. The Lord smilingly obliges Arjuna and takes the chariot to the middle of the two armies. Moreover, now Arjuna beholds the faces of his dears and nears which include his most beloved Grand Father Bhishma Pitamah, his most revered Guru, Drona Acharya and his cousins, uncles and close friends. He shudders to think about fighting with these people who are not only related to him by blood but who are also very close to his heart. Arjuna is now overcome by mental depression, grief, and fear and he is not able to reconcile to the situation of waging war against the grandsire Bhishma and his great teachers Drona and Kripa. Trembling with nervousness and anxiety, perspiring all over and his throat becoming dry he drops his famous bow “Gandipam” and just sits down on the base of his chariot. He goes on lamenting and even threatening to abandon the battlefield. Lord Krishna patiently listens to Arjuna like a great counselor. The Lord Krishna does not utter even a single word in this chapter.

Conclusion :

Thus, this chapter is all about sorrow and frustration of Arjuna. As the opposing armies stand poised for battle, Arjuna, the mighty warrior, sees his intimate relatives, teachers and friends in both armies ready to fight and sacrifice their lives. Overcome by grief and pity, Arjuna fails in strength, his mind becomes bewildered, and he gives up his determination to fight.