THE MESSAGE OF THE BHAGAVAD GITA

Eighteen, 74: Sanjaya said: Thus have I heard the conversation of two great souls, Krsna and Arjuna. And **so wonderful is that message** that my hair is standing on end.

INTRODUCTION:

How Arjuna accepted this Bhagavad-gita should be noted. His manner of acceptance is given in the **Tenth Chapter**.

The subject of the Bhagavad-gita entails the comprehension of five basic truths…So in the Bhagavad-gita the subject matter deals with the **isvara**, the supreme controller, and the **jivas**, the controlled living entities. **Prakrti** (material nature) and **time** (the duration of existence of the whole universe or the manifestation of material nature) and **karma** (activity) are also discussed.

The distinction between the jiva and the isvara will be explained in the **Thirteenth Chapter** of Bhagavad-gita.

Mukti means liberation from the contaminated consciousness of this material world and situation in pure consciousness. **All the instructions of Bhagavad-gita are intended to awaken this pure consciousness**…

So **Bhagavad-gita contains the complete knowledge of Vedic wisdom**.

A human being should realize the aim of his life, and this direction is given in all Vedic literatures, and the essence is given in Bhagavad-gita…All of this is clearly described, and if we properly utilize the instructions of Bhagavad-gita, then our whole life will become purified, and ultimately we will be able to reach the destination which is beyond this material sky.

…the **whole purpose of Bhagavad-gita is to revive our sanatana occupation**, or sanatana-dharma, which is the eternal occupation of the living entity.

The abode of Lord Sri Krsna is described in the Bhagavad-gita, **Fifteenth Chapter, sixth verse**:

In the **Fifteenth Chapter** of the Bhagavad-gita, the real picture of the material world is given.

In this present day, man is very eager to have one scripture, one God, one religion, and one occupation. So let there be **one common scripture for the whole world--Bhagavad-gita**.

VERSES:

Two, 1 : Lord Krsna, however, can dissipate the lamentation of the ignorant man, and for this purpose the Bhagavad-gita was sung by Him. **This chapter** instructs us in self-realization by an analytical study of the material body and the spirit soul, as explained by the supreme authority, Lord Sri Krsna.

Two, 72 : Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura has summarized this **Second Chapter** of the Bhagavad-gita as being the contents for the whole text. In the Bhagavad-gita, the subject matters are karma-yoga, jnana-yoga, and bhakti-yoga. In the **Second Chapter** karma-yoga and jnana-yoga have been clearly discussed, and a glimpse of bhakti-yoga has also been given, as the contents for the complete text.

Three, 2 : In the **previous chapter**, as a prelude to the Bhagavad-gita, many different paths were explained, such as sankhya-yoga, buddhi-yoga, control of the senses by intelligence, work without fruitive desire, and the position of the neophyte. This was all presented unsystematically. A more organized outline of the path would be necessary for action and understanding. Arjuna, therefore, wanted to clear up these apparently confusing matters so that any common man could accept them without misinterpretation. Although Krsna had no intention of confusing Arjuna by any jugglery of words, Arjuna could not follow the process of Krsna consciousness--either by inertia or active service. In other words, by his questions he is clearing the path of Krsna consciousness for all students who seriously want to understand the mystery of the Bhagavad-gita.

Three, 30 : This verse clearly indicates the purpose of the Bhagavad-gita.

Three, 43 : This **Third Chapter** of the Bhagavad-gita is conclusively directive to Krsna consciousness by knowing oneself as the eternal servitor of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, without considering impersonal voidness the ultimate end.

One may not give up work and prescribed duties all of a sudden; but by gradually developing Krsna consciousness, one can be situated in a transcendental position without being influenced by the material senses and the mind--by steady intelligence directed toward one's pure identity. This is the sum total of **this chapter**.

Four, 35 : The whole teaching of the Gita is targeted toward this end: that a living being, as His eternal servitor, cannot be separated from Krsna, and his sense of being an identity apart from Krsna is called maya.

Four, 42 : The yoga system instructed in **this chapter** is called sanatana-yoga, or eternal activities performed by the living entity.

Five, 1 : In this **Fifth Chapter** of the Bhagavad-gita, the Lord says that work in devotional service is better than dry mental speculation. Devotional service is easier than the latter because, being transcendental in nature, it frees one from reaction. In the **Second Chapter**, preliminary knowledge of the soul and its entanglement in the material body were explained. How to get out of this material encagement by buddhi-yoga, or devotional service, was also explained therein. In the **Third Chapter**, it was explained that a person who is situated on the platform of knowledge no longer has any duties to perform. And in the **Fourth Chapter** the Lord told Arjuna that all kinds of sacrificial work culminate in knowledge. However, **at the end of the Fourth Chapter**, the Lord advised Arjuna to wake up and fight, being situated in perfect knowledge. Therefore, by simultaneously stressing the importance of both work in devotion and inaction in knowledge, Krsna has perplexed Arjuna and confused his determination.

Five, 17 : The whole Bhagavad-gita centers around the declaration that Krsna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead

Five, 27-28 : In the **Sixth Chapter** the subject of yoga is explicitly detailed, and at the **end of the Fifth Chapter** it is only preliminarily explained.

Five, 29 : This **Fifth Chapter** is a practical explanation of Krsna consciousness, generally known as karma-yoga.

Six, 1 : In **this chapter** the Lord explains that the process of the eightfold yoga system is a means to control the mind and the senses.

Six, 20-23 : Bhakti-yoga will be vividly described in the **Seventh Chapter** of Bhagavad-gita.

Seven, 1 : In this **Seventh Chapter** of Bhagavad-gita, the nature of Krsna consciousness is fully described. Krsna is full in all opulences, and how He manifests such opulences is described herein. Also, four kinds of fortunate people who become attached to Krsna and four kinds of unfortunate people who never take to Krsna are described **in this chapter**.

Seven, 3 : The **first six chapters** of the Gita are meant for those who are interested in transcendental knowledge, in understanding the self, the Superself and the process of realization by jnana-yoga, dhyana-yoga, and discrimination of the self from matter.

Seven, 15 : Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, in propagating the bhagavata-dharma or activities of the devotees, has recommended that people submissively hear the message of the Personality of Godhead. **The essence of this message is Bhagavad-gita**.

Seven, 30 : This **Seventh Chapter** particularly explains how one can become a fully Krsna conscious person.

Many subjects have been discussed in **this chapter** : the man in distress, the inquisitive man, the man in want of material necessities, knowledge of Brahman, knowledge of Paramatma, liberation from birth, death and diseases, and worship of the Supreme Lord.

This determined faith is called drdha-vrata, and it is the beginning of bhakti-yoga, or transcendental loving service. That is the verdict of all scriptures. This **Seventh Chapter** of the Bhagavad-gita is the substance of that conviction.

Eight, 1 : In **this chapter** Lord Krsna answers different questions from Arjuna, beginning with "What is Brahman?" The Lord also explains karma (fruitive activities), devotional service and yoga principles, and devotional service in its pure form.

Eight, 28 : This verse is the summation of the **Seventh and Eighth chapters**, particularly as the chapters deal with Krsna consciousness and devotional service.

The words idam viditva indicate that one should understand the instructions given by Sri Krsna in this and the **Seventh Chapter** of Bhagavad-gita. One should try to understand **these chapters** not by scholarship or mental speculation but by hearing them in association with devotees. **Chapters Seven through Twelve** are the essence of Bhagavad-gita. **The first six and the last six chapters** are like coverings for the **middle six chapters**, which are especially protected

by the Lord. If one is fortunate enough to understand Bhagavad-gita--especially these **middle six chapters**--in the association of devotees, then his life at once becomes glorified beyond all penances, sacrifices, charities, speculations, etc., for one can achieve all the results of these activities simply by Krsna consciousness.

Nine, 1 : The very beginning of Bhagavad-gita, the **First Chapter**, is more or less an introduction to the rest of the book; and in the **Second and Third Chapters**, the spiritual knowledge described is called confidential. Topics discussed in the **Seventh and Eighth Chapters** are specifically related to devotional service, and because they bring enlightenment in Krsna consciousness, they are called more confidential. But the matters which are described in the **Ninth Chapter** deal with unalloyed, pure devotion. Therefore this is called the most confidential.

In the **Seventh Chapter** we have already discussed the opulent potency of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, His different energies, the inferior and superior natures, and all this material manifestation. Now in **Chapters Nine and Ten** the glories of the Lord will be delineated.

Nine, 2 : This chapter of Bhagavad-gita is called the king of education because it is the essence of all doctrines and philosophies explained before**…**Now the Lord says that this **Ninth Chapter** is the king of all such knowledge, the essence of all knowledge that can be derived from the study of the Vedas and different kinds of philosophy.

Nine, 34 : The **Seventh and Eighth Chapters** of Bhagavad-gita have explained pure devotional service to the Lord that is free from speculative knowledge, mystic yoga and fruitive activities.

Ten, 1 : Previously, beginning with the **Seventh Chapter**, the Lord has already explained His different energies and how they are acting. Now in **this chapter** He explains His specific opulences to Arjuna. In the **previous chapter** He has clearly explained His different energies to establish devotion in firm conviction. Again in **this chapter** He tells Arjuna about His manifestations and various opulences.

Ten, 12-13 : Arjuna, after hearing the essential four verses of Bhagavad-gita in **this chapter**, became completely free from all doubts and accepted Krsna as the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Ten, 42 : Devotional service and worship of Krsna are very clearly indicated in **this chapter** in verses eight through eleven. That is the way of pure devotional service. How one can attain the highest devotional perfection of association with the Supreme Personality of Godhead has been thoroughly explained in **this chapter**.

Eleven, 1 : This chapter reveals Krsna as the cause of all causes.

So in order to establish Krsna's divinity for all, he is requesting Krsna in **this chapter** to show His universal form.

Eleven, 55 : Anyone who wants to approach the supreme of all the Personalities of Godhead, on the Krsnaloka planet in the spiritual sky, and be intimately connected with the Supreme Personality, Krsna, must take this formula, as is stated by the Supreme Himself. Therefore, **this verse** is **considered to be the essence of Bhagavad-gita**. The Bhagavad-gita is a book directed to the conditioned souls, who are engaged in the material world with the purpose of lording it over nature and who do not know of the real, spiritual life. The Bhagavad-gita is meant to show how one can understand his spiritual existence and his eternal relationship with the Supreme Spiritual Personality and to teach one how to go back home, back to Godhead.

One should understand, therefore, that the purport of this **Eleventh Chapter** is that the form of Krsna is essential and supreme.

Twelve, 1 : We find in **this chapter** that of the different processes for realization of the Absolute Truth, bhakti-yoga, devotional service, is the highest.

In the **Second Chapter** the Lord explains that a living entity is not the material body but is a spiritual spark, a part of the Absolute Truth. In the **Seventh Chapter** He speaks of the living entity as part and parcel of the supreme whole and recommends that he transfer his attention fully to the whole. In the **Eighth Chapter** it is stated that whoever thinks of Krsna at the moment of death is at once transferred to the spiritual sky, Krsna's abode. And at the end of the **Sixth Chapter** the Lord says that out of all the yogis, he who thinks of Krsna within himself is considered to be the most perfect. So **throughout the Gita** personal devotion to Krsna is recommended as the highest form of spiritual realization.

Twelve, 6-7 : The conclusion of Bhagavad-gita is stated in the **Eighteenth Chapter**:

sarva-dharman parityajya mam ekam saranam vraja
aham tvam sarva-papebhyo moksayisyami ma sucah

Twelve, 20 : In **this chapter**, from **verse two through the end**--from mayy avesya mano ye mam ("fixing the mind on Me") through ye tu dharmamrtam idam ("this religion of eternal engagement")--the Supreme Lord has explained the processes of transcendental service for approaching Him.

Thirteen, 1-2 : In the **first six chapters** of Bhagavad-gita, the knower of the body, the living entity, and the position by which he can understand the Supreme Lord are described. In the **middle six chapters** of the Gita, the Supreme Personality of Godhead and the relationship between the individual soul and the Supersoul in regard to devotional service are described. The superior position of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and the subordinate position of the individual soul are definitely defined **in these chapters….**Now, starting with the **Thirteenth Chapter**., how the living entity comes into contact with material nature and how he is delivered by the Supreme Lord through the different methods of fruitive activities, cultivation of knowledge, and the discharge of devotional service are explained.

Thirteen, 20 : By the knowledge given in **this chapter**, one can understand the body (the field of activities) and the knowers of the body (both the individual soul and the Supersoul).

Thirteen, 35 : The purport of this **Thirteenth Chapter** is that one should know the distinction between the body, the owner of the body, and the Supersoul.

These things are meant for contemplation and for realization, and one should have a complete understanding of **this chapter** with the help of the spiritual master.

Fourteen, 1 : From the **Seventh Chapter** to the **end of the Twelfth Chapter**, Sri Krsna in detail reveals the Absolute Truth, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Now, the Lord Himself is further enlightening Arjuna. If one understands **this chapter** through the process of philosophical speculation, he will come to an understanding of devotional service. In the **Thirteenth Chapter**, it was clearly explained that by humbly developing knowledge one may possibly be freed from material entanglement. It has also been explained that it is due to association with the modes of nature that the living entity is entangled in this material world. Now, in **this chapter**, the Supreme Personality explains what those modes of nature are, how they act, how they bind and how they give liberation. The knowledge explained in **this chapter** is proclaimed by the Supreme Lord to be superior to the knowledge given so far in **other Chapters**. By understanding this knowledge, various great sages attained perfection and transferred to the spiritual world. The Lord now explains the same knowledge in a better way. This knowledge is far, far superior to all other processes of knowledge thus far explained, and knowing this many attained perfection. Thus it is expected that one who understands this **Fourteenth Chapter** will attain perfection.

Fourteen, 27 : Therefore the process of devotional service, beginning with hearing, chanting, remembering--the prescribed nine methods for realizing devotional service--should be practiced in the association of devotees. Gradually, by such association, by the influence of the spiritual master, one's material desire to dominate is removed, and one becomes firmly situated in the Lord's transcendental loving service. This method is prescribed **from the twenty-second to the last verse of this Chapter**.

Fifteen, 1 : It is explained in **this chapter** that the purpose of Vedic study is to understand Krsna.

In the **previous chapters** it has been explained that there are many processes by which to get out of the material entanglement. And, up to the **Thirteenth Chapter**, we have seen that devotional service to the Supreme Lord is the best way. Now, the basic principle of devotional service is detachment from material activities and attachment to the transcendental service of the Lord. The process of breaking attachment to the material world is discussed in the **beginning of this Chapter**.

Fifteen, 20 : In **this chapter** the first five verses describe the process of freeing oneself from these weaknesses of heart, and the **rest of the chapter, from the sixth verse through the end**, discusses purusottama-yoga.

Sixteen, 1-3 : In this **Sixteenth Chapter** the Lord explains both the transcendental nature and its attendant qualities and the demoniac nature and its qualities. He also explains the advantages and disadvantages of these qualities.

Seventeen, 28 : Although there is a process of gradual elevation, if one, by the association of pure devotees, takes directly to Krsna consciousness, that is the best way. And that is recommended in **this chapter**. To achieve success in this way, one must first find the proper spiritual master and receive training under his direction. Then one can achieve faith in the Supreme. When that faith matures, in course of time, it is called love of God. This love is the ultimate goal of the living entities. One should therefore take to Krsna consciousness directly. That is the message of this **Seventeenth Chapter**.

One should therefore take to Krsna consciousness directly. That is the message of this **Seventeenth Chapter**.

Eighteen, 1 : Actually the Bhagavad-gita is finished in **seventeen chapters**. The **Eighteenth Chapter** is a supplementary summarization of the topics discussed before. **In every chapter of Bhagavad-gita, Lord Krsna stresses that devotional service unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead is the ultimate goal of life**. This same point is summarized in the **Eighteenth Chapter** as the most confidential path of knowledge. In the **first six chapters**, stress was given to devotional service: yoginam api sarvesam... "Of all yogis or transcendentalists, one who always thinks of Me within himself is best." In the **next six chapters**, pure devotional service and its nature and activity were discussed. In the **third six chapters**, knowledge, renunciation, the activities of material nature and transcendental nature, and devotional service were described. It was concluded that all acts should be performed in conjunction with the Supreme Lord, represented by the words om tat sat, which indicate Visnu, the Supreme Person. The **third part of Bhagavad-gita** has shown that devotional service, and nothing else, is the ultimate purpose of life. This has been established by citing past acaryas and the Brahma-sutra, the Vedanta-sutra. Certain impersonalists consider themselves to have a monopoly on the knowledge of Vedanta-sutra, but actually the Vedanta-sutra is meant for understanding devotional service, for the Lord Himself is the composer of the Vedanta-sutra and He is its knower. That is described in the **Fifteenth Chapter**. In every scripture, every Veda, devotional service is the objective. That is explained in Bhagavad-gita.

As in the Second Chapter a synopsis of the whole subject matter was described, in the Eighteenth Chapter also the summary of all instruction is given. The purpose of life is indicated to be renunciation and attainment of the transcendental position above the three material modes of nature. Arjuna wants to clarify the two distinct subject matters of Bhagavad-gita, namely renunciation (tyaga) and the renounced order of life (sannyasa). Thus he is asking the meaning of these two words.

Eighteen, 2 : The performance of activities for results has to be given up. **This is the instruction of Bhagavad-gita**.

Eighteen, 64 : The Lord has given Arjuna knowledge that is confidential (knowledge of Brahman) and still more confidential (knowledge of the Supersoul within everyone's heart), and now He is giving the most confidential part of knowledge: just surrender unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead. At the end of the **Ninth Chapter** He has said, man-manah: "Just always think of Me." The same instruction is repeated here to stress **the essence of the teachings of Bhagavad-gita**. This essence is not understood by a common man, but by one who is actually very dear to Krsna, a pure devotee of Krsna. **This is the most important instruction in all Vedic literature**. What Krsna is saying in this connection is the most essential part of knowledge, and it should be carried out not only by Arjuna but by all living entities.

Eighteen, 66 : In other words, devotional service to Krsna, in full consciousness, is the most confidential part of knowledge, and **this is the essence of the whole Bhagavad-gita**.

Eighteen, 71 : In the **sixty-seventh verse of this chapter**, the Lord explicitly forbade the Gita's being spoken to those who are envious of the Lord. In other words, **Bhagavad-gita is for the devotees only**.

Eighteen, 72 : Bhagavad-gita is not an ordinary book written by a poet or fiction writer; it is spoken by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Any person, if he is fortunate enough to hear these teachings from Krsna or from His bona fide spiritual representative, is sure to become a liberated person and get out of the darkness of ignorance.

Eighteen, 78 : All other processes may be purifying and may lead to this process, but the **last instruction of the Gita is the last word in all morality and religion: surrender unto Krsna**. This is the verdict of the **Eighteenth Chapter**.

Eighteen, 78 : And surrender unto Krsna in devotional service in full Krsna consciousness is the most confidential instruction. That is the essence of the **Eighteenth Chapter**.