



The Yoga of Renunciation

The Bhagavad Gita
“The Song of the Lord”



4:3 The blessed Lord said: Now I am giving you this supreme secret of Yoga because you are my devotee and friend.

4:6 The truth is that I am eternal; I am not born, I never die and I am the Lord of everything.

Still, by controlling the elements of nature, I appear to take births by my power of illusion (maya).

4:7 When righteousness is lost and wickedness prevails, I appear on earth in bodily form.

Commentary

- Sometimes I'm asked about the coming of the Messiah.
- The Messiah is the one who brings a message from God.

- Whenever people forget the true message of God,
- there is a *adharma* or unrighteousness.
- Then He comes to remind, transform and redirect people back to the proper path.

- If need be, He even destroys their physical bodies, then allows them to go through another birth to learn better.
- It's a form of purgation.

- Why should He come into existence in the physical world?
- The seventh sloka gives a promise: whenever there is decay in *dharma* (virtue)
- and rise of *adharma*, I come embodied, to be in the midst of people, ...

- to move as one with them, to help the needy people,
- and to help the people who really want to escape from this dilemma.

- It's a promise given to us by the Lord.
- The Bible says God sent Jesus as the son of God.
- Why couldn't God come Himself?
- Nobody would recognize Him.

- God doesn't even have a name.
- We say God or He.
- But who says God is He or She or It?

- God knows:
- “If I go as God, either people won’t recognize me or they will be afraid of me,
- because they don’t know who I am.
- I can’t just go as me because I am neither man, animal nor plant.

- I'm formless and nameless.
- How will they recognize me?
- So I'll just go to them in ways they can recognize me."

- That's why among human beings, He comes as a human being.
- When He decides to be in the midst of buffalo, certainly He doesn't come as a human;
- He comes as a buffalo.

- Among pigs, He comes as a mother sow.
- There are stories about that.
- We recognize Him only when He comes as us.

- God comes through a form that we understand and with whom we can communicate.
- When God came to England, He spoke English.
- When God came to North India, He spoke Sanskrit and Hindi.
- That's the promise here.

- “I come to people in their own way so they can understand me and communicate with me.
- I come to help them get out of this turmoil,
- take them from the unholy to the holy land,
- from *adharma* to *dharma*,
- from the unreal to the real.”

- What is Israel?
- In essence, it means that which is real.
- When the children of Israel wanted to escape the unholy land and go to the promised land,
- God didn't just come and pull them out.

- First, they had to feel deeply:
- “Oh, we don’t want to be in this wicked place.
- We want a place where we can practice virtue and truth.”

- The minute you feel that you want help and guidance, someone to save you,
- then the savior comes.
- And nothing can stop Him from saving you; neither land nor sea.
- Even the sea will part.

- All the scriptures also have their esoteric meanings, over and above the story itself.
- When God wants to help you, nothing can stop Him.
- That's the promise that God gives to this oft-quoted sloka.
- The only thing is, you have to follow Him.

- Who thinks about God when everything is comfortable and going fine?
- You have to be really hungry for God to appear like this for you.
- You have to ask with all your heart.
- *Then* it shall be given.

- Why only then?
- It's not because He's a miser.
- He waits to see that you're very hungry.
- Then He can feed you.
- That's the secret.

- If you aren't hungry, even if I give you delicious food, you won't enjoy it.
- You might even throw it back in my face.
- So, He waits to appear until you're fit for that, and you have the need.

- Of course, God is here always.
- It's not that He's coming and going, sometimes here, sometimes away.
- In one sense it's all right to talk this way.
- But where is God actually?

- Everywhere.
- Where can He go?
- Where can He come from?
- But unless you need to feel that presence, you won't be looking for it.

- It's not that He doesn't want to come.
- But only when you thirst for Him,
- will you relish His coming.
- Then you'll know the value of it.

- When God comes to communicate with you,
- He just plays with you,
- and sometimes even does mischief with you.

- He doesn't want you always thinking
- He's so lofty,
- because you put a gap there
- and lose the benefit.

- To communicate,
- He sometimes comes as your playmate
- and friend.
- Om, shanti ...



Om, Shanti