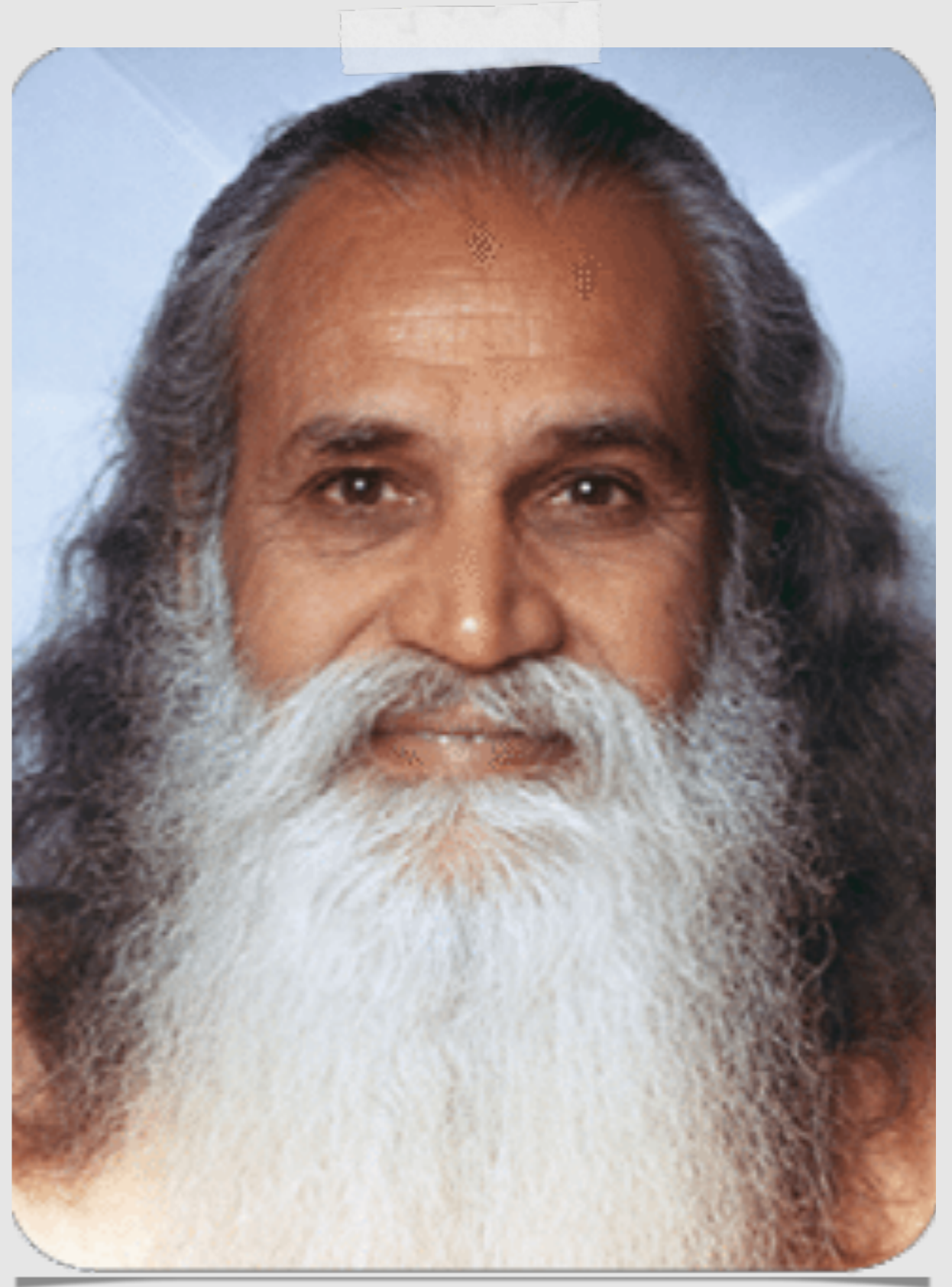


Satchidananda

A Path for Personal
Spiritual Transformation

The Bhagavad Gita
"The Song of the Lord"



Karma Yoga

The Yoga of Action

Bhagavad Gita

Chapter Three: 10

10. After creating humankind together with *yajna* (sacrifice), the Creator said: Through sacrifice you will increase yourself and get everything that you want.

Commentary

- Sacrifice (*yajna*) was given by the Creator:
 - “Don’t look for anything just for yourself.
 - Let your life be a sacrifice, *yajna*.
 - If you use this guidance which I give you, certainly you’ll prosper.”
- In order to prosper, the most important thing, the one and only thing is living a dedicated life.

- Let your entire life be a sacrifice.
- This means renounce all your personal interest and personal desires.
- Live for the sake of others.
- Sacrifice is the law of life.

- This is said only to mankind because all other species are already doing it.
- Everything in this creation seems to exist to be used by others.
- Their life is a sacrifice.
- They live not for themselves, but for others.
- They are all still under that direct guidance of nature's law.

- No other species in this creation has the freedom humankind has.
- In nature's college they are still under the control of the cosmic law.
- In simple devotee's language, every minute God simply tells them what to do and they do it.
- They never misbehave.

- Remember we all lived that life before.
- During our evolution we got all the lessons.
- When we were grass we learned something.
- When we became a little bush, we learned something else.
- When we became a worm, we learned something

- We learned when we were cats, dogs, scorpions, foxes and cows.
- Sometimes traces from the past are revealed.
- We hear people say, “Don’t trust him, he’s cunning like a fox.”
- Why? Because that fox-like memory seems to be predominant even in this life.

- “Look at that woman; for every little thing she barks at others.”
- That part was predominant.
- “My goodness, he stings you for everything.”
- Or, “Don’t stand there like a tree, man!”

- We lived all those lives.
- We all have these *samskaras*, mental impressions,
- buried as part of our subconscious treasure.
- After having learned all that directly under the guidance of the Lord,
- now at the human level the Lord says,
- “Okay, I taught you everything.”

- “I held your hand, walked you everywhere,
- and told you what to do.
- Now I want to test you.
- That means I give you the freedom.
- Let me see how you can use your education.”
- That’s what is happening at the level of humanity.

- “I have been bringing you up to live the life of sacrifice,” says the Creator.
- “I’m simply reminding you
- that if you continue to live the same sacrificial life,
- you will prosper.”

- So, if any individual wants to prosper,
- to lead a comfortable and peaceful life,
- a life that's headed upward,
- he or she should keep in mind this question:
- “Am I leading a dedicated life?
- Is my life a sacrificial life?

- The entire world is a sacrificial altar.
- We should be constantly sacrificing ourselves.
- That's *yajna*. ...

Bhagavad Gita

Chapter Three: 11

||. Through sacrifice, you cherish the gods (*devas*) and they cherish you. Thus loving one another, you reap the very highest.

Commentary

- After giving us the way of sacrifice, he says,
- “Come on, if you do this, the *devas*, the divine beings, will be happy with your sacrifice.”
- So, offer everything to the divine beings, and in their turn, let them bless you.
- In this way you are helping each other.

- Here the devas need not literally mean some beings “up there.”
- All are divine.
- When you sacrifice your life and do things for others’ sake,
- the others in return will do the same to you.
- Their good will is always present.

- Don't think that only we have modern, scientific communications.
- The plant and animal kingdoms have their own communication media.
- If you have saved the life of an animal somewhere,
- and if you come across another animal who may not be of the same species,
- it will express its gratitude,

- “Yes, you saved my brother.
- I know.
- I got the message.”
- If you sacrifice for others, then all the souls will appreciate your sacrifice and bless you.
- Thus, ultimately you will reap the supreme blessing.

Bhagavad Gita

Chapter Three: 12

12. Cherished by your spirit of sacrifice, the gods give you everything you want.

(But remember) whoever receives gifts from the gods without offering anything back is a thief.

Commentary

- There are five types of giving and taking.
- The Gita gives names to them:
- **One** - If you take one hundred percent and don't give anything in return, you can be called a thief.
- **Two** - If you take one hundred percent and give fifty percent, you're a debtor.

- **Three** - If you take one hundred percent and give one hundred percent, you're a good business person.
- (That's how business should be done: give in return for what is received.
- If a business person gets \$10, he or she should be sure to give \$10 worth of goods or services.
- That's fair business.)

- **Four** - If you take fifty percent and give one hundred percent, you are called a righteous person.
- **Five** - But if someone takes nothing and gives even ten percent, fifteen percent, or one hundred percent — whatever possible —
- what do you call that person?
- A saint.
- A yogi.

- We should examine our transactions and discover in which category we put ourselves:
- One - thief,
- Two - debtor,
- Three - business person,
- Four - righteous person or
- Five - a saint.

- And if you're already "one," try to be "two."
- If you're already "two," try to promote yourself to "three."
- Stop not until the fifth category is reached.

- It's nice to keep this information handy.
- *Yajna* is so beautiful.
- So much could be said about it.
- The whole life is an offering. ...



Om, Shanti