

Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 175: Chapter 18, Verses 62-65

(September 8 – September 14, 2021)

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ORIGINAL SANSKRIT DOCUMENT

TRANSLITERATION

तमेव शरणं गच्छ सर्वभावेन भारत ।

tam eva śharaṇam gachchha sarva-bhāvena bhārata

तत्प्रसादात्परां शान्तिं स्थानं प्राप्स्यसि शाश्वतम् ॥ १८-६२ ॥

tat-prasādāt parām śhāntim sthānam prāpsyasi śhāśhvataṁ

इति ते ज्ञानमाख्यातं गुह्याद्गुह्यतरं मया ।

iti te jñānam ākhyātam guhyād guhyataram mayā

विमृश्यैतदशेषेण यथेच्छसि तथा कुरु ॥ १८-६३ ॥

vimṛśhyaitad aśheṣheṇa yathechchhasi tathā kuru

सर्वगुह्यतमं भूयः शृणु मे परमं वचः ।

sarva-guhyatamaṁ bhūyaḥ śhṛiṇu me paramaṁ vachaḥ

इष्टोऽसि मे दृढमिति ततो वक्ष्यामि ते हितम् ॥ १८-६४ ॥

iṣṭo 'si me dṛiḍham iti tato vakṣhyāmi te hitam

मन्मना भव मद्भक्तो मद्याजी मां नमस्कुरु ।

man-manā bhava mad-bhakto mad-yājī mām namaskuru

मामेवैष्यसि सत्यं ते प्रतिजाने प्रियोऽसि मे ॥ १८-६५ ॥

mām evaiṣhyasi satyaṁ te pratijāne priyo 'si me

TRANSLATION

- (62)** Surrender exclusively unto Him with your whole being, O Bharat. By His grace, you will attain perfect peace and the eternal abode.
- (63)** Thus, I have explained to you this knowledge that is more secret than all secrets. Ponder over it deeply, and then do as you wish.
- (64)** Hear again my Supreme instruction, the most confidential of all knowledge. I am revealing this for your benefit because you are very dear to me.
- (65)** Always think of me, be devoted to me, worship me, and offer obeisance to me. Doing so, you will certainly come to me. This is my true promise to you, for you are very dear to me.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EdLTcmP4yG_z4SMfQvF0MwTLRryV1Qql/view?usp=sharing

CHAPTER 18

Commentary

Verse 62

Lord Krishna declares here to swiftly surrender unto the Supreme Lord Krishna, exclusively seeking refuge in Him. It is He who is the Supreme controller, the Lord of all lords, the Supreme goal and ultimate attainment. Out of His causeless mercy toward all *jivas* or embodied beings and the incomparable love for His beloved devotees, the Supreme Lord of all manifested Himself in human form and even accepted the position as chariot driver for His dear devotee Arjuna. So, by adhering to His unequivocal instructions, injunctions, and ordinances revealed in the Shrimad Bhagavadgita and the Vedic scriptures, everyone should earnestly seek Him as their sole refuge. By doing so, one will by His Grace be able to transcend *maya*, the illusory energy, crossing over the ocean of *samsara*, the perpetual cycle of birth and death and at last attain the state of communion with the Supreme Lord--that immortal state of empyrean--from which there is no return to material existence. These points are confirmed all throughout the Vedic scriptures: The *Chandogya Upanishad* III.XIII.VII beginning *atha yad atah paro divo* states: The resplendent Supreme Lord shines forth effulgently above the universe, beyond the *brahman* or spiritual substratum pervading all existence, transcending all worlds. The *Katha Upanishad* I.III.IX beginning *vijnanas arathiryastu* states: One can cross the ocean of *samsara* and reach the

everlasting, eternal abode of the Supreme Lord, the final resort. In the *Taittiriya Upanishad* III.X.III beginning *yasah iti pashusu jyotiriti* states: The Supreme Lord's divine splendor is apparent in every aspect of creation whether phenomenal or celestial.

Verse 63

In this verse, Lord Krishna concludes the essential teachings of the entire Shrimad Bhagavad-Gita by declaring that the most confidential knowledge and wisdom have been disclosed by Him, including renunciation, devotion, action and knowledge, specifically about how the *jiva* or embodied being attains eternal communion with the Supreme Lord, which is the whole purpose and goal of human existence. This divine discourse was disclosed out of compassion and benevolence to all creation by Lord Krishna, who is omniscient and extremely gracious. Lord Krishna instructs Arjuna to examine, analyze and contemplate the teachings of the three pathways He has revealed for liberation of the soul from *samsara*, including *Karma Yoga* or facilitating communion with the Supreme Lord by one's actions, or by *Bhakti Yoga* or facilitating communion with the Supreme Lord by exclusive loving devotion, or by *Jnana Yoga* or facilitating communion with the Supreme Lord by divine knowledge.

Verse 64

In this verse, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna, but really aiming at those devotees who were unable to reflect on the profound and sublime teachings of Srimad Bhagavad-Gita in its entirety due to some unexplainable obstacle or impediment, to hear Him again in the following verses about the most confidential of all knowledge that He has revealed thus far. These verses, where the Supreme Lord Krishna will reveal His most confidential of all teachings (*sarva-guhytamam bhuyah*) in the most concise form that consolidates them all, are generally believed to be verse #65 and 66. In these two verses, Lord Krishna will bequeath the consummate conclusion of all conclusions in their purest essence for the ultimate benefit of His loving devotees.

Verse 65

As described earlier in Verse 64, the essence of all confidential knowledge contained in the entire Shrimad Bhagavadgita is revealed by the Supreme Lord in Verses 65 and 66. However, it is to be noted that Verse 65 is not entirely new. The first line as well as part of the second line of Verse 65 is the same as that of Verse 34 of Chapter 9. While promising Arjuna that He would in due course reveal the most secret knowledge of all His teachings, Lord Krishna had already hinted at the importance and glories of *bhakti* (devotion) in Verse 34 of Chapter 9, and so, He repeats here the part of the same verse to remind Arjuna that he should totally and solely dedicate his mind and body to Lord Krishna, give humble

obeisance to Him, and offer joyful propitiation to Him. Living life in this way one will surely attain direct communion with Him by the spiritual wisdom bestowed by His Grace. One should not have any doubts about this for it is the reality. Lord Krishna is extremely affectionate to His surrendered devotees. That is why He personally promises this eternal benediction which bequeaths both the purpose and the goal of material existence for the highest benefit of His devotees for all times. *Manmana bhava* is a divine command that means to always have Lord Krishna completely and blissfully in one's thoughts, to absorb oneself in Him. *Mad-bhakta* is to offer all one's loving emotions and devotion to Lord Krishna enthralled by love, overflowing with enthusiasm, exuberance and excitement. *Mad-yaji* is to worship Lord Krishna with love. To install Him in one's heart as one's personal worshipable deity. The word *yaji* comes from *yajna* which is synonymous with *pujana* or worship and denotes *aradhanam* the most exquisite, loving worship. Therefore, it is not a mere dry, formal observation of ceremonial ritual enacted out of duty. It is love flowing from the heart. *Mam namaskuru* is to enshrine Lord Krishna in the heart with the utmost, love, devotion and faith. The word *namas* means obeisance. Such obeisance is not a mere habitual genuflection; but a sublime expression of sincere gratitude and humility that constitutes an emotion of love felt internally. If a blessed devotee of Lord Krishna arrives at this exalted vista of *bhakti* or exclusive loving devotion, then the Supreme Lord will not hesitate to have his eternal individual association with Him in the immortal spiritual worlds. This is the truth that He Himself promises. It should never be interpreted as being just a metaphor or mere flowery prose. Therefore, it should be clearly and emphatically understood that the Supreme Lord Krishna's solemn promise to His surrendered devotees is the total truth for which He pledges to vouch for them for all eternity.