

**Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 9: Chapter 1, Verses 43-46**

(June 27 –July 3, 2018)

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**ORIGINAL SANSKRIT DOCUMENT**

**TRANSLITERATION**

उत्सन्नकुलधर्माणां मनुष्याणां जनार्दन ।  
नरके नियतं वासो भवतीत्यनुशुश्रुम ॥ ४३ ॥

*utsanna-kula-dharmāṇām manusyaṇām janārdana  
narake niyatam vāso bhavatity anuśuśruma*

अहो बत महत् पापं कर्तुं व्यवसिता वयम् ।  
यद् राज्यसुखलोभेन हन्तुं स्वजनमुद्यताः ॥ ४४ ॥

*yadi mām apratīkāram aśastram śastra-pāṇayaḥ  
dhārtarāṣṭrā raṇe hanyus tan me kṣemataram bhavet*

यदि मामप्रतीकारमशस्त्रं शस्त्रपाणयः ।  
धार्तराष्ट्रा रणे हन्युस्तन्मे क्षेमतरं भवेत् ॥ ४५ ॥

*yadi mām apratīkāram aśastram śastra-pāṇayaḥ  
dhārtarāṣṭrā raṇe hanyus tan me kṣemataram bhavet*

सञ्जय उवाच

*sañjaya uvāca*

एवमुक्त्वार्जुनः संख्ये रथोपस्थ उपाविशत् ।  
विसृज्य सशरं चापं शोकसंविग्नमानसः ॥ ४६ ॥

*evam ukṭvārjunaḥ saṅkhye rathopastha upāviśat  
visṛjya sa-śaram cāpam śoka-saṁvigna-mānasaḥ*

ॐ तत्सदिति श्रीमद्भगवद्गीतासूपनिषत्सु  
ब्रह्मविद्यायां योगशास्त्रे श्रीकृष्णार्जुनसंवादे  
अर्जुनविषादयोगो नाम प्रथमोऽध्यायः ॥ १ ॥

## TRANSLATION

- (43)** O Kṛṣṇa, I have heard from the learned that those persons whose spiritual family traditions have been destroyed, perpetually become residents in hell.
- (44)** Alas, how strange it is that we have resolved to commit great sin. Just because of greed for royal luxuries we are prepared to slay our own kinsmen.
- (45)** Even if the sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra armed with weapons in hand slay me unarmed and unresisting on the battlefield that would be considered better for me.
- (46)** Sañjaya said: Thus having spoken Arjuna cast aside his bow and arrows on the battlefield and sat down on the seat of the chariot his mind overwhelmed with deep sorrow.

*Thus, in the Holy Book the Bhagavad Gita, one of the Upanishads, in the Science of the Supreme Spirit, in the Art of Self-Knowledge, in the colloquy between the Divine Lord Shri Krishna and the Prince Arjuna, stands the first chapter, entitled: The Despair (Lamentation) of Arjuna*

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1JcZavC7Et2xI5nIF6sqHt8x8H4eLMIba>

### Commentary:

#### Verse 43:

Arjuna supports his argument by affirming that he has heard from respectable sources that those who are responsible for destroying righteousness of family traditions go to terrible hells full of misery. Therefore this decision to fight is not the wisest of choices for him.

#### Verse 44:

As Arjuna has conjectured in the previous verse, it is not in his best interest to fight as it would only bring evil consequences. Thinking that his intelligence must be marred by delusion, he sorrowfully speaks the words: *aho bata* meaning 'alas how ironic (or strange) it is!'. What is ironic? It is ironic to him that he has committed himself to great sin by his intention to slay friends and kinsmen in the pursuit of royal luxuries and pleasures.

**Verse 45:**

Arjuna is quite aware that even if he refrains himself from killing his friends and kinsmen out of compassion, his enemy is unlikely to do so for the simple reason of victory and dominion of the kingdom. Despite this awareness, Arjuna states that even if the sons of Dhritarastra, being devoid of wisdom and obsessed by greed would slay him unarmed and unresisting, refraining from the battle would still be more preferable for him than perpetuating sin by slaying relatives and friends and permanently going to hell as a result. What Arjuna is practically saying is that if he refrains from fighting, then at the time of his death there would be no feelings of guilt or repentance from committing such a sin.

**Verse 46:**

Then what happened asked Dhritarastra? To this question of curiosity, Sanjaya spoke that Arjuna whose mind was agitated by grief cast aside his bow and arrows and sank down despondently on the chariot in view of all troops.

*Thus ends the First Chapter of Shrimad Bhagavadgita.*