

Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 58: Chapter 6, Verses 39-42

(June 12 –June 18, 2019)

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ORIGINAL SANSKRIT DOCUMENT

TRANSLITERATION

एतन्मे संशयं कृष्ण छेत्तुमर्हस्यशेषतः ।
त्वदन्यः संशयस्यास्य छेत्ता न ह्युपपद्यते ॥ ६-३९ ॥

etan me sanśhayaṁ kṛiṣhṇa chhettum
arhasyaśheṣataḥ
tvad-anyaḥ sanśhayaśyāśya chhettā na
hyupapadyate

श्रीभगवानुवाच ।

śhrī bhagavān uvācha

पार्थ नैवेह नामुत्र विनाशस्तस्य विद्यते ।
न हि कल्याणकृत्कश्चिद् दुर्गतिं तात गच्छति ॥ ६-४० ॥

pārtha naiveha nāmutra vināśhas tasya vidyate
na hi kalyāṇa-kṛit kaśchid durgatiṁ tāta
gachchhati

प्राप्य पुण्यकृतां लोकानुषित्वा शाश्वतीः समाः ।
शुचीनां श्रीमतां गेहे योगभ्रष्टोऽभिजायते ॥ ६-४१ ॥
अथवा योगिनामेव कुले भवति धीमताम् ।
एतद्धि दुर्लभतरं लोके जन्म यदीदृशम् ॥ ६-४२ ॥

prāpya puṇya-kṛitāṁ lokān uṣhitvā śhāśhvatīḥ
samāḥ
śhuchīnāṁ śhrīmatāṁ gehe yoga-bhraṣhṭo
'bhijāyate
atha vā yoginām eva kule bhavati dhīmatām
etad dhi durlabhataraṁ loke janma yad
īdriśham

TRANSLATION

- (39)** O Krishna, please dispel this doubt of mine completely, for who other than you can do so?
- (40)** The Supreme Lord said: O Partha, One who engages on the spiritual path does not meet with destruction either in this world or the world to come. My dear friend, one who strives for God-realization is never overcome by evil.
- (41)** The unsuccessful *Yogis*, upon death, go to the abodes of the virtuous. After dwelling there for many ages, they are again reborn in the earth plane, into a family of pious and prosperous people.
- (42)** If , on the other hand, they had developed dispassion due to long practice of *Yoga*, they are born into a family endowed with divine wisdom. Such a birth is very difficult to attain in this world.

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Chapter 6

Verse 39:

No matter how much one may ever so enthusiastically embark on the path of *Yoga*, if one lacks the sufficient determination to maintain the persistent application of regulated discipline, the mind will inevitably be distracted and deviate, and one will fail to succeed in reaching the perfection in *Yoga*. What will be the fate of such a person? Will they perish like a divided cloud in the sky leaving the rest behind while failing to unite with the cloud in front of it in the distance? In this verse, Lord Krishna is being asked by Arjuna to dispel all his doubts concerning the destination of one who does not succeed in perfecting *Yoga* or the science of the individual consciousness attaining communion with the ultimate consciousness. The God-realized Saints do possess knowledge, but it is somewhat limited. They do not become all-knowing. Such realized Saints do possess the power to dispel doubts, but they are no comparison with God, who is all-knowing. God alone is *Sarvajña* (omniscient), *Sarva-śhaktimān* (all-powerful), and supremely competent in removing all ignorance.

Verse 40:

In order to dispel all doubts Lord Krishna answers Arjuna's question in Verse 39 above by addressing Arjuna in a very affectionate way by use of the word *Tata* meaning dear one or son. Then He confirms to him that there is no downfall or setback in the present life or in the next life for an aspirant of *Moksha* or liberation from the material world. Even if one fails to reach perfection in *Yoga*, still there is no demerits or diminution because there was

no hankering for rewards and thus no reactions to suffer. By displaying his affection and grace toward Arjuna, Shree Krishna indicates to Arjuna that God takes care of those who tread on his path. They are dear to God because they engage in the most auspicious kind of activity, and the doer of good never comes to grief. This verse asserts that God preserves the devotee both in this world and the world hereafter. This pronouncement is a great assurance to all spiritual aspirants.

Verse 41:

In Verse 40 above, Lord Krishna assures that a person who fails to reach perfection in *Yoga* and abandons it, will still never meet with an evil destiny. Then exactly what is the destination of such a person? Lord Krishna answers this by revealing that after death the fallen yogi is sent to the celestial abodes for a long time, and then again granted birth on Earth. Such souls are given birth in a family where they have opportunity to continue their spiritual journey. *Śhuchī* means those who are of pious and good character; *Shreematam* means those who are wealthy. The unsuccessful *Yogis* are either born in a pious family that will nurture the child's spirituality from childhood, or in a wealthy family where all the bodily needs are taken care of and one does not need to engage in the struggle for survival. Such a family environment facilitates the opportunity to engage in spiritual pursuits for the souls who are so inclined.

Verse 42:

The destination referred to in the previous Verse 41 applies to a person who has deviated after a short time from the practice of *Yoga*. Lord Krishna now reveals the destination of that person who has digressed from *Yoga* after having practiced it for a long time. Such a person will not be sent to celestial abodes. Instead, he will be taking birth in a spiritually enlightened family in order to facilitate the continuance of his journey. Such a birth is a great good fortune because the parents implant divine wisdom in the child from the very beginning. Such a birth is also bereft of all possibilities for distraction and digression which obstruct and impede progress toward self-realization of the soul and Moksha or liberation from the material existence.