

Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 79: Chapter 9, Verses 13-17

(November 06 –November 12, 2019)

Please Note: Click Anywhere on The Dark Area Below to Listen to the Above Verses

ORIGINAL SANSKRIT DOCUMENT

TRANSLITERATION

महात्मानस्तु मां पार्थ दैवीं प्रकृतिमाश्रिताः ।
भजन्त्यनन्यमनसो ज्ञात्वा भूतादिमव्ययम् ॥ ९-१३ ॥
सततं कीर्तयन्तो मां यतन्तश्च दृढव्रताः ।
नमस्यन्तश्च मां भक्त्या नित्ययुक्ता उपासते ॥ ९-१४ ॥
ज्ञानयज्ञेन चाप्यन्ये यजन्तो मामुपासते ।
एकत्वेन पृथक्त्वेन बहुधा विश्वतोमुखम् ॥ ९-१५ ॥
अहं क्रतुरहं यज्ञः स्वधाहमहमौषधम् ।
मन्त्रोऽहमहमेवाज्यमहमग्निरहं हुतम् ॥ ९-१६ ॥
पिताहमस्य जगतो माता धाता पितामहः ।
वेद्यं पवित्रमोँकार ऋक्साम यजुरेव च ॥ ९-१७ ॥

*mahātmānas tu mām pārtha daiivīm prakṛitim
āśhritāḥ
bhajantyananya-manaso jñātvā bhūtādim avyayam
satataṁ kīrtayanto mām yatantaśh cha dṛiḍha-vratāḥ
namasyantaśh cha mām bhaktyā nitya-yuktā upāsate
jñāna-yajñena chāpyanye yajanto mām upāsate
ekatvena pṛithaktvena bahudhā viśhvato-mukham
ahaṁ kratuṛ ahaṁ yajñāḥ svadhāham aham
auśhadham
mantra 'ham aham evājyam aham agnir ahaṁ hutam
pitāham asya jagato mātā dhātā pitāmahaḥ
vedyam pavitram omkāra ṛik sāma yajur eva cha*

TRANSLATION

- (13)** But the great souls, who take shelter of My divine energy, O Parth, know Me, Lord Krishna, as the origin of all creation. They engage in My devotion with their minds fixed exclusively on Me.
- (14)** Always singing My divine glories, striving with great determination, and humbly bowing down before Me, they constantly worship Me in loving devotion.
- (15)** Others, engaging in the *yajña* of cultivating knowledge, worship Me by many methods. Some see Me as undifferentiated oneness that is non-different from them, while others see Me as separate from them. Still others worship Me in the infinite manifestations of My cosmic form.
- (16)** It is I who am the Vedic ritual, I am the sacrifice, and I am the oblation offered to the ancestors. I am the medicinal herb, and I am the Vedic mantra. I am the clarified butter, I am the fire and the act of offering.
- (17)** Of this universe, I am the Father; I am also the Mother, the Sustainer, and the Grandsire. I am the purifier, the goal of knowledge, the sacred syllable Om. I am the Rig Veda, Sāma Veda, and the Yajur Veda.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1bUIckQXmDHbYOaY9VpHKpsnxQ2GUrSOp>

Chapter 9

Verse 13:

In this verse, Lord Krishna talks about great souls or *Mahatmanas*, after having discussed about the deluded and confused minds in previous verses. He defines *Mahatmanas* as those whose hearts have been cleansed of all dross and dirt, who are devoid of mundane desires, whose sins have been eradicated by the multitudes of meritorious deeds performed in thousands of previous lifetimes, who are born of the divine nature, and who accept and approach the Supreme Lord as their sole sanctuary. These *Mahatmanas* have naturally qualified themselves for contemplation and meditation on the Ultimate Absolute Truth associated with the Supreme Lord. Thus knowing Lord Krishna as the original source of all beings and primal cause of all creation and understanding that He descends and incarnates in His eternal spiritual *Yogamaya* form to bless, please and protect His devotees, such great beings devoutly, exclusively and incessantly worship Him with heartfelt love with a single focus.

Verse 14:

In this verse, Lord Krishna elaborates on what exact manner the *mahatmanas* or the great souls worship the Supreme Lord. The word *satatam* means always. Lord Krishna, by the use of this word, emphasizes that the *mahatmanas* incessantly worship Him in various ways.

They are overwhelmed with intense love for the Supreme Lord, and find it impossible to rationalize their existence for even an infinitesimal part of a moment without always being engaged in chanting Lord Krishna's holy names, singing His glories, enlightening themselves with His *lilas* or divine pastimes, offering obeisance and salutation to Him with worship, and propitiation and offering of their very selves with loving devotion. Such devotees of Lord Krishna often have choked up voices and tear-filled eyes from ecstatic feelings of joy and love due to intense meditation of His form and attributes within their hearts. The purpose and only goal of life for the *mahatmanas* is to attain the Supreme Lord. Such great devotees are of firm resolve and so full of *bhakti* or loving devotion for Lord Krishna that they are unable to bear even the slightest separation from Him in their minds and action. It is also not possible for them to tolerate any kind of diversion or deviation in their devotional service to the Supreme Lord.

Verse 15:

The *mahatmanas* (those with great souls) discuss, sing and reflect on the glories of Lord Krishna without abatement in what is called *jñana yajñena* or propitiation by knowledge. The *Chandogya Upanishad* III.XIV.I states: Verily the whole creation is *Brahman* or the Supreme Lord's spiritual substratum pervading all existence. All creation is verily the *Paramatman* or the Supreme Lord Krishna. Everything is Lord Krishna, He is omnipresent, the highest person, the one and only Supreme Lord. He is realized as the universal cosmic form of all existence, comprised of phenomenally unlimited variations of all animate and inanimate objects. The *Katha Upanishad* V.XIII states: The Supreme Lord who is constant among the inconstant, intelligent among intelligences, the one among the many, who grants desires. The *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad* III.VII.II states: That he who dwells in the earth does not know whose body the Earth is or who controls the Earth from within is the *Atman* or immortal soul, the inner monitor and controller. The *Katha Upanishad* V.X.XI states: As one wind has entered the world and becomes corresponding in form to every form, so the one inner *Atman* of all things correspond in form to every other form and yet is separate from them. As the sun which is the eye of the solar system shining upon everything is not compromised by the external faults of the eyes, in the same way the immortal soul of all beings is not compromised by the evil manifesting in the world, being external to it. Thus, the most excellent souls worship the Supreme Lord Krishna as totally different from this universe comprised of animate and inanimate beings because although He is within all various diverse and variegated forms as *Paramatman*, He is completely unaffected by them.

Verse 16:

In this verse and the next three, Lord Krishna elaborates on many aspects of His diversity. He states that He is *Kratu* or Vedic ritual, *Yajña* or Vedic offering, *Shraddha* or Vedic oblations to the departed ancestors, *Aushadham* or the potency within healing medicinal herb, the *Mantra* or the sacred Sanskrit chants recited at the ceremonies and functions of all Vedic rituals. He is also *Aijam* or *Ghee* which is clarified butter made exclusively from cow milk, without which no Vedic *Yajña* can be authentically performed. He is the *Ahavaniya* fire which is ignited from the consecrated fire and He is *Hutam* denoting *Homam* or the oblations offered into the fire as well as the ritual itself.

Verse 17:

It is the Supreme Lord Krishna who is the foundation and source of all creation comprised of moving and non-moving objects, and therefore, He is the father, mother and grandsire of all. The word *Dhata*, meaning bequeather or dispenser, denotes the original progenitor, the Supreme Lord, who is the real cause of all births distinct from the seminal birth from father and mother. The word *Dhata* also means the bestower of the fruits of one's actions. He is *Vedyam* or the essence of what is to be known and the sole object that is to be realized. He is the *Pavitram*, the one who purifies and sanctifies. He is the His own personal sound vibration manifested in the sacred monosyllable OM and He is the sublime and perfect *Rig Veda, Sama Veda and the Yajur Veda* (from where the *Atharva Veda* was extracted and compiled by Maharishi Vedavayasa).