

**Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 103: Chapter 11, Verses 29-31**

(April 22 –April 28, 2020)

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

**ORIGINAL SANSKRIT DOCUMENT**

यथा प्रदीप्तं ज्वलनं पतङ्गा  
विशन्ति नाशाय समृद्धवेगाः ।  
तथैव नाशाय विशन्ति लोकास्-  
तवापि वक्राणि समृद्धवेगाः ॥ ११-२९ ॥  
लेलिह्यसे ग्रसमानः समन्ताल्-  
लोकान्समग्रान्वदनैर्ज्वलद्भिः ।  
तेजोभिरापूर्य जगत्समग्रं  
भासस्तवोग्राः प्रतपन्ति विष्णो ॥ ११-३० ॥  
आख्याहि मे को भवानुग्ररूपो  
नमोऽस्तु ते देववर प्रसीद ।  
विज्ञातुमिच्छामि भवन्तमाद्यं  
न हि प्रजानामि तव प्रवृत्तिम् ॥ ११-३१ ॥

**TRANSLITERATION**

*yathā pradīptam jvalanam pataṅgā  
viśhanti nāśhāya samṛiddha-vegāḥ  
tathaiiva nāśhāya viśhanti lokās  
tavāpi vaktrāṇi samṛiddha-vegāḥ  
lelihyase grasamānaḥ samantāl  
lokān samagrān vadanair jvaladbhiḥ  
tejobhir āpūrya jagat samagram  
bhāsas tavogrāḥ pratapanti viṣṇo  
ākhyāhi me ko bhavān ugra-rūpo  
namo 'stu te deva-vara prasīda  
vijñātum ichchhāmi bhavantam ādyam  
na hi prajānāmi tava pravṛittim*

## TRANSLATION

- (29)** As moths rush with great speed into the fire to perish, so are all these armies entering with great speed into your mouths to perish.
- (30)** With your fiery tongues you are licking up the hosts of living beings on all sides and devouring them with your blazing mouths. O Vishnu, you are scorching the entire universe with the fierce, all-pervading rays of your effulgence
- (31)** Please tell me who you are of such fierce of form. O God of gods, I bow before you; please bestow your mercy upon me. You, who existed before all creation, I wish to know who you are, for I do not comprehend your nature and workings.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1A3Z6TI1kU5SXA0SI5yWQnBCFlIi7KfUV>

## Chapter 11

### Verse 29:

In order to illustrate how the mighty warriors of the Kaurava and Pandava armies were being propelled helplessly and speedily to their deaths on the battlefield, Lord Krishna in the previous verse gave a metaphor of inanimate currents of rapid rivers being propelled into the vast ocean. As further illustration of this phenomenon, He now gives a metaphor of animate moths rushing into a blazing fire to their own destruction, depicting the speedy entrance of warriors by their own volition into the fiery, flaming mouths of Lord Krishna's *vishvarupa* or divine universal form.

### Verses 30:

Arjuna saw Lord Krishna's *vishvarupa* or divine universal form lapping up the mighty warriors of both armies and voraciously devouring them with its innumerable flaming mouths. Furthermore, the effulgence radiating from the *visvarupa* was so bright that it was scorching the entire universe with its fierce, all-pervading rays. Lord Krishna is addressed as Vishnu in this verse, meaning that He pervades all creation.

### Verses 31:

Arjuna had previously requested Lord Krishna to see His *visvarupa* or divine universal form. The Supreme Lord Krishna manifested His *visvarupa* or divine universal form of wonderful and terrible visage to exhibit His unlimited and absolute sovereign power. Upon witnessing this, Arjuna became totally unbalanced and agitated. With total bewilderment, he utters “*namo'stu te devavara praseeda*” meaning, “I offer obeisances to you, O’ Lord of Lords, please show mercy upon me”, and asks Lord Krishna as to who he is of such a terrible form and what His intention and purpose is for exhibiting it as he could not comprehend the inclination of the Supreme Lord’s actions. Lord Krishna exhibited His all-powerful *vishvarupa* to show Arjuna in no uncertain terms that without any effort He will destroy all the kings and warriors that are arrayed in the Kaurava army and this does not depend at all upon Arjuna and the Pandava army. Lord Krishna is prepared to annihilate the complete Kaurava army if need be, and in order to assert this conviction, He exhibited the terrible visages of the *visvarupa* to Arjuna.