

Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 78: Chapter 9, Verses 08-12

(October 30 –November 5, 2019)

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ORIGINAL SANSKRIT DOCUMENT

TRANSLITERATION

प्रकृतिं स्वामवष्टभ्य विसृजामि पुनः पुनः ।
भूतग्राममिमं कृत्स्नमवशं प्रकृतेर्वशात् ॥ ९-८ ॥

*prakṛtim svām avaṣṭabhya viśṛjāmi punaḥ punaḥ
bhūta-grāmam imam kṛtsnam avaśam prakṛter vaśāt*

न च मां तानि कर्माणि निबध्नन्ति धनञ्जय ।
उदासीनवदासीनमसक्तं तेषु कर्मसु ॥ ९-९ ॥

*na ca mām tāni karmāṇi nibadhnanti dhanañjaya
udāsīnavad āsīnam asaktaṁ teṣu karmasu*

मयाध्यक्षेण प्रकृतिः सूयते सचराचरम् ।
हेतुनानेन कौन्तेय जगद्विपरिवर्तते ॥ ९-१० ॥

*mayādhyakṣeṇa prakṛtiḥ sūyate sacarācaram
hetunānena kaunteya jagad viparivartate*

अवजानन्ति मां मूढा मानुषीं तनुमाश्रितम् ।
परं भावमजानन्तो मम भूतमहेश्वरम् ॥ ९-११ ॥

*avajānanti mām mūḍhā mānuṣīm tanum āśritam
paraṁ bhāvam ajānanto mama bhūta-maheśvaram*

मोघाशा मोघकर्माणो मोघज्ञाना विचेतसः ।
राक्षसीमासुरीं चैव प्रकृतिं मोहिनीं श्रिताः ॥ ९-१२ ॥

*moghāśā mogha-karmāṇo mogha-jñāna vicetasah
rākṣasīm āsurīm caiva prakṛtiṁ mohinīm śritāḥ*

TRANSLATION

- (08) Presiding over My external potency the material energy, I generate again and again all these innumerable living entities; inaccordance to the implications of their material natures.
- (09) O Arjuna, these universal activities never bind Me; I am situated neutrally and unattached to all these activities.
- (10) Superintended by Me the illusoryexternal energy manifests all moving and non-moving entities; for this reason O Arjuna, the universal manifestation is created repeatedly.
- (11) Fools deride Me in My divine human form, unable to comprehend My supreme nature as the Ultimate Controller of all living entities.
- (12) These bewildered fools of futile desires, futile endeavours, futile knowledge and futile understanding; certainly assume the nature of the athiestic and demoniac.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ZYMQRh-jzNWG5l7rpioO7HHITxuupFWt>

Chapter 9

Verse 08:

The question may be raised how is it possible that the Supreme Lord who is unattached to creation and not modifiable in any way actually manifests creation? This is being answered here by Lord Krishna with the words *prakritim svaam avastabhya*, meaning that he uses the medium of His material substratum, called Prakriti, which pervades all physical and subtle existence, in order to create again and again all the diverse beings who had been absorbed within Him due to dissolution of the previous universe. Although insentient, *prakriti* is fully competent to transform all the diverse and variegated beings as a total aggregate into their respective forms as dictated by their *karma* or reactions to past life activities. *Prakriti* is completely dependent upon the Supreme Lord who is verily the maintainer, the sustainer and the energizer of all actions. Dependent upon nothing but Himself, the Supreme Lord by His own power and will directs *prakriti* to perform actions by which all the worlds in the all the planetary systems are created maintained and dissolved. It may be further asked how is it and by what method are all living entities propelled into material existence? Lord Krishna speaks the words *avasham prakriter vashaat* which means in accordance to the implications of their nature which is a direct result of their past actions.

Verse 09:

When the Supreme Lord initiates such actions as creation which appears at times to be unequal and unbalanced how is it that He is not bound by these actions like the *jivas* or embodied beings? It is because He is *udaasinavad aaseenam* or neutral and indifferent, and He is completely self-satisfied. The differences and all inequalities that exist in the demigods, humans, animals and plants lie in the fact that all *jivas* or embodied beings which are of a conscious and sentient nature have to account to the reactions of their past good deeds and misdeeds and hence their own actions determine such differences and inequalities. So, He is completely indifferent and totally neutral in all respects. What Lord Krishna is also indicating here is that one who is self-content is unattached to the results of actions, while one with attachment to actions is bound by such attachment and must accept the subsequent reactions. If Lord Krishna was not neutrally disposed to all acts of creation, sustenance, preservation, dissolution, etc. then His doership could have some bias and not be equally justifiable for all. The adjective *asaktam* meaning unattached denotes that the Supreme Lord is complete and self-fulfilled in all respects.

Verse 10:

As determined by the merits and demerits of all *jivas* or embodied souls, *prakriti* or the material substratum pervading physical existence, being supervised by Lord Krishna, manifests all moving and non-moving living entities as decreed by Lord Krishna according to their *karma* or reactions to past life actions. A doubt may then be raised that it seems impossible to perform actions as a doer while at the same time be indifferent to the actions. To dispel any doubt and remove any contradiction, Lord Krishna states the compound word *mayadhyakshena*, meaning as the supervisor, controller or overseer of *maya*, the illusory external energy brings forth *prakriti*, the material substratum pervading physical existence, which consists of all creation and all moving and non-moving living entities. The extent of His involvement is to keep the wheel of creation and transmigration of all living beings going perpetually in order to be created again and again. In this manner, there is not even the slightest contradiction or scope for any doubt.

Verse 11:

Lord Krishna is the supreme omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent controller of all. Although the source of all creation, He is unattached to His creation while still being compassionate to all living entities. Why then does not everyone take the mercy of the Supreme Lord and attain *moksha* or liberation from the material existence? The words *avajaananti maam moodhah* means ignorant fools blaspheme the Supreme Lord. This is because of accumulations of their sins since time immemorial, by which they become infatuated with their material desires and possessions. They are too deluded to recognize the paramount position of the Supreme Lord Krishna or to even achieve the association of His devotees. Such fools think the Supreme Lord is an ordinary human being because He appears to be human, although He possesses an eternal, transcendental, spiritual form which only appears human. These ignorant wretches deride and disrespect the Supreme Lord and refuse to accept Him as the Lord of the entire creation, and at times even substitute their own inferior gods as the Supreme Lord without having the authoritative evidence to support such fallacious misrepresentations. Such deluded fools falsely think of Lord Krishna as they do any other person and thus are beguiled and bewildered by *maya* or illusory perceptions superimposed upon the mind. The Supreme Lord Krishna is the

original cause and source of everything in existence. He is the ultimate bestower of all rewards for all actions and the final beatitude for those who have attained *moksha*. All living entities and everything in creation emanate from Him. The purpose of His divine appearances is exclusively for the benefit of mankind by protecting the righteous and annihilating the unrighteous.

Verse 12:

By disrespecting and deriding the Supreme Lord, living entities incur great sin and demerits. They become bereft of all righteousness and sink into demoniac activities, which ultimately lead them to hell. Such negligent fools, unaware of their own best welfare, never meditate upon the Supreme Lord Krishna, but instead hopelessly pursue temporary material rewards which they think their concocted gods will fulfil. They simply waste their time indulging in futile actions worshipping lesser gods. Lesser because no god or even demi-god can bestow any benedictions without the sanction of the Supreme Lord. Because such beings disregard the Supreme Lord and even blaspheme Him, all their endeavors have no power to succeed as He is the ultimate bestower of all rewards. All of the knowledge of the foolish offenders, who disregard and disrespect the Supreme Lord, goes in vain with no purpose because it has no connection to the Supreme Lord and has arisen out of the speculative concoctions of hypothetical philosophies and pseudo religions. Thus, they have embraced beliefs that are false. Having been degraded and sunk further and further into *tamas* or darkness, they eventually become demoniac, performing heinous activities with thoughts of violence against other living beings for food, power, and dominion. Possessed by false ego, lust, arrogance, envy, violence and revenge, they become totally deluded and antagonistic, belligerent and bellicose to the Supreme Lord. Lord Krishna states that such sinful and degraded beings are cast into the wombs of lower and lower demoniac species birth after birth.