

**Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 109: Chapter 11, Verses 47-49**

(June 3 – June 9, 2020)

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**ORIGINAL SANSKRIT DOCUMENT**

**TRANSLITERATION**

श्रीभगवानुवाच ।

*śhrī-bhagavān uvācha*

मया प्रसन्नेन तवाजुनेदं

*mayā prasannena tavārjunedaṁ*

रूपं परं दर्शितमात्मयोगात् ।

*rūpaṁ paraṁ darśhitam ātma-yogāt*

तेजोमयं विश्वमनन्तमाद्यं

*tejo-mayaṁ viśhvam anantam ādyaṁ*

यन्मे त्वदन्येन न दृष्टपूर्वम् ॥ ११-४७ ॥

*yan me tvad anyena na dṛiṣṭa-pūrvam*

न वेदयज्ञाध्ययनैर्न दानैर्-

*na veda-yajñādhyayanair na dānair*

न च क्रियाभिर्न तपोभिरुग्रैः ।

*na cha kriyābhir na tapobhir ugraiḥ*

एवंरूपः शक्य अहं नृलोके

*evam-rūpaḥ śhakya ahaṁ nṛ-loke*

द्रष्टुं त्वदन्येन कुरुप्रवीर ॥ ११-४८ ॥

*draṣṭuṁ tvad anyena kuru-pravīra*

मा ते व्यथा मा च विमूढभावो

*mā te vyathā mā cha vimūḍha-bhāvo*

दृष्ट्वा रूपं घोरमीदृङ्ममेदम् ।

*dṛiṣṭvā rūpaṁ ghoram īdṛiṅ mamedam*

व्यपेतभीः प्रीतमनाः पुनस्त्वं

*vyapeta-bhīḥ prīta-manāḥ punas tvaṁ*

तदेव मे रूपमिदं प्रपश्य ॥ ११-४९ ॥

*tad eva me rūpam idaṁ prapaśhya*

## TRANSLATION

- (47)** The Blessed Lord said: Arjun, being pleased with you, by my *Yogmaya* power, I gave you a vision of my resplendent, unlimited, and primeval cosmic form. No one before you has ever seen it.
- (48)** Not by study of the Vedas, nor by the performance of sacrifice, rituals, or charity, nor even by practicing severe austerities, has any mortal ever seen what you have seen, O best of the Kuru warriors.
- (49)** Be neither afraid nor bewildered on seeing this terrible form of mine. Be free from fear and with a cheerful heart, behold me once again in my personal form.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w9smFjR5vsydU45NgAxcUzxbetnEvd7y/view?usp=sharing>

## Chapter 11

### Verse 47:

Although Arjuna had originally requested Lord Krishna to show His universal, cosmic form, he became totally fearful and bewildered upon seeing His magnificent, but nonetheless frightening, form. So, Arjuna asked the Lord to go back and assume His original form that he is accustomed to. Lord Krishna pacifies Arjuna in this verse by explaining that there is no need to be scared. He had bestowed a vision of His universal form not only by His own grace but also because He was very pleased (*prasanna*) with Arjuna. The word *tejo-mayam* means resplendent and glorious, *vishvam* means all pervasive, and *anantam* means infinite without beginning, middle or end. The word *adyam* means first, the original--He who was before and prior to all else, and the words *atma-yogat* means by His own infallible free will which manifests as His shakti or internal energy known as *Yogamaya*. The Lord also tells Arjuna that His *vishvarupa* of infinite potency and unlimited splendor was never seen before by anyone else on Earth.

### Verses 48:

As it is impossible to behold the *vishvarupa* or divine universal form without the blessings of Lord Krishna. By His grace only, Arjuna was able to see it and thus was very fortunate. Lord Krishna affirms this with statements like *na veda yajnadhyayanair*, meaning neither by study of the Vedas nor by the performance of Vedic rituals. No living entity in the material worlds of mortals can see the *vishvarupa* without Lord Krishna's grace. Even if one studies and learns the complete Vedas, and even if one perfects and executes the Vedic rituals, such as the Agni Hotra regularly, and even if one gives in charity to worthy persons, such as food for the hungry or the shelter for the homeless, and even if one performs austere penance, and all other such activities even though performed perfectly will still not qualify one to see His *vishvarupa*. Lord Krishna uses the particle *na* meaning not, four separate times to emphasize the point that without His grace it is impossible to ever behold His *vishvarupa*. In verse I.II.XXIII of the Katha Upanisad, it states: The *atma* or soul is not to be realized by the intellect, nor by learning, nor by instruction. The *atma* is to be realized only by one whom the soul itself selects due to possessing pure bhakti or exclusive loving devotion to the Supreme Lord. To such a great evolved being does the *atma* reveals itself.

### **Verses 49:**

In this verse, Lord Krishna comforts Arjuna by instructing that he should not be bewildered or feel fearful and agitated from beholding the terrifying aspect of His *vishvarupa* or divine universal form because now He will reveal His more familiar four armed form which Arjuna had previously requested to see in verse 46 in order to delight and cheer him up.