

## Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 143: Chapter 15, Verses 18-20

(January 27 – February 2, 2021)

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

### ORIGINAL SANSKRIT DOCUMENT

### TRANSLITERATION

यस्मात्क्षरमतीतोऽहमक्षरादपि चोत्तमः ।  
अतोऽस्मि लोके वेदेच प्रथितः पुरुषोत्तमः ॥ १५-१८ ॥  
यो मामेवमसम्मूढो जानाति पुरुषोत्तमम् ।  
स सर्वविद्भजति मां सर्वभावेन भारत ॥ १५-१९ ॥  
इति गुह्यतमं शास्त्रमिदमुक्तं मयानघ ।  
एतद्बुद्ध्वा बुद्धिमान्स्यात्कृतकृत्यश्च भारत ॥ १५-२० ॥

yasmāt kṣharam atīto 'ham akṣharād api chottamaḥ  
ato 'smi loke vede cha prathitaḥ puruṣhottamaḥ  
yo mām evam asammūḍho jānāti puruṣhottamam  
sa sarva-vid bhajati mām sarva-bhāvena bhārata  
iti guhyatamaṁ śhāstram idam uktam mayānagha  
etad buddhvā buddhimān syāt kṛita-kṛityaśh cha  
bhārata

ॐ तत्सदिति श्रीमद्भगवद्गीतासूपनिषत्सु  
ब्रह्मविद्यायां योगशास्त्रे श्रीकृष्णार्जुन संवादे  
पुरुषोत्तमयोगो नाम पञ्चदशोऽध्यायः ॥ १५ ॥

om tatsaditi shrimadbhagavadgitasu upanishatsu  
brahmavidyayaam yogashaastre  
shrikrishnaarjunasamvaade  
puruṣhottamayogo naama panchadashodhyaayah

## TRANSLATION

- (18)** As I am beyond both the perishable matter and even the imperishable soul, I am celebrated in the worlds as well as in the Vedic scriptures as the Ultimate Personality.
- (19)** Those who know Me without doubt as the Supreme Divine Personality truly have complete knowledge. O Arjun, they worship Me with their whole being.
- (20)** I have shared this most secret principle of the Vedic scriptures with you, O sinless Arjun. By understanding this, a person becomes enlightened, and fulfills all that is to be accomplished.

*Thus, in the Holy Book of Bhagavadgita, one of the Upanishads, in the Science of the Supreme Spirit, in the Art of Self-Knowledge, in the Conversation between Lord Shri Krishna and Arjuna, ends the 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter called “Purushottama Yoga”.*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cOs5PiOoB0-uLPpS6eJ4XnTwVTgAHoKn/view?usp=sharing>

## Chapter 15

### Verse 18:

Lord Krishna says here that He is transcendental to both the *ksharah* or perishable which includes all *jivas* or embodied beings as well as the *aksarah* or imperishable including all the *atmas* or immortal souls. He is celebrated and glorified as *Purushottama*, the Supreme Being. The *Shvetasvatara Upanisad* VI.XVI beginning “*sa vishva krid vishva avid atma*” states: The Supreme Being is the creator of everything as well as the knower of everything. He is also the absolute controller of everything. He is the cause of liberation from material existence by the *jivas* or embodied beings and it is due to aversion to Him that *jivas* are entangled in *samsara* the perpetual cycle of birth and death. The *Vishnu Sahasranama*, verse 16 is states that the Supreme Lord is paramount among all beings. The Puranas glorify Him as the Supreme Sovereign of all that exists.

### Verse 19:

In this verse, Lord Krishna reveals the results one acquires by knowing Him as the Ultimate, Absolute, and Paramount Supremacy to all that exists. The Lord says that those who are not subject to illusion and delusion, who can discriminate between the physical body and the *atma* or immortal soul and have realized that He is the *Purushottama* or the Supreme being, have acquired the complete knowledge. These are the *jivas* or embodied beings that

are all knowing for they have perceived the essence as well as the goal of all existence. This is confirmed in the *Chandogya Upanisad III.XIV.VI* beginning *sarvakarmi sarvakamah sarvagandhah sarvarash*, meaning: The Supreme Lord is the cause of all causes, the Supreme Divinity, possessing all transcendental qualities and endowed with glorious, blissful accruments, whose immanence is all pervading. In chapter 7, verse 7 of Bhagvadgita (*mattaḥ parataram nānyat kiñchid asti dhanañjaya, mayi sarvam idam protam sūtre maṇi-gaṇā iva*), Lord Krishna has already asserted that there is nothing superior to Him. Thus, the spiritually evolved propitiate and worship Lord Krishna with *bhakti* or exclusively loving devotion by speech with prayers to Him, by voice with songs of homage to Him, by sacred actions dedicated to Him, and by a mind totally absorbed in love for Him. Except for the Supreme Lord Krishna, who exists within the innermost etheric heart of all *jivas* or embodied beings as *Paramatma*, the Supreme Soul, there is no one else more worthy of adoration than Him.

### **Verse 20:**

Lord Krishna concludes this chapter by saying in this verse that He has revealed to Arjuna the most confidential secret of all secrets because He considers Arjuna to be of a divine nature and a worthy recipient. This secret is Lord Krishna's aspect of *Purushottama*, the Supreme Being. It is totally different and distinct from both *ksharah*, the perishable, and *aksharah*, the imperishable, being totally transcendental to them although both originate from Him. He is omnipotent, omniscient and omni-present. The *Purushottama aspect* of Lord Krishna has been substantiated by Vedic scriptures that this spiritual knowledge in itself is enough to manifest spiritual enlightenment and all that arises from it without having any direct contact with the *Purushottama*, the Supreme Being, as that is not a requirement for success. One who knows this shall become perpetually spiritually enlightened; acquiring all the attributes and wisdom by which one aspiring to attain Lord Krishna will possess. Such a one will have accomplished all works and duties and the result of every activity needed to attain Lord Krishna by renunciation and penance.