

## Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 23: Chapter 2, Summary (October 3 –October 9, 2018)

***Please Note: Click Anywhere On The Dark Area Below to Listen to All Verses of Chapter 2:***

### SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 2 OF SHRIMAD BHAGAVADGITA



### *Summary of Chapter 2: Sankhya Yoga: Analytical Knowledge of Matter & Spirit*

In Chapter One and in the beginning of Chapter Two, Arjuna presents his arguments for refusing to fight. Basically, he fears the sinful reactions of killing. Arjuna first submits to Lord Krishna as His disciple and thereafter Arjuna surrenders to Lord Krishna and requests the Lord to instruct him.

The Supreme Lord begins imparting him divine knowledge by teaching him about the immortal nature of the self, which is not destroyed when the body is destroyed. It merely changes bodies from lifetime to lifetime, just as a person puts on new garments and discards the old ones. Shree Krishna then moves on to the topic of social responsibilities. He reminds Arjun of his duty as a warrior, which is to fight for upholding righteousness. He explains that the performance of one's social duty is a virtuous act that will open to him the stairway to the celestial abodes, while dereliction of duty will only bring him humiliation and infamy. Having motivated Arjun from the mundane level, Shree Krishna moves deeper into the science of work. He asks Arjun to work without attachment to the fruits of his actions. He terms the science of working without desire for rewards as *buddhi-yog*, or *yog* of the intellect. The intellect must be used to restrain the mental yearning for the rewards of work. By acting in such consciousness, bondage-creating karmas will be transformed into bondage-breaking karmas, and Arjun will attain the state beyond sorrows. Arjun enquires about the symptoms of those who are situated in divine consciousness. In response, Shree Krishna describes how persons situated in transcendence are free from attachment, fear, and anger; they are equipoised and undisturbed in all situations; their senses are subdued; and their minds are ever absorbed in God. He also gives a step-by-step explanation of how the afflictions of the mind—lust, anger, greed, etc.—develop, and how they may be eradicated.

***Important Verses of Chapter 2: Verses 20-28, 47-48 & 54-58:*** This Chapter represents the essence of entire Bhagavadgita. Verses 20-28 describe the indestructibility of Atman, which is beyond birth & death. Verses 47-48 describe Karma Yoga as performing one's prescribed duties expecting no rewards or fruits for one's actions, abandoning attachment to either success or failure. Verses 54-58 define Sthithaprajna (one with stable wisdom) as someone whose mind remains undisturbed amidst misery, and who is free from attachment, fear, and anger and discards all selfish desires and cravings of the senses that torment the mind, and becomes satisfied in the realization of the self (Atman).

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1XHdnPAAzS8EBj1mIGJlCxaAUjQb8Pm>