

FOREWORD

WHY GĪTĀ COURSE?

Almost all of us acquire knowledge about history, literature, science and philosophy in schools and college. We apply this knowledge in solving the various problems of life and also for development of human civilization. Still, an intelligent man may realize that we have not found complete fulfillment. Life has not yet become completely free from problems. We see in this world even the most beautiful rose gradually fades away, similarly even the most famous man departs from this world leaving aside his beloved material body. Even big big celebrities at the end of their life look beautiful only in picture. Despite so much progress in civilization, are we completely free from all problems? Ravindranath, Kishorkumar, Satyajit, Ravi Ghosh-Where are they? They were so famous, but was there no problems in their life?

Our main problem in this material life is death. We are struggling hard to live in this material world. For this we are using science and technology, but at the end we have to say good bye to our life, facing failure as ultimate destiny in our life struggle. Can a death sentenced prisoner find happiness in anything? Fear of impending death makes his mind disturbed & devastated at every moment. Similarly, no one can claim that he is really happy in this short life span which is filled with so many miseries like death, old age, disease, separation from loved ones, etc. Despite such gorgeous arrangements for sense enjoyment in this world, if we ask someone that are you really happy, are you fully satisfied? The answer will definitely be negative. Just satisfying this material body alone, can never make us happy, because this body is made up of material elements. This body is not the actual person.

Our cherished goal in life is long lasting, eternal, blissful life but the reality of this world is that any moment, existence of our body can end. After death, is there any existence of life? What is the meaning of our temporary life in this huge universe? What is the purpose of this material creation? Who is the creator of this universe? How is his form and personality? Although there are

millions of colleges and universities throughout the world still there is no education about this fundamental question. But this education is most important. A ship without any radar and compass in the deep ocean can never reach its destination if navigated by a sailor who has no knowledge of directions. Similarly, if we lead our life and civilization without the answers of these fundamental questions, then failure and disaster are inevitable. Now the whole world is facing a crisis. Wine shops, slaughter houses, gambling, casinos and brothels are constantly on rise. Men have created a mountain of deadly weapons. One more world war will truly reveal the actual face of this externally glamorous material civilization.

What is the right way of living in this world by which we can find happiness? Creator of this world, the Supreme Lord who is our best well-wisher has kindly given us Vedas to teach us how to lead a happy life in this world. Vedas are *apauruseya* (not of mundane origin), not written by any man. Vedas are the solution to all the problems of humanity. Vedas are the answer to all the fundamental questions of life. And *Bhagavad-gītā* is the essence of all the Vedas. *Bhagavad-gītā* is the word of the Supreme Lord, Himself. That's why it is universal. Anyone in this world at any place at any time can achieve an eternal, cognizant, blissful existence without old age and disease by following the teachings of *Bhagavad-gītā*. *Bhagavad-gītā* is a manual, a guide book to teach us how to use our vital energy in this short life span of human form of life to achieve divine life free from all problems. That's why *Bhagavad-gītā* is most important book for each and every person in the human civilization. *Bhagavad-gītā* is the only book in which the direct message of Supreme Lord is collected. *Bhagavad-gītā* is the constitution for whole of mankind.

Unfortunately, many commentators publish their own commentaries on *Bhagavad-gītā* to fulfil their own purposes without touching the spirit of *Bhagavad-gītā*. Some commentators try to prove the supremacy of meditation on *brahmajyoti*, some explain the verses of *Bhagavad-gītā* to prove that Lord *Kṛṣṇa* and *Pandavas* did not exist. They are symbolic. Some teach that they are God, in fact every living entity is God. All these false commentators are actually envious of

Lord Kṛṣṇa. They are extremely reluctant to accept the eternal existence of Lord Kṛṣṇa. They claim that the path of devotional service is sentimentalism and they are very eager to destroy the existence of the process of bhakti from this world. In fact, they write commentaries for this purpose only. They consider that they are even more intelligent than Lord Sri Kṛṣṇa. They are misguiding the humanity and thereby causing themselves the greatest harm.

It is clearly stated in the Bhagavad-gītā that the personality of Kṛṣṇa is eternal, He is the Supreme eternal Person (puruṣam śāśvataṁ divyam B.g 10.12). He has an eternal form (rūpasya nityam B.g 11.52), He is the basis and shelter of the impersonal Brahman (brahmaṇo hi pratiṣṭhāham B.g. 14.27), result of meditation on the unmanifest impersonal Brahman is misery alone (avyaktā hi gatir duḥkham B.g 12.5). In Bhagavad-gītā, Lord concludes with His ultimate instruction, “sarva-dharmān parityajya mām ekaṁ śaraṇam vraja. Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto Me.” (B.g 18.66). The ultimate teaching of Bhagavad-gītā is to surrender unto our best well-wisher, Supreme Personality of Godhead because every living entity is eternal servant of Supreme Lord Sri Kṛṣṇa and Bhakti is natural loving propensity of the soul towards the Supreme Lord, an eternal function of the living entity. This loving propensity is dormant in the heart of every living entity. To awaken that dormant love within the heart is the process of achieving perfection.

man can never manufacture a religious process by his own mental speculation. Real religious principles are enacted by the Supreme Personality of Godhead as mentioned in Srimad Bhagvatam, “dharmam tu sākṣād bhagavat-praṇītam SB 6.3.19”, but nowadays religious paths and incarnations are formed every now and then. But this is not actual religion, it is ‘Dharmasya glanir’, downfall of religion. Although these self-manufactured path of religions may seem good, but by following all these bogus paths, ultimately one will meet failure. Being misguided by foolish opinions, nowadays even people dressed in saffron robes also eat meat.

That’s why, Bhagavad-gītā’s education is essential in every school and college. But the modern education system pertains only to matter, there is no knowledge about spirit; they are simply taking care

of the material elements and the bodily needs. There is not even a single university in the whole world to teach the science of the soul although soul is the most important entity in the body. Body without the presence of soul is just dead matter which decomposes.

The root cause of all the problems of the human civilization is ignorance about one's true identity. Instead of understanding our true identity as the spirit soul, we consider ourselves as this material body. By getting the knowledge of Bhagavad-gītā, one can get the true understanding about oneself and the Supreme Lord, and one learns to love all living entities by knowing them as part and parcel of the Lord. By spreading the knowledge of Bhagavad-gītā, world can be relieved from the horrors of war. We are thinking that the civilization is advancing but slaughter houses, casinos, brothels etc. are constantly on rise. Civilization has become contaminated. Moral values of students have been degraded. By the propagation of the knowledge of Bhagavad-gītā, all these problems will decrease, sinful tendencies will reduce. Bhagavad-gītā is the solution to all the problems of human civilization—personal, social, political, philosophical, etc. Bhagavad-gītā is universal. World's best intellectuals and philosophers are reading Bhagavad-gītā. The knowledge of Bhagavad-gītā can lead to formation of a proper civilization, which will actually be prosperous and peaceful.

Even though there were many English editions of Bhagavad-gītā in the past, still by reading them, not even a single person became pure devotee or could be freed from sinful activities. Following in the footsteps of the previous acaryas, Srila Abhay Caranarvinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada wrote an unadulterated commentary of the Bhagavad-gītā in the English language—'Bhagavad-gītā As It Is'—which has created a great revolution in the whole world. In past thirty years, it has been translated in more than hundred languages and distributed in millions throughout the whole world. In major cities across the globe, more than 500 centers have been formed for the practice of Kṛṣṇa Consciousness. Even youths of colleges and universities are attracted. Many Gītā clubs and Youth forums have been formed. There is revolutionary preaching going on in India. Thousands of students in Pune and Mumbai, among which there are hundreds of engineering and medical students—are practicing and preaching this message of Bhagavad-gītā. All throughout the world, Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement is on rise.

For Course participants:

Even if you have preliminary thinking like this, still you should complete the course:

- Bhagavad-gītā is written by man. So, it is just a belief, not science. There are no proven facts, it is all about faith. All this study is simply waste of time.
- The battle at Kurukshetra, Sri Kṛṣṇa, Arjuna, chariots, charioteers are all symbolic representations. Knowledge is given through this symbols. This knowledge is real not the symbols.
- Sri Kṛṣṇa was like a superman. Later many people started worshipping him like God.
- Sri Kṛṣṇa is not eternal. He also has birth and death like us. So, He is like us only.
- Sri Kṛṣṇa is the temporary manifestation of the impersonal Brahman. Actually he was impersonal before his appearance and after disappearance, he will again transform into impersonal brahman.
- Bhagavad-gītā primarily explains the impersonal, unmanifest Brahman. Living entity is nothing but Brahman. Living entity and Brahman are non-different.
- I am Supreme Lord. You are also Supreme Lord. Each and every one of us is God.
- In the Bhagavad-gītā, the process of Yoga-sadhana i.e. Jñāna yoga and Astanga yoga, is considered best. The supreme perfection is to be absorbed in samadhi by meditating on some light by closing our eyes.
- The principal teaching of Bhagavad-gītā is Karma Yoga. Everyone should be hardworking. All these mediation, austerity and bhakti is for lazy day-dreamers.
- There is no difference between demigods and Lord Kṛṣṇa. All these are different manifestations of the impersonal brahman. Ultimately, they are all one nondual truth. Therefore, there is no difference between the worship of demigod and Kṛṣṇa.
- Result of all sort of worship is same. Just as all rivers finally

meet in the ocean, similarly all forms of worship finally lead to the same destination.

- As we make scientific advancement, all the problems of mankind will subside.
- Lord is like all pervading energy which is unlimited and infinite. He has no form or personality.
- Actually nature is the Supreme controller. Everything is automatically happening by the laws of nature. There is no controller behind this.
- There is no other world beyond this visible world. This world is all in all. This life is all in all. So, as long as life remains, we should enjoy happily.
- Life is created by some interaction of chemicals. Everything ends at the time of death. So, it makes no difference by reading or not reading Bhagavad-gītā.

All the opinions mentioned above are actually false and Lord spoke this message 5000 years ago to destroy these foolish opinions.

Do you have such opinions? Or, you might have definitely heard such opinions from others. Please read with open mind what is written in Bhagavad gītā.

In grade-1 book, there are no verses. It is primarily introductory type. Verses and their purport will be there in grade-2 book. If you simply do this two courses, you will truly understand Bhagavad-gītā. We are always ready for full cooperation.

Bhagavad-gītā is the essence of all the Vedas. It is extremely important and recognized all throughout the world. So, kindly use this opportunity and do the course despite your work pressure and family problems.

The divine words emanated from the mouth of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Kṛṣṇa is the most important information for us. This is nectar of our life. Please come, let us taste this.

We pray for the success and well-being of the course participants.