

Religious Reading

Chapter 1: The Distress of Arjuna

The first chapter begins as two armies arrive on the battlefield (Kurukshetra) meeting face to face in chariots with drums, and trumpets to announce their powerful presences to each other. Duryodhana boasts to his teacher how superior his army was to Arjuna and Bhishma because his army consisted of heroes and archers. Duryodhana went on naming all his outstanding men who will join him in battle: Yuyudhna, Purujit, Saibya, great charioteer Drupada and many other heroic men. Although Prince Arjuna did not see anything great about war he told Krishna (the embodiment of the god Vishnu) he did not want to fight but saw compassion for these people that were before him. The battlefield was not filled with warriors but grandson, grandfather, uncles, and kinfolk people. Arjuna not prepared to kill. He felt if this battle went on those men would dwell in hell for killing their families and Dharma (disorder) would corrupt the world. Arjuna decided to let the son of Dhritarashtra kill him, rather than bear arms against them. He then laid down his bow and sat in his chariot.

Chapter 2: The Book of Doctrines

Prince Arjuna was depressed and tears came to his eye just thinking about what he is going to do. Complaining to Lord Krishna about how miserable he was, he told Krishna that he wasn't going to fight. Lord Krishna told Arjuna he was grieving for no reason. He stated these warriors need no pity because their souls will never die. Krishna explains reincarnation to Arjuna, and how souls are indestructible. He asks how can you kill someone's soul that is immortal. Souls use bodies like people use cloth. When the garments grow old we wear new cloths, similar to a soul when body expires the soul

moves on to another body. Krishna said to Arjuna it's your duty as a warrior to fight this war because if you cower and run from the battle you are better off dead. Should a warrior run from battle, respect is lost and some would proffer death. Krishna goes into explaining the path to enlightenment, without desires, and attaining peace through the practices of yoga. Obtaining total control of your senses with meditation free one selves from desires that causes fear and anger. If a person can abstain from all desire it is said one can achieve peace. If you shall die in battle you will go to heaven or if you would win the battle you will have a kingdom to rule so don't be afraid to fight.

Chapter 3: Virtue in Work

Prince Arjuna does not understand why Krishna is telling him to go on and fight this war. Arjuna didn't know what path he should take but wanted Krishna to make up his mind for him. Krishna continued an explanation to Arjuna about Karma yoga, stating doing work is better then doing no work at all. Krishna told him working could be slavery except when it is done with sacrifice, and when doing action without rewards will please the gods. Gods are delighted when scarifies are presented and if gods are pleased will they will return great gifts upon you. A person would offer his/her food to god first as a sacrifice is saintly, but those who make the food and eat it first are only eating sin. People who do not sacrifice and only take delight in themselves have no duty and no concern for anyone or anything. Krishna implies if Arjuna performs his duty without significance he can achieve spiritual perfection in his life.

Chapter 8: Religion by Devotion to the One Supreme God

Prince Arjuna asked many question to Krishna about yoga, karma, supreme deity, Adhyatma, and Braham. Krishna explains to his students that everything everlasting is

Brahma and that your own self is Adhyatma. Karma is the creation of every living being. Mediation and yoga will help you on the path of peace to find the Supreme Purusha. Krishna describes the yogis' departure in to the next life never to return or they may come back. This is caused either during the summer solstice or the winter solstice, light or darkness the yogi must know these two paths so they will not be deceived from leaving the natural world. Krishna advised Arjuna to practice the yoga all the time this, rejecting in attaining the knowledge of the Vedas.

Chapter 11: The Manifesting of the one and Manifold

Arjuna convinced Krishna to let him see Krishna in his true form, his universal form. Although Arjuna could not see him with his own eye, Krishna gave him supernatural sight so he could behold Krishna yoga. Krishna's magnificent true form with numerous brilliant colors, heads, eyes, and mouths allows him to be all seeing and knowing. When Arjuna saw the terrible faces of Krishna he was frightened and could not find his sense of direction. Arjuna then asked Krishna to take pity on him and change back to his pleasant self. Arjuna told Krishna, Vishnu the destroyer that he is the superior to Brahma the creator, the one true god. Krishna declares that he is the only person who has ever seen his universal form. Nobody who has study the Vedas, performing scarifies, rituals, gives charity or his true devoted has witnessed Krishna's actual nature.

My Thoughts

Reading the first chapter of Bhagavad-Gita I thought there was going to be a battle, but soon found it was a discussion between friends and why Arjuna did not want to go into battle. Krishna was perceived, as a wise and all knowing being would gives advices to Arjuna. Krishna was god in the Bhagavad-Gita sharing his knowledge of the

Vedas to his young disciple. That peace, truth, and happiness will come to one who is willing to seek it. Take pride in what you do if it is being a warrior like Arjuna then do it without recompense, for it's your duty in life that will bring pleasure.