

Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 150: Chapter 16, Verses 21-24

(March 17 – March 23, 2021)

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ORIGINAL SANSKRIT DOCUMENT

TRANSLITERATION

त्रिविधं नरकस्येदं द्वारं नाशनमात्मनः ।

tri-vidham narakasyedam dvāram nāśhanam ātmanah

कामः क्रोधस्तथा लोभस्तस्मादेतत्त्रयं त्यजेत् ॥ १६-२१ ॥

kāmaḥ krodhas tathā lobhas tasmād etat trayam tyajet

एतैर्विमुक्तः कौन्तेय तमोद्वारैस्त्रिभिर्नरः ।

etair vimuktaḥ kaunteya tamo-dvārais tribhir naraḥ

आचरत्यात्मनः श्रेयस्ततो याति परां गतिम् ॥ १६-२२ ॥

ācharaty ātmanah śhreyas tato yāti parām gatim

यः शास्त्रविधिमुत्सृज्य वर्तते कामकारतः ।

yaḥ śhāstra-vidhim utsṛjya vartate kāma-kārataḥ

न स सिद्धिमवाप्नोति न सुखं न परां गतिम् ॥ १६-२३ ॥

na sa siddhim avāpnoti na sukham na parām gatim

तस्माच्छास्त्रं प्रमाणं ते कार्याकार्यव्यवस्थितौ ।

tasmāch chhāstraṁ pramāṇam te kāryākārya-
vyavasthitau

ज्ञात्वा शास्त्रविधानोक्तं कर्म कर्तुमिहार्हसि ॥ १६-२४ ॥

jñātvā śhāstra-vidhānoktam karma kartum ihārhasi

ॐ तत्सदिति श्रीमद्भगवद्गीतासूपनिषत्सु

om tatsaditi shrimadbhagavadgitasu upanishatsu

ब्रह्मविद्यायां योगशास्त्रे श्रीकृष्णार्जुनसंवादे

brahmavidyayaam yogashaastre

shrikrishnaarjunasamvaade

दैवासुरसम्पद्विभागयोगो नाम षोडशोऽध्यायः ॥ १६ ॥

Daivasurasampadvibhaagyogo naama

shodashodhyaayah

TRANSLATION

- (21) There are three gates leading to the hell of self-destruction for the soul—lust, anger, and greed. Therefore, all should abandon these three.
- (22) Those who are freed from the three gates to darkness endeavor for the welfare of their soul, and thereby attain the supreme goal.
- (23) Those who act under the impulse of desire, discarding the injunctions of the scriptures, attain neither perfection, nor happiness, nor the supreme goal in life.
- (24) Therefore, let the scriptures be your authority in determining what should be done and what should not be done. Understand the scriptural injunctions and teachings, and then perform your actions in this world accordingly.

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 16th Chapter called “Daivasurasampadvibhaaga Yoga”.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_S6SGdzeJ6jtpLFang_XJ0RkXoYEdxSE/view?usp=sharing

Chapter 16

Verse 21

In this verse, Lord Krishna confirms that all the demoniac vices and characteristics he iterated in earlier verses are the symptoms of lust, greed and anger, which are the root cause and basis of all the others. These three are very destructive and degenerative for a human being, completely obscuring discrimination and the consciousness of the *atma* or immortal soul and therefore, to be totally shunned, abandoned, or relinquished. The word *dvaaram* means portal or gate, and lust, greed, and anger are the three portals or doorways to hellish existences as they completely destroy and ruin all opportunities for advancing in spiritual consciousness. The three doorways of lust, greed and anger causes one to perform such sinful and abominable activities that damnation is the only result and leads a human being directly to hell to suffer immensely for their sinful inequities. Therefore, one should be extremely vigilant to avoid these three doors and keep them far away at a safe distance.

Verse 22

Lord Krishna explains here that the special result of renouncing lust, greed and anger is that such a person develops the consciousness to the point where spiritual pursuits become attractive and desirable, such as the practice of *yoga*, meditation and engagement in austerities like fasting and celibacy. Any *jiva* who achieves actual, factual knowledge of Lord

Krishna as the creator of all and His absolute paramount position as the Supreme Lord of all existence will naturally develop reverence for Him. This results in a harmonious spirit attuned with the divine nature, cooperation with His devotees and the utmost respect for all life and creation. The association with Lord Krishna's exclusive devotees will guide one to embark upon the path of devotion for one's ultimate benefit.

Verse 23:

Lord Krishna here emphasizes that it is not possible to renounce lust, greed and anger without performing authorized spiritual activities. The word *shastra* refers exclusively to the Vedic scriptures. Vidhi means the injunctions and ordinances within them. The Vedic scriptures are the Supreme Lord Krishna's mandates. Lord Krishna declares that those who whimsically ignore or spitefully disregard the ordinances and injunctions prescribed in the Vedic scriptures, frivolously impelled by the impulses of desire, will achieve neither knowledge of truth, perfection nor moksha or liberation from material existence. Such offenders who ignorantly or purposely transgress the eternal prohibitions of the Vedic scriptures will never be able to maintain any permanent happiness and tranquility.

Verse 24:

Lord Krishna here provides the conclusion that the Vedic scriptures are the sole, absolute authority in ascertaining the applicability of all activities. What is prescribed in the Vedic scriptures is the determining factor for what is righteous and what is unrighteous, what is to be done and what is not to be done, what is right and what is wrong. The whole pantheon of the Vedic scriptures includes the four Vedas, Upanishads, Vedanta Sutra, and the Puranas including Srimad Bhagavatam, the Mahabharata, Ramayana and all their auxiliaries such as Manu Samhita, Narada Pancharatna, Sri Caitanya Charitamrita, etc. Thus, having understood the eternal directives prescribed in the Vedic scriptures, one should engage in them to the best of one's ability in full faith for the achievement of one's best interests according to one's inherent nature and qualification. By comparing and differentiating between the divine nature and the demoniac nature, sufficient evidence has been accumulated to prove conclusively that the demoniac nature is only qualified for damnation in lower and lower species in hellish existences and that only the divine nature is qualified and eligible for higher consciousness, the ultimate truth and eternal communion with the Supreme Lord.