

Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 92: Chapter 10, Verses 34-38

(February 5 –February 11, 2020)

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TRANSLITERATION

मृत्युः सर्वहरश्चाहमुद्भवश्च भविष्यताम् ।

*mṛityuḥ sarva-haraśh chāham udbhavaśh cha
bhaviṣhyatām*

कीर्तिः श्रीर्वाक् नारीणां स्मृतिर्मेधा धृतिः क्षमा ॥ १०-३४ ॥

*kīrtiḥ śhrīr vāk cha nārīṇām smṛitir medhā dhṛitiḥ
kṣhamā*

बृहत्साम तथा साम्नां गायत्री छन्दसामहम् ।

bṛihat-sāma tathā sāmṇām gāyatrī chhandasām aham

मासानां मार्गशीर्षोऽहमृतूनां कुसुमाकरः ॥ १०-३५ ॥

māsānām mārḡa-śhīrṣho 'ham ṛitūnām kusumākaraḥ

द्यूतं छलयतामस्मि तेजस्तेजस्विनामहम् ।

dyūtaṁ chhalayatām asmi tejas tejasvinām aham

जयोऽस्मि व्यवसायोऽस्मि सत्त्वं सत्त्ववतामहम् ॥ १०-३६ ॥

jayo 'smi vyavasāyo 'smi sattvaṁ sattvavatām aham

वृष्णीनां वासुदेवोऽस्मि पाण्डवानां धनञ्जयः ।

vṛiṣṇīnām vāsudevo 'smi pāṇḍavānām dhanañjayaḥ

मुनीनामप्यहं व्यासः कवीनामुशना कविः ॥ १०-३७ ॥

munīnām apyahaṁ vyāsaḥ kavīnām uśhanā kaviḥ

दण्डो दमयतामस्मि नीतिरस्मि जिगीषताम् ।

daṇḍo damayatām asmi nītir asmi jigīṣhatām

मौनं चैवास्मि गुह्यानां ज्ञानं ज्ञानवतामहम् ॥ १०-३८ ॥

*maunaṁ chaivāsmi guhyānām jñānaṁ jñānavatām
aham*

TRANSLATION

- (34)** I am the all-devouring Death, and I am the origin of those things that are yet to be. Amongst feminine qualities I am fame, prosperity, fine speech, memory, intelligence, courage, and forgiveness.
- (35)** Amongst the hymns in the Sāma Veda know me to be the Brihatsama; amongst poetic meters I am the Gayatri. Of the twelve months of the Hindu calendar I am Margsheersh, and of seasons I am spring, which brings forth flowers.
- (36)** I am the gambling of the cheats and the splendor of the splendid. I am the victory of the victorious, the resolve of the resolute, and the virtue of the virtuous.
- (37)** Amongst the descendants of Vrishni, I am Krishna, and amongst the Pandavas I am Arjun. Know me to be Ved Vyas amongst the sages, and Shukracharya amongst the great thinkers.
- (38)** Of chastisers, I am the rod of punishment, and proper conduct amongst those who seek victory. Amongst secrets, I am silence, and I am the wisdom in the wise.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ouqgAH6WcfGzKkmZXNSTbRbMVOuUzccV>

Chapter 10

Verse 34:

Lord Krishna reveals that out of annihilators, His *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence is *mrtyuh* or death, the great terminator of life in all material existences. Of the eight transformations of physical existence that lead up to death, His *vibhuti* is the first known as birth. In other words, He is the generating principle of things yet to be born. Of women, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is all of the seven feminine perfections, including *kirtih* or exalted reputation, *shrir* or lustrous beauty, *vak* or articulate speech, *smrtih* or excellent memory, *medha* or discerning intelligence, *dhrtih* or fortitude and *kshama* or forgiveness.

Verse 35:

Previously, in Verse 22, Lord Krishna revealed that His *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence from the Vedas is the Sama Veda. Now He specifies that His *vibhuti* within the Sama Veda is the hymn known as Brhat-Sama. This hymn is a sublime, auspicious hymn with a beautiful melody glorifying the Supreme Lord when He assumed the position of Indra during His manvantara incarnation as Dharmasetu. Of mantras composed in long and short meters, His *vibhuti* is the *Gayatri mantra* which confers the Brahmin status on Vedic initiates. Of months, His *vibhuti* is Margashirsha when the grains are harvested. Of seasons, His *vibhuti* is Springtime when flowers bloom.

Verse 36:

Lord Krishna reveals that of cheaters His *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence is gambling, the art of plundering those who cheat. His *vibhuti* is glory of the glorious, victory of the victorious, and resolve of the resolute. The word *sattvam* refers to goodness and of those who are good, His *vibhuti* is the magnanimity and goodness they possess.

Verses 37:

Of the *Vrishnis* or the ones from the lineage of Lord Krishna, His *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence is *Vaasudeva*, the son of *Vasudeva* or Himself. Since no soul can excel the Lord, He is naturally the most glorious personality of the *Vrishni* dynasty. The *Pandavas* were the five sons of *Pandu*. Amongst them, *Arjuna* was an archer par-excellence, and was a very intimate devotee of Lord Krishna. He looked upon the Lord as his dear friend. So, of the five *Pandavas*, *Arjuna* is Lord Krishna's *vibhuti*. Of holy sages or those who are knowledgeable of all the Vedic scriptures, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is *Vyasadeva* who divided the one Veda into four, wrote the *Puranas* and *Brahma Sutras* and

compiled the historical treatise Mahabharata. Of exalted seers, His *vibhuti* is *Ushanah* the son of Bhrigu who is known as *Shukracharya*, the guru of the *asuras* or those born in demonic lines. Shukracharya was a very learned sage known for his expertise in the science of ethics. He was compassionate to accept the demons as his disciples and guide their progress.

Verses 38:

Lord Krishna reveals that of *damayatam* or chastisers, His *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence is the rod of punishment that punishes those who are infringement of the law. Punishment, when meted out in a timely and just manner, is an important tool for reforming sinful behavior in people and training them in right conduct. Of those seeking victory, His *vibhuti* is the strength of character they possess, including unwillingness to sacrifice morals or ethics to achieve victory. That victory which is won by the path of righteousness signifies the power of God. Of all matters concerning secrecy, His *vibhuti* is *maunam* or silence, which is the master of all secrecy since nothing can be revealed, nor the intention for silence deciphered from a person maintaining the total silence. Of the wise, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is the wisdom they possess. The true wisdom comes to a person with the maturity of spiritual knowledge through self- or God realization. A person endowed with it develops the perspective of seeing all events, persons, and objects in the light of their relationship with God.