

Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 12: Chapter 2, Verses 6-11

(July 18 –July 24, 2018)

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ORIGINAL SANSKRIT DOCUMENT

TRANSLITERATION

न चैतद् विद्मः कतरन्नो गरीयो
यद्वा जयेम यदि वा नो जयेयुः ।
यानेव हत्वा न जिजीविषामस्
तेऽवस्थिताः प्रमुखे धार्तराष्ट्राः ॥ ६ ॥

na caitat vidmaḥ kataran no garīyo
yad vā jayema yadi vā no jayeyuḥ
yān eva hatvā na jijīviṣāmas
te 'vasthitāḥ pramukhe dhārtarāṣṭrāḥ

कार्पण्यदोषोपहतस्वभावः
पुच्छामि त्वां धर्मसम्मूढचेताः ।
यच्छ्रेयः स्यान्निश्चितं ब्रूहि तन्मे
शिष्यस्तेऽहं शाधि मां त्वां प्रपन्नम् ॥ ७ ॥

kārpanya-doṣopahata-svabhāvaḥ
pṛcchāmi tvāṁ dharma-saṁmūḍha-cetāḥ
yac chreyaḥ syān niścitaṁ brūhi tan me
śiṣyas te 'haṁ śādhi mām tvāṁ prapannam

न हि प्रपश्यामि ममापनुद्याद्
यच्छोकमुच्छोषणमिन्द्रियाणाम् ।
अवाप्य भूमावसपत्नमुद्धं
राज्यं सुराणामपि चाधिपत्यम् ॥ ८ ॥

na hi prapaśyāmi mamāpanudyād
yac chokam ucchoṣaṇam indriyāṇām
avāpya bhūmāv asapatnam ṛddham
rājyaṁ surāṇām api cādhipatyam

सञ्जय उवाच
एवमुक्त्वा हृषीकेशं गुडाकेशः परन्तपः ।
न योत्स्य इति गोविन्दमुक्त्वा तूष्णीं बभूव ह ॥ ९ ॥

sañjaya uvāca
evam uktvā hrṣīkeṣaṁ guḍākeśaḥ parantapaḥ
na yotsya iti govindam uktvā tūṣṇīm babhūva ha

तमुवाच हृषीकेशः प्रहसन्निव भारत ।
सेनयोरुभयोर्मध्ये विषीदन्तमिदं वचः ॥ १० ॥

tam uvāca hrṣīkeśaḥ prahasann iva bhārata
senayor ubhayor madhye viṣīdantam idaṁ vacaḥ

श्रीभगवानुवाच
अशोच्यानन्वशोचस्त्वं प्रज्ञावादांश्च भाषसे ।
गतासूनगतासूंश्च नानुशोचन्ति पण्डिताः ॥ ११ ॥

śrī bhagavān uvāca
aśocyān anvaśocas tvāṁ prajñā-vādāṁś ca bhāṣase
gatāsūn agatāsūṁś ca nānuśocanti paṇḍitāḥ

TRANSLATION

- (06)** We do not know what is better for us whether we conquer them or they conquer us; those sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra, whom by slaying we would not desire to live are gathered before us.
- (07)** Now my natural qualities are besieged by weakness and apprehension and my thinking bewildered regarding righteousness. I am asking you to please state what is definitely good for me. I am your disciple, surrendered to you, kindly instruct me.
- (08)** Even after obtaining a properous and unrivaled kingdom on the Earth and supremacy of even the demigods; I do not see that which can dispel this grief of mine draining my senses.
- (09)** Sañjaya said: Having addressed Lord Kṛṣṇa thus, Arjuna that chastiser of enemies said: I shall not fight O Kṛṣṇa, and became silent.
- (10)** O Dhṛtarāṣṭra, thereafter situated between the armies, Lord Kṛṣṇa as if smiling, spoke these words unto the grieving Arjuna.
- (11)** Lord Kṛṣṇa said: you are mourning for those not worthy of sorrow; yet speaking like one knowledgeable. The learned neither laments for the dead or the living.

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Commentary:

Verse 6:

Arjuna states that he does not know which one is better, victory or defeat, since he sees victory also as a defeat because by being forced into the situation of having to slay his relatives in the Kaurava army he would not have any desire to live afterwards. So win or lose was a defeat in Arjuna's eyes.

Verse 7:

Therefore Arjuna is saying that with his natural qualities of valour and courage subdued by a feeling of helplessness, he has no desire even to live and in sinfulness for even considering to participate in the destruction of a dynasty. When one's mind is perplexed regarding duty and responsibility one should definitely take direction from higher authority. In the case of Arjuna, who was in doubt as to whether or not it was righteous or unrighteous for a kshatriya to give up fighting. Therefore, without hesitation he fully surrendered unto the Supreme Lord and besieged Him to instruct what was in his best spiritual interests to engage in.

Verse 8:

Here Arjuna plainly states that he does not see any action that would alleviate his grief that was drying up his senses, including even the rulership of the demigods. So, clearly Arjuna was not to be consoled by any amount of power and prosperity, and thus to dispel his grief he turned to the

Supreme Lord for guidance. The one in delusion needs to hear knowledge of the ultimate truth from those who are qualified, and who is more qualified than the Supreme Lord Krishna?

Verse 9:

Sanjaya told Dhritarashtra that Arjuna finishes his lamentation by saying that he would not fight and then silently waits for the Supreme Lord's instructions. overwhelmed with grief, Arjuna was not apparently able to perceive the distinction between the physical body that was destructible and the soul that was non-destructible.

Verse 10:

Sanjaya continued his conversation with Dhritarashtra, saying that Lord Krishna, situated between the two armies, with a slight smile upon His face, spoke to the grief-stricken Arjuna who was immersed in entanglement of fraternal delusion.

Verse 11:

Discerning that Arjuna's grief was due to the absence of discrimination between the soul and the physical body, the Supreme Lord Krishna told Arjuna that he was grieving for those who should not be grieved for, such as Bhishma and Drona, who are engaged in battle to win merit. Lord Krishna mocks at Arjuna's delusion that without relatives there is no purpose in ruling the kingdom or in living. Moreover Arjuna talks like the one learned by saying that sin would be incurred upon slaying relatives but then disregarding the very fact that Duryodhana and his brothers are heinous offenders. He advises Arjuna that those with spiritual intelligence do not grieve for the dead or the living, and such individuals are considered wise, and the wise never lament over physical body.