

# Vedanta Mission

## Online Bhagwad Gita Introduction Course

by  
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### Introduction of Gita

#### Part-1 / Lesson-1

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#### Introduction to Bhagwad Gita :

The name Bhagwad Gita literally means the Song of God. The word Gita is traditionally used for any text which while not being a part of Vedas, talks about the ultimate timeless truths of life. The section of Vedas which does this kind of work are called the Upanishads. So we have many Gita's, but Bhagwad Gita has become very famous because the problem of Arjuna is incidentally the problem of the majority of people who are dynamically aspiring to make the best of their lives. It is very comprehensive too, covering almost the entire spectrum of Vedic thought.

Bhagwad Gita is part of Mahabharata, and has 18 chapters. These 18 chapters are in fact chapter 25 to 42 of the Bhishma Parva of Mahabharata. In all there are 700 shlokas or verses in entire Gita. While the real discourse between Lord Krishna & Arjuna took place on the first day of the Mahabharata war itself, but the text which we have as Gita was told by Sanjay to King Dhritrashtra on the tenth day of the war. On this tenth day came the astounding news of the fall of Bhishma Pitamah. Then the king requested Sanjay to narrate to him the entire sequence of events which finally lead to this unbelievable tragedy. That is how started the narration of the events. Earlier Sanjay was bestowed with a divine power to see or hear anything happening outside or inside a person on the battlefield of Kurukshetra.

Bhagwad Gita has been written by Sri Veda Vyasa. In the discourse the speaker is Lord Krishna, while the person who did the calligraphy work was Lord Ganesha. The text is more than 5000 years old. .

#### Gita reveals the 'Art of Right Decision-Making' :

In the beginning of Bhagwad Gita we are shown a very grave situation. In a kingdom tracing its lineage to the great King Bharat, there was a ruling family in which there came about a power struggle. On one side were the rightful owners of the throne and on the other were those who had got hold of the throne by some luck and a bit of deceit. After resorting to various peaceful means the situation came to such a pass that war had to be fought. This historically famous Mahabharata War was such a big & profound affair that it was to change the face of whole country at that time. It was of far reaching consequence. Everyone who was anyone was directly or indirectly involved with the war, its politics and certainly with its outcome. Very few were neutrals. The stakes on one side was righteousness & on the other side was lust for power.

The Pandava's could never accept what all was going on, but at the same time Arjuna, their lead warrior, could not decide to fight a battle unto finish with

his own brethren. This indecisiveness which on one hand revealed a conscientious & a caring mind, and on the other hand revealed an intellect which was not yet fully enlightened about the basic priorities of life. Thus we had an ideal case of indecisiveness & its resultant consequences. The first chapter of Gita is thus rightly called the Chapter of Arjuna's-Grief. In a few masterly strokes Sri Veda Vyasa painted a picture of a despondent & indecisive Arjuna, and thus created a beautiful platform for an immortal discourse of Lord Krishna about the dynamics of action, righteousness & the timeless truth of life. This is what Bhagwad Gita is all about. In modern parlance it could very well be called as a book which reveals the 'Art of Right Decision-Making'.

### **Inability to take 'Right' decision is very painful :**

Our inability to take a decision which appears really satisfactory to us from all points of view, is a very painful state. Yes, decision has to be right from all points of view. Apart from my own satisfaction, others who are involved should be happy about it, and even those who are not involved should be happy about it. Every action is thus a very specific & dynamic piece of work. The intensity of grief & pain borne out of our indecisiveness is directly proportional to the intensity of our enthusiasm to attain a goal for which this decision was to be taken. If we really want to attain something then, we can neither take a decision of not responding, nor can we take a decision which is right. So such a person has a very suffocating, despondent & stressful mind. All symptoms of a classic case of stress start surfacing and if proper guidance is not given then a psychological condition of 'burnout' becomes inevitable. The mind of Arjuna started showing some signs of stress & despondency before Lord Krishna began his divine discourse..

### **Discernment of that which is 'Right' :**

Discernment of that which is 'right' in a particular situation is so situation-specific that we cannot really follow a precedent which took place at another time, place & by a different person under different circumstances. While role-models do play an important role in our lives, but they cannot really live our lives. We can get inspiration from them to be intelligent, creative & fearless, but will have to learn to take our decisions ourselves. The person who has to act, his frame of mind, his goal, his motivation, his capacities, the people around, the urgency of the situation, its consequences to others etc., all these factors have to be taken into consideration before we can decide our response. While the basic spirit of what is really right under a situation does remain constant, the final response does change a lot. The flexibility to be situation-specific is what intelligence & freedom all about. It is this capacity which helps a person live his own life is the goal of real education. This alone is the thrust of the teaching of Bhagwad Gita. It is in essence a Man-Making education..

### **Subsequent Lesson's will be selectively accessible :**

In all we plan to divide this entire Gita Course into four Parts, and each of these parts have ten Lessons each. Thus this entire online Gita Course shall contain 40 lessons, after which you will definitely get a very good idea of what Bhagwad Gita is all about. Please note here that only the first lesson of the first part of the Course is 'open' to all. Rest will be sent after you register and send the right answers. So any one who wishes to study the entire Course will have to submit the answers available at the end of each lesson. Systematic study alone is helpful, and will guarantee proper results of our efforts too. The subject matter of other courses is as follows :

## Remaining Lessons of Part-1 of Gita Intro Course

- Lesson 2 - Background of Bhagwad Gita
- Lesson 3 - Subject Matter of Bhagwad Gita
- Lesson 4 - Objective of Bhagwad Gita
- Lesson 5 - Student of Bhagwad Gita
- Lesson 6 - Intro of all the chapters of Gita
- Lesson 7 - Basic problem & the 3 obstacles
- Lesson 8 - Three Sections of Bhagwad Gita
- Lesson 9 - Relevance of Bhagwad Gita today
- Lesson 10 - Some imp shlokas of Gita & a Prayer

## Self-Test

Hari om !

This questionnaire is for your own Self-Test. As such we advise you that:-

1. Please study the lesson carefully, if required 1-3 times, and then close the lesson and then answer the questions in a separate email.
2. Copy the questions and write your answers in a separate email and send them to us at: [vmission-at-gmail.com](mailto:vmission-at-gmail.com). Replace -at- with @.
3. We shall send you the next lesson by email itself - as an attachment. So please organize your spam protection facility accordingly.

1. Pl write subject of the mail as: **Ans of Gita 1-1**
2. Your Full Name (as would like to have in the Certificate).
3. Your Complete Address :

## Questions

### **Q-1: Where is Bhagwad Gita originally found?**

- In the Rig Vedas.
- In Bhagwat Mahapurana.
- In Mahabharata.
- In Vishnu Purana.

### **Q-2: Who is the author of Bhagwad Gita?**

- Veda Vyasa
- Lord Krishna
- Lord Ganesha
- Mahatma Gandhi

### **Q-3: How many shlokas are there in Bhagwad Gita?**

- 1800
- 1400
- 700
- 350

### **Q-4: write in about five lines as to what does the word 'Gita' mean?**

**Best Wishes !**

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