

Verses from the Bhagavad Gita

CHAPTER I

Vs. 20

Beholding Dritarastra's sons
Arrayed against him with weapons
Arjuna took up his bow
And spoke to Krishna bending low

Vs. 21

Dauntless One, drive my chariot
Between the two armies place it
So that I may see all at once
Foes and friends - with my own eyes

Vs. 22

Until I have observed them all ---
Warriors drawn up for battle
Men with whom I shall fight
Hold till then my chariot

Vs. 23

Well-wishers of Duryodhan
Assembled here I shall scan
"They are backing this unrighteous war
Let me behold them from my car"

Vs. 24

By Arjuna thus addressed
Sri Krishna placed the chariot
In between the two armies
That stood there face to face

Vs. 25

In front of Bhishma and Drona
Lord Krishna spoke to Arjuna
"Behold the Kauravas assembled here
To fight with you in this warfare"

Vs. 26

Arjuna beheld both armies
kith and kin, uncles and teachers
Brothers, cousins, granduncles
Sons, friends and maternal uncles

Vs. 27

Fathers-in-law and well-wishers
Many of his close relatives
All who have joined for this terrible war
Arjuna saw them from his car

Vs. 28

Possessed by extreme compassion
Arjuna uttered these words in passion;
Krishna seeing these kinsmen
Attcked am I by fear of sin (karma)

Vs. 29

Krishna, my limbs are scorched
Keshava, my mouth is parched
See how my whole frame does
See how my hairs stand on end

Vs. 30

Drops from my hand the Gandiva Bow
My skin is burning - I know not how -
My head is reeling and so is my mind
I am even unable to stand

Vs. 31

Inauspicious omens I see
Keshava, what good can it be?
To kill in battle kith and kin
Can only bring a terrible sin (karma)

Vs 32

Krishna, victory I covet not
Kingdom or pleasure I seek not
What good is a kingdom or luxuries
Or even this life unto us?

Vs. 33

Those for whose sake we desire the throne
Luxuries, pleasures and the crown
Those teachers, uncles and sons
Are here arrayed, staking their lives

Vs. 34

Grandsons, sons and granduncles
Maternal uncles and uncles
Preceptors, fathers-in law
Other relations and brothers-in law

Vs. 35

For earthly possessions I slay them not
Let them kill me---I am ready for that---
Sovereignty of the three spheres
Is nothing to me and gives no cheer

Vs. 36

How can we have any happiness
From slaying Dritarastra's sons?
By destroying these aggressors
Sin (karma) will surely accrue to us

Vs. 37

Therefore, It would not be right
For us --- we should know how to act
After killing our own kinsmen
How can we be happy then?

Vs. 38

With minds blinded by greed, these men
See not destruction of race as sin (karma)
Sin accruing from rimes
Destroys friend and men of amity

Vs. 39

The wrong in destruction of family
Krishna, we can see clearly
Why should we not turn from crime
Which will bring us sin and shame?

Vs. 40

Ageless family tradition
Will be lost by this destruction
Virtue having once been lost
Sin overtakes the entire lot

Vs. 41

Vice enters the hearts of women
Through the death of their own men
Corruption causes intermixture
Of blood that leads to disaster

Vs. 42

Corruption leads only to hell
And destroys the race as well
Deprived of all oblations
Forefather fall from heavens

Vs. 43

The race is brought to utter disaster
By the evil of intermixture
Cast, tradition and customs cease
Righteousness is effaced

Vs. 44

Men who have lost traditions dwell
For an indefinite period in hell
Krishna, this is what I have heard
So thus incurred sits on the head

Vs. 45

Alas! Though possessed of intelligence
We desist not from indulgence
In the great sin of greed for throne
And kill our own kinsmen

Vs. 46.

If the sons of Dhritarastra kill
Me unarmed in this battle
If, armed with weapons, they should come
I would say that death is welcome

Sanjaya said:

Vs. 47

Agitated by grief, thus
and laying down his bow and arrows
Arjuna sank into the seat
Of his mighty chariot

Thus, in the Upanishad sung by the Lord, the science of Brahman, the scripture on Yoga, the dialogue between Sri Krishna and Arjuna ends the first chapter entitled "The Yoga of the Dejection of Arjuna.