

TIMELESS WISDOM FOR MODERN LIFE

The **BHAGAVAD-GITA** **EXPLAINED**

WITH
200 Q&A

Clear Answers to Life's Deepest Questions
from the Timeless Wisdom of the Gita

KAMLESH C. PATEL

Your Existence is Eternal

Live with Truth, Justice, Compassion, and Responsibly



The Bhagavad-Gita Explained with 200 Q&A

By Kamlesh C. Patel

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. Most of my knowledge and realizations come from him, his followers, others, and my own life experiences.

Tushar Shah of Cerritos offered valuable feedback and greatly assisted in distributing this book.

Introduction

The aim of this book is to explain the teachings of an eternal scripture in a practical, easy-to-understand way. Unlike other versions of the Bhagavad-Gita, this book is practical, accessible, and faithful to Lord Krishna's original message.

We all have questions about God and life, and the Bhagavad-Gita provides the answers. However, extracting those answers is not always easy because we are often influenced by degraded thinking and man-made ideologies. This book presents common questions and answers based on the Bhagavad-Gita in simple language.

The translations of the Bhagavad-Gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam verses from Sanskrit to English were prepared without deviating from the intended message of the scriptures. Some translations were taken from asitis.com.

The focus of this book is on the message of Lord Krishna to humanity and so I have omitted the statements in the translations, which address Arjuna, like 'O Arjuna', 'O son of Kunti', 'My dear Arjuna', 'O son of Bharata' and so on. This makes it clear that the message of the Bhagavad-Gita applies to everyone and not just to Arjuna.



Testification

In general people read religious scriptures, go to temples, perform rituals and austerities, and listen to religious discourses for many years. But they don't change their nature and thus consciousness for the better. The testification below will help everyone to change for the better.

I affirm the following:

**I will strive to change and become a better person.
I will give up killing by avoiding meat, fish, and eggs.
I will give up hatred and show love to everyone.
I will avoid intoxicants, including alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.
I will stop risking my hard-earned money through gambling.
I will stop lying, stealing, cheating, and deceiving others.
I will give up greed.
I will stop being miserly.
I will stop acting wickedly.
I will treat everyone with kindness.
I will be content with what I have.
I accept that my current situation is the result of my own actions.
I will reduce attachment to money by donating more.
I will let go.
I will forgive.
I will be more disciplined with my time.
I will do something for the benefit of all.
I will eat healthier foods, such as fruits and vegetables.
I will reduce my cell phone use.
I will reduce my social media use.
I will question everything.
I will keep an open mind.
I will stop denying facts.
I will accept the truth.
I will keep my vows.
I will not betray anyone.
I will share these principles with others to help improve their lives.**

Signed: Name, signature, and date

[Frame this page and read it often.]



1. What is the Bhagavad-Gita?

- The Topmost Spiritual Knowledge
- The Song of God
- The Word of God in Person
- Directly spoken by God (Lord Krishna)
- The conversation between man (Arjuna) and God
- 18 Chapters, 700 Verses
- Last spoken 5,000 years ago in Kurukshetra (India)
- Not a once only delivery scripture, eternally existing
- Already spoken millions of times in many universes

The fields of knowledge of the Bhagavad-Gita are as follows:

1. The Science of God
2. The Science of Living Entity
3. The Science of Spiritual Life
4. The Science of Material Life

"This is the purest knowledge, the king of education, the king of the most confidential knowledge. It is the highest knowledge, most righteous, and everlasting." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.2)

One must read the Bhagavad-Gita with a submissive spirit, to understand it. The purpose of the Bhagavad-Gita is to deliver mankind from material existence.

2. What information does the Bhagavad-Gita provide?

The subject of the Bhagavad-Gita entails understanding five basic truths:

- God (Isvara)
- Souls (Jivas), the living entities like you and me
- Time (Kala)
- Activities (Karma)
- Material Nature (Prakrti)

No other scripture on the planet provides this information. From the above five, karma is temporary, and the others are all eternal. Thus God, living entities, time, and matter are eternal.

3. What does the Bhagavad-Gita teach?

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that we must purify our materially contaminated consciousness. Spiritual self-realization is the aim of the Bhagavad-Gita.

- There is only one God
- We are the soul, which is eternal
- Why we suffer or enjoy
- What is the relationship between God and living beings
- How brilliant God looks
- How great God is
- Why Lord Krishna is the only proven God

- What are the qualities of godly human beings
- What are the qualities of demonic human beings
- How God witnesses all our actions
- How living beings move up or down in species
- How we can love and serve God

4. What is the history of the Bhagavad-Gita?

Unlike the scriptures which originate from outside India, the Bhagavad-Gita, is not a one-off scripture, it's eternal. It was last spoken 5,000 years ago by Lord Krishna to Arjuna, and 120.533 million years ago to the person who maintains the sun planet, Vivasvan. It was first spoken in this universe, 155.522 trillion years ago.

"I gave this science of self-realization knowledge to Vivasvan, and he gave it to Manu, and Manu gave the knowledge to his son, Ikshvaku." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.1)

Vivasvan is a demigod who maintains the sun planet. Demigods are very powerful human beings, they are NOT the Supreme (Not God).

"Although I am unborn, imperishable, eternal, and the Lord of all living beings, using My internal energy, I still appear in My original spiritual form." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.6)

Lord Krishna appears once on this planet in His original form, once in every daytime of Brahma, which is every 8.64 billion years, and each time the Bhagavad-Gita is spoken by Him. So far in the current cosmic cycle, Lord Krishna has appeared and spoken the Bhagavad-Gita more than 18,000 times on this planet (age of universe/timing of appearance=155.522 trillion/8.64 billion). This is how great Lord Krishna (God), His teachings, and the Bhagavad-Gita are.

"Once in a day of Brahma, He descends to this world to manifest His transcendental pastimes." (Caitanya-caritamrta Adi-Lila 3.6)

The Bhagavad-Gita has been spoken by Lord Krishna in millions of other universes. It is continuously being spoken at every second. This means that it's being spoken right now in some universe.

"The consecutive pastimes of Krsna are being manifested in one of the innumerable universes moment after moment. There is no possibility of counting the universes, but in any case, some pastime of the Lord is being manifested at every moment in one universe or another." (Sri Caitanya-caritamrta Madhya-Lila 20.382)

"Since all Krsna's pastimes are taking place continuously, at every moment some pastime is existing in one universe or another. Consequently, these pastimes are called eternal by the Vedas and Puranas." (Sri Caitanya-caritamrta Madhya-Lila 20.395)

The speaking of the Bhagavad-Gita is the greatest pastime of Lord Krishna which is for our benefit.

5. Does the Bhagavad-Gita state that those who don't follow it go to hell?

No.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that every soul will ultimately attain liberation because every soul belongs to God.

A key distinction between the Bhagavad-Gita and non-Vedic scriptures is that the God of the Bhagavad-Gita is responsible, mature, loving, just, and compassionate.

"I hate no one. I am equal to all living beings..." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.29)

"...One who has no enemies among all living beings comes to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 11.55)

"One who is compassionate to all living beings ... - These are some of the qualities of those born with divine nature." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.1-3)

God's Will and Religious Diversity

The existence of people from many religions is evidence that God wills their existence. God is the creator of all living beings, and therefore all have the right to exist by His will.

Misunderstanding God's Purpose

Some people claim that those who do not follow their religion will go to hell. In doing so, they imply that God made a mistake by creating people with different beliefs. This view fails to recognize that God is fully in control and infallible. Since He creates all living beings, their existence is not accidental or mistaken.

God Is Omniscient

Others argue that God creates people of different religions merely to test who will convert. This idea is unreasonable because the eternal God is omniscient: He already knows the past, present, and future of every living being. Human beings are not laboratory animals who need to be tested. God's creation reflects His knowledge, will, and purpose.

The Eternal Nature of Sanatan-Dharma

God has been creating living beings eternally in this universe and in other universes. Therefore, it is foolish to think that God only recently created His religion. God is eternal, and His religion is also eternal: Sanatan-Dharma.

"I am transcendental, beyond the fallible and infallible, and because I am the greatest, I am celebrated as the Supreme person, on the material, and spiritual planets, and in the Vedas." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.18)

6. What are the Spiritual and Material Manifestations?

Spiritual Manifestation

The spiritual manifestation refers to the eternal spiritual realm. There is no destruction.

The living beings in the spiritual realm live eternally in the same spiritual body that is not subject to old age, disease, and death. The spiritual realm is 75% of the total existence and comprises of billions of spiritual planets.

The spiritual realm is the ultimate destination for those who cultivate spiritual knowledge, live righteously, and dedicate their abilities and resources to spiritual advancement and the welfare of all living beings.

The living entities who are resident in the spiritual realm are called liberated souls.

Material Manifestation

The material manifestation refers to the temporary physical realm, where the universes and planets undergo cycles of creation and annihilation.

The living beings in the material realm experience birth, old age, disease, degradation, happiness, and misery in different species and situations. The material realm is 25% of the total existence and comprises of billions of material universes.

The living entities who are resident in the material realm are called conditioned souls.

"This material world is only one-fourth manifestation of Krsna's energy... and the three-fourths energy is manifested in the spiritual world.." (Swami Srila Prabhupada)

7. What is Ignorance?

Not knowing what is right and what is wrong is called ignorance.

Ignorance is the lack of true knowledge and understanding. It causes a person to misunderstand reality, make poor choices, and remain unaware of what is beneficial or harmful. A person in ignorance has low consciousness.

In a spiritual sense, ignorance means forgetting one's true nature that he is the eternal soul and becomes absorbed in temporary bodily concerns. By gaining proper knowledge, practicing self-discipline, and following instructions as given in the Bhagavad-Gita and other Vedic scriptures. A person will be guided correctly and will gradually overcome ignorance and develop higher consciousness.

We do need to eat well, exercise, and maintain our material body. But we should not forget that our time in our current body and life is temporary and so we should also work towards our eternal benefit, the millions of lives after this one.

Ignorance is the cause of our bondage to material life, and knowledge is the cause of our liberation.

8. Do we need to visit Temples?

Yes.

Temple Worship and Daily Practice

Worshipping the Deities in temples and associating with like-minded devotees are important parts of spiritual life. At the same time, one should study and apply the teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita and other Vedic scriptures in daily life. For more guidance, refer to the question and answer on the six pillars of Sanatan-Dharma.

Giving Donations Responsibly

Today, many temples and gurus operate mainly as money-making businesses, with little concern for the welfare of others or the advancement of Sanatan-Dharma. Therefore, donations should be made only after careful verification.

Before donating, make sure the temple or guru is genuine and properly qualified:

- For temples, request at least three years of financial accounts showing income and expenses.
- For gurus, request at least three years of financial accounts, along with a list of properties in their name and bank account statements.
- If they refuse to provide this information, they should not be considered genuine.

9. What is religion?

The Eternal Nature of Religion

Religion means following the teachings or laws of God. Since God is eternal, His teachings must also be eternal, and therefore the religion established by God must be eternal as well.

- God is eternal, meaning He has always existed.
- If God has eternally existed, then living beings must also have existed eternally.
- The teachings or laws given by God for humanity must therefore also be eternal.

The Perfection of Religious Knowledge

The highest form of religion is one that brings a person to full consciousness of God, including His form, name, qualities, pastimes, abode, and all-pervasive presence. Complete knowledge of these truths is the perfection of religious understanding.

10. What is Sanatan-Dharma?

Sanatan is Sanskrit for eternal. Dharma is Sanskrit for religion or duty. Sanatan-Dharma means Eternal Religion. Often referred to as Hinduism.

Sanatan Dharma is the only religion in the world which tells you the age of the religion in its name. It is Sanatan (eternal). Thus, it has always existed, and it will always exist. It has no beginning and no end. It existed even before the creation of this universe.

A follower of Sanatan-Dharma is called Sanatani.

"You are the Supreme person, eternal, imperishable, inexhaustible, the sustainer of the eternal religion. You are the basis of this universe." (Arjuna to Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 11.18)

Proud To Be a Sanatani

One who follows Sanatan-Dharma
(The Eternal Religion) is called a Sanatani.



Our Beliefs:



- Follow a religion that is eternal and not recently created.



- We are the eternal soul and not the temporary bag of dirt (the body).



- All souls are equal.



- Humans, plants, and animals have souls.



- Right to peaceful existence for all living beings.



- Nature Conservation (save trees and animals).



- One God who is seen and proven, Lord Krishna.



- Lord Krishna is eternal with many appearances in different forms, and names.



- We get unlimited chances of life, and not just one (reincarnation).



- Complete justice (karma).



- The aim of following Sanatan-Dharma is to attain love of God.



We don't support: Slavery, taking females captive, stoning people to death, tormenting and torturing people eternally, taxation based on religion, looting, hatred, intolerance for other religions, instilling fear, injustice, using deception and force to convert etc..



“Always think of Me and become My devotee.
Worship Me and offer your homage unto Me.
Thus, you will come to Me without fail.
I promise you this because you are
My very dear friend.”

(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.65)



11. What is the purpose of religion?

The purpose of religion is to know, serve, love God, and follow His instructions. Serving and loving God includes serving and loving all the creatures of God. This means serving and loving all human beings, plant life, and animals. You should not hurt or eat any of your brothers and sisters. The animals are also our brothers and sisters. We should not even kill trees unnecessarily.

"Being freed from attachments, fear, anger, and fully situated in thought of me, many have become purified by penance and knowledge of me. They all attained pure love for me. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.10)"

Can one truly love someone who is unknown or unseen? Genuine love requires knowledge and recognition; it is directed toward a person who is known and understood.

The Vedic scriptures fully describe God as a person. Therefore, anyone who wishes to know God personally should study and follow these eternal scriptures.

12. Is freedom of Religion the Will of God?

Yes.

Freedom of religion should be upheld in every country. Since God is in full control and, by His will, people of different religions are born throughout the world, denying religious freedom goes against His will.

Those who oppose the will of God show faithlessness and envy toward Him, and their actions reflect wickedness rather than true belief.

"Those who are envious, cruel, full of hate, and wicked, are the lowest among men. I repeatedly cast these evildoers into the wombs of demonic species. Such persons are foolish and can never approach me. Birth after birth, they enter into the wombs of demonic species, and gradually sink down to the lowest state of life." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.19-20)"

Some people want the freedom to practice their own religion or ideology everywhere, yet deny that same right to others. Such hypocrisy is wickedness. For such people, God remains unknown, unseen, and reduced to a mere idea. Those who cannot describe God remain in deep ignorance because of their beliefs.

13. Who are the unbelievers?

Unbelievers are those who oppose the will of God. This can be understood through the following examples:

Freedom of religion: God creates people of many religions; therefore, those who deny religious freedom oppose His will.

Respect for animal life: God creates animals, like humans, to live; therefore, those who treat animals merely as food oppose His will.

Image worship: God creates people who worship Him in His image form; therefore, those who oppose image worship reject a form of devotion He allows.

Karma: God places souls in specific bodies and circumstances according to what they deserve; therefore, those who believe everything happens by chance reject the law of karma.

Reincarnation: God is merciful and forgiving, giving souls many chances through reincarnation; therefore, those who believe this is the only life deny that mercy.

Knowledge of God: The eternal God has made Himself knowable and describable to humans; therefore, ideologies that leave God undescribed are incomplete.

Freedom from coercion: Those who force their beliefs or practices onto others oppose the will of God.

"One who does not hate anyone, is friendly and compassionate to all living beings, shares his belongings with others, has no sense of ownership, free from ego; even-minded in both happiness and distress, forgiving, tolerant in all situations, always satisfied, worships Me with determination and devotion. Such a person is very dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 12.13-14)

14. Who Am I?

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, you are **the eternal soul**, not the temporary material body. The body is composed of material elements and exists only for a short time, whereas the soul is eternal, conscious, and indestructible.

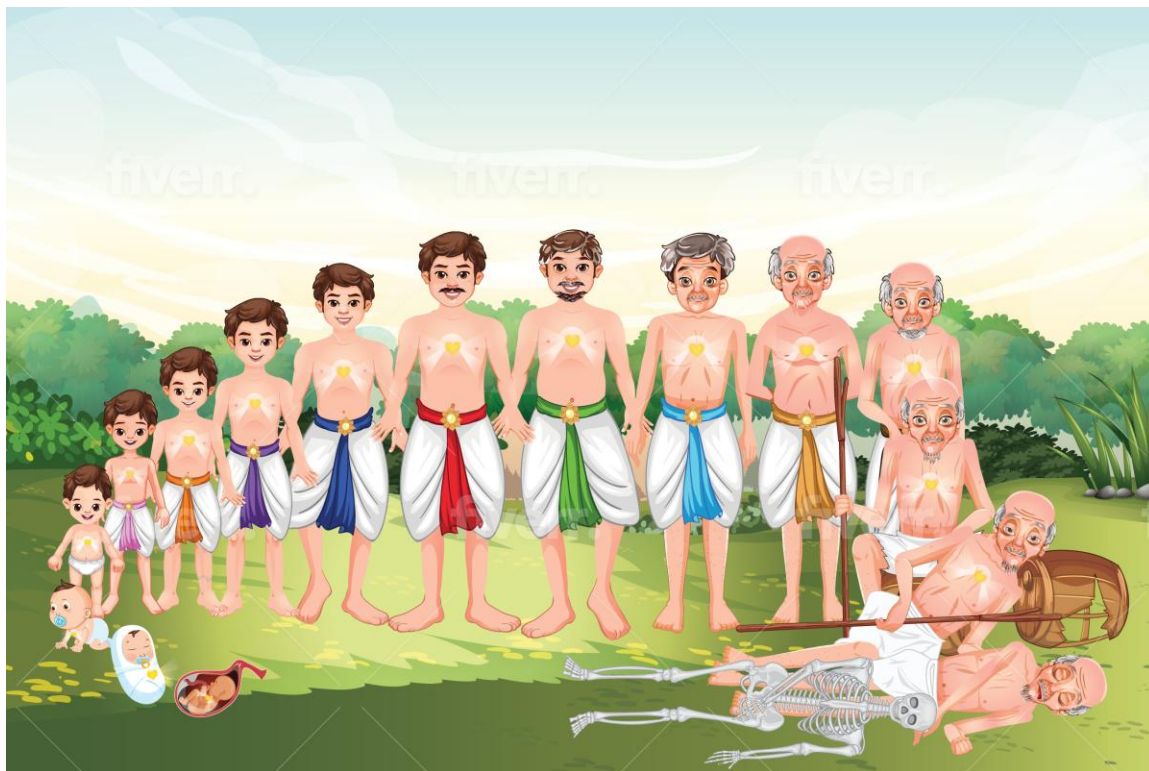
Each soul is a unique individual with an eternal identity and an unbroken existence. The soul and the body are two distinct entities. The body is temporary and constantly changing, while the soul remains the same throughout childhood, youth, adulthood, old age, and beyond death.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that the soul resides within the heart of the body and it is pure consciousness. Consciousness is a symptom of the soul's presence. When the soul leaves the body at death, the body immediately becomes lifeless.

One way to understand this distinction is to think of the body as a temporary vehicle and the soul as its conscious occupant. The body is the temporary form through which the soul acts in this world.

In a broad sense, energy is not destroyed but changes form. Similarly, the Bhagavad-Gita teaches that the soul can never be destroyed. When the present body can no longer function, the eternal soul leaves it and accepts another body according to its karma and consciousness. Thus, death is not the end of existence but the continuation of the soul's eternal journey.

The purpose of human life is to realize our true identity as the eternal soul, revive our forgotten relationship with Lord Krishna, and ultimately return to His eternal spiritual abode, where life is full of knowledge, love, bliss, and freedom from birth, old age, disease, misery, and death.



"There was never a time when you, all these kings, and I did not exist. Nor shall any of us cease to exist in the future. The embodied soul in this body goes through boyhood, youth, and old age. At death, the soul transfers to another body. This never bewilders a wise person." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.12-13)

15. Where do I come from?

You are an eternal family member of God. You originate from the spiritual manifestation, the kingdom of God. Due to your own desire, you came to the material manifestation.

"All living entities are My eternal fragmental particles. Due to material nature, they are conditioned by the six senses, including the mind, and struggle very hard." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.7)

16. Where do I Go After Death?

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, **you are the eternal soul**, not the temporary material body. The body changes throughout life—from childhood to youth to old age—and at death the soul leaves the body and continues its journey.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that just as a person changes worn-out clothes for new ones, the soul gives up one body and accepts another according to the laws of karma and the consciousness developed during life.

You exist now in your present body, you existed before in previous bodies, and you will continue to exist after leaving this body. The soul is eternal; only the body is temporary.

Where the soul goes next depends on the consciousness cultivated during this life. Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, those who develop spiritual consciousness and loving devotion to Lord Krishna ultimately attain His eternal spiritual abode, while others continue the cycle of birth and death by accepting another material body according to their karma.

Many people have past life memories, which suggests the soul continues after the death of the body.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches us to use this rare human life wisely. By understanding our true identity as eternal souls and cultivating devotion to Lord Krishna and living a righteous life. This will prepare us not only for this life but also for our eternal future.

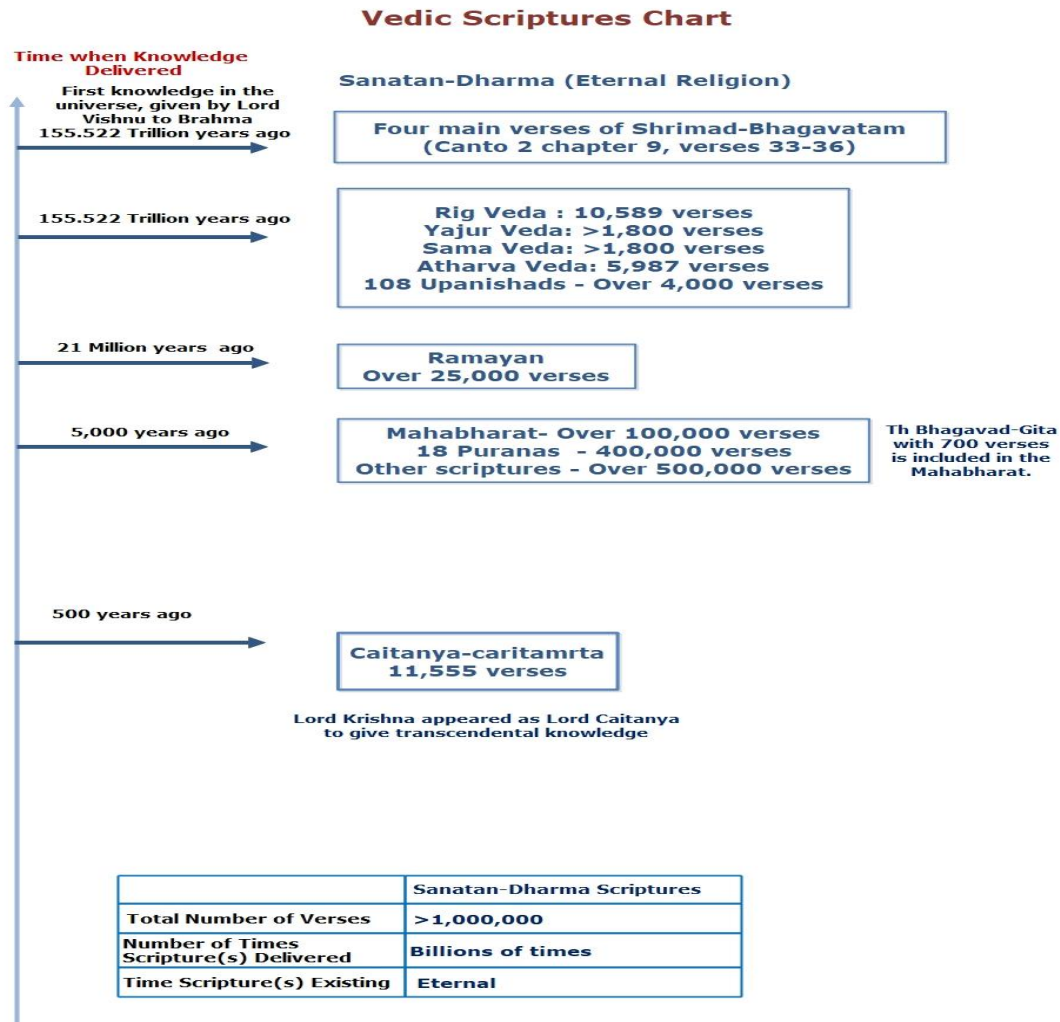
"Just as a person gives up old and worn out garments for new garments. In a similar way, the embodied soul accepts new bodies, giving up the old and useless ones." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.22)

- * We have moved from one garment to another
- * We have moved from one car to another
- * We have moved from one job to another
- * We have moved from one business to another
- * We have moved from one friend to another
- * We have moved from one partner to another
- * We have moved from one street to another
- * We have moved from one City to another
- * We have moved from one house to another
- * We have moved from one state to another
- * We have moved from one country to another

The question is not whether you will make your next move—the question is: Are you ready for it?

17. What Vedic scriptures are there?

Sanatan-Dharma, the eternal religion has far more scriptures than the scriptures of all the other world religions put together.



The Vedic knowledge is vast, superior, eternal, and comes from God.

18. Are the Vedic scriptures the origin of all knowledge?

Yes.

All the true knowledge that can be found in the scriptures which are compiled outside India, originate from the Vedic scriptures. This can be proven by the fact that the Vedic scriptures came first, and all the true knowledge found in the non-Vedic scriptures can be found in greater details in the Vedic scriptures, and the Vedic knowledge is vast (thousands of books) and not just one book, like in other religions.

"I am seated in the hearts of all living beings, from me comes memory, knowledge, and forgetfulness. I am the compiler, knower of the Vedas, and known by all the Vedas." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.15)

19. Is Vedic knowledge eternal?

Yes.

All the Vedic knowledge existed before creation and is given by Lord Krishna, in His Lord Vishnu form to the first living being, Brahma, at the beginning of each cycle of creation and annihilation in each of the millions of universes. The duration of each cycle is 311.040 trillion years (311 trillion, 40 billion years). We are currently 155.522 trillion (155 trillion, 522 billion years) years into the current cycle.

The Vedic knowledge is eternal, universal, and it comes from God (Lord Krishna). The Vedic scriptures were last written down 5,000 years ago by Lord Krishna in His form as Veda Vyasa, the compiler of the Vedic scriptures.

20. What are the 6 Pillars of Sanatan-Dharma (The Eternal Religion)?

1. Truthfulness – You must never lie, deceive, mislead, nor cheat anyone. If someone asks you a question and you do not know or are not sure, simply say 'I don't know'. Making things up is simply lying.
2. Mercy – All living beings are brothers and sisters, and thus, one must be kind to all his brothers and sisters. This teaching is unique to Sanatan-Dharma, and it comes from the most merciful Person, Lord Krishna (God). Kindness to animals is practiced by not killing them (vegetarianism and no leather). Treat people equally and nicely, consider the wellbeing of everyone. Never consume alcohol and drugs, gamble, nor have relationships outside of marriage, because these cause suffering to families and especially to the women and children. One should never engage in these sinful activities, nor associate with those who do.
3. Austerity – Live a simple life, don't be materialistic, eat simply, fast, don't make demands on others, lower your ego, chant Vedic mantras, reduce your desires and lust, and go on pilgrimage to holy places with the will to change your nature for the better. You should sacrifice your time and money for the advancement of true religion.
4. Cleanliness – Take bath at least once daily, brush teeth at least twice daily, keep the home, business/work area, public places, rivers, and streets clean by regular cleaning and not throwing trash. Don't chew or smoke tobacco or

spit. Don't put your fingers into your nose, clean with water. Don't make noises like pigs.

5. Charity – Donations should be given on a regular basis to accountable and worthy Temples, to those engaged in the service of God, to those engaged in preaching the glories and instructions of God, and to the poor.
6. Spiritual Education – Without spiritual knowledge there will be no advancement of consciousness. The Vedic knowledge is eternal and vast with more than 1,000,000 verses, compiled by God Himself in Person. They provide knowledge in all areas of life and the science of God. The Srimad Bhagavad-Gita is the essence of all Vedic knowledge, the word of God in Person. The Srimad Bhagavatam has the pastimes of God and His devotees, the science of material creation and other information. Only the Vedic scriptures contain information on God, including His description, appearances, and activities. One should study these two scriptures on a regular basis and then explain to others, especially to the children.

"Absence of fear, purity of heart, charitable, striving for spiritual knowledge by studying the Vedic scriptures, lives a simple life, always straight forward in his dealings, always truthful, not violent, free from anger, not greedy, always gentle, forgiving, very clean, not envious of others, compassionate to all living beings, doesn't talk non-sense, has no pride, doesn't mislead others – These are some of the qualities of those with divine nature." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.1-3)

21. What scriptures should I follow?

You can follow the recently created man-made scriptures, which have limited knowledge and do not describe God. Or you can follow the eternal Vedic scriptures, which have vast knowledge and completely describe God. The choice is yours.

Lord Krishna gave the Vedic knowledge to Brahma, the first living being created in the universe, at the beginning of each cycle of creation. In the current cycle, this was 155.522 trillion years ago. Thus, the Vedic knowledge is eternal and comes directly from God (Lord Krishna).

"I am telling you this ancient science of linking with the Supreme [Yoga], because you are My friend and devotee. Therefore, you can understand the mystery of this highest science." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.3)

The Vedic knowledge can be understood by those who are open minded and willing to accept the truth.

"My devotees become righteous, attain lasting peace, and never perish." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.31)

The genuine devotees of Lord Krishna are truthful, charitable, and friendly to all living beings.

"There is nothing superior to Me. Everything is resting upon me. Just like pearls are strung on a thread." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.7)

Those who are willing to accept the truth will realize that Lord Krishna is the one true God. Only He has appeared and proved Himself to be the supreme, not just once but millions of times. All other so-called Gods have yet to appear and prove themselves.

"This is the purest knowledge, the king of education, the king of the most confidential knowledge. It is the highest knowledge, most righteous, and everlasting." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.2)

The Bhagavad-Gita offers essential spiritual education, guiding followers to live righteously which will result in eternal benefit after this short life. Other knowledge may bring temporary gains but is useless at death. Degrees in Medicine, Engineering, or Law help secure good jobs and sharpen the mind, but we should also pursue spiritual education and use our abilities and resources to advance in spirituality which includes doing good to others.

22. How we differentiate between God and imposters?

Recognizing the Qualities of God

In this age of Kali, marked by ignorance and irreligion, many imposters will claim to be God or an incarnation of God. Others may invent ideas of God based on imagination. Understanding God's true qualities helps expose such false claims.

Essential Qualifications

For someone to be called God, or Bhagwan, He must possess all of the following qualities:

Eternal Nature

- God is eternal and therefore eternally known, not only on this planet but throughout millions of universes.
- God has an eternal body and appears repeatedly in that same body, unlike humans, whose bodies are temporary.

Supreme Personal Qualities

- God is the most beautiful Person, the source of all beauty in living beings.
- God is the most powerful, opulent, wealthy, and renowned Person.
- God is the most renounced, forgiving, compassionate, merciful, and tolerant Person.

Supreme Abilities

- God is all-pervading and omnipresent, greater than all His creations.
- God has perfect memory and possesses all eighteen mystic siddhis, or perfections, in full.

Anyone who claims to be God must possess all these qualities; otherwise, he is not God. Only Lord Krishna has fully exhibited these qualities—not once, but millions of times—through His many appearances.

"I am transcendental, beyond the fallible and infallible, and because I am the greatest, I am celebrated as the Supreme person, on the material, and spiritual planets, and in the Vedas." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.18)

Once you know the qualities of God, you will not accept any cheap person as God.

23. Who is Krishna?

Lord Krishna is God. He has appeared millions of times in many forms, and each time demonic beings challenge Him, He easily defeats them and protects His pure devotees. This demonstrates that He is the one and only God. Do you know anyone else who has appeared millions of times, proved His divinity each time, and returned more than once in the same body?

"I am the origin of the whole creation. Everything emanates from Me. The wise worship Me [Krishna] with devotion." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.8)

There are millions of universes and Lord Krishna is the origin of everything.

"With a single particle of Myself, I maintain the entire creation." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.42)

With a tiny particle of Himself, Lord Krishna creates and maintains millions of universes. This is how great Lord Krishna (God) is.

There are many who claim themselves to be God, or their followers claim them to be God. But how many of them prove themselves to be the God. Lord Krishna very clearly proved Himself to be the God, not just once but millions of times. Full details can be found in the Srimad-Bhagavatam.

Lord Krishna – How He is the Supreme

Eternal Existence



"Never was there a time when I did not exist, nor you, nor all these kings; nor in the future shall any of us cease to be."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.12)

Eternal Appearances



"Although I am unborn and My transcendental body never deteriorates, and although I am the Lord of all living entities, I still appear in every millennium [every 8.64 billion years] in My original transcendental form."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.6)

Existence before the Creation



"Before the creation of this cosmic manifestation, I alone existed with My specific spiritual potencies..."
(Lord Krishna, Shrimad-Bhagavatam 6.4.47)

The Source of Creation



"My Self is the very source of creation..."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.5)
"O son of Kunti, at the end of the millennium all material manifestations enter into My nature, and at the beginning of another millennium, by My potency, I create them again."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.7)

The Source of Material and Spiritual Planets



"I am the source of all spiritual and material worlds. Everything emanates from Me. The wise who know this perfectly engage in My devotional service and worship Me with all their hearts."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.8)

The Maintainer of Universes



"With a single fragment of Myself I pervade and support this entire universe..." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.42)
"I enter into each planet, and by My energy they stay in orbit..." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.13)
"The whole cosmic order is under Me. By My will it is manifested again and again, and by My will it is annihilated at the end." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.8)



The Origin of Life



"It should be understood that all species of life, O son of Kunti, are made possible by birth in this material nature, and that I am the seed giving father." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.4)
"Furthermore, O Arjuna, I am the generating seed of all existences. There is no being – moving or nonmoving – that can exist without Me."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.39)

The Controller of Nature



"I control heat, the rain and the drought..."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.19)
"This material nature, which is one of My energies, is working under My direction, O son of Kunti, producing all moving and nonmoving beings. Under its rule this manifestation is created and annihilated again and again." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.10)

ॐ nipresent, meaning He is present everywhere



"I am everywhere." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.5)

ॐ nipotent, meaning He is the Greatest



"Because I am transcendental, beyond both the fallible and the infallible, and because I am the greatest, I am celebrated both in the world and in the Vedas as that Supreme Person."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.18)

ॐ niscient, meaning He is all knowing



"O Arjuna, as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, I know everything that has happened in the past, all that is happening in the present, and all things that are yet to come..."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.26)

The Most Opulent



"Even though over a period of time I might count all the atoms of the universe, I could not count all of My opulences which I manifest within innumerable universes."
(Lord Krishna, Shrimad-Bhagavatam 11.16.39)
"O mighty conqueror of enemies, there is no end to My divine manifestations. What I have spoken to you is but a mere indication of My infinite opulences." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.40)

24. How did Krishna Prove He was God?

People argue over who God is. First, you must know what qualities the applicant for the supreme position should have. These qualities are listed in the question 'What is God?' Then compare the pastimes, miracles performed, and statements made by the applicants for the supreme position, and then there will be no doubt who is God and who isn't.

- * Lord Krishna lifted a mountain (Govardhan hill) that is 21km in perimeter and weighing billions of tons for 7 days. Do you know anyone else who has lifted a mountain?
- * Lord Krishna expanded his body into 16108 forms. Do you know anyone else who can multiply himself into thousands of identical bodies or even once?
- * Lord Krishna swallowed a forest fire to save His friends. Do you know anyone else who has saved his followers in their current life?
- * Lord Krishna cured the diseased, including transforming a hunchback woman into a most beautiful woman. Do you know anyone else who has transformed the ugly into beautiful in their current life?
- * Lord Krishna brought dead people and animals back to life. Do you know anyone else who has brought back the dead people and animals?
- * Lord Krishna defeated all those who challenged Him including Kamsa, Putana, Bakasura, Kesi, Aghasura, and Sisupala. Do you know anyone else who has defeated all those who challenged?
- * Lord Krishna saved all His followers in this life. Do you know anyone else who has saved their followers in their current life? Only a fool would accept a post-dated check.
- * Lord Krishna transformed Himself into others. Do you know anyone else who can transform themselves into others?
- * Lord Krishna did not come out of the womb like us. He appeared next to a woman as a baby and fully clothed.
- * Lord Krishna has appeared in the same body more than 18,000 times in the current cycle alone. Do you know anyone else who has appeared with the same body these many times or even twice?
- * Lord Krishna never looks older than about 16. He is forever youthful, forever beautiful. Do you know anyone else who is more beautiful than Lord Krishna?

Lord Krishna is the Greatest person known to mankind. So why not follow the only seen and proven God of love, compassion, and justice?

"The whole cosmic order is under Me. By My will it is manifested again and again, and by My will it is annihilated at the end." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.8)

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7 Lord Krishna saved all His followers in this life. Do you know anyone else who has saved their followers in their current life? Only a fool would accept a post-dated check.



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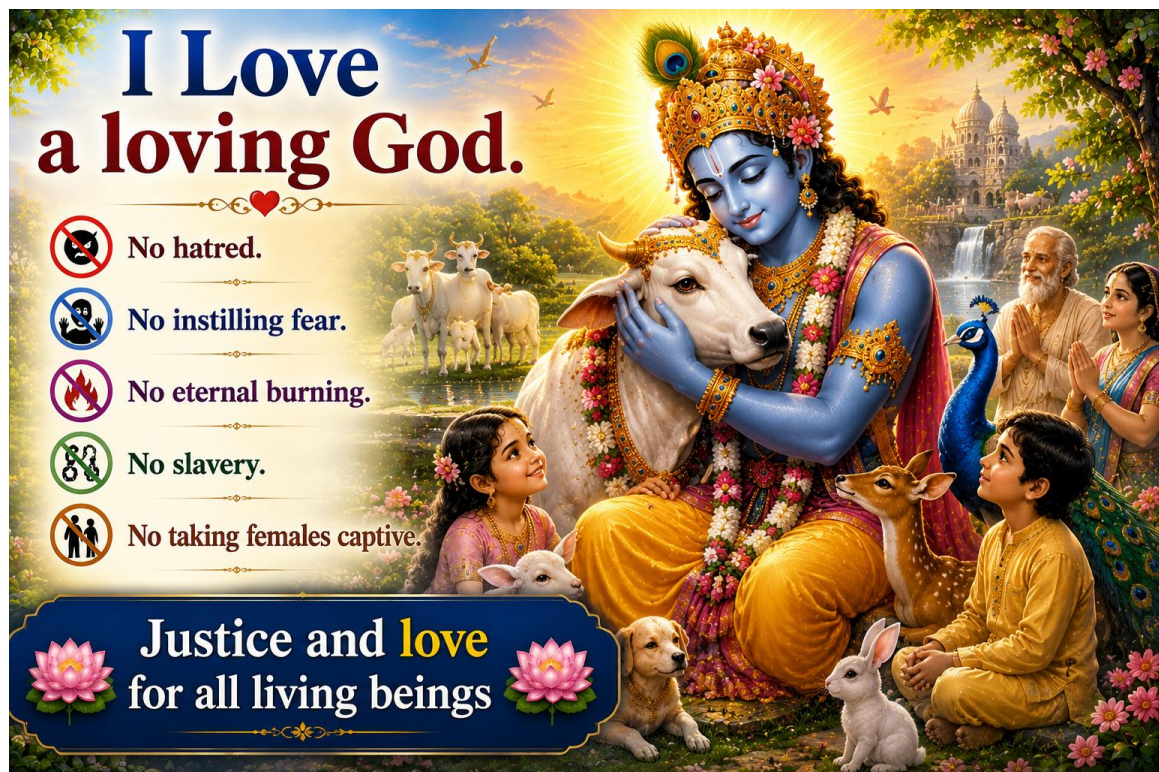
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25. Are followers of Lord Krishna Most Peaceful?

It's extremely rare for devotees of Lord Krishna to engage in violence in His name or the Bhagavad-Gita. Once someone becomes a devotee of Lord Krishna, the first change is that they stop killing by going vegetarian, and once someone stops being a devotee of Lord Krishna and follows any of the non-Vedic paths, the first change is that they start killing (become meat eaters). If you accept that killing is wrong and want to follow a loving, seen, and proven God, then you should surrender unto Lord Krishna.

***"My devotees become righteous, attain lasting peace, and never perish.
"Lord Krishna (Bhagavad-Gita 9.31)***

You have a choice, you can follow a real, seen, proven, and loving God, Lord Krishna, or you can follow an unproven/invisible/unknown character as God.



26. Can you Describe God?

I asked many people (non-Hindus) this question, and I got the following replies:

God cannot be seen (invisible)
God is love
God is great
God is in the sky
God has not been seen by anyone
God was crucified

None of these people have answered the question. They obviously have not read the Bhagavad-Gita. Just by looking at the Bhagavad-Gita for one second, you can see the all-beautiful God. By reading a few pages, you will know how merciful, loving, and great, God is. By surrendering unto Lord Krishna, one is guaranteed to return to the spiritual manifestation (the kingdom of God) at the end of this short life. In the spiritual manifestation called Vaikuntha, everyone lives eternally in the same body, which is completely beautiful, full of bliss/love, full of knowledge, no old age, no disease, and with no misery. In the Srimad-Bhagavatam, a full description and history of God is given.

- His complexion is dark-blue, like that of a rain filled cloud
- His eyes are like lotus petals
- He is ever youthful
- He is full of bliss
- His beauty excels that of thousands of cupids
- He likes to play the flute
- He wears a peacock feather in his crown
- He wears the Kaustubha jewel around his neck
- He wears yellow garments

If you know God's name, address, description, qualities, pastimes, history of when He appeared in the past, when He will appear in the future, how He creates and maintains, how He witnesses all our actions. Then you know God, otherwise you don't know God. You will find all this information, only in the Vedic scriptures like the Bhagavad-Gita and the Srimad-Bhagavatam.

"His mouth expresses His happiness. His eyes spread like the petals of a lotus, and His garments, yellowish like the saffron of a kadamba flower, are bedecked with valuable jewels. His ornaments are all made of gold, set with jewels, and He wears a glowing head dress and earrings. His lotus feet are placed over the whorls of the lotus like hearts of great mystics. On His chest is the Kaustubha jewel, engraved with a beautiful calf, and there are other jewels on His shoulders. His complete torso is garlanded with fresh flowers. He is well decorated with an ornamental wreath about His waist and rings studded with valuable jewels on His fingers. His leglets, His bangles, His oiled hair, curling with a bluish tint, and His beautiful smiling face are all very pleasing." (Srimad-Bhagavatam 2.2.9-11)

27. Does God appear in His Eternal Body many times?

"Although I am unborn, imperishable, eternal, and the Lord of all living beings, using My internal energy, I still appear in My original spiritual form [human like form]." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.6)

Lord Krishna's body is supremely beautiful, eternal, blissful, and full of knowledge. He appears in His original spiritual body once every 8.64 billion years. Since the earth's lifespan is 4.32 billion years, He appears only once on each physical earth planet. In the current cycle of creation and annihilation, He last appeared 5,000 years ago. This cycle lasts 311 trillion, 40 billion years; 155.522 trillion years have passed, leaving 155.518 trillion years before the universe ends. So far in this cycle, Lord Krishna has appeared more than 18,000 times in the same original spiritual body. In the countless cycles before this one, He has likewise appeared many times. This shows the greatness of Lord Krishna, the Supreme Lord.

"Foolish men, disregard me when I appear in a human like body. They do not know that my nature is spiritual, and I am the great Lord of everything. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.11)

Lord Krishna appears in the same body each time He appears, but we cannot. This is one of the differences between God and the living beings. The foolish and less intelligent cannot understand that the supreme person appears in His original form which is human like to perform transcendental pastimes.

28. Does God have all memory?

Lord Krishna is omniscient, which means that He knows the past, present, and the future.

"Arjuna, you and I have taken many births. I can remember all of them, but you cannot." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.5)

"I completely know the past, the present, and the future. I also know all living beings, but no one really knows Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.26)

Lord Krishna is stating that He can remember everything, but we cannot. This is one of the differences between God and the living beings. God has a memory that is perfect, and He can remember not just His own past appearances, but also mine, yours and of all living beings. Lord Krishna knows exactly where and what all the living beings, including you and I were doing trillions of years ago. This is how great Lord Krishna (God) is.

Lord Krishna knows every moment of all His trillions of incarnations, and He also knows every moment of every living being's present and past lives.

29. Who is the origin of everything?

Lord Krishna is the origin of everything.

"I am the origin of all creations. There is nothing, moving or non-moving, that can exist without Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.39)

"I am the origin of the whole creation. Everything emanates from Me. The wise worship Me [Krishna] with devotion." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.8)

Lord Krishna claims to be the origin of everything. No other person on the planet existing now or in the past has claimed to be the origin of everything. This is because only Lord Krishna is the origin of everything.

"All living beings have their source from My material and spiritual energies and know for certain that I am the origin and dissolution of the entire creation." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.6)

30. Who is the greatest Person?

Lord Krishna is omnipotent, which means that He is the greatest. If one studies all the documents on the planet and accepts the truth, then one will realize that only Lord Krishna has proved Himself to be the greatest Person.

"There is nothing superior to Me. Everything is resting upon Me. Just like pearls are strung on a thread." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.7)

"I am transcendental, beyond the fallible and infallible, and because I am the greatest, I am celebrated as the Supreme person, on the material, and spiritual planets, and in the Vedas." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.18)

31. Who is the most powerful Person?

According to the scientists it would take over 400 billion nuclear weapons to produce the same amount of heat that the sun produces in just 1 second, and the sun has been giving this heat for millions of years, and there are millions of suns, one in each universe.

"The light of the sun, which illuminates the entire universe, and the light of the moon and fire, all come from Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.12)

"With a single particle of Myself [Krishna], I maintain the entire creation." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.42)

Many say God is great, yet few understand the extent of His greatness. In these verses, Lord Krishna explains that He maintains and controls the sun and moon across millions of universes. As Maha-Vishnu, millions of universes emanate from His body with each exhalation and return to Him with each inhalation.

"Everything that is opulent, beautiful, and glorious, is created from a spark of My splendor." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.41)

32. Is God present everywhere?

Yes, Lord Krishna is omnipresent, which means He is present everywhere.

"The Supreme person is greater than all, and although He is present on His supreme abode, He is also present everywhere, and He is attainable by unalloyed devotion." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.22)

The sun remains in one place, yet its light spreads throughout the universe. Similarly, Lord Krishna eternally resides in His abode while being present everywhere in this universe and in millions of others. If the material sun, created by God, can spread its presence through light, why can't the Creator of the sun also be all-pervading?

"I am the super soul, situated within the heart of all living beings. I am the origin, the middle, and the end of all living beings." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.20)

Those who oppose deity worship limit God's greatness because they fail to understand that He is all-pervading. If God is truly present everywhere, He must also be present within the Deities.

Lord Krishna is present in the heart of every living being as the Supersoul, within every atom, and on His own planet, Goloka Vrindavan. Only if He is present even within the atom can we truly say that God is present everywhere.

"I exist within everything, and I am therefore the essence of the atomic constituents of material elements... (Lord Krishna, Srimad-Bhagavatam 11.15.12)

One who is present everywhere is greater than one who is not; therefore, God must be all-pervading. To be great, God must be smaller than the smallest and greater than the greatest. Lord Krishna is present within the smallest atom, yet as Maha-Vishnu, He is so vast that millions of universes emerge from His body with each exhalation and return with each inhalation. This reveals how inconceivably great Lord Krishna truly is.

33. Is Everything the Energy of God?

Yes.

"The mind, intellect, ego, ether, air, fire, water, and earth are the eightfold division of My material energies. " (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.4)

Time and matter are energies of Lord Krishna, and these are eternal, because Lord Krishna is eternal.

Although Lord Krishna (God) is present everywhere, the source of everything, and everything is His energy. He is aloof from all His material creations. He is not affected by His material creations. This is the inconceivable opulence of Lord Krishna. This is how great Lord Krishna (God) is.

"..Although I am everywhere, I am not part of this cosmic manifestation, for My self is the very source of creation." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.5)

The sky is everywhere, but it does not mix with anything. In a similar way, Lord Krishna is present everywhere, but He does not mix with anything.

"The sky, due to its subtle nature, does not mix with anything, although it is all-pervading." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 13.33)

The air enters water, mud, stool and other filth, but still, it does not mix with anything. In a similar way, Lord Krishna is present in water, mud, stool, but He does not mix with them. He is aloof from them.

The sunshine is everywhere but it is not attached to anything. In a similar way, Lord Krishna is everywhere but He is not attached to anything.

The wind is blowing everywhere but the aromas it passes through do not affect it. In a similar way, Lord Krishna is everywhere but He is not affected by anything.

34. Who is the father of all living beings?

Lord Krishna is the father of all living beings.

"All species of living beings in this material creation appear by taking birth, and I am the seed giving father." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.4)

"I am the father of the universe, the supporter, the mother, and the grandfather. I am the purifier, the sacred syllable 'aum', and the object of knowledge. I am also the Rig, Sama, and Yajur Vedas." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.17)

35. Who controls the heat and rain?

Lord Krishna is the Supreme controller of the heat and rain.

"I control the heat. I withhold and send forth the rain. I am immortality, and death. I am spirit and matter." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.19)

Here is another proof of Lord Krishna being God, He is death. When your time is up, Lord Krishna in the form of death, takes your soul out of your body (death) and transfers it to another body.

36. Is God present in the heart?

Yes.

"I am the super soul, situated within the heart of all living beings. I am the origin, the middle, and the end of all living beings." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.20)

God is present in the heart of all living beings including the plants and animals as the super soul, next to the individual soul.

Even Jesus believed that God was living in him (John 14:10).

37. Who is the witness to all our actions?

Some people believe that there is no karma, as they think that there is no witness to our actions and so how can we suffer or enjoy based on our past actions.

"I am the witness..." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.18)

"I am everywhere..." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.5)

God is the witness to all our actions. He is present in the heart and thus the overseer of all our activities. On the Day of Judgment, which is immediately at death, the perfect witness and judge (God) will sentence you without making any mistakes.

"In the body, there is also the super soul. He is the master, supreme enjoyer, overseer, and the permitter - The Supreme Lord." (Bhagavad-Gita 13.23)

Many times, we will attempt to do certain things and sometimes it happens and sometimes it doesn't. This is due to God. He is the permitter, and without the sanction of Lord Krishna (God), nothing can happen. We can make plans, but only Lord Krishna can make them come true. God is not the doer; we are the doer. He simply sanctions based on what we deserve, our karma.

You are being watched 24 hours a day. Behave yourself, be good, and do good to others.

38. How brilliant does God look?

"If many thousands of suns were to rise all at once in the sky, the radiance produced by this, might resemble the effulgence of the great Lord." (Arjuna, Bhagavad-Gita 11.12)

This is one of the greatness of Lord Krishna that no one else can exhibit.

Lord Krishna showed His universal form which was more effulgent than thousands of suns all rising at the same time, to prove that He is God so that if in the future if anyone claims to be God, then he should be prepared to show his universal form like Krishna's. If he cannot then he is not God but an imposter. In the past 5000 years since Lord Krishna appeared, there has been no competitor, only cheap imposters.

39. What God should I follow?

You can follow an unknown, unproven, and invisible God, or you can follow the known, proven, and visible God, Lord Krishna. The choice is yours.

"By pure devotional service unto Me [Krishna], one can know Me as the Supreme person in truth, and thereafter one can enter into My kingdom." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.55)

"You are the Supreme Brahman [the Supreme person], the Supreme abode, the Supreme purifier, the eternal divine person, and the greatest. All the great sages including Narada, Asita, Devala, and Vyasa have proclaimed this truth about you and now you are proclaiming this to me. (Arjuna to Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.12-13)

40. Is God the Doer?

"You right is to perform your duty. You should not ask for the fruits of your actions. Do not consider yourself the cause of the results of your actions. Never think that you need not take any actions [inaction]." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.47)

"You should not ask for the fruits of your actions." This means that demanding a particular result can lead to grief when desires are not fulfilled.

"Do not consider yourself the cause of the results of your actions." The results you receive are shaped by both past and present actions, not by your current effort alone. Thinking your current actions alone control the outcome will cause grief, because you will not get what you want. Results depend not only on present actions but also on years of preparation, and practice (past karma).

The above is a very practical translation for this verse. This verse is perhaps the most misunderstood verse of the Gita.

Degradation of Vedic culture, religion, and Hindus is due to misunderstanding or neglect this verse teachings.

This misunderstanding is that "God is doing everything and so I will leave everything to God and do nothing. God gives the results and so I will not worry about performing. I will bowl a wide and if it's God's wish, He will make it a yorker and get the bats man out. Let the barbarians invade and if it's God's will, then He will stop them. If temples are attacked, then I will seek safety and let God fight off the attackers and save people. I will open my business, and God will manage the marketing, operations, and make it a success. I will just sit there. I will not vote, let God bring in whomever politician He wants etc..."

All the above is complete nonsense. If God were doing everything then this world would be perfect with zero crimes. This is not the case.

- God is not the doer. God is not a match fixer.
- God does not determine results according to His personal preference. He witnesses all our actions, in this life and previous lives, and gives judgment based on those actions. This is similar to a high court judge, who reviews the evidence and then gives a sentence according to the crimes committed. The judge is not responsible for the crime or the punishment.
- Prayer does not bribe God or make Him change His judgment. He gives results according to what we deserve, not simply what we want. In cricket, teams win or lose based on their preparation, skill, and performance—not because God fixes the match. Millions prayed for India to beat Australia in November 2023, yet India lost. Likewise, many pray for Pakistan to beat India, yet Pakistan often loses. God does not interfere in games; victory depends on the players skills, not divine favoritism.
- During the Mahabharata war, Lord Krishna was personally present and revealed the outcome to Arjuna before the battle began. Although Duryodhana led the opposing side with a larger army and many powerful warriors, Arjuna ultimately prevailed. This was not because Lord Krishna controlled the result or showed favoritism. Rather, Duryodhana's past wrongdoings had reached the point where he had to face their consequences.
- If barbarians are allowed to enter a country, they will rape and kill people. God is not the doer, nor is He to blame for human foolishness. If a country's soldiers fail to defend it when attacked, the nation will fall under foreign rule and its citizens will suffer. When the Mughals invaded India, inaction led to the killing of more than 300 million Hindus, the rape of millions of women, and the destruction of thousands of temples.
- Whether a student will get Grade A or fail is not due to the teacher doing the grading. The teacher merely gives a grade based on the performance of the student in the exam. In a similar way, God does not assign a result based on His own will. He assigns based on what we deserve.

A student cannot pass a hard exam by reading the night before. A student has to study for many years and then he is able to pass the exam. In a similar way, our actions in the past do matter and not just our current life actions.

Daily we face the reactions to our past actions (past karma) and the actions (new karma) of others. So, we cannot always say one is suffering due to his past actions. One also suffers due to the actions of others for which they will pay one day.

41. Does God have a form?

Yes, God has a form. Since humans, plants, and animals all have forms, it is reasonable that the source of all forms also has a form.

Just as your father, grandfather, and great-grandfather had forms, the original person from whom all beings come—God—also has a form. We have form because He has form.

The purpose of religion is to know and love God. However, true love of God is possible only when one realizes the transcendental form of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

"Foolish men, disregard Me when I appear in a human like body. They do not know that My nature is spiritual, and I am the great Lord of everything. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.11)

Lord Krishna appears in His original form once every day of Brahma, which is every 8.64 billion years. So far in the current cycle, Lord Krishna has appeared more than 18,000 times on this planet in His original spiritual form. He has also appeared millions of times in many other forms such as Lord Ram, Lord Buddha etc.

42. Is there scientific basis for God having a Form?

God's Message and Personal Form

If God can deliver His message, then that message must come through intelligent sound and vibration. Sound implies speech, and speech implies a mouth. If there is a mouth, then there must also be other features such as ears, a nose, hands, legs, and a body. Therefore, God must be a personal being with form.

The Problem with Denying God's Form

To say that God has no form is to deny His mouth, ears, hands, legs, body, speech, vibration, and message. Such a view ultimately denies the personal existence of God.

Love and Service Require a Personal Object

Love and service require someone real and knowable. If a person is completely unseen and unknown, how can one love, serve, or express devotion to that person?

- Can you love someone who is entirely invisible and unknown?
- Can you serve someone you cannot perceive or understand?
- Can you meaningfully show love to someone you have never known?

"Although I am unborn, imperishable, eternal, and the Lord of all living beings, using My internal energy, I still appear in My original spiritual form." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.6)

The sun is not visible to some people in certain parts of the earth. This does not mean that the sun has no form.

The reason why people want to believe that God has no form, is that they do not know Him and thus to promote their Godless ideology. They must make God invisible, so nobody can ask any questions on Him.

43. Do you Worship Idols?

No.

Devotees do not worship stone, wood, or metal as ordinary objects. They worship the **Supreme Lord**, who is believed to mercifully accept worship through His consecrated **Deity form** (*arca-vigraha*).

From this perspective, bowing to a stone while believing it is merely a stone would be idol worship. In contrast, Deity worship is the worship of God, who is understood to be personally present in a specially consecrated form for the purpose of receiving the love and service of His devotees.

The Vedic scriptures teach that God is a person with an eternal spiritual form. Because the Supreme Lord is unlimited and all-powerful, the Vaishnava tradition teaches that He can choose to manifest His presence through the Deity to accept offerings, prayers, and loving service.

Just as the government is represented by a national flag without claiming that the cloth itself is the nation, the Deity is understood to be the authorized manifestation of the Supreme Lord for worship. Devotees therefore direct their love, prayers, and offerings to Lord Krishna—not to the material elements from which the Deity is fashioned.

Deity worship is not the worship of an idol but the loving worship of Lord Krishna in a form through which He graciously allows Himself to be approached by His devotees.

"I am not manifest to everyone. The foolish persons are covered by My internal potency [Yoga Maya] and they cannot understand that I am unborn, and eternal, with a spiritual form." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.25)

44. Does everyone Worship God via an Image?

Yes.

- * The Muslims bow down in the direction of the black stone in the Kaba when they pray. They also kiss and circumambulate the black stone. The Holy Quran states that the Kaba is the house of Allah. (References: Quran 8.35, Sahih Muslim Book 23, Hadith 5026, and many other Hadiths)
- * The Christians face the cross when they pray or carry a cross to remind them of God.
- * The learned Hindus face an image of Lord Krishna when they pray, with the knowledge that He is personally present. This is Deity of God worship and not stone or idol worship.

Thus, everyone worships using an image of some sort.

"Those who without deviation, meditate upon me, worship me, fix their mind on me, and become attached to Me, I very quickly deliver them from material existence, which is an ocean of birth, death, and miseries." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 12.6-7)

Lord Krishna is saying that if we worship Him in the Deity form, then we can be freed from material existence and go back to the spiritual manifestation where people live eternally in the same body which is completely beautiful, completely blissful, with no trace of misery, disease, or old age.

45. Are all living entities sparks of God?

Yes, all living entities are sparks of God, divine, and eternal part of God.

All living beings are part of God. However, this does not mean that we are God, just as a drop of ocean water is part of the ocean but it's not the ocean. The drop of water has the same qualities as the water in the ocean, but the quantity of the potency is not the same. In a similar way, all living beings have the same qualities as God, but the quantity of the potency is very tiny. God is great, and we are not.

"All living entities are My eternal fragmental particles. Due to material nature, they are conditioned by the six senses, including the mind, and struggle very hard." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.7)

The six senses are: ears, eyes, nose, tongue, touch, and the mind.

46. Is Krishna a Mean God?

No.

Lord Krishna is the all-loving, all-merciful, and all-compassionate Supreme Personality of Godhead. He desires the welfare of every living being because every soul is eternally His part.

Lord Krishna repeatedly gives every soul opportunity for spiritual progress. Rather than condemning souls to eternal punishment, the Vedic teachings describe the soul's journey through repeated births according to the law of karma, with continual opportunities to learn, grow, and ultimately return to God through devotion.

Lord Krishna's justice is always accompanied by perfect mercy. He gives every living being free will, never forces anyone to love Him, and patiently guides each soul toward spiritual realization. He invites everyone to approach Him, regardless of their background, and promises His protection to those who sincerely surrender to Him.

The Bhagavad-Gita also teaches that Lord Krishna is equal to all living beings. He is present within the heart of every soul as the Supersoul (Paramatma), cares for all, and does not show favoritism based on nationality, race, social status, or birth. Devotees are therefore instructed to cultivate friendship, compassion, and respect toward all living beings.

Lord Krishna does not teach hatred, cruelty, or unnecessary violence. Rather, He encourages truthfulness, compassion, forgiveness, self-control, humility, and loving devotional service.

For these reasons, genuine followers of the Bhagavad-Gita and Lord Krishna are loving, merciful, forgiving, and compassionate to all living beings.

"I hate no one. I am equal to all living beings..." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.29)

"...One who has no enemies among all living beings comes to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 11.55)

"One who is compassionate to all living beings ... - These are some of the qualities of those born with divine nature." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.1-3)

"One who does not hate anyone, is friendly and compassionate to all living beings, shares his belongings with others, has no sense of ownership, free from ego; even-minded in both happiness and distress, forgiving, tolerant in all situations, always satisfied, worships Me with determination and devotion. Such a person is very dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 12.13-14)

47. What is Dr Frog mentality?

A frog living in a well may think the well is everything because that is all he knows. He does not realize that beyond the well lies a vast ocean with immeasurably more water.

Similarly, those who rely only on man-made or recently created scriptures may develop a narrow view of God, life, and reality. This limited outlook can lead to beliefs such as:

God is invisible: Because one has not seen God, or follows someone who has not seen God, one assumes God cannot be seen.

God has only one prophet: This assumes that God is limited in how He reveals His message.

Life exists only on this planet: Since one has never gone beyond earth, one assumes this is the only planet with living beings.

Human history is only 6,000 years old: This view comes from being unable to imagine time beyond a few thousand years.

The world will end soon: This belief centers reality around one's limited lifespan and perception.

There is no reincarnation: Because one cannot remember past lives, one assumes they did not exist.

There is no karma: Because one does not understand how suffering and enjoyment arise, one assumes they happen by chance.

"I am not manifest to everyone. The foolish persons are covered by My internal potency [Yoga Maya] and they cannot understand that I am unborn, and eternal, with a spiritual form." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.25)

"Foolish men, disregard me when I appear in a human like body. They do not know that My nature is spiritual, and I am the great Lord of everything. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.11)

Not everyone can understand or know God, because He is not so cheap. Only those who are open minded and pious can understand and know that Lord Krishna is the Supreme person, God. For the others, God will be unknown/invisible/unseen.

48. What is the peace formula for the whole world?

The world peace formula is in the Bhagavad-Gita.

Give up Hate – Take up Kindness	<i>"One who does not hate anyone, is friendly and compassionate to all living beings, shares his belongings with others, has no sense of ownership, free from ego; even-minded in both happiness and distress, forgiving, tolerant in all situations, always satisfied, worships Me with determination and devotion. Such a person is very dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 12.13-14)</i>
God is the well-wisher of everyone	<i>"One who knows Me [Krishna] as the beneficiary of all sacrifices, penances, austerities, and the supreme Lord of all the planets, demigods, and the well-wisher of all living beings, can attain peace from the miseries of material life." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 5.29)</i>
All lives matter – We all belong to God	<i>"All living entities are My eternal fragmental particles. Due to material nature, they are conditioned by the six senses, including the mind, and struggle very hard." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.7)</i>
God is equal to everyone	<i>"I hate no one. I am equal to all living beings..." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.29)</i>
World Peace Prayer	<i>"Om, Sarve bhavantu sukhinah</i>

Om May all be happy May all be free from illness May all see what is good May no one suffer Om peace, peace, peace	<i>Sarve santu nirāmayāḥ Sarve bhadrāṇi paśyantū Mā kashchit duḥkha bhāgbhavet Om Shāntiḥ, Shāntiḥ, Shāntiḥ” (Brihadāraṇyaka Upanishad 1.4.14)</i>
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The above teachings are unique to Sanatan-Dharma. Anyone who seriously accepts these teachings would:

- Give the credit to Lord Krishan, the person who compiled the above
- Not hate, hurt, kill, or eat any of his brothers and sisters
- Love all living beings
- Become charitable and share his wealth and time with his unfortunate brothers and sisters

"Those who are wise, have real knowledge, understanding, and gentleness. They see with equal vision, a Brahmana, a cow, an elephant, a dog, and a dog eater." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 5.18)

The spiritually self-realized people will see all living beings and especially all humans with equal vision. Thus, all living beings are my brothers and sisters, and I should serve them all.

49. What causes humans to hate each other?

Ignorance is the root cause of hatred. Due to man-made ideologies and ignorance. People become envious and egoistic. The result of this is hatred.

"One who does not hate anyone, is friendly and compassionate to all living beings, shares his belongings with others, has no sense of ownership, free from ego; even-minded in both happiness and distress, forgiving, tolerant in all situations, always satisfied, worships Me with determination and devotion. Such a person is very dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 12.13-14)

Lord Krishna states that those who give up bodily designations and are friendly to all living beings are very dear to Him.

50. What is Owl Mentality?

Although the sun shines brightly, an owl naturally prefers darkness and may not look toward the sunlight. The problem is not the absence of the sun but the unwillingness or inability to perceive it.

Similarly, many people dismiss the possibility of knowing God without seriously examining the available evidence or studying the Vedic scriptures. They conclude that God must be unknowable, unseen, or indescribable without first investigating the teachings that claim to describe Him.

The Bhagavad-Gita presents Lord Krishna as the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Throughout the Vedic scriptures, His names, qualities, form, activities, teachings, and pastimes are described in detail. Lord Krishna demonstrated His divinity through His teachings and extraordinary activities.

The Vedic tradition therefore encourages sincere inquiry rather than blind acceptance or blind rejection. Just as a person who wishes to understand science studies scientific literature, one who wishes to understand God is encouraged to study the Bhagavad-Gita and the other Vedic scriptures with an open mind.

The lesson of the "owl mentality" is not to criticize others, but to remind us to remain humble, open-minded, and willing to examine evidence before reaching conclusions. Those who sincerely seek the truth through study, reflection, and devotional practice gradually come to know Lord Krishna as the omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent Lord.

"I am the origin of all creations. There is nothing, moving or non-moving, that can exist without Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.39)

Lord Krishna is the only person who states that He is the origin and dissolution of everything, and nothing can exist without Him. This is because, He is God.

51. What is Camel mentality?

The Camel's Illusion and Human Life

Camels may think chewing thorns is enjoyable because they taste juice while eating them. In reality, that juice is their own blood, caused by the thorns cutting their mouths. Still, they mistakenly believe the pleasure comes from the thorns.

In the same way, human beings may waste this rare and precious life in materialistic and sinful activities, mistaking them for enjoyment. They forget that time is steadily taking away their lifespan and that animalistic habits—eating, sleeping, mating, defending, and remaining ignorant of God—can lead to an animal body in the next birth.

Material Misery and Spiritual Life

Material life brings repeated suffering, birth after birth. Camels have no knowledge of Lord Krishna's spiritual manifestation, Vaikuntha.

On the millions of Vaikuntha planets, residents live eternally in beautiful spiritual bodies full of bliss, love, and knowledge, completely free from misery.

52. What is Yoga?

Yoga means to link with the supreme person. There are many types of yoga systems, but the topmost yoga system is Bhakti Yoga, devotional service unto Lord Krishna (God).

Other types of yoga systems like Hatha Yoga involve bodily postures and breathing exercises. Hatha Yoga is for the body, and Bhakti Yoga is for the soul. We need to maintain our body and soul and thus both are beneficial for us. But Bhakti Yoga is very important as our current body is only for this short life, but the soul is eternal.

"Yoga is linking oneself with the Supreme. One can never become a yogi unless the desires for sense gratification are given up." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 6.2)

One must give up materialistic desires like going to see cement/stones/wood (Cities and Buildings), give up accumulating material possessions like money, cars, properties, phones etc., give up lust for eating flesh (meat) and seeing flesh (attachment for men/women), and give up personal ego. Live a simple life by not making demands and living on what you have. Such persons are called yogis.

"Of all types of yogis, one who always thinks of Me, worships Me, and renders loving service unto Me with full faith is the greatest yogi. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 6.47)

Those who have given up material desires and worship Lord Krishna and work for the benefit of everyone with their time, money, and effort are called Bhakta Yogis, the best yogis.

53. Is good association very important?

Stay away from materialistic and self-centered people. There are many wolves in sheep clothing and so we must be very careful. Associating with those who are truthful, caring, have spiritual knowledge, and the nature of giving and serving is best.

'By association with worldly people, one becomes devoid of truthfulness, cleanliness, mercy, gravity, spiritual intelligence, shyness, austerity, fame, forgiveness, control of the mind, control of the senses, fortune and all opportunities. One should not at any time associate with a coarse fool who is bereft of the knowledge of self-realization and who is no more than a toy animal in the hands of a woman.' (Caitanya-caritamrta Madhya-Lila 22.88-90).

The Influence of Association

The people we associate with strongly influence our habits, character, and spiritual understanding. Bad association can gradually lead a person toward similar behavior.

- Association with thieves increases the likelihood of becoming dishonest.
- Association with gamblers increases the likelihood of developing gambling habits.
- Association with violent people can make one more inclined toward violence against living beings.
- Association with wicked people can weaken one's moral character.
- Association with those who misuse drugs or alcohol can lead one toward similar addictions.
- Association with flesh eaters can encourage the same habit.
- Association with the spiritually ignorant can lead to spiritual ignorance.
- Association with those who cannot describe or understand God can lead one away from God.

People are not born as thieves, drunkards, addicts, or violent people; they often acquire such habits through bad association. Just as one rotten fruit can quickly spoil the others in a basket, bad company can corrupt those around it.

54. What makes people Engage in Sinful Activities?

Ignorance and Sinful Life

Ignorance of spiritual knowledge is described as the root of sinful life. It increases ego, envy, lust, materialism, and greed, which can lead to actions such as hatred, animal killing, intoxication, violence, gambling, adultery, lying, deceit, and stealing. Man-made ideologies can also keep one away from true spiritual knowledge. Therefore, one should avoid association with those who are spiritually ignorant.

The Strength of Vedic Knowledge

The Bhagavad-Gita and other Vedic scriptures contain the highest spiritual knowledge. By studying and following them daily, one can gradually give up sinful activities, become spiritually strong, and realize God as a person.

Because even a moment of bad association can be harmful, one should remain alert and strengthen spiritual understanding through regular study and practice.

Soul Consciousness and Body Consciousness

A fundamental teaching of the Bhagavad-Gita is that we are the eternal soul, not the temporary body. Understanding oneself as the soul is spiritual knowledge; identifying with the body is material knowledge.

The aim of Sanatan-Dharma is to become soul conscious, while other religious systems are described here as emphasizing body consciousness.

The Soul's Two Choices

The conditioned soul in a body has two choices:

- Pursue materialistic life by trying to dominate material creation.
- Practice devotional service and return to Godhead.

The choice belongs to everyone, and God does not force anyone.

55. Are we all born in ignorance?

Yes.

"All living beings are in utter ignorance from birth. They are deluded, due to hate and desires. Those persons whose sinful activities have come to an end, and are now pious, free from hate and desires, are able to engage in devotional service unto Me with determination." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.27-28)

As stated in this verse, we are all born in ignorance and we develop good qualities or bad qualities, based on how we are brought up by our parents and elders. We can develop good qualities by following the teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita which includes not engaging in sinful activities like lying, animal killing, gambling, lust, greed, alcohol, drugs, and hatred. Then our mind will not be misled, and we will have good chances of knowing God and engage in His service.

"Being freed from attachments, fear, anger, and fully situated in thought of Me, many have become purified by penance and knowledge of Me. They all attained pure love for Me. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.10)

The purpose of religion is to attain love of God, which includes loving all living beings, because all souls are parts of God. In this verse, Lord Krishna states that those who surrender unto Him with sincerity and engage in His service, which includes following His instructions, become purified. They are freed from material attachments, fear, anger, and attain pure love of Him (God).

56. Why does God Create Evil People?

How People Become Corrupted

God does not create evil people; people become corrupted through harmful influences. Children are naturally pure and innocent, but as they grow, they can be affected by adults, television, the internet, and man-made ideologies. These influences may lead to hatred, violence, addiction, deception, gambling, and other harmful behavior.

Parents are responsible for teaching children right from wrong from an early age and guiding them, so they are not misled by others or by harmful media influences.

The Guidance of the Bhagavad-Gita

The teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita give one the best opportunity to become peaceful, non-violent, spiritually aware, and morally grounded. They help people understand karma, know God more fully, and become decent human beings.

Its key teachings include:

- All living beings are eternal and belong to God.
- Every living being is important to Him.
- Each person is responsible for his or her own actions through karma.
- All living beings are children of God and therefore brothers and sisters.
- God is forgiving, merciful, responsible, and gives unlimited chances through reincarnation.

Because all living beings are children of God, hatred or violence toward any living being is ultimately hatred or violence toward God.

57. What Are Sinful Activities?

Sinful activities are those that degrade consciousness, cause harm to us or others, and distance us from our relationship with Lord Krishna. Such actions strengthen material attachment and bind the soul to the cycle of birth and death.

Examples of sinful activities include:

- Killing or unnecessarily harming animals and other living beings.
- Using intoxicants such as alcohol, recreational drugs, and tobacco.
- Gambling and cultivating greed through games of chance.
- Uncontrolled lust and the exploitation of others for sensual pleasure.
- Sexual relationships outside the sanctity of marriage.
- Hatred, envy, or malice toward any living being.
- Violence, cruelty, or unnecessary harm toward others.
- Lying, cheating, or deliberately deceiving others.
- Uncontrolled anger that leads to harmful speech or actions.
- Greed and excessive attachment to wealth, possessions, or power.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that these tendencies cloud the mind, disturb inner peace, and obstruct spiritual advancement. In contrast, qualities such as truthfulness, compassion, self-control, humility, generosity, forgiveness, and devotion to Lord Krishna purify the heart and elevate consciousness.

Based on the Vedic scriptures, the purpose of spiritual life is not merely to avoid sinful actions, but to replace them with virtuous qualities and loving devotional service. By following the teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita and practicing **Bhakti-yoga**, a person gradually becomes free from sinful tendencies and progresses toward eternal spiritual happiness.

"Absence of fear, purity of heart, charitable, striving for spiritual knowledge by studying the Vedic scriptures, lives a simple life, always straight forward in his dealings, always truthful, not violent, free from anger, not greedy, always gentle, forgiving, very clean, not envious of others, compassionate to all living beings, doesn't talk non-sense, has no pride, doesn't mislead others – These are some of the qualities of those with divine nature." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.1-3)

It is the parents' responsibility to teach and guide their children, so they do not engage in sinful activities. The result of sinful activities is immense suffering and degradation of the soul to lower species.

58. What is Most Sinful?

"There is nothing more sinful than untruthfulness. Because of this, mother earth once said, 'I can bear any heavy thing except a person who is a liar.' " (Srimad-Bhagavatam 8.20.4)

**Always be truthful
Never break vows
Never betray anyone
Never cheat anyone
Always be loyal
Always speak the truth
Always side with the truth**

59. What is the reward for following Sanatan-Dharma?

The ultimate reward for following **Sanatan-Dharma**, the eternal religion, is the awakening of pure love for God (*prema*). By cultivating devotion to Lord Krishna, living according to the principles of the Bhagavad-Gita, and practicing **Bhakti-yoga**, the soul becomes purified and, at the end of this life, attains the eternal spiritual abode, where the souls live forever in loving association with the Supreme Lord, free from birth, old age, disease, death, and all material suffering.

The Vedic scriptures describe the present age, **Kali-yuga**, as a time when spiritual understanding declines and materialism becomes increasingly dominant. According to these scriptures, people are often drawn toward temporary pleasures, worldly success, and self-centered goals, forgetting their eternal spiritual identity.

If the soul remains attached to material desires, it continues to experience the cycle of birth and death under the law of karma. Material circumstances may change from one life to another—wealth or poverty, health or illness, success or hardship—but lasting happiness cannot be found in temporary material conditions alone.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that the material world is temporary and inevitably accompanied by various forms of suffering. It therefore encourages us to seek a higher, eternal happiness through spiritual knowledge, righteous living, and loving devotion to Lord Krishna.

True reward of Sanatan-Dharma is not merely a better material life but complete spiritual fulfillment: freedom from the cycle of repeated birth and death, realization of one's eternal identity as a servant of the Supreme Lord, and everlasting life in the spiritual realm, where the soul experiences perfect knowledge, unconditional love, and eternal bliss.

"Everyone on the lowest planet to the highest planet of Brahmaloka, in the material creation is subjected to the miseries of repeated birth and death. But those who attain Me [Krishna], never take birth again." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.16)

Those who attain love of God, are liberated from material life at the end of this short life and enjoy an eternal life full of bliss/love, full of knowledge, with no trace of misery, and see God face to face every day.

"Just become My devotee, always think of Me, bow down to Me, and worship Me. Then you will come to Me, without fail. I promise you this, as you are very dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.65)

"My supreme abode is not illuminated by the sun, moon, fire, or electricity. Those who go there, never come back to this material creation." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.6)

60. Why no intoxication?

- * Health – Alcohol, tobacco, and drugs are bad for the health.
- * Suffering – Women and children suffer as the man of the house who drinks loses consciousness when drunk and engages in violence towards the wife and children, besides exposing them to exploitation by others.
- * Financial ruin – Drugs and alcohol are not cheap and often, poor families suffer complete financial ruin due to the man of the house being addicted to alcohol or drugs.
- * Addictive - Addiction results in extreme dependence on and attachment to the intoxicant. People become addicted to alcohol and drugs and in many cases, this results in violence as the addicts will kill or steal to get hold of drugs/alcohol.

61. Why should you not gamble?

Gambling destroys the financial wellbeing of families and causes suffering, mostly to women and children. Gamblers should realize that they will eventually be the losers. Gambling creates a cheating mentality, which results in one becoming a cheater and/or cheated. Life is very hard as it is. Why make the women and children suffer more? You should never gamble and give up gambling from this day on.

62. Why Should You Not Eat Meat?

Reasons to Choose a Vegetarian Diet

A vegetarian diet can support better health, compassion toward animals, environmental protection, and more efficient use of natural resources.

Health

Research links plant-based eating patterns with lower risks of cardiovascular disease, some cancers, and mortality, especially when compared with high intake of red and processed meats.

Morality

Animals are living beings, not food commodities. A cow gives milk for human benefit, so killing her for meat is morally wrong. If humans do not need to kill animals to live, then unnecessary killing should be avoided.

Economics and Resource Use

Producing meat requires large amounts of vegetation, water, land, and time. Using these resources directly for plant foods could feed many more people, increase food availability, lower costs, and reduce poverty.

Environment

Animal agriculture contributes to deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, and environmental degradation. Diets with less meat generally have a smaller environmental footprint.

Nonviolence

Regularly killing animals can harden the heart and normalize violence. A nonviolent diet encourages compassion toward all living beings.

A well-planned vegetarian diet can provide sufficient protein and important nutrients such as fiber, calcium, magnesium, potassium, iron, thiamin, riboflavin, folate, and vitamins A, C, and E, while usually containing less saturated fat and cholesterol.

The Bhagavad-Gita very clearly states that we should be friendly to all living beings and compassionate. This can be practiced with animals by not killing them.

Why kill when you don't need to? You should stop killing from this day on. Go veg.

63. Why no Illicit sex?

Sex outside marriage is called illicit sex.

The governments around the world are very foolish by thinking that by promoting condoms they will stop AIDS. The only way to stop AIDS is for humans to stop behaving like the dogs on the street.

In this age, relationships and marriages are mostly based on sex impulses alone. This can be proven by the fact that most marriages end in a divorce. It is the children who suffer the most, all due to the lusty parents. Marriages often end due to one or both the partners wanting to move onto another mate. Just like the dogs on the street. Sexual lust only leads to misery in the long term and binds one to miserable material life for many lifetimes.

The human body is nothing but a bag full of stool and all kinds of nasty fluids. Why lust for another bag?

One should lust for a spiritual body, which is completely beautiful, and eternal. This can be achieved by giving up all attachments to the material body and surrendering unto Lord Krishna.

"That eternal goal is reached by the wise who are free from pride, delusion, and bad association, who have conquered the evil of attachment, who constantly dwell in the Supreme Being with all lust completely stilled, and who are free from dualities of pleasure and pain." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.5)

Those who give up pride, the association of people who are engaged in sinful activities and the spiritually ignorant, who are done with lust, who remain steady in all situations, and who are surrendered unto Lord Krishna and engage in His service. Will attain the abode of Lord Krishna, the spiritual abode, at the end of this short life. In the kingdom of Lord Krishna, there is no old age, no disease, no death, no misery of any kind, and everyone lives in the same eternal body that is completely beautiful.

64. Should people come first?

People Before Possessions

People should always come before money, work, business, places, and material objects. Among all people, family members should be given first priority.

Use Wealth to Serve Others

Spend your hard-earned money on serving and feeding people rather than on personal luxuries. Time and wealth should be used for the benefit of others, not only for oneself.

Celebrate With Love and Inclusion

When your children get married, express your love and happiness by inviting many people and arranging their accommodation, transportation, and food at your cost. This reflects Vedic culture.

People are not merely hungry for food; they are hungry for love. Instead of holding an expensive function at a luxury hotel for a few guests, choose a modest venue and invite many.

Show Care Through Personal Presence

If someone is sick, visit them in person rather than relying only on phone or video calls. Living beings exchange positive energy through close personal contact, and that presence cannot be fully replaced by technology.

"One who is compassionate to all living beings ... - These are some of the qualities of those born with divine nature." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.1-3)

"One who does not hate anyone, is friendly and compassionate to all living beings...Such a person is very dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 12.13-14)

One can prove he is friendly and compassionate by meeting and serving people and not by sweet words over the phone, nor by email, nor by video call. Sweet words are worthless, actions are priceless.

65. What are the Primary and Secondary Gurus?

Primary Gurus

The mother is the first and most important guru for a child. The father is the second most important guru for a child. For a girl, once she gets married, the husband becomes the most important guru for her.

The primary gurus are more important than the secondary gurus because it is our family members who will protect and care for us when we are not well and only our family members will help us to pay our bills. The family members must always come first. Those outside the home are only useful for getting some knowledge, and not for our care and wellbeing.

Secondary Gurus

All those outside our home are secondary. Thus, the diksa and siksa gurus are secondary gurus. One should only have one diksa guru in the whole life but can have many siksa gurus. If one's diksa guru becomes corrupt, then for the sake of truthfulness (to ensure vows are not broken). It is recommended not to take another diksa guru and just have siksa gurus.

"The highest religious duty for a woman is to sincerely serve her husband, behave well toward her husband's family and take good care of her children." (Lord Krishna, Srimad-Bhagavatam 10.29.24)

66. What is your Relationship with God?

You (the soul) are eternally part of God as His family member. Your purpose is to enjoy a personal companion relationship with God in the spiritual manifestation. You are currently in the material manifestation due to your own desires. Every living being has a particular relationship with God eternally.

"All living entities are My eternal fragmental particles. Due to material nature, they are conditioned by the six senses, including the mind, and struggle very hard." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.7)

All the living entities can enjoy the juice (rasa) of a personal relationship with the Supreme.

There are five main ways of enjoying the juice (rasa) of a relationship with the Supreme:

1. One can worship Krishna and enjoy the affection of service unto Him (santa-rasa)
2. One can be a personal servant of Krishna, enjoying the affection of personal service unto Him (dasya-rasa)
3. One can be a friend of Krishna, enjoying the affection of friendship (sakhya-rasa)
4. One can be a guardian or parent of Krishna, enjoying parental affection (vatsalya-rasa)
5. One can dance with Krishna, enjoying His personal affection (madhura-rasa)

Lord Krishna is very merciful and loving and He proves this by satisfying the desires of His devotees to associate with Him in a personal relationship.

67. Show me God, only then Will I Believe?

Most of us will never have the opportunity to meet the president or prime minister of even a small country. If meeting an ordinary human leader is difficult, how much more difficult would it be to meet the Supreme Lord, who, according to the Vedic scriptures, is the source and controller of countless universes?

From the Vaishnava perspective, God is not subject to our demands. He is not our servant who appears whenever we ask. Rather, the Bhagavad-Gita teaches that if we sincerely wish to know and experience the Supreme Lord, we must approach Him according to His instructions—with humility, devotion, and a sincere desire for self-realization.

In everyday life, we accept many things based on reliable authority. For example, many people believe that Japan exists even if they have never visited it personally. They accept the testimony of maps, photographs, travelers, historians, and other trustworthy sources.

Similarly, the Vedic tradition teaches that spiritual knowledge is received through reliable authority—the Vedic scriptures and the succession of realized teachers who have understood and lived according to those teachings. The Bhagavad-Gita encourages sincere inquiry, thoughtful study, and spiritual practice rather than blind acceptance.

According to the Vaishnava understanding, Lord Krishna reveals Himself to those who sincerely seek Him through devotion, purity of heart, and faithful practice. The purpose of the Vedic scriptures is to guide the soul toward that realization, enabling one not merely to believe in God, but to know Him through spiritual realization and loving devotional service.

"By performing devotional service unto Me [Krishna], without deviation. You can begin to understand My mysteries, and thus I can be seen in this form, standing before you." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 11.54)

As Lord Krishna states in this verse, by serving Him without deviation, one will eventually see Him, face-to-face. A 5-year-old boy named Druva, saw Lord Vishnu face to face, after just a few months of performing severe penances. Another 5-year-old boy named Prahlad, saw Lord Krishna in His form as Lord Nrisingha. Millions of people have already seen Lord Krishna, face-to-face, and you can too, but you must become qualified to see Him.

For those who are not qualified: the foolish, sinful, narrow minded, and the spiritually less intelligent, God will remain unseen, invisible, unknown, and unknowable.

68. What is the Science of the Soul?

Anyone can observe that the material bodies of living beings—humans, animals, and plants—are physically different, temporary, and situated in varying conditions, circumstances, and locations. Within each living being resides the soul, which is eternal and equal to every other soul.

The Vedic scriptures describe the soul as follows:

- You are the soul, not the material body.
- All living beings—humans, animals, and plants—possess a soul.
- All souls are equal; no soul is inherently inferior or superior to another.
- The soul is neither Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya, nor Shudra.
- The soul is neither high caste nor low caste.
- Every soul is eternal, full of knowledge, and naturally blissful.
- Every soul has an eternal relationship with God.
- Every soul is a member of God's universal family.
- Every soul is accompanied by the Supersoul (God) within the heart, who acts as the witness, permitter, and well-wisher.
- Every soul will ultimately attain liberation; there is no eternal damnation.
- The soul cannot be cut by weapons, burned by fire, moistened by water, or withered by the wind.
- The soul is neither male nor female.
- The soul is neither black nor white.
- The soul is not Indian, American, African, or any other nationality.
- The soul is not Hindu, Christian, Muslim, or any other material designation.
- The soul is neither diseased nor healthy.
- One soul is neither richer nor poorer than another.
- The soul is neither old nor young and never ages.
- The soul has no material weight and cannot be seen with the physical eye.
- The soul resides within the heart of every living being.
- The soul illuminates the entire body with consciousness.
- The size of the individual soul is described as one ten-thousandth the tip of a hair.

All living beings are eternal souls, part and parcel of God. We are all spiritual brothers and sisters, members of the same divine family. Every soul is a unique individual, eternal, full of knowledge, and full of bliss.

"The soul is unborn, eternal, never takes birth, and never dies. The soul is not destroyed when the body is destroyed." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.20)

"The soul can't be cut by any weapon, fire cannot burn it, water cannot wet it, and the wind cannot dry it. The soul is unchangeable, eternal, and present everywhere." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.23-24)

"The fact is that one who has taken birth, will certainly die. It is also a fact that, one who dies will take birth again. Therefore, you should not lament for that which is unavoidable." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.27)

69. Are we the Spiritual Soul, or Matter, the Body?

Our true identity is not the material body, which is temporary and subject to birth, disease, old age, and death. We are the eternal soul, a spiritual being residing within the heart of the body. This soul is present in all living beings—humans, animals, and plants alike.

While bodies are made of matter and constantly change, the soul remains eternal, and unchanging.

"Just as the sun illuminates the whole universe with light, the soul illuminates the whole body with consciousness." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 13.34)

Consciousness is a symptom of the presence of the soul. The soul illuminates the entire body with consciousness, enabling awareness, perception, and life. When the soul leaves the body, consciousness immediately disappears, and the body becomes lifeless.

This understanding of consciousness as a manifestation of the eternal soul is one of the distinctive teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita. The Gita explains that consciousness does not arise from matter itself but from the presence of the spiritual soul within the body.

"A person who thinks their material body that is composed of bile, air, and mucus to be the self – is no better than a low class ass..." (Srimad-Bhagavatam 10.84.13)

The material body is a temporary combination of physical elements. The body functions through various material components, traditionally described as mucus, bile, and air. One who identifies the self solely with the temporary body and ignores the eternal soul within is considered to be in ignorance of his true identity.

The body is temporary and subject to birth, disease, old age, and death, but the soul is eternal. The body will eventually perish, yet the soul can never be destroyed. As stated in the Bhagavad-Gita, the soul cannot be cut by weapons, burned by fire, moistened by water, or dried by the wind. The soul is eternal, indestructible, and the true identity of every living being.

Living beings—humans, plants, and animals—have temporary, different bodies in varied conditions and places. Within each body is the living entity; the soul.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SOUL

- The living entity is the eternal soul, not the temporary body
- The soul is separate from the body
- The soul illuminates the body with consciousness
- All souls are equal; none is inferior or superior
- All souls share the same qualities: eternal, knowledgeable, and blissful
- The soul is situated in the heart of all living beings
- All living beings—humans, plants, and animals—have souls
- Every soul has an eternal companion relationship with God
- Every soul is a spark of God and is divine
- Every soul is accompanied by the Supersoul, God in the heart, as witness, permitter, and well-wisher
- Every soul eventually goes back to the spiritual world
- No soul is high caste, nor low caste
- No soul suffers eternally
- No soul is eternally punished or sent to hell
- No weapon can destroy, burn, blow away, or moisten the soul
- The soul is neither male nor female
- The soul is neither black nor white
- The soul is not Indian, nor American, nor African
- The soul is not Hindu, nor Christian, nor Muslim, nor atheist
- The soul is neither diseased nor healthy
- The soul is not old or young and does not age
- The soul has no weight and cannot be seen

THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF PHYSICS (CONSERVATION OF ENERGY)

Energy cannot be destroyed but it can change forms. We (the soul) are the energy; and the body is the form. When our current form (the body) is destroyed, we (the soul) move into another form (another body).

"As a person puts on new garments, giving up old ones, similarly, the soul accepts new material bodies, giving up the old and useless ones."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.22)

"For one who has taken his birth, death is certain; and for one who is dead, birth is certain. Therefore, in the unavoidable discharge of your duty, you should not lament."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.27)

The Science of You (The Soul)

NUMBER OF SPECIES (BODIES) THAT THE SOUL CAN OCCUPY

"jalaja nava lakshani, sthavara laksha-vimshati, krmayo rudra-sankhyakah, pakshinam dasha-lakshanam, trinshal-lakshani pashavah, chatur lakshani manavah" (Padma Purana)

Jalaja (Water based life forms)	0.9 million
Sthavara (Immobile implying plants and trees)	2.0 million
Krimayo (Reptiles)	1.1 million
Pakshinam (Birds)	1.0 million
Pashavah (animals)	3.0 million
Manavah (human-like)	0.4 million

Total 8.4 million species of living beings.

A soul occupies a particular body, exactly based on its desires, and deserves.

"The living entity in the material world carries his different conceptions of life from one body to another as the air carries aromas."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.8)

"The living entity in material nature thus follows the ways of life, enjoying the three modes of nature. This is due to his association with that material nature. Thus, he meets with good and evil amongst various species."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 13.22)

WE ARE THE ETERNAL SOUL AND NOT THIS TEMPORARY BODY

When a person dies, we say 'he passed away', but the body is right in front of us. This implies there are two entities, the 'body' and the 'he'. The 'he' is the soul, the living entity, and not the body. This is the first teaching from the Bhagavad-Gita. The body is temporary, but the soul is eternal. Where has he (the soul) passed away to? Another body.

"Never was there a time when I did not exist, nor you, nor all these kings; nor in the future shall any of us cease to be. As the embodied soul continually passes, in this body, from boyhood to youth to old age, the soul similarly passes into another body at death. The self-realized soul is not bewildered by such a change."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.12-2.13)

Vedic Social Work Order System and Soul Journey

To ensure proper functioning of human society and justice, A social work order or class system is prescribed to assign people for roles based on their qualifications or abilities.

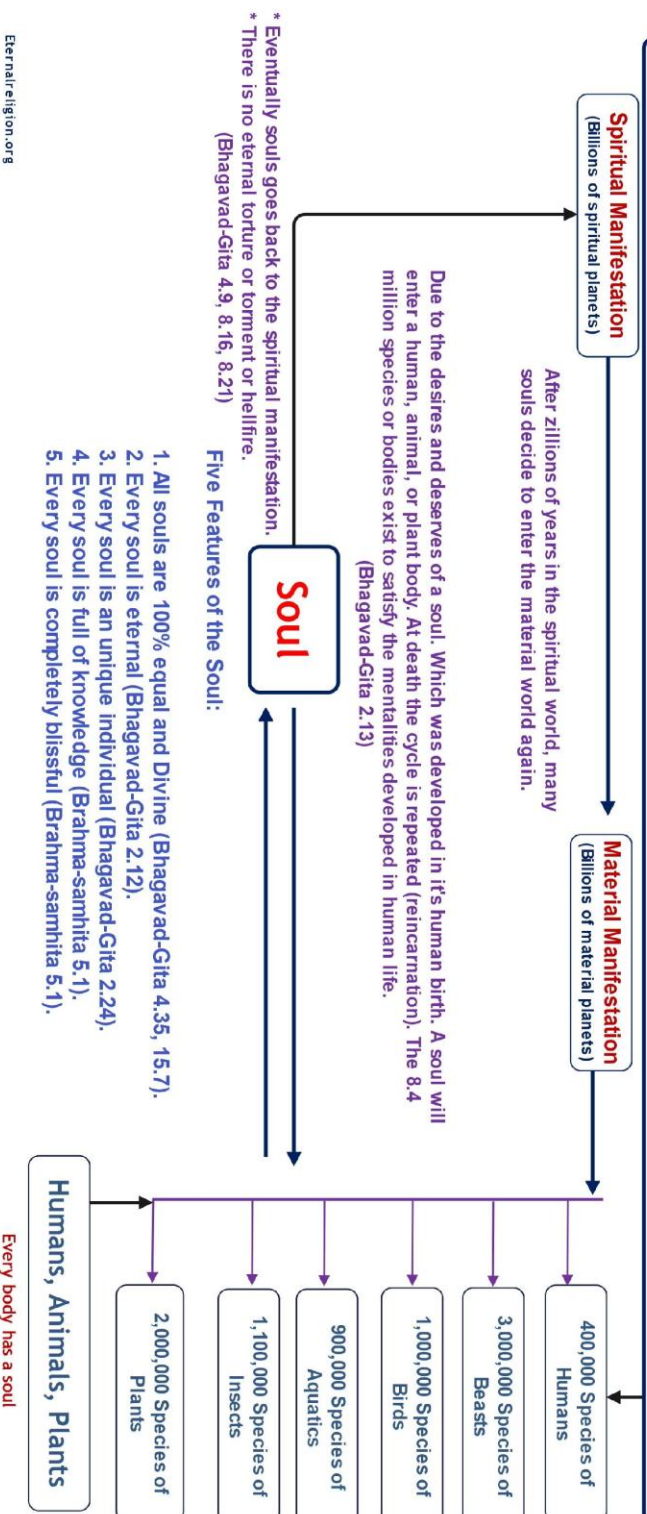
Brahmins (Priestly Class) - Peacefulness, self-control, austerity, purity, tolerance, honesty, knowledge, wisdom and religiousness - these are the natural qualities by which the brāhmaṇas work. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.42)

Kṣatriyas (Military Class) - Heroism, power, determination, resourcefulness, courage in battle, generosity and leadership are the natural qualities of work for the kṣatriyas. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.43)

Vaiśyas (Business Class) - Farming, cow protection and business are the natural work for the vaiśyas. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.44)

Sudras (Laborer Class) - And for the śūdras there are labor and service to others. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.44)

"By following his qualities of work, every man can become perfect..." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.45)



70. Are We Eternal?

Yes. We (the soul) are eternal. We live forever, but in different bodies.

"There was never a time when you, all these kings, and I did not exist. Nor shall any of us cease to exist in the future. The embodied soul in this body goes through boyhood, youth, and old age. At death, the soul transfers to another body. This never bewilders a wise person." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.12-13)

Just as you exist now, you existed in the past, and you will continue to exist in the future.

There is a law of physics, which states that energy cannot be destroyed, but it changes forms. We (the soul) are the energy, and the body is the form. When our current body is finished, we will change our form. Thus, we get a new body. This is another proof of reincarnation.

71. What is Karma?

Based on the law of karma, every action produces a corresponding reaction. Each individual is responsible for his or her own actions and must ultimately experience their consequences. As the saying goes, "As you sow, so shall you reap." Life is governed by an intelligent system of cause and effect; nothing happens without a cause.

Whatever actions we perform—whether good or bad—generate corresponding reactions. These reactions may manifest immediately, years later, or even in a future lifetime. The law of karma operates unfailingly across time.

When a person performs virtuous and selfless actions, favorable reactions may follow, such as good health, prosperity, peace of mind, favorable circumstances, or birth in higher conditions of life. Conversely, harmful or sinful actions produce unfavorable reactions, which may appear as suffering, disease, poverty, adversity, or birth in lower or more difficult conditions.

The Vedic scriptures explain that karma is one of the laws through which material nature administers justice. No action is lost, and every action eventually yields its appropriate result. Therefore, understanding karma encourages individuals to act responsibly, cultivate virtue, and pursue spiritual advancement.

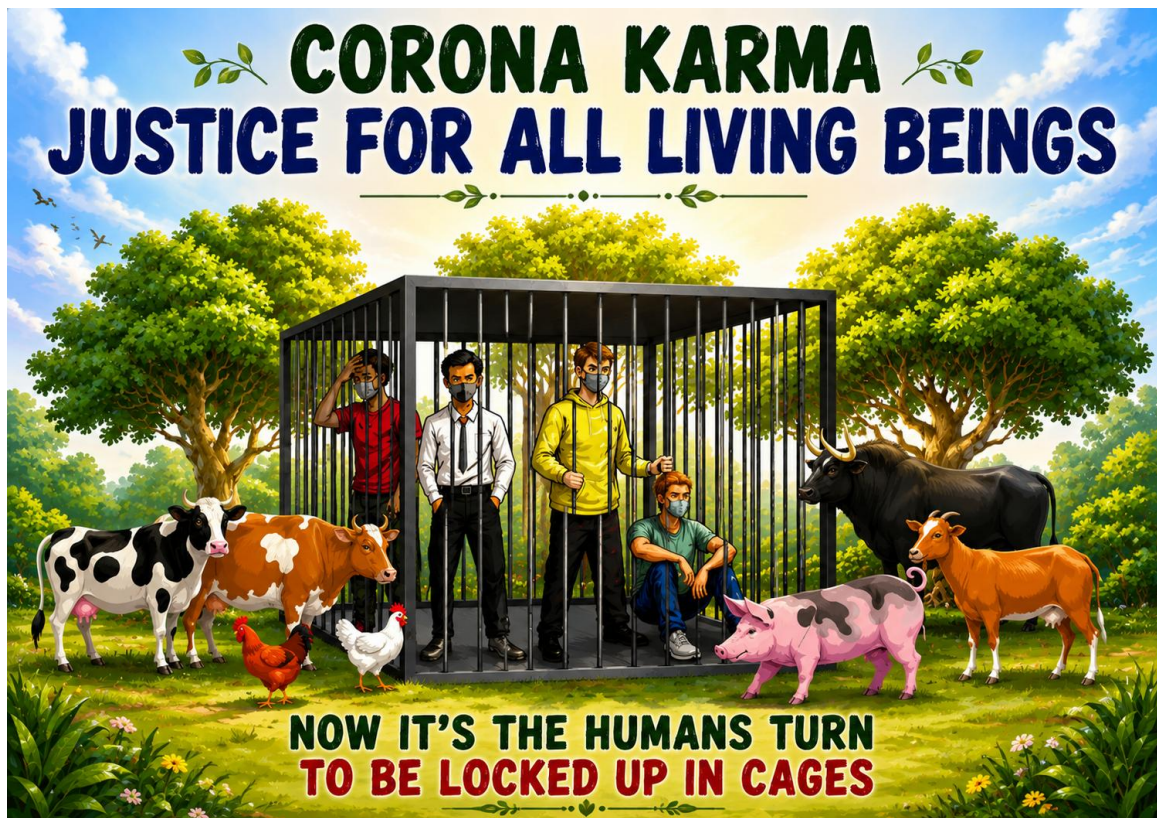
"Actions taken in the mode of goodness are purifying and result in piousness. Actions taken in the mode of passion result in misery, and actions taken in the mode of ignorance, result in degradation." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.16)

Based on the law of karma, every action produces a corresponding reaction. If you treat others with kindness and respect, you will eventually receive kindness and respect in return. If you mistreat others, you will eventually experience the consequences of those actions. The law of karma operates impartially and applies to all living beings.

The Vedic scriptures explain that whatever suffering or happiness we cause others will ultimately return to us in some form. This principle is sometimes described as "life for life" or "as you sow, so shall you reap." The reactions to our actions may appear quickly, years later, or even in future lifetimes.

People are born into vastly different circumstances. One person may be born into poverty, while another is born into wealth and privilege. According to the doctrine of karma, these differences are not random or accidental. They are the result of actions performed in previous lives, combined with actions performed in the present life.

God does not arbitrarily reward one person or punish another. Rather, material nature operates under divine laws that ensure every action receives its appropriate result. Karma is the law of cause and effect governing material existence, and it functions as an infallible system of justice in which every action eventually bears its corresponding fruit.



72. Why do we suffer?

Based on the law of karma, the happiness and suffering we experience are the reactions to actions we have performed in the past. When we encounter difficulties, we may be experiencing the consequences of previous actions, whether from this life or from prior lives.

A useful analogy is that of a prison. Many prisoners may appear innocent when we first see them, and it may be difficult to understand why they are incarcerated. However, when their past actions and records are examined, the reasons for their imprisonment become clear. Similarly, we may not always understand why people experience particular circumstances in life because we cannot see the actions they took in previous lives.

Karma applies not only to our physical actions but also to our words, intentions, and thoughts. Every action generates a corresponding reaction, and no action is without consequence.

Actions that create favorable karma include:

- Compassion and non-violence
- Vegetarianism and respect for all living beings
- Generosity and charity
- Self-control and discipline
- Truthfulness and honesty
- Simplicity and humility
- Forgiveness and kindness
- Religious and spiritual practices
- Cleanliness and purity
- Freedom from excessive attachment, selfish desires, and false ego

Actions that create unfavorable karma include:

- Violence and cruelty toward living beings
- Meat eating
- Hatred and malice
- Ignorance and irresponsibility
- Harshness and dishonesty
- Uncontrolled lust, anger, and greed
- Excessive attachment and selfish desires
- Gambling and intoxication
- Pride and false ego

Good actions tend to produce favorable reactions, while harmful actions tend to produce suffering. In this way, karma functions as a universal law of cause and effect. The differences we observe among people—their health, wealth, opportunities, challenges, and circumstances—are understood within the Vedic tradition as being influenced by the accumulated karma of past and present actions. Thus, those who experience greater suffering may be facing the reactions to a greater accumulation of unfavorable karma, while those who experience greater prosperity may be enjoying the results of favorable karma acquired in the past.

Karma – What you plough now, you will one day pluck

Why we don't always get what we want?



The man is pouring rice and wheat is coming out at the bottom. Because of our past actions, we won't always get the matching results of our current actions.

Why good things happen to bad people?



The man is pouring nails now (taking bad actions) but wheat is coming out, because he had earlier poured wheat (took good actions), and are now reaping the rewards of past good actions. But because of the current bad actions, their be suffering in the future.

Why bad things happen to good people?



The man is pouring grains now (taking good actions) but nails are coming out, because he had earlier poured nails (took bad actions), and are now facing the punishment of past bad actions. But because of the current good actions, their be joy in the future.

The Law of Karma

*As you sow,
so shall you reap.*



Every action creates a reaction. Good actions bring happiness. Bad actions bring suffering. Therefore, always think, speak, and act righteously.

“ Lord Krishna said: It is by the force of karma that a living entity takes birth, and it is by karma alone that he meets his destruction. His happiness, distress, fear, and sense of security all arise as the effects of karma.” (Shrimad-Bhagavatam 10.24.13) ”

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73. Why do Good People Suffer?

According to the law of karma, some people who appear to be good and virtuous may still experience suffering. This is because they may be facing the reactions to harmful actions performed in the past, whether in this life or in previous lives. Karma operates across time, and the results of actions do not always manifest immediately.

Therefore, a person's present circumstances are not determined solely by their current behavior but also by the accumulated effects of past actions.

If a person is now living a virtuous life, acting with kindness, compassion, honesty, and spiritual awareness, they are creating favorable karma. Although they may still be experiencing the reactions to past mistakes, their present good actions will eventually produce positive results. In due course, they will experience greater happiness, peace, and favorable circumstances as the fruits of their righteous actions mature.

In this way, the law of karma explains how a good person may suffer temporarily while still moving toward a brighter future through their present actions.

74. Why don't Bad People Suffer?

According to the law of karma, some people who engage in harmful, selfish, or unethical behavior may nevertheless appear to enjoy wealth, success, good health, or favorable circumstances. This does not mean that their actions are without consequences. Rather, they may be experiencing positive reactions to virtuous actions performed in the past, whether in this life or in previous lives.

Karma operates over long periods of time, and the results of action do not always appear immediately. A person's present prosperity may be the result of past good karma, while their current harmful actions are creating future suffering. If such individuals continue to engage in sinful or harmful activities, they are accumulating unfavorable karma. In due course, they will experience the corresponding reactions in the form of suffering, adversity, or other unfavorable circumstances.

Thus, the law of karma explains why a person may appear to prosper despite acting wrongly, just as it explains why a virtuous person may sometimes suffer. Present circumstances are influenced by past actions, while present actions shape future circumstances.

According to the Vedic understanding, God does not arbitrarily reward one person or punish another. Rather, material nature operates under divine laws that ensure every action produces an appropriate reaction. Karma is therefore a perfectly just and impartial law of cause and effect, governing the experiences of all living beings.

75. Who put Me in My Current Situation?

You did.

According to the law of karma, our present circumstances are influenced by actions we have performed in the past. Therefore, rather than constantly comparing ourselves with others, we should strive to understand our situation, learn from it, and focus on living wisely and spiritually.

A major cause of dissatisfaction is the endless stream of material desires. When a person learns to control these desires and becomes content with what has been provided by destiny and divine arrangement, peace of mind naturally follows. Contentment is one of the foundations of happiness.

Material wealth, fame, beauty, and social position are temporary and can disappear at any moment. Today a person may live in a luxurious home and enjoy great prestige, but everything can change in an instant. At death, none of these material possessions accompany the soul. According to the Vedic scriptures, the soul leaves the present body and accepts another body according to its karma and level of consciousness developed.

For this reason, one should not become proud because of wealth, education, power, or social status. Every moment, wealthy and famous people are leaving this world, taking none of their material possessions with them. What accompanies the soul is its consciousness, character, and karma.

The wise therefore focuses not on temporary material achievements but on spiritual advancement. By cultivating humility, self-control, devotion to God, and knowledge of the soul, one prepares for a better future both in this life and beyond.

"If one can tolerate the urges of desires and anger, he can become happy in this life." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 5.23)

76. How do we minimize reactions to our actions?

"Just as a lotus leaf is in the water but it's not touched by the water, perform your work without being attached to the results, and offer the results to Me [Krishna]. In this way, you will not incur sins or face bad reactions." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 5.10)

According to the Bhagavad-Gita, one should perform one's duties without becoming attached to the results. When a person uses a portion of the wealth earned through honest work in the service of humanity and Lord Krishna, it demonstrates that he is not solely working for personal enjoyment or material gain. Instead, he is offering the fruits of his labor to God.

Such an offering reflects gratitude, devotion, and detachment from selfish enjoyment. By dedicating the results of one's work to Lord Krishna, one's activities become spiritualized and elevated beyond ordinary material action.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that actions performed for personal sense gratification create karmic reactions, whereas actions offered to the Supreme Lord do not bind one to karma. Therefore, when work and its results are sincerely offered in the service of God and the welfare of others, one becomes freed from the karmic bondage ordinarily associated with material activities.

In this way, a person can continue performing his worldly duties while simultaneously advancing on the spiritual path and gradually becoming liberated from the cycle of karma and rebirth.

"Do your duty without considering happiness or distress, profit or loss, victory or defeat. In this way, you will never face bad reactions." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.38)

Attachment to the results of our actions is a major cause of suffering. For example, if you are strongly attached to your favorite sports team winning, a loss may leave you disappointed or upset for days. However, when you perform your duties without attachment to the outcome, you can remain peaceful and balanced whether the result is success or failure.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that we have control over our actions, but not over the results. Therefore, we should perform our responsibilities sincerely and to the best of our ability while accepting the outcome with equanimity.

Parents have a duty to educate, guide, and care for their children, but they should avoid becoming overly attached to specific material outcomes. When parents insist that their children achieve particular careers, accumulate wealth, or pursue social prestige at the expense of spiritual development, disappointment, conflict, and anxiety often follow.

According to the Vedic scriptures, spiritual advancement is far more important than material success because all material achievements are left behind at death. Wealth, education, fame, and social position are temporary, whereas spiritual knowledge and devotion benefit the soul eternally.

For this reason, parents should strive to guide their children toward spiritual wisdom, good character, devotion to God, and righteous living, in addition to providing material education. By helping their children develop spiritually, they provide the greatest and most lasting benefit, one that extends beyond this temporary lifetime.

77. What is Time?

Time is one of the energies of Lord Krishna. Time is eternal because it originates from the Supreme Eternal Being. Just as Lord Krishna is eternal, His energies are also eternal.

Time acts as one of the Lord's instruments within the material world. Through the influence of time, all material things undergo creation, growth, maintenance, decline, and destruction. Great empires rise and fall, bodies are born and perish, and entire universes manifest and eventually dissolve under the influence of time.

While everything material is temporary and subject to the control of time, the soul and the Supreme Lord are eternal. Time reminds us that material possessions, wealth, beauty, power, and fame are fleeting, whereas spiritual realization and our relationship with God are everlasting.

Therefore, the wise use the valuable gift of time for self-realization, devotion to Lord Krishna, and spiritual advancement, knowing that every moment of life brings them closer to their ultimate destination.

"The Supreme Person said: I am time, the destroyer of the material creations, with the exception of you [the Pandavas]. I have come here to destroy all the warriors on both sides." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 11.32)

With every passing second, the material body grows older, moves closer to disease, and approaches death. At the same time, each moment brings the soul closer to leaving its present body and accepting its next destination according to its karma and consciousness.

No one can deny the existence of time, nor can anyone stop its relentless march. Time acts upon everyone equally—the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak, the famous and the unknown. Everything material is ultimately conquered by time. According to the Vedic scriptures, time is one of the energies of Lord Krishna.

Through the influence of time, all material things are created, maintained, transformed, and eventually destroyed. No material achievement, possession, or position can withstand the power of time indefinitely.

Human life is short, valuable, and rare. It provides a unique opportunity for self-realization and spiritual advancement. Therefore, the sooner one understands one's eternal relationship with Lord Krishna and begins cultivating spiritual knowledge and devotion, the sooner one can make proper use of this precious human birth rather than becoming absorbed solely in temporary material pursuits.

The wise recognize the passing of time as a reminder to focus on what is eternal—the soul, God, and the path of spiritual realization.

78. Does God Give Us Free Will?

Yes.

Lord Krishna does not force anyone to follow Him. He gives knowledge, guidance, and instruction, but He allows every individual to exercise free will and make their own choices.

After explaining the Bhagavad-Gita to Arjuna, Lord Krishna does not compel him to act in a particular way. Instead, He says, "Deliberate on this fully, and then do what you wish to do." In this way, Krishna respects Arjuna's freedom to choose.

The Vedic scriptures explain that God has given every soul a measure of independence. Because of this freedom, people can choose to follow spiritual principles or pursue material desires. The consequences of those choices are governed by the law of karma, but the choice itself remains with the individual. Lord Krishna acts as the supreme well-wisher, guide, and friend of all living beings. He provides knowledge and opportunities for spiritual advancement, yet He does not force anyone to love Him or surrender to Him. Genuine love and devotion must be voluntary; they cannot be compelled.

Thus, the Bhagavad-Gita presents a vision of God who guides and instructs, while still allowing each soul the freedom to choose its own path and learn from the results of its actions.

"I have explained to you the most confidential knowledge. Now, think about it and then do as you wish." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.63)

79. Are disease and old age the killer?

Based on the law of karma, the circumstances of a person's birth and death are influenced by actions performed in previous lives. It is taught that when the soul enters the mother's womb, the general framework of the upcoming life—including major experiences and the duration of life—is determined according to past karma.

Although people may appear to die from disease, accidents, or old age, these are viewed as the immediate or visible causes of death. The deeper cause is the exhaustion of the lifespan allotted to the individual according to karma. We can observe that some people live for many years despite serious illness, while others pass away unexpectedly while appearing healthy. From the Vedic perspective, this suggests that external circumstances alone do not determine the moment of death.

The scriptures further explain that each living being is allotted a specific lifespan. When that allotted time comes to an end, the soul departs from the body and continues its journey according to its karma and consciousness.

For this reason, wealth, youth, physical strength, medical care, exercise, or a healthy diet cannot ultimately prevent death when one's destined time has arrived. These factors may influence the condition of the body and contribute to health and longevity, but they cannot override the laws of karma and time.

The Vedic scriptures describe time as one of the energies of Lord Krishna, and no one can escape its influence. Therefore, the wise use their allotted time for spiritual

advancement, knowing that the duration of life is uncertain, but death itself is certain.

80. Why didn't God save those who died on 9/11?

When the World Trade Center towers in New York were attacked on September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people lost their lives, while many thousands of others who might normally have been present survived. Some people ask why God did not save those who perished.

Based on karma and destiny, every soul enters this world with a lifespan and a set of circumstances shaped by previous actions. From this perspective, those who survived did so because their allotted time had not yet come, while those who died had reached the end of their destined lifespan.

Lord Krishna is the Supreme Witness, present within the heart of every living being. He is aware of all actions, thoughts, and desires, both from this life and previous lives. However, Lord Krishna does not force people to act in a particular way. Human beings possess free will and are responsible for the choices they make. God does not create terrorists, criminals, or violent individuals. Such behavior arises from the misuse of free will, ignorance, and destructive influences. To ensure justice, the law of karma governs all actions, guaranteeing that every deed eventually produces an appropriate reaction.

Just as a physician prescribes medicine to cure disease, Lord Krishna provides spiritual guidance through the Bhagavad-Gita and the Vedic scriptures. These teachings are intended to reduce suffering, elevate consciousness, and guide the soul back to its eternal spiritual home. Individuals remain free to accept or reject this guidance, but they must also accept the consequences of their choices.

According to the Vedic perspective, some people may temporarily avoid human justice, but no one can escape the law of karma. The Supersoul, present within every heart, witnesses all actions and intentions. At death, each soul continues its journey according to its karma and consciousness.

The Vedic scriptures further teach that acts of violence, cruelty, and hatred generate severe karmic reactions. Those who deliberately inflict suffering upon others must eventually face the consequences of their actions. In this way, karma functions as an impartial system of justice, ensuring that every action ultimately receives its corresponding result.

Thus, from the Vedic viewpoint, events such as the tragedy of September 11 are understood not as evidence of God's absence, but as occurring within a world governed by free will, karma, and the laws established by the Supreme Lord.

"At death, those who have developed the mode of goodness, will go to the higher planets where the saintly persons live. Those who have developed the mode of passion, will take birth among those engaged in materialistic activities. Those who have developed the mode of ignorance, will take birth in the animal kingdom."(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.14-15)

81. Can I Buy Extra Time?

A person may purchase a billion-dollar mansion, own a private island, or accumulate vast amounts of wealth, but no amount of money can buy even one extra moment of time. Time is the one possession that cannot be purchased, replaced, or recovered once it has passed.

When the allotted duration of life comes to an end, the soul must leave the present body and continue its journey. The soul then accepts another body according to its karma and state of consciousness. At that moment, wealth, status, fame, and material possessions can offer no protection and cannot extend life by even a fraction of a second.

Therefore, the wise understand that material wealth is a temporary resource entrusted to us for a short time. They use it responsibly to meet their genuine needs, care for their families, assist others, and support spiritual activities. By dedicating a portion of their resources to serving God and helping others advance in spiritual understanding, they transform temporary wealth into lasting spiritual benefit.

The Vedic scriptures teach that spiritual knowledge, devotion to Lord Krishna, and selfless service accompany the soul beyond death, whereas material possessions remain behind. For this reason, intelligent people strive not only to improve their temporary material condition but also to invest in their eternal spiritual future.

By cultivating devotion to Lord Krishna and helping others develop spiritual awareness, one benefits both oneself and others. In this way, the brief human lifespan can be used to attain the highest goal of life—returning to the spiritual realm and inspiring others to progress on the same path.

"Just become My devotee, always think of Me, bow down to Me, and worship Me. Then you will come to Me, without fail. I promise you this, as you are very dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.65)

"If one who is devoted to Me, teaches this supreme secret to other devotees, he shall be performing the highest devotional service unto Me, and he will certainly come back to Me. There is no other servant on Earth, who is more dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.68-69)

According to the Vedic scriptures, those who devote their lives solely to accumulating wealth and material possessions, without cultivating spiritual knowledge, serving God, or helping others, may miss the true purpose of human life.

Material wealth, by itself, cannot accompany the soul beyond death. Therefore, the wise use their resources not only for personal needs and family responsibilities but also for spiritual advancement and the welfare of others. By doing so, they create lasting spiritual benefit rather than merely temporary material gain.

The Vedic teachings explain that a person's consciousness, actions, and karma determine the conditions of future births. If one lives a selfish and materially absorbed life, neglecting spiritual development and compassion for others, one may receive a future birth in less favorable circumstances. Such births may involve

poverty, disease, suffering, or other hardships that provide opportunities to learn and evolve spiritually.

For this reason, the scriptures encourage people to balance material responsibilities with spiritual practice, charity, compassion, and devotion to Lord Krishna. Human life is considered a rare opportunity for self-realization, and the greatest use of wealth is to employ it in ways that benefit both oneself and others spiritually.

Thus, true success is measured not by how much wealth one accumulates, but by how much one advances in spiritual consciousness and helps others progress toward the ultimate goal of life. To go back to the spiritual realm and live eternally in complete bliss.

82. Does Krishna ask Arjuna to fight?

Yes.

"Always think of Me [Krishna] and at the same time do your duty of fighting. Surrender your mind and intelligence unto Me and surely you will attain Me without a doubt." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.7)

In the Bhagavad-Gita, Lord Krishna instructs Arjuna to perform his duty as a warrior. Arjuna was a soldier whose responsibility was to protect righteousness and justice. Therefore, Krishna advised him not to abandon his duty out of fear, confusion, or attachment.

For those who are not warriors or members of the military, the principle is the same: each person should faithfully perform the duties associated with his or her occupation and responsibilities while remembering and serving Lord Krishna. The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that spiritual advancement is achieved not by neglecting one's duties, but by performing them in a spirit of devotion and detachment.

According to the Mahabharata, the conflict at Kurukshetra arose after repeated attempts at peace had failed. The Kauravas refused to act justly and would not accept reasonable proposals for peace. When all efforts at reconciliation were exhausted, war became unavoidable. In this context, Krishna instructed Arjuna to fight on behalf of righteousness and justice.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that Lord Krishna is equal to all living beings and wishes the ultimate welfare of every soul. Although the warriors on opposing sides were engaged in battle, all were under the direct presence and supervision of the Supreme Lord.

Many Vaishnava teachers explain that those who were directly connected with Lord Krishna during the Kurukshetra war received extraordinary spiritual benefit through their association with Him. This is often cited as an example of Krishna's unlimited mercy, because contact with the Supreme Lord is considered spiritually purifying and liberating.

Thus, the central lesson of the Bhagavad-Gita is not merely about warfare, but about performing one's prescribed duty with devotion to God, without selfish attachment, and in accordance with righteousness and spiritual principles.

83. Why didn't Krishna Stop the War?

God has given human beings a degree of free will. Because of this freedom, individuals and nations can choose either righteousness or wrongdoing. When people misuse their free will and pursue greed, hatred, power, or violence, conflicts and wars may arise. God does not force people to act virtuously, because genuine virtue must be chosen freely.

Some Christians and Muslims have asked, "If Krishna is God, why doesn't He stop wars?" The same question can be asked about any conception of God. Why does God allow human beings to make choices that sometimes result in conflict and suffering? The Vedic answer is that human beings are not robots. We are accountable for our choices, and the consequences of those choices are governed by the law of karma.

The relationship between divine will and human free will is complex. In the Mahabharata, Lord Krishna instructed Arjuna to fight because all reasonable attempts at peace had failed and an unjust and oppressive regime would otherwise have prevailed. Krishna's instruction was not based on personal hatred or ambition but on the principle of protecting righteousness and justice.

Similarly, when a nation is attacked, it is natural for that nation to defend itself. Throughout history, societies have recognized that allowing aggression to proceed unchecked can result in greater suffering. Thus, the Bhagavad-Gita is often understood as teaching that the use of force may sometimes be necessary when it is employed in the defense of justice and the protection of innocent people.

History shows that even the greatest empires and civilizations rise and fall. The Roman Empire, ancient Egypt, ancient Greece, the Maya civilization, and many other powerful societies flourished for a time and then declined. Their political power, wealth, and influence proved temporary, illustrating the Vedic teaching that all material achievements are subject to the influence of time.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that only the soul and its relationship with God are eternal. Nations, empires, wealth, and worldly prestige eventually pass away, but spiritual advancement accompanies the soul beyond death. Therefore, the wise place their ultimate faith not in temporary material institutions but in their eternal relationship with Lord Krishna.

***"My devotees become righteous, attain lasting peace, and never perish.
"Lord Krishna (Bhagavad-Gita 9.31)***

84. If Krishna is God, then Why didn't He Destroy the Other Side?

Lord Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and possesses unlimited power. He could have ended the Kurukshetra war instantly had He chosen to do so. However, Krishna generally allows living beings to exercise the free will that He has given them. Without freedom of choice, human life would have little meaning, and there would be no opportunity for moral, spiritual, or personal growth.

Human beings can use their free will wisely or misuse it. The consequences of those choices are governed by the law of karma. In the case of the Mahabharata, the conflict arose from the actions and decisions of many individuals, especially Duryodhana, who repeatedly rejected peaceful solutions.

The Mahabharata describes how Lord Krishna personally attempted to prevent the war by acting as a peace messenger. He requested a fair settlement and urged Duryodhana to resolve the dispute peacefully. However, Duryodhana refused all reasonable proposals and chose the path of war. Thus, the war was ultimately the result of human decisions and the exercise of free will.

Before the war began, Lord Krishna offered His assistance to both sides. One side could choose His vast army, while the other could choose Krishna Himself, with the condition that He would not personally fight. Duryodhana selected Krishna's powerful army, believing that military strength would ensure victory. Arjuna chose Krishna Himself as his guide and adviser, understanding that the presence and wisdom of the Supreme Lord were more valuable than any army.

Although Krishna appeared in the role of a prince and statesman, many great sages, saints, and devotees recognized Him as the Supreme Lord. Arjuna himself accepted Krishna's divine position and later affirmed it in the Bhagavad-Gita.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that understanding God is not merely a matter of intellectual study but also of spiritual qualification, sincerity, and divine grace. For this reason, although many people may hear about Lord Krishna, only a smaller number seek to understand Him deeply and develop a personal relationship with Him.

The Vedic scriptures explain that realization of God is both a gift and a responsibility. Lord Krishna makes Himself available through His teachings, His devotees, and His holy names, yet each person remains free to accept or reject that opportunity. In this way, divine guidance and human free will work together in the spiritual journey.

"Out of thousands of persons, one will strive for spiritual self-realization, and among the strivers, someone may know Me. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.3)

85. When is Self-defense Necessary?

The Bhagavad-Gita and other Vedic scriptures teach:

- If a country or region is invaded by aggressors. They must be stopped at any cost. The Hindus neglected to follow this teaching when the Moguls invaded and the result is that millions of Hindus were killed, millions of women were raped, and so on...
- If someone is raped or assaulted. We must help them.
- If someone is being attacked. We must help them.

The Bhagavad-Gita was spoken by Lord Krishna to get Arjuna to fight and destroy those on the other side. Until 5,000 years ago, the whole world was called Bharat and ruled from New Delhi, but due to neglect of Vedic teachings. Bharat is now a country called India and diminishing in the areas ruled.

The Bhagavad-Gita was spoken on the battlefield of Kurukshetra and therefore addresses not only spiritual philosophy but also questions of duty, justice, and the circumstances under which self-defense may become necessary. Arjuna initially wished to avoid the conflict, but Lord Krishna explained that the war had already been set in motion by the choices and actions of those involved.

In the Bhagavad-Gita, Lord Krishna reveals His universal form and shows Arjuna that the warriors on both sides are already destined to perish. Krishna explains that He has already arranged the outcome and that Arjuna should act as an instrument in carrying out divine justice. Thus, the Gita teaches that while human beings exercise free will, the Supreme Lord remains fully aware of the ultimate course of events.

The Vedic scriptures describe humanity as consisting of individuals with both divine and demonic qualities. Those who use their free will in accordance with truth, compassion, self-control, and devotion are described as possessing divine qualities. Those who misuse their freedom through greed, hatred, violence, and selfishness are described as possessing demonic qualities.

The scriptures also recognize the principle of righteous self-defense. Just as police officers and soldiers may act under lawful authority to protect society, individuals may sometimes be required to defend themselves and others from aggression. Traditional Vedic texts identify several categories of aggressors, including those who administer poison, commit arson, engage in violent attack, unlawfully seize property, or abduct others. In such cases, defensive action is regarded as a duty rather than an act of aggression.

The Bhagavad-Gita was spoken at the beginning of Kali Yuga, the age characterized by increasing irreligion, ignorance, conflict, and materialism. One of its enduring messages is that individuals should stand for truth, justice, and righteousness while remaining devoted to God and detached from selfish motives.

Vedic culture emphasizes principles such as truthfulness, compassion, self-discipline, tolerance, respect for all living beings, spiritual knowledge, and devotion to God. Its highest ideal is not domination over others but the elevation of human consciousness and the welfare of all living beings.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that genuine strength is not measured merely by military power, wealth, or political influence. True success comes from living according to dharma, cultivating spiritual wisdom, and acting in harmony with the will of the Supreme Lord. In this way, individuals and societies can progress toward peace, justice, and spiritual fulfillment.

"All these warriors have already been put to death by My arrangement, you are merely an instrument that I am using. Just get up and fight, you will win over these aggressors." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 11.33)

86. When is the Day of Judgment?

The Day of Judgment is immediately at death.

"Just as a person gives up old and worn out garments for new garments. In a similar way, the embodied soul accepts new bodies, giving up the old and useless ones." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.22)

Why Should God Keep the Dead Waiting?

Some people have been dead for hundreds, thousands, or even millions of years. If God is perfect and efficient, why would He keep the dead waiting for a future judgment day?

Based on the Vedic scriptures, God does not keep the soul waiting. At the moment of death, the soul leaves the body, is judged according to its karma and consciousness, and immediately continues its journey by entering another suitable body.

The Vedic understanding differs from the concept of a future bodily resurrection. The material body is temporary and subject to decay. After death, the body gradually disintegrates and returns to the elements from which it was formed. Since the body is merely a temporary vehicle for the soul, there is no necessity for the same physical body to be restored in the future.

If God can create and provide one body for the soul, He can just as easily provide another. The soul is the living entity, whereas the body is temporary matter that is constantly changing throughout life and eventually perishes.

This understanding is consistent with the Vedic teaching that all material things are temporary. Whatever is created from matter is subject to growth, decline, and eventual destruction. The soul alone is eternal, indestructible, and continuously existing.

Therefore, according to the Vedic perspective, buried bodies do not rise again. Rather, the souls that once occupied those bodies continue to live, taking on new bodies according to the laws of karma until they attain liberation and return to the spiritual realm.

87. What happens at death?

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, at the time of death the soul leaves the present body and is judged according to its karma, consciousness, and actions. The soul then continues its journey by taking birth in circumstances that correspond to what it has earned through its previous activities.

The Vedic teachings explain that the soul may be born in a particular universe, on a particular planet, in a particular country, family, and environment according to the laws of karma. Nothing happens by chance; every birth is part of a precise and just system governed by divine law.

Throughout life, we constantly change external things. We change clothes, homes, jobs, possessions, relationships, and places of residence. In a similar way, the soul changes bodies. The Bhagavad-Gita compares this process to a person discarding old garments and putting on new ones. While the body changes, the soul remains the same eternal individual.

If a person lives a virtuous life, develops spiritual knowledge, and awakens devotion to Lord Krishna, the cycle of repeated birth and death comes to an end. Such a soul no longer returns to the material world but attains the spiritual realm known as Vaikuntha. There, life is eternal, full of knowledge and bliss, free from old age, disease, death, anxiety, and all forms of material suffering.

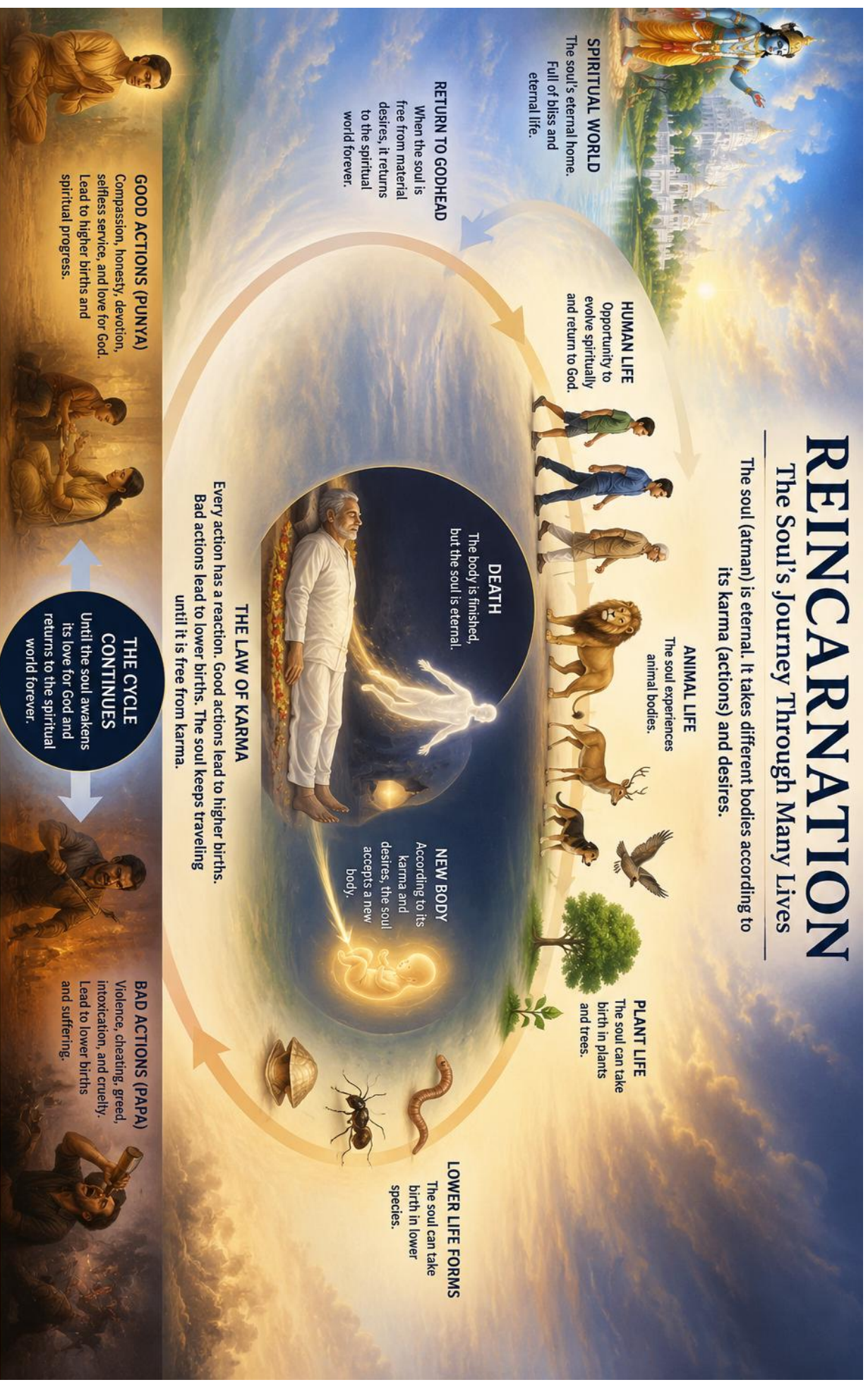
Those who remain attached to material desires and continue to accumulate karma return to the material creation to continue their spiritual journey. According to the Vedic scriptures, the material world is a place of temporary happiness mixed with unavoidable suffering. Therefore, the ultimate goal of life is not merely to improve one's material condition but to attain liberation and return to one's eternal relationship with Lord Krishna in the spiritual world.

"Just as a person gives up old and worn out garments for new garments. In a similar way, the embodied soul accepts new bodies, giving up the old and useless ones." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.22)

REINCARNATION

The Soul's Journey Through Many Lives

The soul (atman) is eternal. It takes different bodies according to its karma (actions) and desires.



“As a person puts on new garments, giving up old ones, similarly, the soul accepts new material bodies, giving up the old and useless ones.”

– Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-gita 2.22

88. Are the dead waiting in their graves or gone?

Based on the Vedic scriptures, the dead are neither waiting in their graves nor have they ceased to exist. The soul is eternal and continues to live after the death of the body. God does not keep souls waiting indefinitely. Rather, the soul continues its journey according to the laws of karma and reincarnation.

The Vedic teachings explain that at the time of death, the soul leaves the present body and takes on another body suitable to its karma, consciousness, and desires. In this way, all souls continue their existence in new circumstances that correspond to their previous actions.

Every moment, living beings are dying and others are being born. According to the Vedic understanding, this continuous cycle of birth and death reflects the ongoing transmigration of souls through different bodies. Reincarnation is therefore presented as a natural process by which souls continue their spiritual journey.

The scriptures further teach that we can assist departed loved ones through sincere spiritual practice, prayer, and devotion to Lord Krishna. By advancing in spiritual consciousness and praying for the welfare of others, devotees seek the Lord's mercy for all souls, including those who have passed on from this life. The highest blessing is for a soul to attain liberation from the cycle of birth and death and return to the spiritual realm, where life is eternal, blissful, and free from material suffering.

Different religious traditions offer different understandings of what happens after death. Many Abrahamic traditions teach that souls face divine judgment and ultimately enter heaven or hell, although interpretations vary among denominations and scholars. The Vedic scriptures, by contrast, teach a continuing cycle of reincarnation governed by karma until the soul attains liberation and returns to its eternal relationship with God.

Thus, based on the Bhagavad-Gita perspective, death is not the end of life but a transition from one body to another, continuing the soul's journey toward spiritual realization and ultimate liberation.

"The fact is that one who has taken birth, will certainly die. It is also a fact that, one who dies will take birth again. Therefore, you should not lament for that which is unavoidable." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.27)

89. Will I see my relatives again after this life?

Never.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that our material relationships are based upon the temporary body. Because the body is temporary, these relationships also belong to the temporary world. At death, the body is left behind, and the soul continues its journey. Even if we were to encounter the same soul again in another body, we generally would not recognize that individual because our memories of previous lives are covered.

In the Bhagavad-Gita, Arjuna became overwhelmed with grief at the thought of fighting against his relatives, teachers, and friends. Lord Krishna explained that the soul is eternal and that the relationships of one lifetime are temporary. The souls standing before Arjuna had existed before their present bodies and would continue to exist after those bodies were gone. In this way, Krishna taught Arjuna to see beyond temporary bodily relationships and understand the eternal nature of the soul.

Ordinary people cannot know where departed souls have gone after death. However, the Vedic scriptures describe that highly advanced spiritual personalities possess greater knowledge and awareness. Above all, Lord Krishna, the Supersoul present in every heart, knows the complete journey of every living being—past, present, and future.

In the material world, friendships and family relationships are often temporary. Throughout life, people gain new friends, lose old friends, move to different places, and experience constant change. The material world is characterized by temporary associations and inevitable separation.

Nevertheless, the Vedic scriptures encourage us not to become hopeless when loved ones pass away. Grief is natural, but spiritual knowledge helps us understand that death is not the end of existence. The soul continues its journey, and its future destination is determined by its consciousness and karma.

According to many Vaishnava teachings, the ultimate goal of life is to attain the spiritual realm known as Vaikuntha, where life is eternal, full of knowledge, and full of bliss. There is no old age, disease, death, or material suffering there. The soul exists in its original spiritual form and enjoys an eternal relationship with God.

The Vedic scriptures further teach that Lord Krishna is infinitely merciful and desires the ultimate welfare of every living being. Therefore, devotees strive to help all souls advance spiritually, knowing that every soul is on a journey toward realizing its eternal relationship with the Supreme Lord.

For this reason, Lord Krishna advises that excessive lamentation for the departed is based on identifying the person solely with the temporary body. By understanding the eternal nature of the soul, one can face loss with greater wisdom, faith, and spiritual perspective while still honoring the love and affection shared during this lifetime.

"The soul which resides in the body never dies. Therefore, you should not lament for any living being." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.30)

90. What body will you get next?

A person's consciousness at the time of death plays an important role in determining the soul's next destination. This life is therefore a preparation for the next. Through our thoughts, desires, habits, actions, and attachments, we gradually develop a particular consciousness, which influences our future existence.

In this sense, every day of life is shaping the future. Just as a manufacturer designs a product today that will be produced tomorrow, our present consciousness helps shape the conditions we will experience in the future.

The Vedic scriptures teach that our future birth is influenced by the consciousness and tendencies we cultivate:

- Those who engage in violence toward other living beings create karmic reactions that may result in suffering and lower forms of life in the future.
- Those who cultivate hatred, anger, and aggression develop a consciousness that may lead to births reflecting those qualities.
- Those who delight in causing suffering to others may themselves experience suffering as a reaction to their actions.
- Those who become excessively attached to material desires may take births that facilitate the fulfillment of those desires.
- Those who become strongly attached to particular animals, objects, or material identities may develop a consciousness that influences future births accordingly.
- Those who are kind, compassionate, and friendly toward all living beings cultivate the qualities that support higher and more favorable births.
- Those who develop spiritual knowledge, devotion to God, and selfless service gradually free themselves from the cycle of repeated birth and death.

The highest teaching of the Bhagavad-Gita is that one should remember and serve Lord Krishna throughout life. By developing pure devotion and God consciousness, the soul becomes liberated from material existence and attains the spiritual realm known as Vaikuntha. There, according to the Vedic scriptures, life is eternal, full of knowledge and bliss, free from old age, disease, death, and all forms of material suffering.

Thus, the central message is that our future is being shaped by the consciousness we cultivate today. By living a life of virtue, compassion, spiritual knowledge, and devotion to Lord Krishna, we prepare ourselves for the highest possible destination.

"Just as the air carries a particular smell from one place to another, the living entity will be carried to a particular body at death, based on the consciousness developed by him during life. On taking a new body, the living entity will get a particular set of senses, like ears, eyes, tongue, smelling potency, sense of touch, and mentality. The foolish persons cannot understand how a living entity quits one body to take another. But those with knowledge can see this." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.8-10)

"Whatever nature, one has at the time of death. That nature he will attain without a doubt." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.6)

91. What is Maya?

Maya (Illusion)

Maya is the illusory material energy of Lord Krishna. Maya causes the eternal soul to identify with the temporary material body and to believe that lasting happiness can be achieved through material possessions, bodily pleasures, and worldly achievements. Under the influence of maya, the soul forgets its eternal relationship with Lord Krishna.

Maya also creates the illusion that one person, nation, race, occupation, or species is inherently superior to another. Because of this illusion, living beings become attached to temporary identities and compete with one another for material enjoyment.

For example:

- A male dog thinks the female dog is the best creation.
- A male pig thinks the female pig is the best creation.
- People often believe that their own nation, race, culture, or group is superior to others.
- Every sports team believes they can win.
- Every species naturally seeks to preserve and propagate itself.

These tendencies enable the material world to function. Without attraction, attachment, ambition, and identification with the body, material society and the cycle of reproduction could not continue. In this way, maya facilitates the continued existence of material life.

The Vedic scriptures describe 8.4 million species of life, each providing a particular type of body through which different desires and states of consciousness can be experienced. According to the law of karma, souls receive bodies that correspond to the consciousness and desires they have cultivated.

Maya is not limited to the physical body. Anything that strengthens our identification with temporary material existence while drawing our attention away from spiritual realization may reinforce the influence of maya. Therefore, devotees are encouraged to associate with spiritually uplifting people, study sacred scriptures, and engage in devotional service so that their consciousness gradually becomes purified.

The consciousness and desires cultivated during this life influence our future births. For example:

- A person who becomes excessively attached to displaying the body or bodily beauty may develop a consciousness that leads to a future birth suited to those desires.

- A person dominated by uncontrolled sexual desire may receive a body that allows those desires to be more fully expressed.
- A person who cultivates aggression and violence may receive a future birth reflecting those qualities.
- A person who has no interest in spiritual life may continue to take births in forms of life where spiritual inquiry is absent.
- A person strongly attached to eating flesh may receive a body naturally suited for that way of life.

The purpose of these teachings is not to condemn people but to illustrate the Vedic principle that consciousness shapes destiny. The Bhagavad-Gita therefore encourages us to gradually rise above maya by cultivating spiritual knowledge, compassion toward all living beings, self-discipline, and devotion to Lord Krishna.

When the soul becomes free from the influence of maya, it realizes its true identity as the eternal servant of Lord Krishna. At that stage, the cycle of birth and death comes to an end, and the soul returns to the spiritual realm, where life is eternal, full of knowledge, and full of bliss.

"The divine illusionary energy of Mine [maya] consisting of the three modes of material nature is very difficult to overcome. Those who surrender unto Me can become free from it." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.14)

The three modes of material nature are goodness, passion, and ignorance. Since maya is the energy of Lord Krishna, one can only become free from it by the grace of Lord Krishna.

92. What is Krishna consciousness?

The Consciousness of a Krishna Conscious Person

A Krishna conscious person identifies with the eternal soul rather than the temporary material body. Such a person gradually becomes free from bodily designations and develops the following understanding:

- I am not this temporary material body; I am the eternal soul.
 - I am neither male nor female in my eternal identity.
 - I am neither white nor black, rich nor poor.
 - I do not truly own anything; everything belongs to Lord Krishna.
 - I am an eternal part and parcel of Lord Krishna.
 - My eternal nature is to lovingly serve Lord Krishna and all living beings.
 - Every living being is my spiritual brother or sister.
 - I see all living beings as eternal souls, not merely as temporary bodies.
 - The purpose of my life is to serve Lord Krishna and benefit all living beings according to my abilities.
 - Lord Krishna, as the Supersoul, resides within the heart of every living being. Therefore, I respect every living being as a sacred part of God's creation.
 - I am concerned for the welfare of all living beings and practice charity, compassion, and kindness according to my capacity.
 - I strive to be truthful, humble, tolerant, self-controlled, clean, simple in my lifestyle, and free from unnecessary material desires.
 - I use my time, abilities, experience, wealth, and intelligence to share spiritual knowledge and encourage others toward self-realization.
- As one develops this spiritual consciousness, qualities such as compassion, humility, truthfulness, self-discipline, forgiveness, and detachment naturally arise. A person who sees all living beings as spiritual equals is less likely to act with hatred, violence, greed, or exploitation.

If these spiritual principles were widely practiced, many of the world's problems—including hatred, violence, injustice, exploitation, and unnecessary conflict—would be greatly reduced because people would recognize the spiritual equality and dignity of every living being.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that one who develops pure Krishna consciousness and remembers Lord Krishna at the time of death no longer returns to the cycle of repeated birth and death. Instead, the soul attains the eternal spiritual realm known as Vaikuntha, where life is free from old age, disease, death, anxiety, and all forms

of material suffering, and where one enjoys an eternal, loving relationship with Lord Krishna.

"Those who are wise, have real knowledge, understanding, and gentleness. They see with equal vision, a Brahmana, a cow, an elephant, a dog, and a dog eater." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 5.18)

93. Are all Souls Equal?

Yes.

Within the body of all living beings (animals, plants and humans) there is a soul. All souls are eternal, full of bliss, full of knowledge, and equal.

"I hate no one. I am equal to all living beings..." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.29)

Lord Krishna is equal toward all living beings. He does not show favoritism based on race, nationality, social status, wealth, species, or any other material designation. Every living being is an eternal soul and an integral part of the Supreme.

This universal vision is a distinctive feature of the Vedic teachings. The Bhagavad-Gita encourages respect, compassion, and spiritual concern for all living beings because the same Supreme Lord resides within the heart of each one as the Supersoul.

The Vedic perspective differs from the teachings of some other religious and philosophical traditions in its understanding of the relationship between humans and other living beings, the role of animals, and the soul's ultimate destiny.

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, all living beings are spiritual equals, and every soul is ultimately destined to attain liberation. No soul is condemned to eternal suffering, for Lord Krishna is infinitely merciful and continually provides opportunities for spiritual advancement through the law of karma and reincarnation.

Thus, the Vedic message is one of universal spiritual equality: every living being is worthy of respect, every soul has the potential to return to God, and Lord Krishna extends His mercy equally to all.

94. Why is One Soul in an Animal Body Another in a Human Body?

There are 8.4 million species of life through which the eternal soul may journey. The body a soul receives is influenced by the desires, consciousness, and karma it has developed over many lifetimes.

The soul continually transmigrates from one body to another, while remaining the same eternal individual. Each lifetime provides an opportunity to cultivate particular qualities, desires, and habits, which help shape the conditions of the next birth.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that a person's present body and present activities form the foundation for the future. Our thoughts, desires, actions, and consciousness gradually prepare us for the type of body and circumstances we will receive after death according to the law of karma.

Thus, human life holds special significance because it offers the opportunity to consciously direct one's future. By cultivating spiritual knowledge, virtuous conduct, compassion toward all living beings, and devotion to Lord Krishna, one can rise above the cycle of repeated birth and death and attain the eternal spiritual realm.

"Just as the air carries a particular smell from one place to another, the living entity will be carried to a particular body at death, based on the consciousness developed by him during life. On taking a new body, the living entity will get a particular set of senses, like ears, eyes, tongue, smelling potency, sense of touch, and mentality. The foolish persons cannot understand how a living entity quits one body to take another. But those with knowledge can see this." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.8-10)

"Whatever nature, one has at the time of death. That nature he will attain without a doubt." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.6)

The consciousness we cultivate throughout life determines our destination at the time of death. A life dominated by sinful actions, selfish desires, and ignorance produces a polluted consciousness, which may lead the soul to lower forms of life according to the law of karma.

Conversely, a life of virtue, spiritual knowledge, and loving devotional service to Lord Krishna purifies the consciousness. The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that one who remembers Lord Krishna at the time of death and develops pure devotion to Him no longer returns to the cycle of birth and death.

Such a liberated soul attains the eternal spiritual realm known as Vaikuntha. According to the Vedic scriptures, the residents of Vaikuntha exist in their eternal spiritual bodies, which are full of beauty, knowledge, love, and bliss. There is no old age, disease, death, anxiety, or any form of material suffering. Life there is an eternal, joyful relationship with Lord Krishna, free from the miseries of the material world.

Thus, the purpose of human life is to purify one's consciousness through righteous living, spiritual knowledge, and devotion to Lord Krishna, so that the soul may return to its eternal home in the spiritual world.

95. When is the End of the World?

There are cycles of creation and annihilation. The duration of each cycle is 311 trillion, and 40 billion years. In the current cycle, the universe has existed for 155.522 trillion years old, and it will end after 155.518 trillion years.

"At the end of each cycle [of 311.040 trillion years], all living beings enter into My material nature. At the beginning of a new cycle, I create them again by My potency." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.7)

Based on the Vedic knowledge, the universe will continue to exist for another 155.518 trillion years before its next cosmic dissolution. However, our individual lives are extremely brief by comparison. Our lifespan may end at any moment, and therefore human life should not be wasted in the pursuit of temporary pleasures alone.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that human life is a rare and valuable opportunity for spiritual realization. By living a virtuous and sinless life, cultivating spiritual knowledge, and engaging in loving devotional service to Lord Krishna, we purify our consciousness and prepare for our next destination.

According to the law of karma, our present actions shape our future existence. A life centered on selfish desires and sinful activities leads to continued bondage within the cycle of birth and death, whereas a life dedicated to righteousness, compassion, and devotion elevates the soul spiritually.

Therefore, use this precious human life wisely. Strive to live according to the teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita, avoid sinful activities, and develop devotion to Lord Krishna. In this way, you progress spiritually rather than spiritually degrading yourself and ultimately attain liberation from the cycle of repeated birth and death by returning to the eternal spiritual realm.

96. What is the purpose of life?

The purpose of material life is to become elevated so that you (the soul) go back to the spiritual realm at the end of this short life.

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, the ultimate purpose of human life is to understand the Supreme Lord by learning about His names, qualities, appearances, and activities, and then to develop a loving relationship with Him through devotional service.

The Vedic scriptures teach that one who truly knows Lord Krishna and serves Him with sincere devotion purifies the heart and prepares for the highest destination. At the time of death, such a soul no longer returns to the cycle of birth and death but attains the eternal spiritual realm known as Vaikuntha.

In Vaikuntha, life is eternal, full of knowledge, love, and bliss. The residents exist in their eternal spiritual bodies, free from old age, disease, death, anxiety, and all forms of material suffering. There, they enjoy an everlasting relationship with Lord Krishna in perfect happiness.

Intelligent people understand that material responsibilities are important and therefore work honestly to provide for themselves and their families. At the same time, they recognize that material success alone cannot satisfy the soul. They therefore dedicate part of their time and energy to acquiring spiritual knowledge, practicing devotion, and serving Lord Krishna.

By balancing material duties with spiritual advancement, they prepare not only for success in this life but also for the soul's eternal future. The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that spiritual realization is the greatest achievement, for it leads the soul back to its eternal home in the spiritual world.

Life after life we work tirelessly to accumulate wealth, property, social status, education, and material possessions. We strive to build an empire of homes, bank balances, businesses, cars, degrees, and achievements. Yet at the end of every lifetime, we must leave all of it behind.

None of our material possessions accompany us at death. We cannot transfer our bank accounts, properties, professional qualifications, or worldly status into our next life. Even our relationships with family and friends belong to this temporary body and remain behind when the soul departs. In each new life, the soul begins again under new circumstances determined by its karma and consciousness.

While we are absorbed in acquiring temporary things, time continues to move relentlessly forward. Every passing moment brings us closer to death, yet many people live as though they have unlimited time. The Vedic scriptures remind us that human life is temporary and uncertain.

It is as if a sword is suspended above our heads. We do not know when it will fall, but we know with certainty that it eventually will. At that moment, the soul leaves the present body and continues its journey according to the law of karma, accepting another body suited to its consciousness and actions.

For this reason, the Bhagavad-Gita teaches that the greatest investment is not in temporary material possessions but in spiritual knowledge, devotion to Lord Krishna, and the purification of one's consciousness by living a righteous life and service to others. These are the treasures that accompany the soul beyond death and lead it toward liberation and eternal happiness.

"One who understands My appearances and activities, never takes birth again in the material creation and attains My abode." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.9)

97. What is a Vaishnava?

The Qualities of a Vaishnava

A Vaishnava (or Vaishnavi) is one who cannot tolerate seeing other living beings suffer. Such a person is naturally compassionate and is dedicated to the welfare of all living beings because he or she sees every soul as an eternal part of Lord Krishna.

External practices alone do not make one a true Vaishnava. Visiting temples, following a vegetarian diet, wearing a dhoti or sari, applying tilak, performing austerities, engaging in ritual worship, and chanting mantras are all valuable spiritual practices. However, these practices achieve their true purpose only when they transform one's character and behavior.

A genuine Vaishnava is recognized by qualities such as compassion, humility, truthfulness, kindness, forgiveness, responsiveness, and selfless service. Good conduct toward others is the true measure of spiritual advancement, not merely external appearances or rituals.

The Vedic scriptures teach that every living being is an eternal soul, an inseparable part and parcel of Lord Krishna. Therefore:

- One who genuinely loves God naturally develops love and compassion for all living beings.
- Serving others with a spirit of devotion is also service to God.
- One who is unnecessarily cruel to other living beings acts contrary to God's desire for compassion and mercy.
- Hatred toward others distances one from the spiritual understanding that every soul is equally dear to the Supreme Lord.

The more one recognizes the presence of the Supersoul within every heart, the more one develops respect, kindness, and concern for all living beings. Such universal compassion is one of the defining characteristics of genuine Krishna consciousness.

"Absence of fear, purity of heart, charitable, striving for spiritual knowledge by studying the Vedic scriptures, lives a simple life, always straight forward in his dealings, always truthful, not violent, free from anger, not greedy, always gentle, forgiving, very clean, not envious of others, compassionate to all living beings, doesn't talk non-sense, has no pride, doesn't mislead others – These are some of the qualities of those with divine nature." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.1-3)

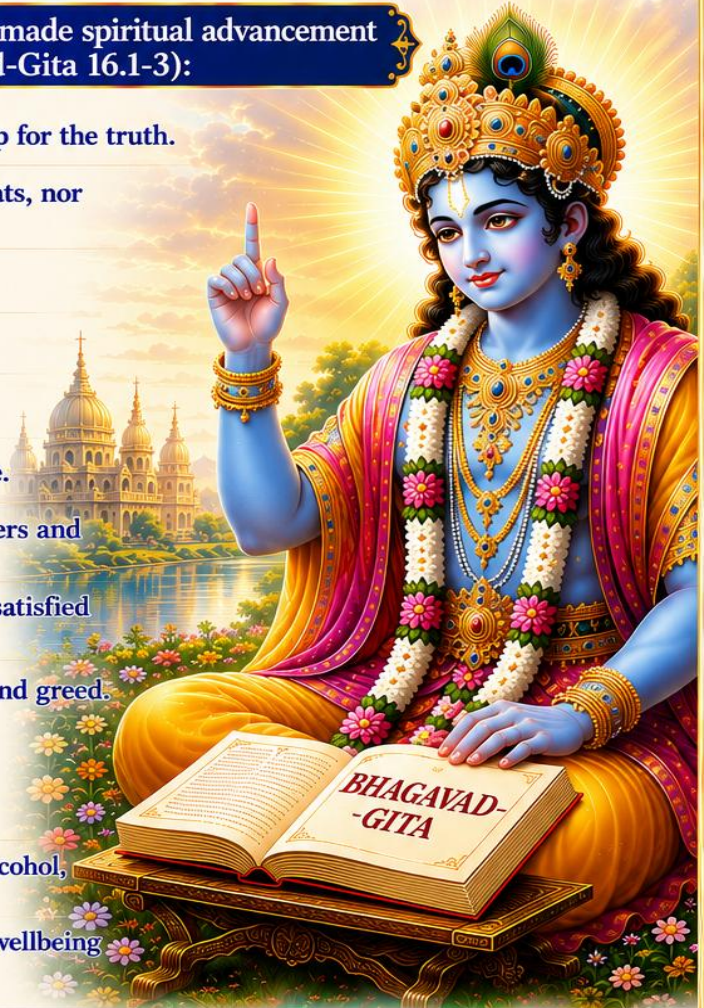
SPIRITUAL ADVANCEMENT



Going to Temples, visiting holy places, doing pujas, chanting of mantras, having tilak, wearing dhoti, and performing austerities **DOES NOT** indicate spiritual advancement. It is good behavior and higher consciousness that indicates genuine spiritual advancement.

The qualities of a person who has made spiritual advancement
(Based on Bhagavad-Gita 16.1-3):

-  1. Always speaks and stands up for the truth.
-  2. Never breaks vows, nor cheats, nor misleads, nor betrays.
-  3. Humble with everyone.
-  4. Serves everyone.
-  5. Kind to everyone.
-  6. Does not give pain to anyone.
-  7. Forgives the mistakes of others and tolerates difficult situations.
-  8. Grateful for everything and satisfied with what he has.
-  9. Low ego, pride, lust, anger, and greed.
-  10. Clean.
-  11. Charitable and not miserly.
-  12. No bad habits (No tobacco, alcohol, gambling, flesh eating).
-  13. Considers and works for the wellbeing of everyone.



“A person who is ignorant of My presence in all living beings never pleases Me by the worship of My Deities in the temple...”

(Lord Krishna, Shrimad-Bhagavatam 3.29-23-24)



Looking religiously has no value without truthfulness and kindness.
Purity is having good thoughts and taking actions which benefit everyone.

98. How do I Understand the Reality of Reincarnation?

The Vedic Understanding of Reincarnation

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, the soul is eternal, while the body is temporary. Death is therefore not the end of life but the departure of the soul from one body to another.

When someone dies, we often say, "He has passed away." This common expression itself suggests an intuitive understanding that the person and the body are not identical. The physical body remains before us, but the conscious individual—the soul—has departed. According to the Vedic teachings, the soul continues its journey by entering another body according to the laws of karma.

Every moment, living beings are dying while others are being born. The Vedic scriptures explain this continual cycle of birth and death as the transmigration of the soul from one body to another.

The Bhagavad-Gita compares this process to changing clothes. Just as a person discards worn-out garments and puts on new ones, the soul gives up one body and accepts another. The body changes, but the soul remains the same eternal individual.

The variety of living beings also raises profound questions. Why does one soul take birth as a human, another as an animal, another as a bird, and another as a plant? Why is one person born into wealth while another is born into poverty? Why is one born in one country and another elsewhere? According to the Vedic understanding, these differences are not accidental but arise from the laws of karma and reincarnation.

The Vedic conception of God's mercy also supports this understanding. If God is infinitely merciful and forgiving, then every soul should have repeated opportunities to learn, grow spiritually, and ultimately return to Him. Rather than a single lifetime determining an eternal destiny, the Vedic scriptures teach that the soul progresses through many births until it attains spiritual perfection and liberation.

The soul is eternal. It has always existed and will always exist. The body is temporary and continually changing from childhood to youth, adulthood, old age, and finally death. When the body can no longer sustain life, the eternal soul continues to exist by accepting another body suitable to its karma and consciousness.

Thus, according to the Bhagavad-Gita, death is not destruction but transition. The soul continues its journey until it becomes free from the cycle of repeated birth and death by attaining pure devotion to Lord Krishna.

Some people also cite reports of ghosts or spirits as suggesting that consciousness may continue after bodily death. Within the Vedic tradition, such accounts are interpreted as being consistent with the broader teaching that the soul survives the death of the physical body. However, the primary basis for the doctrine of reincarnation in the Vedic scriptures is not such reports but the teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita and other sacred texts concerning the eternal nature of the soul, karma, and rebirth.

The central message of the Bhagavad-Gita is that we are not temporary material bodies but eternal spiritual beings. Human life is therefore a precious opportunity to realize our true identity, cultivate God consciousness, and ultimately return to the eternal spiritual realm, where birth, death, old age, disease, and all forms of material suffering no longer exist.

"There was never a time when you, all these kings, and I did not exist. Nor shall any of us cease to exist in the future. The embodied soul in this body goes through boyhood, youth, and old age. At death, the soul transfers to another body. This never bewilders a wise person." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.12-13)

99. Why Don't We Remember Our Past Lives?

A common objection to reincarnation is, "If I have lived before, why can't I remember my past lives?"

According to the Vedic scriptures, forgetting previous lives is not evidence that they never existed. Most people cannot remember the day they were born, yet no one concludes that they did not exist at birth. Likewise, very few people can remember every moment of their lives, but forgotten experiences do not cease to have existed. Memory is imperfect, but existence does not depend upon memory.

The Bhagavad-Gita explains that when the eternal soul accepts a new body, memories of previous lives become covered by material nature. The soul continues its journey, even though the mind and brain begin a new chapter.

If there were only one earthly life, difficult questions naturally arise. Why are some people born with severe illnesses while others are healthy? Why are some born into wealth and others into poverty? Why do some die in infancy while others live to old age? Why are some born blind or disabled while others are not?

According to the Vedic understanding, these differences are explained by the law of karma and reincarnation. Each soul inherits circumstances that reflect previous actions while also receiving new opportunities for spiritual growth. Thus, God's justice operates impartially, and every soul is given repeated opportunities to progress toward liberation.

Many religious traditions teach that this life is followed by a final judgment, whereas the Vedic scriptures teach that the soul continues through repeated births until it attains spiritual perfection. According to the Bhagavad-Gita, the material body is temporary and eventually returns to the material elements, while the eternal soul continues its journey by accepting another body according to its karma and consciousness.

From the Vedic perspective, God's mercy, justice, forgiveness, and impartiality are fully expressed through the laws of karma and reincarnation. Every action has consequences, yet every soul is given repeated opportunities to learn, improve, and ultimately return to God. No sincere spiritual effort is ever lost.

Thus, the Vedic scriptures present reincarnation not merely as a doctrine about life after death but as an expression of divine justice and divine compassion. The soul is

accountable for its actions, yet God's mercy continually provides opportunities for spiritual advancement until the soul attains its eternal relationship with Lord Krishna.

100. How do we Move Up or Down in Life?

Just as a person may be promoted or demoted in a career based on performance, the soul may attain a higher or lower form of life according to its karma and the consciousness it has developed.

Material achievements such as education, wealth, homes, careers, and possessions may improve the quality of material life, but they do not by themselves represent true spiritual advancement. Without spiritual knowledge and God consciousness, material progress alone cannot free the soul from the cycle of birth and death and may even reinforce attachment to the temporary world.

At the time of death, academic degrees, bank balances, houses, vehicles, and social status are left behind. None of these accompany the soul. What continues beyond death are one's consciousness, character, and karma.

The Vedic scriptures describe 8.4 million species of life through which the soul may journey. The body one receives in the next life is determined by the consciousness, desires, and actions cultivated in this life.

Spiritual advancement does not require renouncing all material comforts or responsibilities. Rather, it means living a balanced life by performing one's duties honestly while cultivating devotion to Lord Krishna. By avoiding sinful activities, practicing compassion and charity, treating all living beings with kindness and respect, and developing spiritual knowledge, one purifies the heart and prepares for a higher destination.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that the highest achievement is not promotion within the material world but liberation from the cycle of repeated birth and death. By developing Krishna consciousness, the soul ultimately returns to the eternal spiritual realm, where life is full of knowledge, bliss, and everlasting association with the Supreme Lord.

"At death, those who have developed the mode of goodness, will go to the higher planets where the saintly persons live. Those who have developed the mode of passion, will take birth among those engaged in materialistic activities. Those who have developed the mode of ignorance, will take birth in the animal kingdom." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.14-15)

"Those who are situated in the mode of goodness, go to the heavenly planets. Those in the mode of passion will take birth on planets like Earth. Those in the mode of ignorance will take birth on the hellish planets or in the animal kingdom." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.18)

101. How many Species of Living Beings are there?

"jalaja nava lakshani, sthavara laksha-vimshati, krimayo rudra-sankhyakah, pakshinam dasha-lakshanam, trinshal-lakshani pashavah, chatur lakshani manavah" (Padma Purana)

The above was written down more than 5,000 years ago.

This is another unique piece of information from the Vedic scriptures. There are 8.4 million different species or bodies that the soul can reside in. Not all the species are present on this planet, and not all species are manifested all the time in the same area.

Jalaja (Water based life forms) – 0.9 million
Sthavara (Immobile implying plants and trees) – 2.0 million
Krimayo (Reptiles) – 1.1 million
Pakshinam (Birds) – 1.0 million
Pashavah (animals) – 3.0 million
Manavah (human-like) – 0.4 million

Total 8.4 million species of living beings

102. Are Animals Our Brothers and Sisters?

All living beings, including humans, animals, and plants—possess an eternal soul because they are all created by the one Supreme Lord, Krishna. Although their bodies differ in form and ability, the spiritual nature of the soul is the same in every living being.

The Bhagavad-Gita explains that consciousness is a symptom of the presence of the soul. Because humans, animals, and plants all exhibit forms of consciousness and life, the Vedic tradition teaches that each is inhabited by an eternal soul.

For this reason, all living beings are regarded as members of God's universal family. They are our spiritual brothers and sisters, each progressing through the cycle of birth and death according to the laws of karma. This understanding forms the basis of the Vedic principle of compassion and nonviolence (ahimsa), encouraging us to avoid causing unnecessary suffering to other living beings, including animals.

The Vedic scriptures further teach that within the heart of every living being reside two spiritual entities: the individual soul (jivatma) and the Supersoul (Paramatma), who is Lord Krishna. While the individual soul experiences the results of its own karma, Lord Krishna accompanies every soul as the eternal witness, guide, permitter, and well-wisher.

Recognizing the presence of both the individual soul and the Supersoul within every living being naturally inspires respect, kindness, compassion, and a sense of spiritual unity with all forms of life.

"I am the super soul, situated within the heart of all living beings. I am the origin, the middle, and the end of all living beings." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.20)

Based on the Vedic principle of compassion, we should avoid unnecessarily destroying plant life. Instead, we should protect and care for nature by planting more fruit-bearing trees, vegetable plants, flowering plants, and other beneficial vegetation.

By cultivating gardens that provide food, flowers, shade, and beauty, we benefit not only ourselves but also other living beings. Such gardens nourish people, support birds, bees, butterflies, and other creatures, and help create a cleaner and healthier environment.

The Vedic scriptures encourage us to act as responsible caretakers of God's creation. By respecting all forms of life and using nature wisely rather than exploiting it unnecessarily, we cultivate compassion, gratitude, and spiritual consciousness.

103. Does the Bhagavad-Gita Advocate Meat Eating?

Absolutely not.

Lord Krishna accepts offerings made with love and devotion. He specifically states that if one offers Him a leaf, a flower, a fruit, or water with devotion, He accepts that offering.

For this reason, the Vaishnava tradition teaches that Lord Krishna does not accept the flesh of animals as an offering. Devotees therefore prepare and offer vegetarian foods—such as fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, nuts, milk products, flowers, and water—with love and devotion. After being offered to Lord Krishna, this sanctified food is known as *prasadam* (the Lord's mercy).

Thus, according to the Vedic scriptures and the Vaishnava tradition, Lord Krishna is offered pure vegetarian food prepared with devotion, compassion, and gratitude rather than the flesh of animals.

"If a pure hearted person, offers me with devotion, a leaf, flower, fruit, or water. I will accept it." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.26)

Lord Krishna is the father of all living beings. Every human, animal, bird, fish, and plant is an eternal soul and a beloved part of God's creation. Therefore, devotees strive to show compassion and respect toward all living beings.

For this reason, the Vaishnava tradition teaches that devotees should avoid eating meat, fish, and eggs, since these foods involve the unnecessary killing or exploitation of other living beings. Many devotees also choose to avoid products such as leather when practical, as an expression of compassion and nonviolence (*ahimsa*).

The Bhagavad-Gita further teaches that food should first be offered to Lord Krishna with love and devotion before it is eaten. Krishna states that He accepts offerings of a leaf, a flower, a fruit, or water when they are offered with sincere devotion. After being offered, this sanctified food becomes *prasadam* (the Lord's mercy).

By honoring only food that has been offered to Lord Krishna, devotees cultivate gratitude, spiritual consciousness, and detachment from selfish enjoyment.

It is not that Lord Krishna is the boss and so we should offer the food to the boss first. No. By eating foods first offered to Lord Krishna, free us from the karmic reactions created by generating food. Which involves killing so many living beings while planting seeds, watering, harvesting, transporting, and cooking.

Thus, offering pure vegetarian food to Lord Krishna before eating transforms a daily necessity into an act of devotion and reminds us that all nourishment ultimately comes from the Supreme Lord.

"The righteous persons eat food that is first offered to Me. They are released from all kinds of sins. But those who don't offer food to Me before eating, are committing sin." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 3.13)

"He who permits the slaughter of an animal, he who cuts it up, he who kills it, he who buys or sells meat, he who cooks it, he who serves it up, and he who eats it, must all be considered as the slayers of the animal." (Manu-smriti 5.51)

- Those who permit the killing
- Those who cut up the animal
- Those who kill the animals
- Those who buy or sell the meat
- Those who cook the meat
- Those who serve the meat
- Those who eat the meat

104. Why do Hindus Consider Cows Sacred?

The Cow in Vedic Culture

The cow occupies a unique and honored position because of the many benefits she provides to humanity. From infancy through adulthood, milk and milk products have traditionally been important foods in many cultures. A nursing mother may consume cow's milk and dairy products, while children and adults commonly consume milk, yogurt, butter, cheese, ghee, and many other foods prepared from milk.

For this reason, Hindus regard the cow as sacred and worthy of protection. She is often honored as a mother because she nourishes human society by providing milk beyond the needs of her own calf. The respect shown to the cow reflects the Vedic principle of gratitude toward all living beings who contribute to our well-being. One of the hallmarks of a civilized society is gratitude. The Vedic scriptures teach that we should appreciate and protect those who benefit us rather than exploit them.

Thus, many Hindus believe that killing cows for food is inconsistent with the principles of compassion (*ahimsa*) and thankfulness.

The traditional benefits of the cow include:

- Milk, which has long been valued as a nutritious food and is used to prepare yogurt, cheese, butter, ghee, ice cream, and many other dairy products.
- Cow dung, which has traditionally been used as an organic fertilizer and, in many rural communities, as a source of fuel.
- Cow urine, which has been used in certain traditional systems of medicine and agricultural practices. Research has investigated some potential medicinal properties, although many claimed health benefits remain the subject of ongoing scientific study.

The cow should be cared for throughout her natural life in appreciation of the nourishment and service she provides. Protecting the cow is therefore regarded not merely as a cultural tradition but as an expression of compassion, gratitude, and respect for God's creation.

More broadly, the Vedic principle is that all living beings deserve kindness and consideration because every creature is an eternal soul and an integral part of the Supreme Lord. Respecting and protecting animals, especially those that contribute so much to human society, is viewed as an important expression of spiritual maturity and gratitude.

105. What is Leather?

Leather items like sofas, car seats, jackets, handbags, and chair covers, are mainly made from cows. This means cows are killed so you can sit on them or wear them. Please don't buy leather, buy cloth sofas, cloth car seats, cloth clothing, and cloth bags.

Due to mass ignorance, Hindus will not eat cows, but will happily sit on them (leather sofas and leather car seats). It has become a custom for rich Hindus to buy luxury items like leather sofas and cars with leather seats. Please spread the message. Don't buy leather, go for cloth.

You should not buy anything that hurts any living being.

106. Is Killing Plants and Animals the Same?

Harvesting fruits and vegetables is fundamentally different from killing animals for food. In many cases, fruits, vegetables, grains, and other plant products can be harvested without destroying the entire plant. For example, picking an apple does not kill the apple tree; it simply removes one of its fruits. By contrast, obtaining meat requires the death of the animal.

For this reason, the Vedic tradition encourages a vegetarian diet based on the principle of *ahimsa* (nonviolence), seeking to minimize unnecessary harm to other living beings while sustaining human life.

The company we keep also influences our character. The Vedic scriptures teach that we gradually develop the qualities and habits of those with whom we closely associate. Therefore, associating with compassionate, spiritually minded people helps cultivate compassion and self-control, whereas constant association with violence

and cruelty can make such behavior seem normal and acceptable. For this reason, devotees are encouraged to seek uplifting association that strengthens their spiritual values.

According to the law of karma, every action produces a corresponding reaction. The Vedic scriptures teach that souls who inflict suffering upon other living beings create karmic reactions that they themselves must eventually experience. In this understanding, the souls inhabiting animal bodies are eternal living beings who have accepted those bodies according to their previous karma. Just as human beings have passed through many different forms of life, the soul continues its journey through various species until it attains liberation.

Thus, the Vedic principle is simple: as we treat other living beings, so we ourselves will eventually be treated. The law of karma is often summarized by the expression, "As you sow, so shall you reap." By choosing compassion over violence, we cultivate the consciousness that leads to spiritual advancement and ultimately to liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

107. What does the letter from our most Humble Friends Say?



108. What are the three gates to hell?

"Lust, anger, and greed are the three gates that leads one to hell. One must give up these qualities." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.21)

The motivation for most crimes and sinful activities can be linked to lust, anger, and greed.

109. Is Keeping Pets Bad for the Pets and Humans?

Based on the Vedic principle of compassion (ahimsa), we should carefully consider whether our treatment of animals truly serves their welfare or merely satisfies our own desires. Whenever possible, living beings should be allowed to live according to their natural instincts and in environments suited to their nature.

Consider the following questions:

- Would you enjoy spending your entire life confined to a cage?
- Would you like to spend your life inside a small, enclosed space with little freedom?
- Would you enjoy being separated from others of your own kind?
- Would you willingly give up the freedom to live according to your natural instincts?

Most people would answer "No." Therefore, we should also consider the welfare of birds confined to small cages, fish kept in small tanks, and other animals whose natural behaviors may be restricted by captivity.

If we truly love animals, we should treat them with kindness, respect, and compassion. Whenever it is in the animal's best interest and safe to do so, we should allow them to live in environments where they can express their natural behaviors and interact with others of their own species. Compassion means considering what is best for the animal, not merely what pleases us.

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, our consciousness at the time of death influences our next destination. Therefore, devotees are encouraged to cultivate constant remembrance of Lord Krishna rather than becoming excessively attached to temporary material relationships, possessions, or even animals. Spiritual attachment to God elevates the soul, whereas excessive attachment to temporary objects may keep one's consciousness focused on the material world.

For this reason, the Vedic scriptures encourage us to love and care for all living beings while keeping our deepest attachment fixed on Lord Krishna. In this way, we show compassion to every creature without forgetting the ultimate purpose of human life—spiritual realization and returning to our eternal relationship with God.

"Whatever nature, one has at the time of death. That nature he will attain without a doubt." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.6)

If you have served a dog in your life, then you will naturally think of a dog at the time of death. Thus, you will attain a dog's nature (become a dog). Why do you think

there are dogs in the first place? The variety of species is due to the variety of mentalities that souls in human bodies developed. If you have served God in your life, then you will naturally think of God at the time of death. Thus, you will attain Lord Krishna's nature, which is a beautiful body, full of bliss, full of knowledge, and eternal.

"Whoever thinks of Me [Krishna] at the end of life, attains My nature, without a doubt." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.5)

Human life is a rare opportunity for spiritual advancement. According to the Bhagavad-Gita, whatever consciousness we cultivate throughout life—and especially at the time of death—influences our next destination.

A person may choose to dedicate this life to developing love and devotion for Lord Krishna, thereby cultivating divine qualities such as compassion, wisdom, purity, love, and eternal spiritual happiness. Alternatively, one may become excessively attached to temporary material objects, possessions, or even animals, allowing those attachments to dominate one's consciousness.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that excessive attachment to anything material may influence one's future birth. Therefore, devotees are encouraged to love and care for all living beings while keeping their deepest attachment fixed on Lord Krishna.

Some people say that dogs in wealthy countries enjoy a better standard of living than many human beings elsewhere in the world. While this may appear true from a material perspective, the Vedic scriptures teach that material comfort alone does not determine the soul's true welfare. Animal life, regardless of external comforts, does not provide the same opportunity for spiritual inquiry and self-realization that human life offers.

Moreover, the conditions of animal life vary greatly. Some animals receive affection and care, while others experience neglect, hardship, or cruelty. The Vedic teaching therefore encourages us not to aspire for any material form of life, whether human or animal, but to use this valuable human birth to attain liberation.

The choice is ours. We can cultivate Krishna consciousness and develop the qualities that lead to eternal spiritual life, or we can remain attached to temporary material identities and continue within the cycle of birth and death. The Bhagavad-Gita urges us to use this precious human life to awaken our eternal relationship with Lord Krishna and return to His spiritual abode.

110. Is abortion bad or good?

Very Bad.

The Vedic Perspective on Abortion

Based on the Vedic knowledge, abortion is considered a serious moral and spiritual act because the soul enters the womb at the beginning of life. From that moment, a unique living being begins developing within the mother's womb.

Most parents would never intentionally harm a child after birth. The Vedic tradition asks us to consider whether the child's location—in the womb rather than outside it—changes the child's identity as a living being. According to the Vedic understanding, it does not. The soul is present from the beginning of life, and therefore the unborn child deserves compassion and protection.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that every living being is an eternal soul and an integral part of Lord Krishna. The body develops and changes, but the soul remains the same eternal individual throughout every stage of life.

For this reason, the Vedic tradition encourages the protection of life in the womb whenever possible. It teaches that every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, develop spiritually, and ultimately return to God.

The Vedic principle of ahimsa (nonviolence) extends to all living beings, including those who have not yet been born. From this perspective, protecting the unborn is an expression of compassion, respect for life, and recognition of the soul's eternal nature.

"All living entities are My eternal fragmental particles. Due to material nature, they are conditioned by the six senses, including the mind, and struggle very hard." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.7)

All living beings belong to God, and thus, we have no right to take away life (human or animal).

111. Can you digest your food?

If you can digest your food then you should thank Lord Krishna, because Lord Krishna is the fire of digestion. Without God, no living being can digest food.

"I am in the bodies of all living beings as the fire of digestion. I unite with the ingoing and outgoing air, and I digest the food." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.14)

Yet another proof of Krishna as God, some people say God willing in their daily conversations. Without the will of God, we can't even digest food.

112. Do you Enjoy Water and Sun Light?

If you drink water and can see due to the light, then you should thank Lord Krishna, because He is the taste of water and the light of the sun and the moon.

"I am the taste of water, the light of the moon and sun, the syllable 'aum' in the Vedic scriptures, the sound vibration in ether, and the ability in man." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.8)

Every time you drink water, you should thank Lord Krishna, because He is the taste of water. When you wake up in the morning, you should thank Lord Krishna, because He is the light of the sun and in the evening, He is the light of the moon. If you can do anything, then you should thank Lord Krishna, because He is the ability in man.

113. Why is Life full of Ups and Downs?

Happiness and distress are temporary experiences that naturally arise and pass away. No one remains happy all the time, and no one remains in distress forever. Such changes are part of the nature of the material world.

Just as the seasons change from summer to winter, or the stock market experiences periods of growth, decline, and occasional sharp corrections, the circumstances of our lives also continually change. Joy and sorrow come and go, and neither state lasts forever.

Therefore, the Bhagavad-Gita advises us not to become overly elated in times of success or overly discouraged in times of difficulty. By understanding the temporary nature of material happiness and distress, we develop steadiness, patience, and peace of mind.

The ultimate goal of life is not merely to experience more happiness than suffering within the material world, but to transcend this endless cycle altogether. The Vedic scriptures teach that this is achieved through spiritual knowledge, righteous living, and, above all, by surrendering to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Krishna.

By cultivating Krishna consciousness, one gradually rises above the temporary ups and downs of material existence and attains eternal peace, knowledge, and bliss in the spiritual realm.

"The winter and summer seasons will come and go. In a similar way, due to one's perception, happiness and distress will come and go. One should learn to tolerate them, without being disturbed." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.14)

114. Who are the Demigods?

The Demigods and the Supreme Lord

The demigods (*devas*) are highly elevated living beings appointed by Lord Krishna to administer the affairs of the material universe. They possess extraordinary powers, but they are not the Supreme God. They are servants of the Supreme Lord who carry out various responsibilities in maintaining the cosmic order.

The Vedic scriptures describe **33 categories of demigods**, each with specific administrative duties. They oversee various aspects of nature, including rain, wind, rivers, oceans, plants, fire, and other universal functions. They may be compared to senior administrators or vice presidents in a large organization, each responsible for a particular department.

Many people mistakenly believe that Hinduism teaches the existence of millions of supreme gods. According to the Bhagavad-Gita and the Vaishnava tradition, this is a misunderstanding. Lord Krishna is described as the **Godhead**, meaning the Supreme Personality of Godhead and the source of all powers. The demigods are powerful controllers within the universe, but Lord Krishna is the Supreme Controller of all controllers.

Some of the principal demigods include:

- **Lord Brahma** – The engineer of the universe.
- **Lord Shiva** – Entrusted with the dissolution of the universe at the end of each cosmic cycle.
- **Indra** – The king of the heavenly planets and the administrator of rain and the celestial regions.
- **Durga (Maya Devi)** – The presiding deity of the material energy, who governs the material world under the direction of Lord Krishna.

Just as the executives of a corporation ultimately report to the chief executive officer, all the demigods perform their duties under the supreme authority of Lord Krishna, either directly or indirectly. They are empowered administrators, not independent supreme beings.

Thus, based on the Bhagavad-Gita, there is one Supreme Personality of Godhead—Lord Krishna—and many demigods who faithfully administer the universe according to His will.

(Reference in Vedic scripture on demigods: Brihadaranyaka Upanishad - Chapter 3)

115. Can you Buy or Bring Back Time?

No.

The time, place, and manner of our death are determined by the laws of karma and divine arrangement. No amount of wealth, power, medical advancement, or influence can purchase even one extra second of life when our allotted time has come.

When that moment arrives, the soul must leave the present body and continue its journey by accepting another body according to its karma and consciousness. Just as no one can relive yesterday or recover even a single moment that has passed, no one can stop the relentless movement of time.

The Bhagavad-Gita therefore reminds us that human life is temporary and extremely valuable. Rather than wasting our precious time on trivial pursuits, we should use it wisely to cultivate spiritual knowledge, perform righteous actions, and engage in loving devotional service to Lord Krishna.

Material achievements remain behind at death, but our consciousness, character, and devotion accompany the soul. Therefore, the greatest investment we can make is in our spiritual life. By remembering and serving Lord Krishna throughout this life, we prepare ourselves for the soul's eternal future and the opportunity to return to His spiritual abode, free from birth, death, old age, and suffering.

"Time I am.." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 11.32)

Time is one of energies of Lord Krishna. Please do not waste Him (time).

116. Does Sanatan-Dharma advocate circumcision?

Absolutely not. Ahimsa (non-violence) is one of the fundamentals of Sanatan-Dharma. Circumcision involves violence and thus is forbidden.

God has created our body the way He wants it. He did not forget to peel off anything. Our body is perfect as it comes out of the womb and develops naturally.

In some rare medical conditions, it might be necessary to remove part of the tissue or skin and in such cases it is ok.

117. Does Satan Really Exist?

No.

From the Vedic perspective, there is no separate species of living beings called "Satan." Rather, satanic qualities arise when individuals misuse the free will given to them by God. Likewise, divine qualities arise when free will is used in harmony with the teachings of the Supreme Lord.

Human beings possess the free will to cultivate either divine qualities or demonic (satanic) qualities. When a person acts with violence, hatred, cruelty, greed, lust, anger, pride, envy, or selfishness, that person is acting under a satanic or demonic mentality. When these sinful tendencies are abandoned, the individual gradually develops divine qualities through spiritual knowledge and devotion to God.

Some people perform symbolic acts, believing that evil can be destroyed by attacking an external object. The Vedic scriptures teach a different lesson: the real enemy is not outside us but within us. The true battle is against our own lust, anger, greed, hatred, envy, pride, violence, and ignorance.

The real way to "kill the Satan" is to eliminate these sinful tendencies from our own hearts. As we purify our character through truthfulness, compassion, humility, self-control, forgiveness, and devotion to Lord Krishna, the demonic qualities disappear and our original spiritual nature is gradually revealed.

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, God does not create people to be evil. Rather, individuals become degraded by misusing their free will, cultivating sinful habits, and embracing destructive ways of thinking and acting. Conversely, by following spiritual principles and developing Krishna consciousness, every person has the opportunity to replace demonic qualities with divine qualities and progress toward liberation.

118. Is Bollywood Demonic?

Yes.

The theme of most Bollywood movies is lust and materialism. By Vedic standards, a half-naked girl dancing is called a prostitute, and those watching her are promoting prostitution. By watching Bollywood movies, you will slowly and unknowingly attain the demonic qualities that are portrayed in movies. These are meat eating, gambling, lust, greed, anger, materialism, and ignorance of spirituality.

The simple fact is that what you see and hear on TV will eventually manifest in your home and life. This means lust, greed, anger, ignorance of spirituality and so on. You should not watch Bollywood movies, unless you want to degrade yourself, and move down in life (lower species).

119. Is America the Supreme Destination?

Most people in India and many other countries are crazy about America. They want to go to America and become American Citizens. What is the difference between life in India, America, Heavenly Planets, and the abode of Lord Krishna (Goloka Vrindavan)?

The destination for all living beings should be the abode of God. Where you will get a beautiful body which is eternal, full of bliss, full of knowledge, no old age, no disease, no death, and there is no need to work.

For millions of years, India was pure and prosperous but now it has become degraded due to Indians becoming beggars of foreign cultures and technology, instead of being followers and givers of India's greatest asset, spiritual knowledge.

The Special Opportunity of Human Life in Bharat-varsha

Based on the Vedic scriptures, a short human life in Bharat-varsha (India) is more valuable than an extremely long life on Brahmaloka, the highest planet within the material universe. Although the residents of Brahmaloka enjoy extraordinary lifespans and material opulence, they remain within the cycle of birth and death. When their accumulated pious merit is exhausted, they must again take birth somewhere within the material creation.

By contrast, the Vedic scriptures teach that a human birth in Bharat-varsha offers a unique opportunity for spiritual realization. If one develops Krishna consciousness through spiritual knowledge, righteous living, and devotional service, this can become one's final material lifetime. At death, the soul attains the eternal spiritual abode known as Vaikuntha, where life is full of beauty, knowledge, love, and bliss, free from old age, disease, death, and all forms of material suffering.

The scriptures further describe that even many of the demigods desire to take birth in Bharat-varsha because it is especially favorable for practicing devotional service and attaining liberation. The true value of such a birth lies not in nationality but in the opportunity to hear, understand, and practice the teachings of the Vedic scriptures.

At the same time, the Vedic tradition cautions that spiritual culture can decline when societies become absorbed solely in material pursuits. Excessive emphasis on materialism, unrestricted sense gratification, violence toward animals, neglect of spiritual knowledge, disbelief in karma and reincarnation, and identifying oneself only with the material body can weaken spiritual values and distract people from the ultimate purpose of human life.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that the greatest success is not measured by wealth, power, or longevity, but by awakening Krishna consciousness. Whether one is born in India or anywhere else in the world, anyone who is sincere can develop to Lord Krishna and His teachings and return to the eternal spiritual realm.

What is Your Supreme Destination?

	Bharat	America	Heavenly Planets	Goloka Vrindavan
Aging	Everyone ages	Everyone ages	Everyone ages	No Aging
	Everyone will become diseased	Everyone will become diseased	Everyone will become diseased	No Disease
	Everyone must die	Everyone must die	Everyone must die	No Death
	Life is full of anxiety for everyone	Life is full of anxiety for everyone	Life is full of anxiety for everyone	No Anxiety
	Everyone must pay the bills	Everyone must pay the bills	Everyone must pay the bills	No Bills
	Everyone must pay taxes	Everyone must pay taxes	Everyone must pay taxes	No Taxes
	Everyone suffers	Everyone suffers	Everyone suffers	No Suffering

“The supreme abode is called unmanifest and infallible, and it is the supreme destination. When one goes there, he never comes back. **That is My supreme abode.**”

(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.21)

120. Why Does Krishna Only Appear in India?

Lord Krishna's Appearance on Earth

Based on the Vedic scriptures, Lord Krishna performs His earthly pastimes in **Bharat-varsha (India)**. The scriptures do not describe Him appearing elsewhere in His original form as Sri Krishna. From the Vaishnava perspective, Bharat-varsha holds a unique place because it is especially suited for spiritual realization and devotion to the Supreme Lord.

The Vedic scriptures explain that Lord Krishna appears in His original form only once during each daytime of Lord Brahma, a cycle of approximately **8.64 billion years**. His most recent appearance occurred about **5,000 years ago**, when He spoke the Bhagavad-Gita and performed His divine pastimes.

According to the Bhagavad-Gita, Lord Krishna reveals Himself to those who approach Him with faith, devotion, and sincerity. While God is present everywhere as the Supersoul within every heart, His personal nature is fully realized by those who develop pure devotion. Thus, the Vedic tradition teaches that the Supreme Lord is known through devotion rather than speculation.

Bharat-varsha has traditionally been regarded as a sacred land because it has preserved the teachings of the Vedas, the Bhagavad-Gita, and the lives of many great saints, sages, and devotees. The Vedic scriptures describe it as a place especially favorable for hearing about God, practicing devotional service, and attaining liberation.

The ideals taught by Sanatana-Dharma include:

- Respect for all living beings as eternal souls.
- Recognition that Lord Krishna resides within the heart of every living being as the Supersoul.
- The principle of **ahimsa** (nonviolence) and compassion toward all creatures.
- Belief in karma and reincarnation, whereby every action has a corresponding reaction.
- Understanding that God is omnipresent, all-knowing, and perfectly just.
- The goal of developing devotion to Lord Krishna and returning to the spiritual world.

The Vedic tradition teaches that whenever societies become absorbed in materialism, violence, greed, or forgetfulness of God, spiritual culture gradually declines. The Bhagavad-Gita explains that this tendency becomes especially pronounced during **Kali-yuga**, the present age, which is characterized by increasing irreligion, conflict, and spiritual ignorance.

Although India has undergone many political, social, and cultural changes throughout history, the Vedic tradition maintains that its greatest treasure is not material

prosperity but its spiritual heritage. The teachings of the Vedas, the Bhagavad-Gita, and the great Vaishnava acharyas continue to inspire people throughout the world to pursue self-realization and devotion to Lord Krishna.

Ultimately, according to the Bhagavad-Gita, the opportunity to know Lord Krishna is not limited by nationality, ethnicity, or place of birth. Anyone, regardless of where they are born, who sincerely hears His teachings, develops devotion, and lives according to spiritual principles can realize the Supreme Lord and attain His eternal abode.

121. Is a Degree in Medicine the King of Education?

Material Education and Spiritual Education

Many parents place great importance on helping their children enter prestigious and well-paying professions such as medicine, engineering, law, or business. They encourage their children to study diligently and often invest much of their life savings in their education. While such education can provide material security and enable one to serve society, the Vedic scriptures remind us of that material success alone is not the ultimate goal of human life.

At the time of death, academic degrees, professional titles, wealth, and social status remain behind. A medical degree may save many lives during one's career, but it cannot accompany the soul beyond death.

A medical student may study hundreds of textbooks, yet an important question remains: Will that education include knowledge of the soul, God, and the purpose of life?

According to the Bhagavad-Gita, true education includes both material and spiritual knowledge. An intelligent person strives to excel in a profession while also studying sacred texts such as the Bhagavad-Gita and the Srimad-Bhagavatam. In this way, one benefits society through one's profession while simultaneously preparing for the soul's eternal future.

The Vedic scriptures teach that the spiritual knowledge and devotional service cultivated in this life are never lost. Even if one does not attain perfection in a single lifetime, that spiritual progress accompanies the soul. In a future birth, such a person receives favorable circumstances to continue advancing in spiritual life, eventually attaining pure devotion and returning to the eternal spiritual abode of Vaikuntha, where life is full of beauty, knowledge, love, and bliss, free from old age, disease, death, and all material suffering.

By contrast, a life devoted solely to material achievement, without spiritual understanding, leaves the soul bound to the cycle of birth and death. According to the law of karma, future births are shaped by one's consciousness and actions. Therefore, the Bhagavad-Gita encourages us to balance material education with spiritual wisdom.

The highest education is not one that merely teaches us how to earn a living, but one that teaches us who we are, who God is, why we exist, and how to attain eternal

happiness. Material education can improve the quality of this temporary life, while spiritual education prepares the soul for eternity. A truly wise person seeks both.

"This is the purest knowledge, the king of education, the king of the most confidential knowledge. It is the highest knowledge, most righteous, and everlasting." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.2)

The Highest Education

Lord Krishna describes the knowledge of the Bhagavad-Gita as the king of education because it reveals the nature of the soul, God, karma, and the ultimate purpose of life. Material education may benefit us during this lifetime, but spiritual knowledge benefits the soul eternally.

Knowledge of medicine, engineering, law, or any other profession enables us to serve society and earn a livelihood. These are valuable achievements. However, when the body dies, professional qualifications, academic degrees, and worldly accomplishments remain behind. They do not accompany the soul into its next life. This does not mean that one should neglect material education or avoid becoming a doctor, engineer, or professional. Rather, the Vedic teachings encourage us to complement material education with spiritual education. A student may study hundreds of textbooks during a lifetime. Adding one more book—the Bhagavad-Gita—can provide the knowledge that prepares the soul for eternity.

Some people say, "I will think about God and spirituality later, after I have earned my degree, established my career, bought a house, and become financially secure." The Bhagavad-Gita reminds us that no one has a guarantee of tomorrow. Death may come at any time, regardless of age, wealth, or status. Every day, young and old alike leave this world unexpectedly.

Human beings often plan carefully for the next forty or sixty years yet rarely consider the soul's eternal future. From the Vedic perspective, this is shortsighted. Material life is temporary, but the soul's journey continues beyond death.

Therefore, true wisdom is to pursue both material and spiritual education simultaneously. Build a successful career, fulfill your responsibilities, and contribute to society, but also cultivate spiritual knowledge and devotion to Lord Krishna. In this way, you prepare not only for success in this life but also for the eternal welfare of the soul.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that no sincere spiritual effort is ever lost. Whatever spiritual knowledge and devotion one acquires remain with the soul forever and continue to benefit it life after life until it attains its eternal destination in the spiritual realm.

122. What is the result of Material Education but no Spiritual Education?

Material Knowledge and Spiritual Knowledge

An intelligent person understands that academic degrees, professional qualifications, wealth, and social status are valuable for living responsibly in this world, but they have no lasting value beyond death. A degree in law, medicine, engineering, or any other profession remains with the body and cannot accompany the soul into its next life. Material education provides temporary benefits, whereas spiritual knowledge benefits the soul eternally.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that human life should include both material and spiritual education. Material knowledge enables us to earn a livelihood and serve society, while spiritual knowledge reveals our true identity as eternal souls and teaches us how to attain liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

When a person becomes completely absorbed in material pursuits and neglects spiritual life, the capacity to understand the soul and God gradually diminishes. Excessive attachment to temporary pleasures, wealth, prestige, and sense gratification causes one to forget one's eternal spiritual nature.

This forgetfulness further binds the soul to material existence. According to the law of karma, our desires and actions shape our future births. The Vedic scriptures explain that different bodies are awarded according to the consciousness and karma developed over many lifetimes.

Therefore, the Bhagavad-Gita encourages us to balance material success with spiritual advancement. By combining honest work, righteous living, and devotion to Lord Krishna, we fulfill our responsibilities in this world while preparing for the eternal welfare of the soul. Material education may improve this lifetime, but spiritual education prepares us for eternity.

"At death, those who have developed the mode of goodness, will go to the higher planets where the saintly persons live. Those who have developed the mode of passion will take birth among those engaged in materialistic activities. Those who have developed the mode of ignorance, will take birth in the animal kingdom." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.14-15)

The Permanent Value of Spiritual Education

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, spiritual education has eternal value because it benefits the soul beyond this temporary lifetime. Material education may provide a career, income, and social status, but spiritual education prepares the soul for its eternal journey.

The Vedic scriptures teach that spiritual ignorance binds the soul to the cycle of repeated birth and death. According to the law of karma, a person who neglects spiritual development remains within the material world and continues to accept different bodies according to his or her consciousness and actions. The scriptures describe this journey as passing through many species of life before once again

attaining the rare opportunity of a human birth—a process that may take an inconceivably long time.

For this reason, human life should not be devoted solely to material advancement. Material education is important because it enables us to earn an honest living, support our families, and contribute to society. At the same time, we should cultivate spiritual knowledge and practice Bhakti-yoga, so that our consciousness becomes purified and our lives progress toward liberation rather than continued material existence.

History remembers many highly educated and accomplished individuals, including great scientists, physicians, lawyers, and philosophers. Their knowledge benefited society during their lifetimes. Yet the Bhagavad-Gita reminds us that regardless of one's achievements, every material body is subject to birth, old age, disease, and death.

No university degree, scientific discovery, or professional qualification can prevent the body from aging or guarantee freedom from death. Material education teaches us how to improve life within this world, but it does not explain how to transcend the cycle of birth and death.

The Bhagavad-Gita therefore presents spiritual knowledge as the highest education. It teaches us who we truly are, why we exist, who God is, and how to attain eternal happiness. A wise person pursues both forms of education: material knowledge to fulfill responsibilities in this life, and spiritual knowledge to prepare the soul for eternity.

Material education may improve the quality of this temporary life, but spiritual education determines the soul's eternal future.

"Knowledge [spiritual] is the cause of liberation and ignorance is the cause of bondage to material life." (Lord Krishna, Uddhava Gita).

The thousands of Vedic saints like Swami Srila Prabhupada guarantee that if one becomes well educated in the teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita, and practices them by performing Bhakti Yoga. Then at death, one will immediately be transferred to the spiritual manifestation, where people live in the same beautiful body eternally in complete bliss with no misery.

123. What is the Caste System?

The Vedic Social Order and the Caste System

Based on the Vedic scriptures, there is a Vedic social order (varna), but there is no scriptural support for a hereditary caste system based solely on birth.

The commonly used word "caste" implies a person's social position is fixed from birth and cannot change. By contrast, the Vedic social order is based on a person's qualities (guna), activities (karma), character, aptitude, and level of consciousness, rather than family lineage alone.

The Bhagavad-Gita explains that the four social orders were established according to qualities and work, not simply by birth. Thus, a person's position is determined by

his or her qualifications, conduct, and responsibilities, and it may change as those qualities develop.

From this perspective, the hereditary caste system that later developed in parts of India represents a departure from the original Vedic ideal. A system that assigns social status solely by birth, regardless of character or qualification, is not the model described in the Bhagavad-Gita.

The purpose of the Vedic social order is not to create superiority or inferiority among people, but to organize society so that individuals can contribute according to their natural abilities while progressing spiritually. Every honest occupation performed in a spirit of duty and devotion has value.

Above all social classifications, the Vedic scriptures teach that every living being is an eternal soul. Spiritually, no soul is inherently higher or lower than another. All souls are equal before Lord Krishna, and every person has the opportunity to attain the highest spiritual perfection through devotion to Him, regardless of birth, occupation, nationality, race, or social background.

"It is therefore to be concluded that humanity is essentially one, but distinctions of caste have been made according to a person's qualities and work. As far as general behavior is concerned, the entire human race is one. There is only a difference in people's occupations and attitudes. Those who divide society into castes according to birth cannot see that human beings are essentially one. After all, the birth, maintenance, death, and bodily activities are only of one kind." (Bhavishya Purana, 42.33-34)

It is very clear from above that the current caste system in India, which is based on dividing society into castes from birth with no consideration for qualities, attitudes, and consciousness developed, is completely rejected by this Vedic scripture and others.

"The caste system based simply on birth does not actually divide people according to their development of consciousness. It is one's envy and hatred or lack of it that allows us to place him/her in a higher or lower category." (Bhavishya Purana, 40.19-20)

As stated above, it is due to envy, hate, and personal ego that people in India have corrupted the Vedic social work order system and created a caste system.

Definition of the Vedic Social Work Order System

According to the Vedic scriptures, human society functions best when people serve according to their natural qualities, abilities, character, and responsibilities. This system is known as the Vedic social work order system (varna). It is based on qualifications and aptitude, not on birth.

The Vedic social order consists of four broad categories of service:

1. Leaders, teachers, and spiritual guides

Those who provide moral, spiritual, educational, and intellectual leadership for society.

2. Administrators and protectors

Those responsible for government, law enforcement, national defense, justice, and the protection of society.

3. Farmers, businesspeople, and animal caretakers

Those engaged in agriculture, commerce, industry, trade, and the protection and care of animals, especially cows.

4. Workers and skilled assistants

Those who support society through craftsmanship, technical skills, labor, and service in many different occupations.

These four functions exist naturally in every society throughout the world, regardless of culture or religion. Every nation requires educators and leaders, governments and law enforcement, producers and merchants, and skilled workers who support the functioning of society.

The Vedic scriptures explain the principles by which individuals should be guided toward occupations that best match their natural qualities and abilities. Thus, the Vedic social order is not a system of hereditary privilege but a practical and ethical framework for organizing society according to aptitude and character.

The purpose of this system is not to classify people as superior or inferior. Rather, it is to help everyone contribute to society in the role for which he or she is best suited, while simultaneously progressing in spiritual life.

Above all social distinctions, the Bhagavad-Gita teaches that every living being is an eternal soul. Spiritually, all souls are equal before Lord Krishna, regardless of occupation, birth, wealth, or social position. The highest achievement is not belonging to a particular social order but developing pure devotion to Lord Krishna. The Bhagavad-Gita summarizes this principle by stating that the four social orders were established according to qualities (guna) and activities (karma), not merely by birth.

"Brahmanas, ksatriyas, vaisyas and sudras are distinguished by their qualities of work, O chastiser of the enemy, in accordance with the modes of nature." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.41)

"According to the three modes of material nature and the work associated with them, the four divisions of human society are created by Me. And although I am the creator of this system, you should know that I am yet the nondoer, being unchangeable." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.13)

"According to their nature and qualities, there are prescribed duties for brahmanas, ksatriyas, vaisyas, and sudras." (Bhavisya Purana, 42.24)

Once again, the Vedic scriptures authorize a social work order system which is based on the qualities developed, and the attitude of a person. A person will belong to one of four social work order categories:

"Peacefulness, self-control, austerity, purity, tolerance, honesty, wisdom, knowledge, and religiousness—these are the qualities by which the brahmanas work." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.42)

Those who possess the above qualities should be the Brahmanas: teachers and advisers in society.

"Heroism, power, determination, resourcefulness, courage in battle, generosity, and leadership are the qualities of work for the ksatriyas." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.43)

Those who possess the above qualities should be the Ksatriyas: police, military, and administrators in society.

"Farming, cow protection and business are the qualities of work for the vaisyas, and for the sudras there is labor and service to others." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.44)

Vaisyas – Those who possess good trading and farming skills, should be the traders (business owners), farmers, and cow protectors.

Sudras – Those who don't possess the qualities of the above three categories should be the general workers and assistants.

The Purpose of the Vedic Social Work Order System

Society functions best when people are entrusted with responsibilities that match their natural qualities, abilities, character, and level of development. This is the purpose of the Vedic social work order system (*varna*), which is based on qualifications rather than birth.

Without a system that recognizes aptitude and character, there is little incentive to cultivate the qualities required for different responsibilities. When leadership positions are filled without sufficient regard for integrity, wisdom, competence, or self-discipline, societies often experience corruption, injustice, poor governance, economic instability, unemployment, insecurity, and a decline in public trust.

The Vedic ideal is that leaders should possess qualities such as:

- Truthfulness
- Self-control
- Integrity
- Compassion
- Wisdom
- Religious and moral character
- A commitment to serving society rather than personal gain

Would society not benefit if its leaders consistently possessed these qualities? According to the Vedic scriptures, this is one of the principal aims of the Vedic social work order system—to encourage individuals to develop the qualities needed for the responsibilities they undertake.

A similar principle already exists in modern organizations. Businesses appoint people according to their abilities, education, experience, and character. Some become executives, some managers, some engineers, some administrators, and others perform technical or support roles. Different responsibilities require different qualifications.

Likewise, the Vedic social order recognizes that people naturally possess different talents and inclinations. These differences do not make one person spiritually superior or inferior to another; they simply indicate that different individuals are suited to different forms of service.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that Lord Krishna established this system according to **qualities (*guna*) and activities (*karma*)**. At the same time, He gives every individual free will. No one is permanently assigned to a particular role by birth alone. Through education, discipline, character development, and spiritual advancement, a person can develop the qualities required for greater responsibility.

Thus, from the Vedic perspective, the social order is intended to be dynamic rather than hereditary. It is a system based on merit, character, and service—not privilege.

Above all, the Bhagavad-Gita teaches that every living being is an eternal soul. Regardless of one's occupation or social role, all souls are equal before Lord Krishna. The highest achievement is not attaining a particular position in society but developing pure devotion to the Supreme Lord while faithfully performing one's duties for the benefit of all.

The Social Work Order System is Not for Religious Standing

The Bhagavad-Gita very clearly states that regardless of the social order class a person belongs to, everyone can go back to the supreme destination. The abode of Lord Krishna, the kingdom of God. Thus, a Brahmin who performs Deity service in a Temple and a Sudra who cleans the floor in the Temple are both of equal standing with Lord Krishna. Both have different social work order due to different personal abilities.

"O son of Prtha, those who take shelter in Me, though they be of lower birth-women, vaisyas [merchants], as well as sudras [workers]-can approach the supreme destination." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.32)

The Caste System is authorized in Non-Vedic Scriptures

Those outside India, often link the Hindu caste system with Sanatan-Dharma, but this is false, because the caste system is very clearly rejected by the Sanatan-Dharma scriptures. The caste system is only prescribed in the non-Vedic scriptures. Which clearly states that those who do not follow their religion are automatically caste for eternal hell with no consideration for deeds. They divide humans into believers and unbelievers, purely based on religion following, without any consideration for pious deeds, qualifications, and behavior. They even refer to those who do not follow their religion, as untouchables.

Qualities, Past Lives, and Free Will

The fact is that people are not born with identical tendencies. Some naturally display qualities such as honesty, compassion, self-control, and wisdom from an early age, while others may be more inclined toward anger, greed, violence, or selfishness. The Vedic explanation is that these natural inclinations are influenced by the consciousness and karma developed in previous lives.

However, these tendencies do not determine a person's destiny. The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that every individual possesses free will and therefore has the ability to develop higher qualities through proper education, good association, self-discipline, and spiritual practice.

A person's upbringing, environment, and personal choices play an important role in shaping character. Good guidance can strengthen noble qualities, while poor influences can reinforce harmful tendencies. Thus, although people may begin life with different inclinations, they are not permanently bound by them.

The life of Arjuna illustrates this principle. Although he possessed the natural qualities of a warrior, he experienced confusion and weakness on the battlefield. Through Lord Krishna's teachings in the Bhagavad-Gita, Arjuna transformed his understanding, regained spiritual clarity, and chose to perform his duty in accordance with divine wisdom.

The Bhagavad-Gita therefore teaches that our present character reflects both our previous development and our present choices. Past karma may influence our starting point, but it does not remove our freedom to grow. By cultivating spiritual knowledge, good character, and devotion to Lord Krishna, anyone can rise above lower tendencies and progress toward the highest goal of life.

"The transcendental qualities are conducive to liberation, whereas the demoniac qualities make for bondage. Do not worry, O son of Pandu, for you are born with the divine qualities." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.5)

In this verse, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna that he has good qualities from birth. Consciousness development continues from one life to another. No good effort is ever lost.

Everyone can develop good qualities and change their nature to divine by practicing the teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita.

The Vedic social work order system is an intelligent design to ensure society functions properly by assigning people to roles based on their abilities.

124. What are the Symptoms of Purity in a Person?

“The ability to chant mantras, perform fire sacrifice, practice penance, and sacrifice animals does not make one a brahmana, just as a sudra remains a sudra, despite the ability to perform all these activities.” (Bhavisya Purana 41.11)

A Devotee Is Known by Character and Conduct

Simply wearing a police uniform does not make someone a true police officer. A genuine police officer is recognized by faithfully upholding and enforcing the law. Without fulfilling those responsibilities, the uniform alone has little meaning.

Similarly, according to the Bhagavad-Gita, external appearances and religious rituals alone do not make one a genuine devotee of Lord Krishna. Wearing a dhoti, applying tilak, performing austerities, visiting temples, chanting with the lips, or observing religious ceremonies are valuable spiritual practices, but they must be accompanied by genuine transformation of character and conduct.

A true devotee is recognized by the qualities described by Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad-Gita. Such a person develops humility, truthfulness, compassion, self-control, kindness, forgiveness, detachment from selfish desires, and equal respect for all living beings. A devotee lives according to these principles and sincerely strives to serve both Lord Krishna and all His children.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that spiritual advancement is measured not merely by external practices but by the purification of the heart and the development of divine qualities. External practices are meant to cultivate these inner qualities, not to replace them.

Thus, a genuine devotee is known not only by religious dress or rituals, but by thoughts, words, actions, and character. When one's life reflects the teachings of Lord Krishna, one's devotion becomes visible through one's conduct.

“Humility, pridelessness, nonviolence, forgiveness, honesty, simplicity, service to a genuine spiritual master (guru), good thoughts/words and physical cleanliness, steadfastness and self-control, aversion for the objects of sense gratification, absence of ego, constant reflection on the pain and suffering of birth, old age, disease, and death, nonattachment with family members, home, etc., steadiness amid pleasant and unpleasant events, constant and unalloyed devotion to Me [Krishna], taste for solitude, distaste for social gatherings and gossips, steadfastness in acquiring the knowledge of self-realization, and search for the absolute truth— I declare all this to be real knowledge. That which is contrary to this is ignorance. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 13.8-12)

The Qualities of a Genuine Devotee

A genuine devotee is recognized not merely by external appearance or religious rituals, but by noble character and conduct. The following qualities are among those cultivated by a sincere devotee of Lord Krishna.

Humility – Be willing to serve others without expecting recognition or reward. Use your time, abilities, and possessions to help others according to your capacity. A devotee considers himself a servant of God and a servant of all living beings.
Freedom from Pride – Do not consider yourself superior to others because of wealth, education, birth, race, occupation, or religious affiliation. Every living being is an eternal soul and equally dear to Lord Krishna. Therefore, treat everyone with respect.

Nonviolence (Ahimsa) – Avoid causing unnecessary harm through your words, actions, or thoughts. Speak gently and truthfully, avoid insulting or agitating others, and refrain from unnecessary violence toward any living being, including animals.
Forgiveness – Understand that people sometimes act wrongly because of ignorance, weakness, or difficult circumstances. Be ready to forgive sincerely when appropriate and avoid holding on to resentment. Every new day is an opportunity for a fresh beginning.

Truthfulness – Always strive to speak the truth with kindness and integrity. Support honesty, avoid deception, and let your words and actions be consistent.
Simplicity – Live according to your means. Be content with what you have, avoid unnecessary luxury and excessive demands, and willingly share your resources with others. Simplicity brings peace of mind and reduces material attachment.

Freedom from False Ego – The material body is temporary and composed of material elements. Therefore, there is no reason to become proud of bodily beauty, wealth, social status, or achievements. Real wisdom comes from understanding that we are eternal souls, not temporary bodies.

Steadiness – Just as day follows night and the seasons continually change, happiness and distress naturally come and go. A devotee remains steady in spiritual practice during both success and adversity.

Self-Control – Learn to control your speech, mind, and senses. Like a strong tree that remains standing through wind and rain, remain calm when criticized, insulted, or inconvenienced. Respond with patience rather than anger.

Good Association – Seek the company of spiritually minded people who encourage virtue and devotion. Avoid environments that promote intoxication, violence, exploitation, immorality, or habits that distract from spiritual life.
Devotion to Lord Krishna – Keep Lord Krishna at the center of your life. Remember Him, study His teachings, worship Him with devotion, and use your time, intelligence, wealth, energy, and talents in His service and for the welfare of all living beings.

A genuine devotee is recognized by these qualities rather than by clothing, social status, or outward appearance. As the saying goes, do not judge a book by its cover, but by its contents. In the same way, judge a person's character by his or her actions, honesty, compassion, and conduct rather than external appearance alone.

One who sincerely cultivates these divine qualities and practices devotion to Lord Krishna gradually becomes purified in heart. Such a person progresses toward liberation from the cycle of birth and death and ultimately attains the eternal spiritual abode, where life is full of beauty, knowledge, love, and bliss, free from old age, disease, death, and all material suffering.

125. What takes away the Good Qualities in a Person?

The Importance of Good Association

Association shapes our consciousness. Good association, proper knowledge, and spiritual practice cultivate noble qualities, whereas bad association, ignorance, and false knowledge gradually weaken them.

Young children often display natural innocence. They do not judge others by race, nationality, wealth, or social status. They simply enjoy playing with one another. As children grow, however, they are influenced by their parents, relatives, teachers, friends, media, and the society around them. Through these influences they gradually develop their values, attitudes, preferences, and prejudices.

For this reason, the Bhagavad-Gita emphasizes the importance of good association (*sadhu-sanga*). The company we keep has a profound effect on our thoughts, character, habits, and ultimately our destiny.

External ornaments such as gold, diamonds, pearls, or expensive clothing may decorate the body, but they do not beautify the soul. The real beauty of a person is found in spiritual qualities such as truthfulness, humility, compassion, self-control, wisdom, and devotion to Lord Krishna. These qualities remain with the soul long after material possessions are left behind.

The Vedic tradition also cautions against forms of association and entertainment that encourage excessive materialism, intoxication, uncontrolled sense gratification, violence, greed, or forgetfulness of God. According to this perspective, when such influences dominate a person's life, they can gradually weaken spiritual values and diminish qualities such as compassion, self-discipline, and contentment.

Therefore, a sincere seeker should carefully choose uplifting association, study authentic spiritual knowledge, and cultivate habits that strengthen devotion and good character. By surrounding ourselves with people and activities that inspire spiritual growth, we gradually awaken our original, pure nature and progress toward the ultimate goal of life—developing love for Lord Krishna.

"Just as the wind can carry away a boat on the water. The mind that gives in to one of the roaming senses, can carry away the intelligence of a person." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.67)

"By thinking about sense objects, a person develops attachment to the objects, and from attachment, desires develop. When the desires are not fulfilled, anger develops. From anger, arises delusion, from delusion there is confusion and loss of reasoning. This results in loss of intelligence, and

when intelligence is lost, one falls down into lower species." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.62-63)

126. How do I Achieve Peace of Mind?

Don't satisfy all your desires and slowly reduce your desires.

Every day we desire to buy something, we go here and there, and do this and that, and so on. We must realize that satisfying our desires today will only result in more desires tomorrow. Try to stop satisfying your desires by saying no you don't need that, you don't need to go there, you can live without it and so on. Be satisfied with what you have.

"The ocean is always being filled by waters from different rivers, but still it remains steady. Like-wise, a person who is not disturbed by the constant flow of desires can achieve peace, and not the person who fulfills all his desires. A person, who gives up all desires, ego, and sense of ownership, can alone achieve peace." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.70-71)

A person says, 'I want peace'. If you remove the 'I' (ego), and the 'want' (desires). Then you will be left with 'peace'.

127. How do I become Happy?

The bad news is that only those who are in complete ignorance or those who are completely wise can be happy in the material creation. The others cannot always be happy.

The good news is that we can make this our last material life and go back to the spiritual manifestation, Vaikuntha. There we can live in the same beautiful body eternally, with complete happiness, full of bliss, full of knowledge, and no trace of anxiety. One who practices Bhakti Yoga can achieve this.

"The great souls, who have achieved perfection, attain me [Krishna]. They do not take birth again in this material creation, which is temporary and full of miseries." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.15)

In our short lives, before going back to the spiritual manifestation, we can minimize our suffering by being satisfied with whatever we have and not being disturbed by what others have or say. Don't be disturbed by whatever good or bad that happens to you or others.

"If one can tolerate the urges of desires and anger, he can become happy in this life." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 5.23)

Be content with yourself, the people around you, your work, your home, and the possessions you already have. True satisfaction means feeling complete, while greed grows from inner emptiness. Greed drives you to chase material things, falsely promising happiness. Material possessions can never bring lasting satisfaction; even all the wealth in the world cannot make a person truly happy or fulfilled.

128. Is life on all Planets Miserable?

Yes.

Material Realm

The Vedic scriptures teach that in the material realm there are billions of universes and in each universe there are millions of planets. There are heavenly planets, hellish planets, and earthly planets.

Spiritual Realm

There is also the spiritual realm which has billions of spiritual planets.

Although the heavenly planets offer far greater pleasures, longer lifespans, and greater comforts than Earth, they remain part of the material realm. Therefore, those who attain the heavenly planets must still experience old age, disease, death, and misery to some degree. And eventually come back to Earth when the accumulated pious merit is exhausted.

After their stay on the heavenly planets ends, they return to Earth or another material planet according to their karma. The cycle of material existence begins again—birth, life in the womb, infancy, childhood, youth, adulthood, old age, disease, and death. This cycle of repeated birth and death continues until the soul attains liberation.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that the real solution is not simply to attain a better material destination, but to transcend the material world altogether by returning to the eternal spiritual realm known as Vaikuntha.

The spiritual realm is attained by cultivating divine qualities, living a life of righteousness, and practicing Bhakti-yoga, loving devotional service to Lord Krishna. Through humility, compassion, truthfulness, self-control, detachment, and devotion, the heart becomes purified and the soul becomes qualified to enter the spiritual world.

The Vedic scriptures describe Vaikuntha as a realm beyond birth and death. There, every soul lives eternally in a beautiful spiritual body, full of knowledge, love, and bliss. There is no old age, no disease, no death, no fear, no anxiety, no violence, no corruption, no hatred, no dishonesty, and no material suffering of any kind.

Thus, the Bhagavad-Gita teaches that the greatest achievement is not to reach the heavenly planets but to attain the eternal association of Lord Krishna in His spiritual abode, where the soul experiences everlasting peace, happiness, and loving service to the Supreme Lord.

"Everyone on the lowest planet to the highest planet of Brahmaloka, in the material creation is subjected to the miseries of repeated birth and death. But those who attain Me [Krishna], never take birth again." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.16)

129. What are the three Modes of Material Nature?

One is always forced to act in one of three modes of material nature, goodness, passion and ignorance. These modes compete in exerting their influence upon us.

"Goodness, passion, and ignorance are the three modes of material nature. The qualities developed by a person are based on these three modes." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.5)

The Mode of Goodness - A person in the mode of goodness is free from all sinful reactions and is in a condition of happiness and knowledge. One who dies in the mode of goodness attains the higher planets.

"The mode of goodness is purity. This mode illuminates and frees one from sinful reactions. Those situated in this mode become inclined to happiness, spiritual knowledge, and pure thoughts." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.6)

The Mode of Passion - A person in the mode of passion is plagued by unlimited desires for material enjoyment, greed and lust (especially sexual pleasures). To satisfy these desires, one is always forced to engage in hard work that binds the person to sinful reactions, resulting in misery. A person in this mode is never satisfied with the position already acquired. One who dies in the mode of passion, takes birth again on planets like Earth among persons who are full of desires, greed, and lust.

"The mode of passion is intense craving for sense gratification. This mode creates desires and lust. Those situated in this mode become bound to materialistic activities." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.7)

The Mode of Ignorance - A person in the mode of ignorance is in delusion. It fosters laziness, foolishness and madness. One who dies in the mode of ignorance takes birth in the animal kingdom or on the hellish planets.

"The mode of ignorance is darkness or delusion. This mode creates carelessness, madness, and laziness. Those situated in this mode become degraded." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.8)

By understanding that the three modes are active and not you (the soul) and by realizing that you are separate from the modes of nature, the influence of material nature on you will gradually diminish.

130. Should we be Kind and Tolerant like a Tree?

Yes.

Learn from the Trees

Trees are examples of tolerance, generosity, and selfless service. Trees stand peacefully through heat, cold, wind, rain, and drought, asking for little while giving so much in return.

They provide fruits, flowers, shade, wood, oxygen, and shelter for countless living beings without discrimination. They do not choose who may benefit from them; they serve everyone equally, regardless of race, religion, nationality, or species.

A devotee should strive to develop the same spirit of tolerance and kindness. We should remain steady during life's difficulties and, according to our ability, use our time, talents, and resources to benefit others without expecting anything in return. According to the Vedic scriptures, trees are also living beings inhabited by eternal souls. Therefore, they deserve our respect and care. Although trees may sometimes need to be removed when genuinely necessary, we should avoid their unnecessary destruction and instead protect and cultivate them.

Planting fruit trees, flowering plants, vegetable gardens, and other beneficial vegetation is an act of compassion that benefits people, animals, birds, insects, and the environment. By planting more trees and caring for nature, we serve both present and future generations.

Let us learn from the example of trees: to remain tolerant in adversity, generous in service, and compassionate toward all living beings. By protecting nature and respecting every form of life, we cultivate the qualities that bring us closer to Lord Krishna.

"One who does not hate anyone, is friendly and compassionate to all living beings, shares his belongings with others, has no sense of ownership, free from ego; even-minded in both happiness and distress, forgiving, tolerant in all situations, always satisfied, worships Me with determination and devotion. Such a person is very dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 12.13-14)

The Benefits of Trees

- 01**  **Trees Provide Oxygen** – An average size tree produces enough oxygen to keep a family of four breathing and alive.
- 02**  **Trees Clean the Air** – Trees absorb pollutant gases (nitrogen, ammonia, sulfur dioxide etc.) and filter the air by trapping dust particles on the leaves and bark.
- 03**  **Trees Prevent Soil Erosion** – Trees hold soil in place.
- 04**  **Trees Provide Housing** – Trees are homes and shelter for many living beings.
- 05**  **Trees Heal** – By seeing trees humans can reduce stress, mental fatigue, material desires, and help humans to advance in spirituality.
- 06**  **Trees Provide Energy** – Wood from trees is needed to build homes, furniture, and energy (fire).
- 07**  **Trees Control Weather** – Trees affect the heat, rain, and cold.
- 08**  **Trees Provide Food** – Trees provide food for all living beings. Fruits and Vegetables come from plant life and an increase in plants means more food for all and lower prices.



Save and Plant Trees – Save the World

131. How Can I Go to the Kingdom of God?

Spiritual progress begins by giving up activities that degrade our consciousness, and giving up activities that cultivate attachment to the temporary material world. Therefore, strive to avoid sinful activities such as meat eating, gambling, intoxication (including alcohol and tobacco), illicit sexual relationships, and forms of entertainment that encourage spiritual forgetfulness.

Recognize that there is one Supreme Lord, Lord Krishna, and that every living being is an eternal soul and part of His creation. Therefore, treat all living beings with kindness, compassion, respect, and goodwill, regardless of their background or species.

Cultivate humility, truthfulness, self-control, compassion, charity, and devotion to Lord Krishna. By living according to these spiritual principles and practicing Bhakti-yoga, the heart becomes purified, consciousness is elevated, and the soul gradually becomes free from the cycle of birth and death.

According to the Vedic scriptures, one who sincerely develops this consciousness becomes qualified to attain the eternal spiritual abode of Lord Krishna, where life is full of beauty, knowledge, love, and bliss, free from old age, disease, death, and all material suffering.

***"By pure devotional service unto Me [Krishna], one can know Me as the Supreme person in truth, and thereafter one can enter into My kingdom."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.55)***

132. Is your Mind your Friend or your Enemy?

The mind is naturally restless, flickering, and difficult to control. When it is disciplined through spiritual knowledge and devotion, it becomes the soul's greatest friend. When left uncontrolled, it becomes the soul's greatest enemy by leading one toward ignorance, attachment, and suffering.

Most people have experienced conflicting thoughts. One part of the mind urges us to do something, while another tells us not to. For example, we may know that a particular action is wrong yet still feel tempted to do it. This inner struggle illustrates the conflict between higher and lower influences within our consciousness.

The individual soul desires lasting happiness and spiritual progress, while the uncontrolled mind is often pulled toward temporary sense enjoyment. Lord Krishna, who resides within the heart as the Supersoul (Paramatma), guides the sincere seeker toward truth and righteousness. When we choose to follow spiritual wisdom rather than the restless demands of the mind, our consciousness gradually becomes purified.

The Bhagavad-Gita therefore teaches that mastering the mind is one of the greatest victories in life. A controlled mind brings peace, clarity, self-discipline, and spiritual advancement, whereas an uncontrolled mind leads to anxiety, confusion, and repeated entanglement in material existence.

By studying the Bhagavad-Gita, associating with spiritually minded people, chanting the holy names of Lord Krishna, and practicing Bhakti-yoga, the mind gradually becomes calm and purified. In this way, the mind changes from an enemy into a faithful friend, helping the soul progress toward its eternal destination.

"The mind is a friend to those who have control over it, and the mind is the enemy for those who do not control it." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 6.6)

133. Should you only Eat Fresh Food?

Yes, eat only freshly cooked foods.

You should try to eat only freshly cooked foods. Processed, frozen, micro waved food, and meat is dear to those in darkness.

"People in the mode of ignorance like to eat foods that are prepared more than three hours before eating. Foods that have a bad smell [eggs], decomposed [meat], tasteless [not fresh], and stale [frozen food]." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 17.10)

134. Are wholesome foods good for you?

Yes.

"People in the mode of goodness like to eat foods that are juicy, fatty, and nutritious. These foods give strength, health, happiness, and increase duration of life." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 17.8)

135. Are hot and salty foods bad for you?

Yes.

"People in the mode of passion like to eat foods that are bitter, sour, salty, very hot, pungent, dry, and burning. These foods cause disease, distress, and misery." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 17.9)

136. Is Eternal Damnation Advocated by Sanatan-Dharma?

Absolutely not.

Divine Mercy and the Destiny of the Soul

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, no soul is eternally condemned. The material world contains temporary heavens and temporary hellish conditions, but these are not eternal destinations. Every soul is an eternal part of Lord Krishna, and, through karma, spiritual progress, and God's mercy, every soul is ultimately given the opportunity to return to the spiritual realm.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that the highest destination is **Vaikuntha**, the eternal spiritual abode of Lord Krishna. There, liberated souls live forever in beautiful

spiritual bodies, full of knowledge, love, and bliss, free from old age, disease, death, fear, and all forms of material suffering.

From the Vaishnava perspective, this understanding reflects the unlimited mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love of the Supreme Lord. Although souls may experience the temporary reactions of their karma, God's ultimate desire is to guide every living being back to its original spiritual home.

Reflecting on Eternal Punishment

Consider the following questions:

1. Place your hand near a source of fire for a few seconds. How uncomfortable does it feel?
2. Would you willingly cause another person to experience that pain for one minute?
3. For one hour?
4. For one day?
5. For one year?
6. Forever?

These questions invite us to reflect on the nature of divine justice and mercy. From the Vedic perspective, a God who is infinitely compassionate and loving does not eternally abandon any of His children. Rather than everlasting punishment, the Vedic scriptures teach that souls receive corrective consequences according to the law of karma, together with repeated opportunities to learn, grow spiritually, and eventually attain liberation.

The Bhagavad-Gita repeatedly emphasizes compassion toward all living beings because every living being is an eternal soul and a beloved part of Lord Krishna. God's justice and mercy work together: actions bring appropriate reactions, but no soul is denied the opportunity for spiritual advancement.

Thus, based on Sanatana-dharma, the ultimate destiny of every soul is not eternal suffering but eternal reunion with the Supreme Lord. The purpose of human life is to awaken our original relationship with Lord Krishna through spiritual knowledge, righteous living, and loving devotional service, thereby returning to the eternal spiritual world, where there is everlasting peace, knowledge, and bliss.

137. What are the Moral Values of Civilized Humans?

According to the Bhagavad-Gita and the Vedic scriptures, genuine civilization is measured not by wealth, technology, or social status, but by the development of noble character and spiritual consciousness.

A civilized person strives to cultivate the following qualities:

- Be kind and compassionate toward all living beings.
- Be sociable and maintain loving relationships with family, friends, and your community.
- Follow a vegetarian diet and avoid causing unnecessary harm to animals.
- Share your time, knowledge, and possessions with others according to your ability.
- Be humble and free from pride, considering yourself a servant of God and humanity.
- Treat others with kindness in both happiness and distress.
- Be tolerant and patient during life's difficulties.
- Be content with whatever comes honestly through your work and circumstances.
- Practice self-control over your speech, mind, and senses.
- Eat simple, wholesome vegetarian food with gratitude, avoiding unnecessary demands or extravagance.
- Be generous toward others rather than miserly, while living simply yourself.
- Avoid excessive attachment to possessions by recognizing that everything ultimately belongs to God.
- Maintain personal cleanliness and keep your home and workplace clean and orderly.
- Always speak the truth with kindness and integrity.
- Never deceive, exploit, or intentionally mislead others.
- Avoid gambling and dishonest means of acquiring wealth.
- Abstain from alcohol, recreational drugs, tobacco, and other intoxicants.
- Practice purity in relationships by avoiding sexual relations outside marriage and treating others with dignity and respect.
- Help others according to your abilities and resources.
- Give in charity according to your capacity.
- Always be concerned for the welfare and happiness of others.
- Accept personal responsibility for your actions and understand that every action produces a corresponding reaction (karma).
- Realize that you are the eternal soul, not the temporary material body, and that life continues beyond death.

- Maintain personal cleanliness and keep your home and workplace clean and orderly.
- Always speak the truth with kindness and integrity.
- Never deceive, exploit, or intentionally mislead others.
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- Accept personal responsibility for your actions and understand that every action produces a corresponding reaction (karma).
- Realize that you are the eternal soul, not the temporary material body, and that life continues beyond death.

Regularly reflecting on these principles and sincerely striving to practice them gradually purifies the heart and elevates one's consciousness. According to the Vedic scriptures, when these qualities are combined with devotion to Lord Krishna and the practice of Bhakti-yoga, they lead to lasting peace, spiritual advancement, and ultimately liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

"Absence of fear, purity of heart, charitable, striving for spiritual knowledge by studying the Vedic scriptures, lives a simple life, always straight forward in his dealings, always truthful, not violent, free from anger, not greedy, always gentle, forgiving, very clean, not envious of others, compassionate to all living beings, doesn't talk non-sense, has no pride, doesn't mislead others – These are some of the qualities of those with divine nature." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.1-3)

138. What is Bhakti Yoga?

Bhakti-yoga: The Yoga of Devotion

The Vedic scriptures describe several paths of yoga, each intended to elevate human consciousness. According to the Bhagavad-Gita, the highest and most complete path is Bhakti-yoga—the yoga of loving devotional service to Lord Krishna. The word yoga means "to link" or "to unite," and Bhakti-yoga means linking one's heart, mind, and life with the Supreme Lord through devotion.

A sincere practitioner of Bhakti-yoga strives to:

- Purify the heart by cultivating divine qualities such as humility, truthfulness, compassion, self-control, forgiveness, tolerance, and kindness toward all living beings.
- Offer food to Lord Krishna before eating. The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that Krishna accepts offerings of vegetarian foods such as fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, milk products, flowers, and water when they are offered with love and devotion. After the offering, the food becomes prasadam (the Lord's mercy).
- Chant the below or other Mantra:

Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna,
Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare,
Hare Rama, Hare Rama,
Rama Rama, Hare Hare.

- Offer flowers and Tulasi leaves to Lord Krishna as an expression of love and devotion. Many devotees cultivate flowering plants and sacred Tulasi in their gardens for this purpose.
- Worship the Deities of Sri Radha and Krishna with devotion according to one's ability.
- Serve at a temple or engage in other acts of devotional service for the pleasure of Lord Krishna.
- Study the Vedic scriptures, especially the Bhagavad-Gita and the Srimad-Bhagavatam, to deepen spiritual understanding.
- Share spiritual knowledge with others. According to the Vaishnava tradition, helping others develop their relationship with Lord Krishna is among the highest forms of devotional service.
- Serve cows.

These devotional practices should be performed according to one's sincerity, capacity, and circumstances. The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that even a small amount of sincere devotional service is spiritually beneficial and is never lost.

According to the Vedic scriptures, by steadily practicing Bhakti-yoga, the heart becomes purified, devotion awakens, and consciousness becomes fixed on Lord Krishna. Ultimately, at the end of this life, the devotee attains the eternal spiritual

realm, where liberated souls live forever in beautiful spiritual bodies, full of knowledge, love, and bliss, free from birth, old age, disease, death, and all material suffering, in the eternal association of Lord Krishna and His expansions.

"The great souls bow down to Me [Krishna], worship Me, and always chant My names and glories, with determination and devotion." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.14)

"Just become My devotee, always think of Me, bow down to Me, and worship Me. Then you will come to Me, without fail. I promise you this, as you are very dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.65)

"If one who is devoted to Me, teaches this supreme secret to other devotees, he shall be performing the highest devotional service unto Me, and he will certainly come back to Me. There is no other servant on Earth, who is more dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.68-69)

A Bhakti Yogi is one who has given up desires for material possessions and all his activities are done only for the satisfaction of the Supreme person, Lord Krishna (Linked to the Supreme).

139. What keeps People in Ignorance?

Lack of proper knowledge.

Spiritual Knowledge Removes Ignorance

Ignorance is sustained by closed-mindedness, pride, bad association, and the lack of genuine spiritual knowledge and understanding. These obstacles prevent a person from realizing the true nature of the soul, God, and the purpose of life.

The Bhagavad-Gita illustrates this through the example of Arjuna. Although he was a great warrior, he became overwhelmed by confusion, grief, and doubt on the battlefield. By hearing the teachings of Lord Krishna, Arjuna's ignorance was dispelled, his consciousness became purified, and he regained the clarity to perform his duty according to divine wisdom.

Another example is Maharaja Pariksit. When he learned that he had only seven days to live, he did not seek greater wealth, political power, or material pleasure. Instead, he devoted his remaining time to hearing the Srimad-Bhagavatam from Sukadeva Goswami. By absorbing himself in spiritual knowledge and remembrance of the Supreme Lord, he purified his consciousness and prepared for the soul's eternal journey.

The Vedic scriptures teach that spiritual knowledge is the light that dispels the darkness of ignorance. By studying the Bhagavad-Gita and the Srimad-Bhagavatam with sincerity, a person gradually comes to understand the nature of the soul, the law of karma, the purpose of human life, and the identity of Lord Krishna. This knowledge helps one overcome sinful habits, develop divine qualities, purify the heart, and cultivate Krishna consciousness. As consciousness becomes purified, attachment to temporary material pleasures diminishes, and one's attraction to spiritual life naturally increases.

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, genuine spiritual knowledge is not merely information—it is a transformative realization that changes the way one thinks, lives, and serves. Such knowledge guides the soul through the challenges of material existence and ultimately leads to liberation and eternal association with Lord Krishna.

"Just as a blazing fire turns firewood to ashes. Knowledge burns all reactions to material actions." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.37)

Ignorance: The Root of Negative Qualities

Negative qualities such as lust, anger, greed, hatred, violence, envy, and selfishness arise from ignorance (avidya). When a person forgets his true identity as an eternal soul and becomes absorbed only in the temporary material body, these lower qualities naturally develop.

Ignorance does not simply mean the absence of knowledge. It also includes misunderstanding reality, accepting incomplete knowledge, or holding false beliefs as truth. Genuine knowledge enables a person to distinguish truth from illusion and right from wrong.

Consider the example of a doctor. The difference between an excellent doctor and an average one is often the depth of knowledge, understanding, and experience. A highly skilled doctor can correctly diagnose illnesses and provide effective treatment, whereas a less knowledgeable doctor may overlook important details or make incorrect decisions. Likewise, in spiritual life, the quality of our understanding greatly influences the quality of our decisions.

People who lack genuine knowledge are more vulnerable to deception. Without careful inquiry and discernment, they may accept ideas simply because they are popular, inherited, or confidently presented. At the same time, those who deliberately reject truth because of pride, prejudice, or attachment may also remain in ignorance despite having access to knowledge.

For this reason, the Bhagavad-Gita encourages sincere inquiry, humility, and the willingness to learn from genuine spiritual teachers and authentic scriptures. Knowledge should be accepted through thoughtful understanding rather than blind acceptance or blind rejection.

The consequences of ignorance are not limited to spiritual life. A lack of knowledge and discernment can lead to poor decisions in religion, education, business, friendships, family relationships, and many other areas of life.

True knowledge dispels ignorance just as light removes darkness. As spiritual understanding grows, negative qualities gradually diminish and are replaced by wisdom, compassion, self-control, humility, truthfulness, and devotion to Lord Krishna. In this way, knowledge purifies consciousness and guides the soul toward lasting peace and liberation.

"But those, who, out of envy, do not follow these teachings of Mine, are devoid of all good sense. Know such men as completely ignorant and doomed to ruination." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 3.32)

140. What is Foolishness?

The Limits of Human Reasoning

Our knowledge is limited by our experience, senses, memory, and intelligence. When we make absolute conclusions based only on our own limited perception, we risk reaching incorrect conclusions. Therefore, the Bhagavad-Gita encourages us to seek knowledge from genuine spiritual authorities and revealed scriptures, rather than relying solely on our own speculation.

Consider the following examples:

- Some people say, **"No one has seen God."** Yet no individual has observed the experiences of every person who has ever lived. It is therefore not possible to conclude from one's own experience alone that no one has ever perceived God.
- Some people say, **"I cannot remember a previous life, therefore reincarnation cannot exist."** Yet we cannot remember many events from our infancy, and most of us have never met our great-grandparents. Our inability to remember or personally witness something does not, by itself, prove that it never existed.
- Some argue, **"Because human beings have material forms, God cannot have a personal form."** From the Vedic perspective, this conclusion does not necessarily follow. The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that Lord Krishna possesses an eternal spiritual form that is completely different from temporary material bodies.
- Others ask, **"If I cannot be present everywhere, how can God be omnipresent?"** The Vedic scriptures explain that God's nature is not limited by human limitations. The Supreme Lord is described as all-pervading, present within every heart as the Supersoul, while simultaneously existing in His eternal spiritual abode.
- If someone is amazed when a magician appears to produce a small piece of gold, should we not be even more amazed by the One who created the natural laws and the gold found throughout the earth?

The Vedic understanding of karma also emphasizes personal responsibility. Every action produces a corresponding reaction, and each individual is accountable for his or her own choices.

For example:

- If you purchase goods, who should pay the bill—you or someone else?
- If a person commits a crime, would a just judge punish an innocent person instead of the guilty one?

The principle of karma teaches that just as we are responsible for our financial obligations and legal actions, we are also responsible for the moral and spiritual consequences of our actions. Every individual ultimately experiences the results of his or her own karma.

The Vedic scriptures therefore encourage thoughtful inquiry, humility, and a willingness to examine our assumptions. By recognizing the limits of our own knowledge and seeking genuine spiritual understanding, we become better equipped to distinguish truth from speculation and wisdom from ignorance.

"The foolish persons cannot understand how a living entity quits one body to take another. But those with knowledge can see this." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.10)



141. What are the problems of material life?

The material world is temporary and uncertain. No matter how carefully we plan, we cannot eliminate all suffering or guarantee that our circumstances will remain the same. Material life is marked by constant change and uncertainty.

Some of the challenges people may face include:

- A spouse or partner may be unfaithful.
- A contractor, business partner, or customer may act dishonestly.
- A marriage may end unexpectedly.
- Employment may be lost without warning.
- A business may fail or suffer financial losses.
- Savings or investments may lose their value.
- A home or property may be lost.
- Retirement plans may not provide the security we expected.
- Serious illnesses, such as cancer or other diseases, may arise unexpectedly.
- Our children or other loved ones may become ill.
- Family members may make harmful choices or drift away from spiritual values.
- Loved ones may pass away at any time.
-

Many of our difficulties arise through relationships with other people, including family members, friends, neighbors, employers, employees, and business associates. Misunderstandings, dishonesty, selfishness, and conflicting expectations can all become sources of suffering.

Other problems arise from the forces of nature, such as earthquakes, storms, floods, droughts, wildfires, crop failures, and other natural disasters. These events remind us that many aspects of life are beyond our control.

No amount of wealth, education, technology, or material success can completely remove these uncertainties. As long as we remain within the material world, we will inevitably experience happiness and distress, gain and loss, success and failure.

For this reason, Lord Krishna encourages us to develop spiritual wisdom alongside our material responsibilities. By cultivating self-control, detachment, compassion, devotion, and remembrance of God, we gain the inner strength to face life's inevitable challenges with steadiness and peace.

The ultimate solution to the problems of material existence is not merely improving temporary circumstances but awakening our eternal relationship with Lord Krishna. Through spiritual knowledge and **Bhakti-yoga**, the soul gradually becomes free from the cycle of repeated birth and death and attains the eternal spiritual realm, where there is no fear, anxiety, old age, disease, or material suffering.

"Everyone on the lowest planet to the highest planet of Brahmaloka, in the material creation is subjected to the miseries of repeated birth and death. But those who attain Me [Krishna], never take birth again." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.16)

142. What are the Daily Decisions we Have to Make?

The Decisions We Make Every Day

Every day we are faced with decisions that shape the course of our lives. Some are small, while others have lasting consequences.

For example:

- Should I do this or that?
- Will this decision benefit me and others?
- Should I buy now or wait?
- How much should I spend?
- When is the right time to act?
- Which path should I choose?
- Whom should I trust or choose?
- When should I retire?
- Will this plan succeed?
- How should I respond to this situation?

The quality of our decisions depends on our knowledge, character, patience, judgment, material intelligence, and spiritual wisdom. Wise decisions often lead to favorable results, while poor decisions may bring difficulties in the future. Through the law of karma, every action has a corresponding reaction, and we eventually experience the results of our own choices.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that our past actions influence our present tendencies. Because of previous karma, a person may sometimes feel overwhelmed by confusion, attachment, anger, fear, or other influences that cloud good judgment. Spiritual knowledge helps us recognize these tendencies and gradually overcome them.

The challenges and decisions of daily life are real and affect everyone. We cannot avoid every difficulty, but we can prepare ourselves to respond wisely. By cultivating spiritual knowledge, good character, self-control, and devotion to Lord Krishna, we develop the clarity to make better decisions and the strength to face life's challenges with greater peace and steadiness.

While we cannot always control the circumstances we encounter, we can choose how we respond to them. By acting with wisdom, compassion, and spiritual understanding, we reduce unnecessary suffering and make steady progress toward the ultimate goal of life.

"The five factors of action are: The physical body, modes of material nature, the various senses, various efforts, the Supreme. These are the five factors, which cause whatever right or wrong action, a person performs by his body, thought, and speech." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.14-15)

As stated above, things will happen to us based on our own efforts and sometimes by the will of God. This means that failure or rejection is many times the will of God for our own good. It is not that God is a match fixer. His decisions are based on taking account of our past actions and others to balance everything out.

143. Why Does God Appear?

Why Lord Krishna Appears

Lord Krishna descends into the material world primarily to reciprocate with His pure devotees, who long to see Him, serve Him, and enjoy His personal association. Out of His unlimited love and compassion, He fulfills their desire by manifesting His eternal pastimes on Earth.

The Bhagavad-Gita also explains that Lord Krishna appears to protect the righteous, reestablish the principles of dharma (true religion), and subdue those who misuse their power to spread irreligion and injustice. These are among the purposes of His divine descent.

Thus, from the Vaishnava perspective, the Lord's appearance is motivated not only by the restoration of righteousness but, above all, by His loving relationship with His devotees. His pastimes reveal His beauty, compassion, and transcendental nature, while simultaneously guiding humanity back to the path of spiritual realization.

By hearing about Lord Krishna's divine appearances and activities with faith and understanding, a person gradually develops devotion to Him. The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that one who truly understands the transcendental nature of His appearance and activities does not take birth again after death but attains the eternal association of the Supreme Lord.

"Whenever there is a decline of religion and an increase in irreligion. I personally appear to deliver the saintly devotees, destroy the sinful, and reestablish true religion." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.7-8)

In the context of this verse, the Sanskrit "Dharma" means religion and not duty.

The all-merciful Lord Krishna, out of His causeless mercy, descends to various planets and universes in the material creation and acts for the salvation of the conditioned souls.

Only in Sanatan-Dharma there is a real God who appears, proves Himself as God, and associates with the living beings. In other religions, God is not seen, nor described and is just a word in a book, and thus for them He is unknown.

144. Are Women Lower than Men?

No.

Based on the Vedic scriptures. Spiritually, women and men are completely equal because both are eternal souls. The soul has no material gender, race, nationality, or social status. Every soul is a unique individual, eternal, full of knowledge, and by nature full of bliss.

From a material perspective, men and women have different physical bodies, and on average men may possess greater physical strength. However, physical differences do not determine spiritual value or superiority. The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that every living being, must be respected because each soul is equally dear to Lord Krishna, because all souls are part of Him.

The Vaishnava tradition also gives great honor to exalted female personalities. We traditionally say **Radha-Krishna**, not Krishna-Radha; **Sita-Rama**, not Rama-Sita; and **Lakshmi-Narayana**, not Narayana-Lakshmi. These names reflect the deep reverence given to the Lord's eternal consorts in devotional worship.

It is a Vedic custom that on invitations and ceremonial occasions to mention the wife's name before the husband's as a mark of respect for females.

The Vedic scriptures further describe the **gopis of Vrindavana** as the highest examples of pure devotion to Lord Krishna. Their love for Him is presented as the supreme standard of selfless devotion. From the Vaishnava perspective, this demonstrates that the highest spiritual attainment is not determined by whether one is male or female, but by the depth of one's devotion to the Supreme Lord.

Thus, the Bhagavad-Gita teaches that spiritual greatness is measured by purity of heart, character, and devotion—not by gender, physical strength, social position, or birth. Every soul has the same opportunity to attain the highest perfection through loving devotional service to Lord Krishna.

"I am death, and the origin of all future living beings. Of the females, I am fame, beauty, pleasant speech, memory, intelligence, commitment, and patience." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.34)

Females have all the above listed great qualities.

145. Why should Women be Protected from Degradation and Guided?

Women deserve respect, care, and protection because they play a vital role in the family and in the upbringing of future generations. At the same time, men also have an equal responsibility to live morally, protect their own character, and uphold spiritual values. The moral strength of society depends on both women and men.

Parents have the responsibility to teach their children moral values, spiritual principles, compassion, honesty, self-control, and respect for all living beings. When these values are neglected, future generations may become increasingly influenced by materialism and lose sight of spiritual life.

For this reason, the Vedic tradition emphasizes protecting young people from influences that may weaken their character or distract them from spiritual advancement. Parents should lovingly guide their children, help them develop good judgment, and encourage them to avoid activities that promote moral and spiritual decline, such as intoxication, gambling, illicit sexual relationships, and harmful forms of association.

Young women, like young men, should exercise wisdom and caution in choosing friends, relationships, and environments. In schools, workplaces, social settings, and online, there are individuals who may seek to exploit others for selfish purposes. Therefore, spiritual knowledge, good judgment, and strong moral values are essential for everyone.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that purity of character is cultivated through good association, self-discipline, and devotion to Lord Krishna. Parents should therefore provide both material education and spiritual education so that their children grow into responsible, compassionate, and spiritually strong adults.

If parents neglect to teach truth, virtue, and spiritual wisdom, children will inevitably be influenced by the values of the society around them. For this reason, the Vedic scriptures encourage parents to take an active role in shaping the character of their children through loving guidance, personal example, and the teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita.

"When irreligion prevails in the family, the women become corrupted and unwanted children are born." (Bhagavad-Gita 1.40)

146. What is the Result of Not following the Vedic Scriptures?

Degradation, which will lead to the soul moving to lower species.

The Importance of Following Vedic Knowledge

Neglecting spiritual knowledge and living only for material enjoyment gradually degrades one's consciousness. The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that human life is a rare opportunity to understand the soul, develop devotion to Lord Krishna, and attain liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

Human life is distinguished by the capacity to inquire about God, practice self-discipline, cultivate virtue, and follow spiritual principles. When these opportunities are ignored and life is devoted solely to satisfying bodily desires, one's consciousness becomes increasingly materialistic.

The animals live according to instinct, without the opportunity for systematic spiritual inquiry. Therefore, from the Vedic perspective, a person who has no interest in spiritual knowledge, moral principles, or self-realization is living without making use of the unique opportunity that human life provides.

According to the law of karma, the consciousness and desires cultivated during this life influence the next. The Vedic scriptures teach that those who develop only material desires may take birth in circumstances that correspond to those desires, including various forms of life within the animal kingdom. Conversely, those who cultivate spiritual knowledge, righteous conduct, and devotion to Lord Krishna elevate their consciousness and progress toward liberation.

For this reason, the Bhagavad-Gita encourages every person to use the rare gift of human life wisely. By studying the Vedic scriptures, cultivating good character, practicing Bhakti-yoga, and developing love for Lord Krishna, one fulfills the true purpose of human existence and progresses toward the eternal spiritual realm.

"Those who act according to their own whims, disregarding the regulations prescribed in the scriptures, never attain perfection, or happiness, or the supreme abode." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.23)

147. What is the difference between Human and Animal Consciousness?

One of the distinguishing features of human life is the ability to inquire into the purpose of existence and pursue spiritual realization. Human intelligence enables us not only to satisfy physical needs but also to seek higher truth and cultivate compassion.

A thoughtful human being naturally asks questions such as:

- Who am I?
- Where have I come from?
- Where was I before this life?
- Where will I go after death?
- Who is God?
- Why do people suffer?
- Why are living beings born in different circumstances?
- What is the purpose of life?

The Vedic scriptures teach that human life reaches its true purpose when these questions are sincerely pursued. The Bhagavad-Gita explains that the rare gift of human intelligence is meant for self-realization, understanding God, and attaining liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

Animals naturally eat, sleep, defend themselves, and reproduce. Human beings also share these biological activities, but they possess the unique capacity to reflect on life's deeper meaning, develop moral character, and consciously pursue spiritual knowledge.

Another distinguishing feature of human consciousness is compassion. A civilized person strives to care not only for personal well-being but also for the welfare of family, society, animals, and all living beings. The Bhagavad-Gita encourages us to see every living being as an eternal soul and to cultivate kindness, responsibility, and respect toward all.

A truly successful human life is not measured merely by wealth, power, or education, but by the development of wisdom, compassion, truthfulness, good behavior with others, devotion to Lord Krishna, and sincere inquiry into the ultimate truth. These qualities elevate human consciousness and take the soul back to the spiritual realm.

"One who has taken his birth as a human being in the land of Bharata [India] should make his life successful and work for the benefit of all other people." (Caitanya-caritamṛta Ādi-Līlā 9.41)

"It is the duty of every living being to perform welfare activities for the benefit of others with his life, wealth, intelligence and words." (Caitanya-caritamṛta Ādi-Līlā 9.42)

A truly civilized person lives not only for personal enjoyment but also for the welfare of others. Such a person practices charity, truthfulness, self-control, compassion, and kindness, recognizing every living being as an eternal soul.

148. Why is Human Birth so Rare?

Living beings exist throughout creation—in the air, in the water, on the land, and even within our own bodies. Human bodies alone contain countless microscopic living organisms.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that every living being is inhabited by an eternal soul. The soul transmigrates from one body to another according to the laws of karma and the consciousness developed during life. Since there are vastly more plant and animal bodies than human bodies, the opportunity to obtain a human birth is considered extremely rare and valuable.

Based on the Vedic scriptures, there are **8.4 million species of life**, of which **400,000 are human forms**. Human life is unique because it provides the opportunity to inquire about God and attain liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

According to the law of karma, life is an intelligent design—nothing happens by chance. Every soul receives a particular body according to its previous actions, desires, and level of consciousness. The Vedic scriptures teach that those who neglect spiritual development remain within the cycle of repeated birth and death, accepting different bodies according to their karma.

"Out of thousands of persons, one will strive for spiritual self-realization, and among the strivers, someone may know Me. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.3)

149. What is the Purpose of Human Life?

We came to this material life due to our own choices, and the purpose of human life is to go back to the spiritual realm. This can be achieved by knowing God as a real person, follow His instructions, and serve Him. Thus, to know Lord Krishna as the supreme person, follow the Bhagavad-Gita teachings, and serve Him. The result of devotional service unto Lord Krishna (God) is that at death, the soul will be immediately transferred to the spiritual realm where everyone lives in the same spiritual body that is completely beautiful, full of bliss/love, full of knowledge, with no old age, no disease, and no misery.

"One knows Me as the Supreme Personality of Godhead without a doubt, is the knower of everything and he engages in My devotional service with love." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.19)

The fullest revelation of the Supreme Lord is found in the Vedic scriptures, especially the Bhagavad-Gita and the Srimad-Bhagavatam. These scriptures describe the nature, qualities, names, activities, and eternal pastimes of Lord Krishna, and explain the science of the soul.

150. Why Is Marriage to a Spiritually Minded Person Important?

From a Vedic perspective, marriage is not merely a social or emotional partnership but a sacred spiritual commitment. Husband and wife are meant to help one another grow in spiritual knowledge, develop good character, and progress toward the ultimate goal of life—returning to the eternal spiritual abode of Lord Krishna.

The human body is temporary, while the soul is eternal. Therefore, a wise person thinks not only about the next few decades of material life but also about the soul's eternal future. Since every living being must one day leave the body, spiritual growth is considered more important than temporary material success.

When both husband and wife are committed to spiritual principles, they can encourage one another to cultivate truthfulness, compassion, self-control, devotion, and service to God which includes service to all living beings. They are also better prepared to raise children with strong moral values, spiritual understanding, and respect for all living beings.

The consciousness cultivated in this life influences the soul's future. Therefore, a family that studies the Bhagavad-Gita, practices **Bhakti-yoga**, and lives according to Vedic principles creates an environment that supports the spiritual advancement of both parents and children.

The purpose of spiritual education is to help us realize that we are eternal souls, not temporary material bodies. Thus, this is not the only life and so we should take actions which will benefit us in many lifetimes, not just this one.

Non-Vedic Teachings

The non-Vedic teaching is that the soul and body are one, when the body dies, the soul dies. This is our first life, no karma, no reincarnation, no description of God. And some believe that the ultimate goal of life is to attain the paradise and enjoy wine and women

The Role of Parents

The parents play an important role in helping their children choose a marriage partner, because of their life experiences and concern for their children's long-term wellbeing. They can help evaluate important factors such as compatibility.

Lasting marriages are built on humility, compassion, truthfulness, and having shared customs, shared moral values, similar level of material education, and shared spiritual understandings.

For this reason, the Vedic tradition encourages young people to seek the guidance and blessings of their parents and elders when making one of life's most important decisions. While customs vary across cultures and families today, the enduring principle is that marriage should be entered thoughtfully, responsibly, and with the support of those who genuinely desire the couple's long-term happiness and spiritual well-being.

Marriage centered on spiritual growth benefits not only husband and wife but also future generations by creating a home founded on kindness, humility, truthfulness, wisdom, and service to God and others.

"When irreligion prevails in the family, the women become corrupted and unwanted children are born." (Bhagavad-Gita 1.40)

"At death, those who have developed the mode of goodness, will go to the higher planets where the saintly persons live. Those who have developed the mode of passion, will take birth among those engaged in materialistic activities. Those who have developed the mode of ignorance, will take birth in the animal kingdom." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.14-15)

151. How great are some Yogis?

There are millions of Yogis who can walk on water, make themselves lighter than a cotton swab, travel from one planet to another, one universe to another, create planets and universes, multiply food, cure the sick, bring back the dead, and so on. The master of all yogis and mystic power is called Yogeshvar (Lord Krishna).

152. Are You What You Eat?

The food we eat influences not only the body but also the mind and consciousness. For this reason, diet is considered an important part of spiritual life.

The Vedic tradition teaches that foods obtained through violence and the killing of animals tend to promote the lower qualities of passion and ignorance, whereas a pure vegetarian diet offered first to Lord Krishna (*prasadam*) helps cultivate qualities such as peace, compassion, self-control, and clarity of mind.

The purpose of offering food first to Lord Krishna is not that He is the boss and thus should eat first. No. The purpose is to become free from the karmic reactions accumulated from creating the food we eat. So many living beings are killed in planting seeds, watering, harvesting, transporting, and cooking food. By offering

food first to Lord Krishna, frees us from the sins of killing so many living beings to produce our food.

People who regularly consume foods obtained through violence will find it more difficult to cultivate qualities such as nonviolence, compassion, and spiritual awareness. Conversely, those who live on a wholesome vegetarian diet, develop kindness, tolerance, and respect for all living beings.

Trees are examples of selfless service. Trees patiently endure heat, cold, wind, and rain while providing fruits, shade, flowers, and shelter for countless living beings without discrimination. A devotee is encouraged to cultivate these same qualities of tolerance, generosity, compassion, and selfless service to others.

The Bhagavad-Gita therefore recommends a diet that supports both physical health and spiritual advancement. It teaches that food should be prepared with cleanliness, offered to Lord Krishna with devotion, and accepted as *prasadam*, the Lord's mercy. In this way, eating becomes an act of gratitude and devotion rather than merely satisfying the senses.

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, the purpose of eating is not simply to nourish the body but to purify the heart, by cultivating compassion toward all living beings.

"Just as the air carries a particular smell from one place to another, the living entity will be carried to a particular body at death, based on the consciousness developed by him during life. On taking a new body, the living entity will get a particular set of senses, like ears, eyes, tongue, smelling potency, sense of touch, and mentality. The foolish persons cannot understand how a living entity quits one body to take another. But those with knowledge can see this." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.8-10)

153. Why Should You be Charitable?

Charity is more than an act of generosity—it is a means of purifying the heart and reducing attachment to temporary material possessions. By giving a portion of our wealth for the welfare of others, we gradually cultivate humility, compassion, and detachment.

We should provide for our genuine needs, care for our families, and use part of what we earn to help others and support righteous and spiritual activities.

A person who lives only to accumulate wealth, property, luxury, and status may become increasingly attached to temporary possessions. Yet at death, none of these can be taken with us. Money, houses, jewelry, vehicles, and social position all remain behind, while the soul continues its journey.

The law of karma influences the circumstances of our future births. Based on this, compassion and righteous use of wealth contribute to our future births in good situations.

154. What is the Best Charity?

The gift of spiritual knowledge to your friends, relatives, and others is the best charity. The best welfare is to help others discover their real nature, spiritual self-realization.

The gifting of material goods only increases sense gratification and bondage to material life. Spiritual knowledge helps people to stop the sinful activities in their lives. This sets one free from material life, which is a cycle of birth, old age, disease, misery, and death.

155. What is the Highest Service to God?

All living beings are the children of God and thus anyone who helps God's children go back to their original abode, back to the spiritual manifestation, are most dear to God.

"If one who is devoted to Me, teaches this supreme secret to other devotees, he shall be performing the highest devotional service unto Me, and he will certainly come back to Me. There is no other servant on Earth, who is more dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.68-69)

Teaching the Bhagavad-Gita

In the above verses, Lord Krishna states that anyone who teaches the Bhagavad-Gita to others becomes most dear to Him. This responsibility is not limited to a Sanyasi. Any sincere devotee who has studied the Bhagavad-Gita should explain it to others and help them to improve their life by elevating their consciousness.

Lord Chaitanya, who is as an incarnation of Lord Krishna, also taught that a devotee of Lord Krishna should guide others by giving Vedic knowledge.

The Bhagavad-Gita in Kali Yuga

Kali Yuga is the age of darkness, ignorance, and irreligion. In this age, the Bhagavad-Gita is presented as a guide that can uplift humanity because it is spoken by Lord Krishna Himself.

Lord Krishna is the speaker of the Bhagavad-Gita, and Veda Vyasa, who is as an incarnation of Lord Krishna, recorded the Bhagavad-Gita along with the other Vedic scriptures.

Spiritual Decline and the Need for Higher Consciousness

The whole world was once known as Bharat, meaning "the light," and followed one spiritual tradition, Sanatan Dharma. With the influence of Kali Yuga, however, the world has moved toward darkness through man-made teachings that reject true spiritual truths.

Examples of such teachings include:

- Disregard for compassion and spiritual discipline
- The belief that God is unknowable or invisible
- The idea that the living entity is the body and believing this to be the first life (rejecting reincarnation)
- The belief that everything happens by chance and rejecting karma
- Teachings that promote violence and hatred in the name of God

Only those who develop higher spiritual consciousness can help bring light back to the world.

Understanding the Supreme Person

Many people are in ignorance because they cannot answer a basic question: "Can you describe the Supreme Person?" The Vedic scriptures address this question directly by describing Lord Krishna as the Supreme Person, God.

The Vedic scriptures describe His appearances and activities, both on this planet and beyond it.

156. What is the difference between Devotees and Yogis?

Yogis are those who are only interested in their own advancement, they have no interest in helping others to advance. Devotees are those who help others to advance, they don't think about their own advancement.

Basically, devotees want to save others and yogis only care about themselves. Arjuna was a pure devotee and thus we should become pure devotees and not pure yogis, verses 18.68-69 confirm this.

157. What is the Mentality of those who don't follow the Bhagavad-Gita?

- * Narrow-minded – They think their way is the only way and want all others go to hell for simply being different
- * No faith in God – They cannot understand that God is in full control and thus it's God who is creating and maintaining all others
- * God is not real – They cannot describe God, He is unknown/invisible
- * Hatred – They cannot understand the concept of universal brotherhood
- * Animals – The animals are just food. Millions of animals are breed for food and killed daily
- * Who are we – They think they are the body (no belief in eternality of soul)

- * No eternality – They think this is first and only life (no belief in reincarnation)
- * Purpose of religion – Some believe that by following their religion, they will go to heaven and enjoy sex with many virgins and wine
- * No Karma – People suffer or enjoy by chance

The result of above mentality is hatred, terrorism, poverty, wickedness, selfishness, godlessness, and destruction of nature.

158. Does Lord Krishna Curse Those Who don't Follow Him?

A man-made God will curse those who don't follow him to a life in hell and he will be jealous, because he is not in control. But Lord Krishna is not like this. He is so nice and is in full control. He doesn't force anyone to follow Him, nor does He send anyone to hell just because they don't follow Him.

"I have explained to you the most confidential knowledge. Now, think about it and then do as you wish." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.63)

After speaking the Bhagavad-Gita to Arjuna, Lord Krishna gave him free will. He doesn't say Arjuna will go to hell if he doesn't follow Him nor does Lord Krishna say He will be jealous if Arjuna doesn't follow Him. This is because Lord Krishna is a mature and responsible person. Lord Krishna, the real God, is all loving and all merciful.

The real God does not curse anyone, because He is in full control and thus, He does not need to curse anyone. Only those who are not in control and want to be in control will curse others, as they are frustrated and envious of the supreme controller (Lord Krishna).

159. What is Wickedness?

- It is wicked to deny others the same rights that you want. Just as you want to practice your beliefs freely. You must also let others practice their beliefs freely.
- It is wicked to accept gifts from others but not give any gifts to others. You must take less and give more.
- It is wicked to waste other people's time. You do not want others to waste your time. You should not waste other people's time either.
- It is wicked to want the highest price for your items and expect others to give you their items free. You should put yourself in their shoes and pay for items appropriately.
- It is wicked to want the highest pay when you work and when it comes to paying others for their work, you want to bargain and pay the lowest amount. Put yourself in their shoes and pay reasonably.
- It is wicked to visit the homes of people and eat their food and when they come to your home, you wonder why they came. Eat from others but you must also feed others when they come to your home or whenever possible.

- It is wicked to live off others. You must pay your share of the costs or help out based on your resources (effort, give time, give money).
- It is wicked to take from the poor. You must give to the poor and not just take from them.
- It is wicked to want others to listen to you when you don't want to listen to them. Listening should be both ways and not one way.
- It is wicked to think your way is the only way. People are different and thus there are different ways for everyone.
- It is wicked to think that you know everything. Knowledge is not limited to what you know. Listen and learn from others. The variety of people have variety of knowledge and thus one must learn from all to learn the most.
- It is wicked to expect others to follow your orders when you follow nobody's orders. If you want to give orders, you must also obey orders from others.
- It is wicked to expect others to tell the truth, when you are a liar. Speak the truth, stand up for the truth, and side with those who are truthful.
- It is wicked to expect from others everything and you expect to give nothing to others. Expect from others but also realize that others are expecting from you. Take and give.
- It is wicked to expect cheap labor. You would not work cheaply, so why should others? Pay others what you would expect if you were doing it.
- It is wicked to only contact others when you are in need. You must stay in contact with everyone on a regular basis.
- It is wicked to take from others and not give. You must take and give more.
- It is wicked to do onto others what you wouldn't want done onto you. Treat others the same as you want others to treat you. Treat everyone nicely.
- It is wicked to be miserly. Be miserly with yourself but never be miserly with others. Be very generous with others.
- It is wicked to live in other peoples' homes when you have your own home. Be satisfied with what you have, and use what you have, don't live off others.
- It is wicked to use other peoples' things when you have your own. You must live with what you have.
- It is wicked to sell something that you would not use yourself.
- It is wicked to cook something that you would not eat yourself.

Please give up being wicked from this moment onwards.

160. What is the Mentality of those who Follow the Bhagavad-Gita?

The devotees of Lord Krishna have the following mentality:

- * **Broad minded** – They never say or think others will go to hell simply for being different
- * **Full faith in Krishna** – They know that God is in full control and thus don't have any problems with others
- * **God is real** – God is visible and known
- * **Universal brotherhood** - Consider all living beings as brothers and sisters. All living beings are the children of the one God and thus brothers and sisters
- * **Animals** – They are our brothers and sisters too. Thus, no meat eating (vegetarianism)
- * **Who are we** – We are not this body but the soul
- * **Eternality** – We are eternal and thus this is not the only life
- * **Purpose of religion** – A sincere devotee of Krishna only wants to eternally serve Krishna and has no desire for sense gratification. Thus, no lust, no intoxications, no killing, and no speculation
- * **Karma** – People suffer or enjoy based on their past actions. Nothing happens by chance. As you sow, so shall you reap

People with the above mentality make the World a safer and peaceful place to live. Also, at the end of this life, these souls will go back to the spiritual manifestation and live eternally in the same beautiful body with God. Persons with the above mentality are called self-realized.

"Being freed from attachments, fear, anger, and fully situated in thought of Me, many have become purified by penance and knowledge of Me. They all attained pure love for Me. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.10)

The eternal Bhagavad-Gita has already delivered trillions of people back to the spiritual manifestation, where people live in the same beautiful body eternally with no misery, and you can be next.

161. What are the Characteristics of a Self-realized Person?

- * A person who realizes that he is not the material body but the soul.
The material body is temporary, but the soul is eternal, and one who knows this realizes that he (the soul) has been transmigrating from one body to another for countless lifetimes and thus his current body is just one of the millions of bodies he (the soul) has occupied. This means he is not the body but the soul within the body.
- * A person who realizes his relationship with the supreme.
The relationship between the living entities and the supreme (God), is that all living entities are part and parcel of the supreme. That means the qualities of all living entities (souls) are the same as those of the supreme. These qualities being eternality, blissfulness, and knowledge.
- * A person who realizes that the part is meant to serve the whole.
Just as the hand serves the body, the living entities, who are part of the Supreme, must serve the whole, thus serve the Supreme.
- * A person who has given up desires for material possessions and all his activities are done only for the satisfaction of the supreme.
- * A person who teaches all the above to others.
A self-realized person is concerned for the welfare of all living beings and thus wants to deliver all living beings back to the spiritual manifestation, where everyone lives happily eternally.

"The great souls, who have achieved perfection, attain Me [Krishna]. They do not take birth again in this material creation, which is temporary and full of miseries." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.15)

162. What are the Benefits of Krishna Consciousness to the World?

- * Non-violence – Krishna conscious people are totally non-violent. No killing (vegetarian)
- * Simple people – Krishna conscious people believe in living a simple life (not materialistic)
- * No druggies or drunkards – Krishna conscious people are not intoxicated. No drugs or alcohol
- * No hatred – Krishna conscious people believe God is the father of all living beings and thus we are all brothers and sisters
- * No Gamblers – Krishna conscious people don't gamble
- * Treat all people equally and nicely – Krishna conscious people view all living beings as souls and not physical bodies. Thus, there are no bodily designations, and even the plants and animals have equal rights and are treated like human beings

Those who sincerely follow Lord Krishna will become decent human beings.

163. Who Passed Away?

When a person dies, we say 'he passed away'. The body is right in front of us, but still we say, 'he passed away'. This implies there are 2 entities, the 'body' and the 'he'. The 'he' is the soul, the real person.

This is the fundamental teaching of the Bhagavad-Gita, the real 'he' is the soul and not the body.

"Just as a person gives up old and worn out garments for new garments. In a similar way, the embodied soul accepts new bodies, giving up the old and useless ones." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.22)

164. Will Krishna Take Away my Sins?

Yes.

Lord Krishna assures those who sincerely surrender to Him by following His instructions of living a righteous life. They will be freed from the bondage of sinful reactions by His mercy.

Lord Krishna does not remove sins by personally suffering in place of the living being. As the Supreme Personality of Godhead, He is transcendental to the material world and is never subject to karma, birth, death, or suffering. This is one of the fundamental differences between the Supreme Lord and the individual living being. The living beings experience the reactions to their own actions, whereas Lord Krishna always remains completely transcendental.

When a person sincerely takes shelter of Lord Krishna and follows His instructions in the Bhagavad-Gita, a gradual transformation takes place. One gives up sinful activities, performs righteous actions, develops compassion for all living beings, and replaces material consciousness with spiritual consciousness. Instead of living only for personal enjoyment, one begins living to serve God and benefit others.

The mercy of Lord Krishna is not a license to continue sinful living. Rather, His mercy purifies the heart, transforms one's character, inspires righteous conduct, and ultimately frees the sincere devotee from material bondage and restores the soul to its eternal relationship with Him.

"Give up your duties and just surrender unto Me. I will release you from all your sins. Do not worry." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.66)

The Meaning of Dharma

In the context of this verse, the Sanskrit word *Dharma* means “duty,” and not “religion.” This verse addresses Arjuna’s responsibility in a specific moral and military situation. There was only one religion in the whole world, 5,000 years ago, and so it makes no sense for Lord Krishna to ask Arjuna to abandon all religions.

Krishna’s Instruction to Arjuna

In the above verse, Lord Krishna instructs Arjuna to surrender to Him which means following His instructions to fight in the war. This surrender means setting aside the duties that were preventing Arjuna from fulfilling his responsibility as a warrior.

Why Arjuna Hesitated

Arjuna did not want to fight because his gurus, friends, and relatives stood on the opposing side. He felt a sense of duty toward them, which created deep conflict within him.

Lord Krishna’s instruction was not a command to abandon all duties. Rather, it was a call to abandon only those duties that conflicted with Arjuna’s righteous obligation to fight.

- Arjuna was to set aside his duty toward those on the opposing side.
- He was still responsible for his duties towards those on his side, by protecting them.
- Krishna’s guidance helped Arjuna distinguish between conflicting obligations and his true duty.

165. Is there a Conflict between the Teachings of the World Religions?

Yes.

Each religion has given God a different name, and this causes friction between people of different religions. The fact is that Yahweh and Allah are just characters in a book. They have never appeared. Whereas Lord Krishna has appeared and thus is seen and proven person.

It's due to personal ego and ignorance that humans hate and fight each other in the name of religion. God is the creator of all living beings, and He is in full control. Since people have a variety of mentalities, God allows the variety of religions to exist.

People have variety of mentalities, knowledge, ability, and intelligence. Hence people will understand and worship God in different ways. Jesus declared himself as the son and servant of God, Muhammad declared himself as the salve of God, and Lord Krishna declared and proved Himself as God. Those who accept this truth can live in peace with people of all religions.

The God of Christianity has NEVER been seen based on the Bible itself (John 1:18). The God of the Islam has NEVER been seen based on the Quran itself (Quran 6:103) and the Hadiths (Sahih al-Bukhari 3234). The God of the Bhagavad-Gita (Lord Krishna) has been seen and proven millions of times. This is because, God is one.

The Bible is split into two parts:

- **Old Testament (Earlier teachings of Bible God) – This has teachings of slavery, taking females captive, rape, hatred, stoning, intolerance, injustice, division of humanity into believers and unbelievers based on religion, murder, looting and so on...**
- **New Testament (Later teachings of Bible God) – This has the teachings of Jesus which are peaceful and loving.**

Those Christians who reject the Old Testament and follow the New Testament are good human beings.

The Quran is split into two parts:

- **The Meccan verses (Earlier revelations) – These have teachings of peace and tolerance.**
- **The Medina verses (Later revelations) – This has teachings of slavery, taking females captive, rape, hatred, stoning, intolerance, injustice, division of humanity into believers and unbelievers based on religion, murder, looting, taxation based on religion, and so on...**

Those Muslims who reject the Medina verses and follow the Meccan verses are good human beings.

The Bhagavad-Gita does not contain the harsh teachings mentioned above; instead, its message consistently emphasizes love and compassion for all living beings.

The Hindus who follow the Bhagavad-Gita are good human beings.

166. Is the Bhagavad-Gita Unchanged since it was Delivered?

Yes.

Original Language and Preservation

The Bhagavad-Gita was originally spoken in Sanskrit, and there is only one original Sanskrit text. Although many translations exist in English and other languages, the Sanskrit version remains singular and unchanged.

Continuity of the Sanskrit Text

The Sanskrit Bhagavad-Gita available today is the same text spoken by Lord Krishna 5,000 years ago. It has been carefully preserved and passed down without alteration.

Compilation and Transmission

Lord Krishna not only spoke the Bhagavad-Gita but also compiled it in written form through His incarnation as Ved Vyasa. This is the reason the Bhagavad-Gita has been preserved for more than 5,000 years.

By contrast, the Abrahamic scriptures have not been preserved. There are numerous versions with many differences.

167. What is Theistic and Atheistic?

In general, **theism** is the belief that God exists, while **atheism** is the belief that God does not exist.

Based on the Vedic scriptures, genuine theism goes beyond merely believing that God exists. It also includes the conviction that the Supreme Lord has revealed Himself to humanity and can be known through authentic spiritual revelation. Since God is eternal, all-knowing, and compassionate, the Vedic tradition teaches that He has made Himself known to sincere seekers by revealing His names, qualities, form, activities, and teachings.

The Bhagavad-Gita and the Srimad-Bhagavatam present Lord Krishna as the Supreme Personality of Godhead and provide detailed descriptions of His eternal form, attributes, pastimes, and relationship with all living beings. From the Vaishnava perspective, these scriptures offer the fullest revelation of the Supreme Lord.

For this reason, the Vedic tradition encourages spiritual inquiry rather than blind belief. It invites people to study the Bhagavad-Gita and other Vedic scriptures, examine the descriptions of Lord Krishna, and thoughtfully consider their teachings.

168. What are the Divine and Demonic Qualities?

Human beings have either divine or demonic qualities.

"There are two types of human beings in this world, one possessing the divine nature and the other possessing a demoniac nature..." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.6)

The divine qualities are listed in many Bhagavad-Gita verses including 16.1-3. Some of the qualities that are found in those with the divine nature are: Truthfulness, compassion, charity, cleanliness, non-violence, and engaged in spiritual education.

"Pride, arrogance, conceit, anger, harshness, ignorance, and wickedness – these are the marks of those with demoniac nature." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.4)

"Those with the demoniac nature, do not know what is right and what is wrong. Neither cleanliness, nor proper behavior, nor truthfulness is found in them." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.7)

169. Does God sustain all living beings?

Yes.

It is God's will that many kinds of people and animals exist. He sustains all living beings because they are His children.

- The sun does not shine only for the followers of one religion; it gives light to plants, animals, oceans, and all people.
- Plants do not provide fruits and vegetables only to one religious group; they nourish living beings everywhere.
- Rain does not fall only on land occupied by one religion; it falls wherever living beings need it.

"All species of living beings in this material creation appear by taking birth, and I am the seed giving father." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.4)

170. Do we originate from Adam and Eve?

No. The Abrahamic theory is that we originate from Adam and Eve, who lived around 6,000 years ago. The Vedic theory is that we originate from thousands of couples and not just one, and humans have existed for 155.522 trillion years in the current cosmic cycle.

The scientists have proven with genetic science that it's impossible for the human population of the world to originate from one couple (Adam and Eve). They have also proven that humans have existed for millions and not just 6,000 years. The bones of humans dating back to millions of years can be found in museums around the world.

171. Can you describe the Kingdom of God?

Only the Vedic scriptures answer this very important question.

"My supreme abode is not illuminated by the sun, moon, fire, or electricity. Those who go there, never come back to this material creation." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.6)

The kingdom of God is called Vaikuntha, the spiritual manifestation of Lord Krishna.

"The inhabitants of the Vaikuṇṭha planets are described as having a glowing sky-bluish complexion. Their eyes resemble lotus flowers, their dress is of yellowish color, and their bodily features very attractive. They are just the age of growing youths, they all have four hands, they are all nicely decorated with pearl necklaces with ornamental medallions, and they all appear to be effulgent. Some of them are effulgent like coral and diamonds in complexion and have garlands on their heads, blooming like lotus flowers, and some wear earrings. The Vaikuṇṭha planets are also surrounded by various airplanes, all glowing and brilliantly situated. These airplanes belong to the great mahātmās or devotees of the Lord. The ladies are as beautiful as lightning because of their celestial complexions, and all these combined together appear just like the sky decorated with both clouds and lightning." (Srimad-Bhagavatam 2.9.11-13)

After knowing the above, anyone who is truthful would immediately surrender unto Lord Krishna so they can go to His kingdom at the end of this short life.

172. Are the sinners doomed?

No. Lord Krishna is very merciful and forgiving. The sinners should immediately stop sinful activities, do good to others and worship Lord Krishna. They will be forgiven and go back to the spiritual manifestation at the end of this short life to live eternally in complete bliss.

"Even if you are the greatest sinner, when you are on the boat of spiritual knowledge, you will be able to cross over the river of miseries, caused by reactions to sinful activities." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.36)

This is yet another proof that Lord Krishna is God. He doesn't send people to eternal hell or burn people in fires. He is so nice that even the sinners can be saved simply by stopping all sinful activities and surrendering to Him. The main sinful activities are lying, treating others badly, animal killing (meat eating), intoxicating (drugs, alcohol, tobacco smoking/chewing), gambling, having relationships outside marriage, hatred, violence, anger, and greed. One should give up these sinful activities.

173. Why do Hindus have a mark (Tilak) on their forehead?

There are many reasons including:

- a. To show that one is a devotee of God and thus reminds one to live a responsible life taking only righteous actions
- b. The Vaishnavas (followers of Lord Krishna) have 2 lines which signify Radha and Krishna and the base which signifies Tulsi
- c. The mark on the forehead signifies that the body is a Temple, because the divine is present within. Lord Krishna is present within the heart of all living beings
- d. The women have a red dot to show that they are married

174. Why do Arti (ceremony of light)?

The ceremony of light (Arti) involves the following before the deity of God:

- a. Waving lighted wicks which are soaked in ghee (purified butter). This signifies light (the truth). The wave is clockwise, just like the clocks. This indicates progression or advancement of spiritual consciousness. Never anticlockwise, which indicates regression or degradation
- b. Offering water
- c. Offering flowers and incense
- d. Waving a charmer (wisp) or white cloth
- e. The Arti is started and ended with the blowing of a conch-shell

"The mind, intellect, ego, ether, air, fire, water, and earth are the eightfold division of My material energies. " (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.4)

By performing the Arti, we are offering the five gross material elements of creation to God, to thank and remember Him for everything He has given and done for us. Fire (light), water, earth (flowers), air and space (wiping), are the five gross material elements of creation. The mind, intellect, and ego are the three subtle elements. The blowing of the conch signifies scarring away bad qualities, awakening the good qualities, and other reasons.

175. Why surrender unto Lord Krishna?

"The divine illusionary energy of Mine [maya] consisting of the three modes of material nature is very difficult to overcome. Those who surrender unto Me can become free from it." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.14)

The three modes of material nature are: Goodness, passion, ignorance

Maya is Lord Krishna's illusory energy, which can be overcome only by His grace. We came from spiritual manifestation to material manifestation by our own desire, and maya keeps us here to satisfy our desires. By surrendering to Lord Krishna by following His instructions, we gradually transcend the three modes of material nature, become free from maya, and return to our original spiritual home.

176. How should one make work, business, or management decisions?

We must work or engage in some business to eat and pay our bills, this is necessary. But we must conduct our work or business using ethics.

- a. Focus on the work/business, but without attachment to the results
- b. Work hard
- c. Always do your best
- d. Timing is important
- e. Being responsive in a timely manner is important
- f. Don't be greedy
- g. Treat others fairly
- h. Keep proper and complete records (legal buy/sell documents, accounting, plans, personnel records, take references, and recommendations etc.)

177. For how long can you stand on one leg to prove your faith?

Millions of Lord Krishna's followers have shown their faith through severe penances, including standing on one leg with folded hands for years while meditating on Him. Such devotion demonstrates the extraordinary strength of their faith.

Those who are thoughtful should learn from these time-tested devotees and follow Sanatan-Dharma and Lord Krishna. It is Lord Krishna who empowers His devotees to perform such penances.

"I am the taste of water, the light of the moon and sun, the syllable 'aum' in the Vedic scriptures, the sound vibration in ether, and the ability in man." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.8)

178. Has Lord Krishna already Saved People?

Lord Krishna has already appeared and saved His followers millions of times, right here on this planet, and He is so nice. If you can't make it in this life, then you will get unlimited chances (reincarnation) and you will never be sent to hell eternally. But why waste this life? Just take shelter of Lord Krishna and make this your last miserable life.

There are many examples of Lord Krishna saving His followers:

- a. The 5 Pandava brothers were saved so many times. One example, they were on the battlefield for 18 days and although millions of others around them died, the 5 Pandava brothers were untouched.
- b. A boy called Prahlad was thrown off a cliff, thrown in fire, attacked with a sword, given poison, but still nothing happened to him, because Lord Krishna was saving him.
- c. A 5-year-old boy named Druva was in distress and performed severe penances for 6 months, then He saw Lord Krishna, face to Face.
- d. A woman named Draupadi was disrobed in front of many people, but still she could not be made naked, because Lord Krishna was supplying her with an unlimited length sari.
- e. Whenever Lord Krishna appears in Person, He saves His followers, and even when He doesn't appear in Person. He still saves His pure devotees, because He is omnipresent.

"Those who without deviation, meditate upon Me, worship Me, fix their mind on Me, and become attached to Me, I very quickly deliver them from material existence, which is an ocean of birth, death, and miseries." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 12.6-7)

There is only one person who has appeared and prove Himself as God, Lord Krishna.

179. What abilities does Lord Krishna have?

There are eighteen superior types of mystic siddhis (perfections), and five inferior perfections, which Lord Krishna has in full.

The eight primary perfections are as follows:

- 1) Anima-siddhi – The ability to decrease the size of one's body and become smaller than the smallest particle. Through this siddhi one may enter into stone or change the density in one's body, enabling one to pass through solid matter.
- 2) Mahima-siddhi – The ability to increase the size of one's body, ultimately enveloping the universe.
- 3) Laghima-siddhi – The ability to make one's body lighter than air and fly at will. The perfection of this siddhi enables one to travel on the sun's rays and enter into the sun planet.
- 4) Prapti-siddhi – The ability to manifest any object one desires within one's hand. This siddhi removes the limitations of space which separate two objects

from each other. It is said one will even be able to touch the moon with one's finger [i.e. the limitation of distance is removed].

- 5) Prakamya-siddhi – The ability to attain anything one desires.
- 6) Ishita-siddhi – The ability to control the sub-potencies of the laws of nature. This enables one to control various energies and seemingly defy the laws of nature. On the lowest level, one may make fire come from one's mouth, etc.
- 7) Vashita-siddhi – The ability to bring others under one's control.
- 8) Kamavasayita-siddhi – The ability to attain anything anywhere. This is the highest of the eight and contains most of the abilities of the other perfections.

The ten secondary perfections are as follows:

- 1) The ability to be free from hunger and thirst. With this perfection one no longer depends on food and water for maintenance of one's body. One will be able to sustain himself simply on prana, the life air.
- 2) The ability to hear things far away. With this perfection one can hear any conversation spoken anywhere in the world.
- 3) The ability to see things far away. With this perfection one develops a mystic vision, by which one can see any person or place. Sanjaya, the disciple of Vyasa, used this siddhi to see and hear the conversation between Krishna and Arjuna (known as Bhagavad-Gita) which took place on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, though he was situated far away.
- 4) The ability to travel at the speed of the mind. With this perfection one can travel great distances in a moment simply by thinking of the destination.
- 5) The ability to assume any form one desires. This enables one to change one's physical body at will.
- 6) The ability to enter the bodies of others. This perfection enables one to enter into the bodies of others and enjoy through their senses. Since ghosts do not have physical senses, they often resort to this to satisfy their desires through other's bodies.
- 7) The ability to control the time of one's death. With this perfection one may choose the time of leaving his body.
- 8) The ability to witness the pastimes between the demigods and the celestial girls called apsaras.
- 9) Satya-sankalpa – Perfect accomplishment of one's determination. Whatever one desires to happen will happen.
- 10) Satya-yak – Giving orders that are unimpeded. With this perfection one's very word is truth. Simply by saying something it occurs.

Besides the eighteen superior perfections, there are five inferior perfections as follows:

- 1) The ability to know past, present and future.
- 2) The ability to tolerate heat, cold and other dualities.
- 3) The ability to know the minds of others.
- 4) The ability to check the influence of fire, water, poison, and weapons.
- 5) The ability to remain unconquered by others.

Reference: Srimad-Bhagavatam, Canto 11, chapter 15: Lord Krsna's Description of Mystic Yoga Perfections

These eighteen superior mystic perfections and the five inferior perfections are the potencies of Lord Krishna, who is called Yogesvara, the Master of all mystic perfections. Anyone who claims to be God, must exhibit all these perfections, and if he cannot then he is not God, but an imposter. Lord Krishna is the only Person who has exhibited all these perfections, not just once, but millions of times. This is because, He is the only God.

Lord Krishna gives some of these mystic perfections to His pure devotees who want them. The Srimad-Bhagavatam and other Vedic scriptures give details on how one can acquire some of these mystic perfections. Those who have acquired one or more of these perfections are called mystic yogis, and these yogis have been seen walking on water, flying, transporting themselves from one place to another within a few seconds, materializing objects, changing forms, predicting the future, bringing back the dead, seeing the dead in their new life and so on. In the past, there were millions of mystic yogis, but now very few, as the potency has been reduced due to the influence of Kali Yuga.

"Wherever there is Yogeshvar, the master of all yogis, and wherever there is Arjuna, the expert archer, there will be opulence, power, victory, and morality." (Sanjaya to Dhrtarastra, Bhagavad-Gita 18.78)

180. Is acquiring Spiritual Knowledge Bhakti?

Yes. You will truly advance in devotional service unto God by studying and applying the knowledge in the Bhagavad-Gita and other Vedic scriptures. Not by jumping from one Temple to another. Religion without philosophical knowledge is just sentiment.

Please don't waste your time, energy, and money on travelling from one Temple to another, stay in one place and absorb the teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita. In this way you will truly advance. You cannot find Lord Krishna; He will find you when you become qualified.

By reading or listening to the Bhagavad-Gita or any Vedic scripture, this is considered performing Bhakti, devotional service unto Lord Krishna.

"Those who study this sacred dialogue of ours are worshipping Me with the yagna of knowledge." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.70)

"Knowledge [spiritual] is the cause of liberation and ignorance is the cause of bondage to material life." (Lord Krishna, Uddhava Gita).

Many people visit temples in India and elsewhere mainly for sightseeing, gaining little spiritual knowledge and often becoming distracted by material tourism. A genuine devotee seeks guidance and inner growth, but many temples fail to provide the spiritual education people need and instead function like money-making places.

True advancement in consciousness and devotional service comes from acquiring spiritual knowledge. Without studying the Bhagavad-Gita or learning from others, one cannot understand Lord Krishna's teachings. Arjuna bowed to Krishna and then listened to His instructions; he did not simply bow and leave.

When visiting holy places, people should serve by cleaning, maintaining the site, sharing spiritual knowledge, and helping others. Too often, visitors spend money, create waste, and give nothing back. God wants people not merely to bow down, but to change their consciousness through knowledge and benefit the environment, people, animals, and plants.

181. Why is the Bhagavad-Gita a Human Rights Scripture?

The following are against USA and International Human Rights Laws:

- Human slavery
- Human trading
- Taking females captive
- Stoning people to death
- Burning people
- Eternal punishment
- Looting
- Intolerance
- Taxation based on religion
- Division of humanity based on religion

All the above are very clearly advocated by the scriptures which originate from outside India. The Bhagavad-Gita does not advocate any of the above. Thus, the Bhagavad-Gita teachings comply with USA and international human rights laws.

The Bhagavad-Gita is the human values scripture and is most suitable for taking oaths for USA government positions including the presidency. All countries around the world should follow and use the Bhagavad-Gita for taking oaths on.

In contrast, the Abrahamic scriptures conflict with modern constitutional principles and internationally recognized human rights standards, particularly in areas such as freedom of religion, women's rights, the treatment of religious minorities, slavery, taking females captive, stoning people to death, taxation based on religion, and burning people eternally.

By comparison, the Vedic scriptures teach that every living being is an eternal soul, equal in spiritual value, and ultimately eligible to attain liberation through spiritual advancement. From the Vaishnava perspective, these teachings emphasize compassion, nonviolence, freedom of spiritual development, and respect for all living beings.

The Shrimad Bhagavad-Gita is a Human Rights Scripture

The Shrimad Bhagavad-Gita teachings comply with USA Constitution/Laws and International Human Rights Laws. It promotes human rights (peaceful existence for all humans) and thus is most suitable for following and taking oath on for government positions in every country.

The Shrimad Bhagavad-Gita **DOES NOT** advocate any of the following inhumane and evil ideologies:

	Slavery		Dividing humans into believers and unbelievers based on religion
	Stoning people to death		Intolerance for other religions
	Taking females captive and raping them		Hatred and Injustice
	Looting		Taxation based on religion
	Torment and torture people eternally		Instilling fear

“One who is not envious but is a kind friend to all living entities... - such a devotee of Mine is very dear to Me.”
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 12.13-14)



“Do not injure, abuse, oppress, enslave, insult, torment, torture, or kill any creature or living being.”
(Jainism - Founded by Lord Krishna's Rasbhadeva incarnation)



Live with **Loyalty, Honesty, Compassion, Justice, and Service to Others.**



Justice and love
for all living beings

182. What is Universal Knowledge?

That knowledge which exists beyond this planet and in other universes is called universal knowledge. That knowledge which cannot exist beyond this planet is called non-universal, and thus man-made knowledge.

Only the Vedic scriptures exist beyond this planet and thus the Vedic knowledge is universal. In this universe, the Vedic knowledge was first imparted to Brahma at the beginning of creation. This was 155.522 trillion years ago. Vedic knowledge is also established in millions of other universes.

"O great one, you pervade from outer space to Earth in all directions, seeing you in this wonderful and terrifying form of yours, all the planetary systems are disturbed." (Arjuna to Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 11.20)

Only the Vedic knowledge is eternal and universal. This is because it comes from God, Lord Krishna.

183. What are the four Yugas (Ages)?

Just as there are four seasons, there are four ages in which we keep circulating, one after the other:

Satya Yuga: The age of truth. Only one religion (Sanatan Dharma) exists in the whole world. The Yuga lasts 1.728 million years and the lifespan of humans is 100,000 years. People are mostly self-satisfied, merciful, and friendly to all living beings. They derive pleasure from within, see all things equally, and always endeavor for spiritual advancement.

Treta Yuga: The introduction of ignorance takes place in this age, but still only one religion exists in the whole world. The Yuga lasts 1.296 million years and the lifespan of humans is 10,000 years. People are devoted to rituals and severe austerities, but the principles of religion are reduced by 25%.

Dvapara Yuga: Decline in the truth and religious values take effect in this age, but still only one religion is followed in the whole World. The Yuga lasts 864,000 years and the lifespan of humans is 1000 years. People devote themselves to the study of the Vedas, are very opulent and enjoy life with large families, but the principles of religion are reduced by 50%. Dissatisfaction, untruth, violence and enmity increase.

Kali Yuga: The age of darkness, ignorance, and degradation. Many man made religions and deviations blossom in the World. The Yuga lasts 432,000 years and the lifespan of humans is 100 years at the beginning, and this gradually reduces to 12 years. People tend to be greedy, badly behaved, obsessed with material desires, and will fight with one another without any reasons. Only 25% of the principles of religion remain and these gradually decrease by the increasing principles of irreligion (mainly untruth, violence, enmity, dissatisfaction, following unknown/unproven/unseen characters as God).

We are currently 5000 years into Kali Yuga. As each day passes, man is becoming more ignorant and degraded. The result of which is more suffering for mankind.

184. What is the Life Span of Lord Brahma?

The lifespan of Lord Brahma is 311.040 trillion years.

As mentioned in the verses (8.17-19), one day of Lord Brahma lasts one thousand cycles of the four yugas.

"One day of Brahma lasts one thousand cycles of four yugas [4.32 billion years]. The night is also of the same duration. At the start of Brahma's day, all living beings become manifested from the un-manifest state. Then at night, all living beings become un-manifest again. This is repeated again, and again. At the beginning of each day of Brahma, all living beings are manifested, and at night, they are helplessly un-manifested." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 8.17-19)

1000 cycles of the four yugas is:

$$1000 \times (1.728 + 1.296 + 0.864 + 0.432) = 100 \times (4.32 \text{ Million})$$

$$= 4320 \text{ Million} = 4.32 \text{ Billion years}$$

One day (12 hours) of Brahma is 4.32 Billion Earth years, and he lives for 100 of his years, which is 311 trillion, 40 billion years for us.

$$4.32 \text{ Billion} \times 2 \times 30 \times 12 \times 100 = 311 \text{ trillion, 40 billion years.}$$

Just think how fantastic the life of Brahma is compared to us, but even he must die one day, and he has already lived for 155.522 trillion years, this is his current age, and half his long life is over. We live a very short life of at most 100 years and should realize that this material life is meant for spiritual realization and not material accumulation and attachments. We are working like donkeys to accumulate properties, and bank balances, but this is all a complete waste of life. If we don't use our time, energy, and wealth in the service of Lord Krishna.

185. Who is Omnipresent, Omnipotent, and Omniscient?



**Who is
ॐnipresent, ॐnipotent,
and ॐniscient?**

ॐnnipresent, meaning
He is present everywhere.
“I am everywhere.”
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 9.5)

ॐnnipotent, meaning
He is the greatest.
“With a single particle of Myself [Krishna],
I maintain the entire creation.”
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.42)

ॐniscient, meaning
He is all knowing. He knows the
past, present, and the future of everyone.
“I completely know the past, the present,
and the future. I also know all living beings,
but no one really knows Me.”
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.26)

Lord Krishna is ॐnipresent, ॐnipotent, and ॐniscient
He is the Origin of the Material and Spiritual Manifestations

186. What is the most practical spiritual advice for today?

What is the value of gaining millions of followers on social media if, at the same time, your own soul has no followers?

What is the value of having millions of online connections when you are disconnected with your own soul?

What is the value of becoming deeply attached to the temporary body and the material world when you are not the body but the eternal soul?

What is the value of spending hours each day on idle talk, entertainment, and distractions if they draw your mind away from self-realization and devotion to God which can prevent you from becoming degraded and entering lower species?

According to the Vedic scriptures, human life is meant for spiritual advancement. Therefore, we should use modern technology wisely rather than allowing it to control our lives.

Practical spiritual guidance:

- Limit unnecessary use of social media and digital entertainment.
- Use your mobile phone as a useful tool, not as a constant source of distraction.
- When visiting a temple, attending spiritual discourses (*kathas*), or performing devotional practices, silence your phone and give your full attention to the Lord.
- Teach children healthy and balanced technology habits while encouraging reading, service, prayer, and time with family.
- Spend time each day studying the Bhagavad-Gita and the Srimad-Bhagavatam.
- Chant the **Hare Krishna maha-mantra or other mantras** regularly and keep your mind fixed on Lord Krishna.
- Serve cows.

Social media and smartphones are not inherently good or bad. They can be used to spread spiritual knowledge, stay in touch with loved ones, and serve society. However, when they consume excessive time, promote endless distractions, or increase material attachment, they can divert the mind from its true purpose.

The Vedic scriptures teach that the mind becomes shaped by whatever it repeatedly hears, sees, and contemplates. Therefore, if the mind is constantly absorbed in worldly distractions, it becomes more materially conditioned. If it is absorbed in hearing about Lord Krishna, chanting His holy names, studying and distributing spiritual knowledge, it becomes purified and spiritually elevated.

Don't become addicted to distraction, become addicted to Lord Krishna by following and distributing His teachings.

Stay connected with Lord Krishna more than with social media.

Let your greatest daily connection be through prayer, chanting, the Bhagavad-Gita, the Srimad-Bhagavatam, and loving devotional service. These are the activities that purify the heart, transform consciousness, and lead the soul toward its eternal destination.

"Humility, pridelessness, nonviolence, forgiveness, honesty, simplicity, service to a genuine spiritual master (guru), good thoughts/words and physical cleanliness, steadfastness and self-control, aversion for the objects of sense gratification, absence of ego, constant reflection on the pain and suffering of birth, old age, disease, and death, nonattachment with family members, home, etc., steadiness amid pleasant and unpleasant events, constant and unalloyed devotion to Me [Krishna], taste for solitude, distaste for social gatherings and gossips, steadfastness in acquiring the knowledge of self-realization, and search for the absolute truth— I declare all this to be real knowledge. That which is contrary to this is ignorance. (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 13.8-12)

"Just become My devotee, always think of Me, bow down to Me, and worship Me. Then you will come to Me, without fail. I promise you this, as you are very dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.65)

187. What is the purpose of the material creation?

Material creation consists of millions of universes. The purpose is to present an illusion of reality to the bewildered mind of the conditioned soul, who appear in many species in various situations. For example, it is an illusion to think that money will bring happiness, because it brings more problems in life and repeated birth.

"The illusioned living entity appears in so many forms offered by the external energy of the Lord. While enjoying in the modes of material nature, the encaged living entity misconceives, thinking in terms of 'I' and 'mine.' " (Srimad-Bhagavatam 2.9.2)

188. Are you the Slave or Servant of God?

We are the servants of God (Lord Krishna) and not His slaves. A servant has rights and free will and a slave has no rights nor free will.

"I have explained to you the most confidential knowledge. Now, think about it and then do as you wish." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.63)

Lord Krishna states in the above verse 'do as you wish'. This means we have rights and free will to follow Him or not. Lord Krishna is not a dictator. He is the God of love, mercy, and justice.

189. Should Women be Taken Captive?

Never.

Based on the Vedic principles of dharma, women should be treated with dignity, respect, and protection. Taking women captive, enslaving them, or treating them as property is contrary to Vedic principles.

The Mahabharata describes a devastating war in which millions of warriors lost their lives, leaving many women widowed and many children without their fathers. Yet the Vedic ideal presented in the epic is that women were not to be treated as spoils of war or taken captive for personal gain. The emphasis is on restoring righteousness (*dharma*), not exploiting the vulnerable. Not a single female was taken captive in the Mahabharat war and Lord Krishna was personally present there.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that every living being is an eternal soul, equal in spiritual value before God. From the Vaishnava perspective, this understanding naturally leads to respect for the dignity and worth of every person, regardless of gender.

Modern international humanitarian law prohibits practices such as slavery, human trafficking, and the taking of civilians—including women—as captives. In this respect, the Vedic ideal of protecting women and upholding their dignity is consistent with these humanitarian principles.

Based on the Vaishnava tradition, true religion is measured not by power or conquest, but by compassion, justice, good treatment of women, and respect for every living being as an eternal soul. These principles encourage the protection of the vulnerable and reject cruelty, exploitation, and oppression.

(Reference: Mahabharata)

190. What are the Demoniatic Qualities?

"Pride, arrogance, conceit, anger, harshness, ignorance, and wickedness – these are the marks of those with demoniac nature." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 16.4)

We must give up the above demoniac qualities by treating everyone fairly and nicely, respecting everyone and accepting the differences, being open minded and humble with everyone, and developing the nature of giving and serving everyone.

191. Why Must You Reduce Your False Ego?

Based on the Vedic scriptures, when we leave this body, the subtle body—consisting of the mind, intelligence, and false ego—accompanies the eternal soul to its next body. Therefore, the consciousness we develop in this life shapes our future destination.

For this reason, we should strive to cultivate a pure mind, develop spiritual intelligence, and gradually eliminate false ego. As our consciousness becomes purified through following instructions from Lord Krishna and worshipping Him. We

move closer to liberation from the cycle of birth and death. The Vaishnava tradition teaches that in the spiritual world there is no false ego, because every soul joyfully understands its eternal relationship with the Supreme Lord and others. Our false ego arises due to ignorance, caused by greed, lack of knowledge, lust, and identifying ourselves with the temporary material body and thinking of only one life. Instead of thinking of our eternal soul and eternal existence.

A person influenced by false ego will think:

- I am greater than everyone else.
- I am pure, and everyone else is impure.
- Only I am right; everyone else is wrong.
- I know everything; others know very little.
- I am superior to others.
- I am sinless, while others are sinful.
- My wealth makes me more important.
- I deserve the best, while others deserve less.
- My appearance makes me superior.
- My possessions are better than everyone else's.
- My education makes me more valuable.
- I am the controller of my own destiny.
- I can do whatever I want without consequences.
- God is especially close to me alone.
- Only I am a true devotee.
- My path is the only valid path.
- I am the most intelligent person.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that such attitudes arise from identifying with temporary material designations rather than with our true spiritual identity.

True humility does not mean thinking poorly of oneself. It means understanding that every living being is an eternal soul, equal in spiritual value, and that all abilities, wealth, knowledge, and opportunities ultimately come from the mercy of God.

The great Vaishnava teachers therefore encourage us to think of ourselves not as masters, but as the servant of the servant of the servant of Lord Krishna. By cultivating humility, compassion, gratitude, and devotion, false ego gradually disappears, the heart becomes purified, and the soul progresses toward its eternal home in the spiritual abode of Lord Krishna.

"One who does not hate anyone, is friendly and compassionate to all living beings, shares his belongings with others, has no sense of ownership, free from ego; even-minded in both happiness and distress, forgiving, tolerant in all situations, always satisfied, worships Me with determination and devotion. Such a person is very dear to Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 12.13-14)

192. What can Humans Learn from the Trees?

- The trees can stand in one place all their life, because they do not read the newspapers which are full of non-sense events around the world which only disturb the mind and thus one is not able to stand still.
- The trees can stand in one place all their life, because they do not have a cell phone. The cell phone constantly rings and causes the mouth to vibrate and spit out non-sense words (talk) which only disturbs the mind and thus one is not able to stand still.
- The trees can stand in one place all their life, because they do not have an email account. So many non-sense emails come and go which only disturb the mind and thus one is not able to stand still.
- The trees can stand in one place all their life, because they do not have a face book account. Social media accounts are more addictive than drugs. One cannot stand still for a moment without wondering who has said what on their face book account.
- The trees can stand in one place all their life, because they do not chase the opposite sex. Male humans are like male donkeys. The female donkey kicks the male donkey on the face and this is taken as complimentary by the male donkeys, who want even more.
- The trees can stand in one place all their life, because they do not go on shopping spree to buy useless items which only makes them more materialistic and binds them to material life.
- The trees can stand in one place all their life, because they are so tolerant. Dogs pee on them, people cut them down, the harsh weather freezes or burns them, but still the trees do not protest. Humans cannot stand still because they are full of intolerance towards others.
- The trees can stand in one place all their life, because they are free from ego. They are not envious of others; they are not jealous of others. Humans cannot stand still because they are full of ego and thus their mind is always flickering and in anxiety.
- The trees can stand in one place all their life, because they allow others to exist freely. They believe in free will, freedom of thought, freedom of beliefs, and freedom of expression. Humans cannot stand still because they believe their way is the only way and thus cannot tolerate others.

***"One who is able to withdraw his senses from sense objects, as the tortoise draws its limbs within the shell, is firmly fixed in perfect consciousness."
(Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 2.58)***

193. Why should you Plant Trees and not Cement?

Everywhere in India and other countries, people are destroying trees and grass, replacing them with buildings. People have lost their basic common sense. Please stop this nonsense now by saving trees and planting more trees and grass.

The result of destroying trees is intense heat, more pollution, less oxygen, stone hearted mentalities, and higher food prices.

In Bhagavad-Gita 12.13-14, Lord Krishna very clearly states that one who is friendly and compassionate to all living beings is very dear to Him. Trees and grass are living beings with an eternal soul. They are also part of Lord Krishna

194. Why Should You Visit People Rather Than Cement (Cities and buildings)?

Buildings, monuments, and cities may impress the eyes, but it is people who enrich our lives and help us grow. Material structures have their place, but meaningful relationships are far more valuable.

People can:

- Give wise guidance; buildings cannot.
- Teach us valuable lessons; buildings cannot.
- Share love, kindness, and compassion; buildings cannot.
- Offer encouragement during difficult times; buildings cannot.
- Help us when we are in need; buildings cannot.
- Bless and inspire us; buildings cannot.
- Become lifelong friends; buildings cannot.
- Bring joy, comfort, and meaningful companionship; buildings cannot.

Buildings are useful, but people matter most.

Based on the Bhagavad-Gita, every living being is an eternal soul and deserves respect, kindness, and compassion. The Vedic tradition encourages us to cultivate loving relationships, visit family and friends, care for one another, and exchange spiritual knowledge and goodwill.

There is nothing wrong with appreciating beautiful places or remarkable architecture. However, we should not become so absorbed in material attractions that we neglect the people around us. A meaningful conversation, an act of kindness, or time spent with loved ones often has far greater and longer-lasting value than simply admiring buildings or tourist attractions.

Therefore, make time to visit your family, relatives, friends, neighbors, and fellow devotees. Share kindness, exchange spiritual wisdom, encourage one another, and strengthen relationships based on compassion and devotion.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that love, service, and kindness toward all living beings are among the highest expressions of spiritual life.

195. Should a Person Be Punished for the Crimes of His Grandfather?

No.

A person should not be punished for crimes committed by his or her parents, grandparents, or other ancestors.

Modern systems of justice generally hold individuals accountable for their own actions rather than for the actions of previous generations. Similarly, the Vedic doctrine of **karma** teaches that every individual experiences the consequences of his or her own actions.

The law of karma is a fundamental teaching of Sanatan-Dharma. It teaches that every action produces a corresponding reaction, and each soul is responsible for the choices it makes. In this sense, every person bears responsibility for his or her own "account" of actions rather than inheriting the moral consequences of another person's deeds.

From the Vaishnava perspective, God is perfectly just as well as infinitely compassionate. Therefore, the Vedic tradition teaches that the Supreme Lord judges each soul according to its own actions, intentions, and consciousness—not according to the actions of parents, grandparents, or forefathers.

The Bhagavad-Gita presents life as an intelligent moral order governed by the law of karma. Our present choices shape our future experiences, and by living righteously, cultivating spiritual knowledge, and engaging in devotion to Lord Krishna, we can purify our consciousness and progress toward liberation.

Thus, the Vedic teaching emphasizes **personal responsibility**: we are accountable for our own actions, and we also have the opportunity to transform our future through righteous living.

"At death, those who have developed the mode of goodness, will go to the higher planets where the saintly persons live. Those who have developed the mode of passion, will take birth among those engaged in materialistic activities. Those who have developed the mode of ignorance, will take birth in the animal kingdom." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.14-15)

"Those who are situated in the mode of goodness, go to the heavenly planets. Those in the mode of passion will take birth on planets like Earth. Those in the mode of ignorance will take birth on the hellish planets or in the animal kingdom." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 14.18)

196. How Can One Recognize the True God?

Based on the Vedic standards, the Supreme Lord possesses perfect qualities and acts with complete justice, compassion, wisdom, and love. A true conception of God should be consistent with these divine qualities.

From this perspective, the Supreme Lord:

- Is eternal and real, not imaginary or temporary.
- Reveals Himself to sincere seekers rather than remaining forever unknown.
- Ensures justice for every living being through the law of karma.
- Is perfectly forgiving and gives souls repeated opportunities for spiritual progress.
- Is infinitely merciful and desires the ultimate welfare of every soul.
- Is truthful, responsible, and never acts unjustly.
- Never encourages hatred, cruelty, or unnecessary violence.
- Inspires love, compassion, and respect for all living beings.
- Gives every soul free will and does not force anyone to love or worship Him.
- Sees all living beings equally as His eternal children.
- Maintains and cares for all living beings, regardless of their beliefs.
- Never acts out of selfishness, envy, or partiality.
- Never needs to exploit, oppress, or dominate others.
- Is beyond birth, death, suffering, and material limitations.
- Possesses unlimited knowledge, unlimited power, unlimited beauty, unlimited wealth, unlimited fame, and unlimited renunciation.
- Reveals spiritual knowledge for the benefit of humanity throughout time.
- Personally speaks and reveals His teachings through divine revelation.
- Is the creator, maintainer, and ultimate shelter of all living beings.

Based on the Vedic scriptures, these qualities are fully revealed in the Bhagavad-Gita and the Srimad-Bhagavatam, which describe the names, form, qualities, activities, and pastimes of Lord Krishna in detail.

For this reason, followers of the Vaishnava tradition conclude that Lord Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. They believe that He perfectly embodies all divine qualities—unlimited justice, mercy, compassion, wisdom, beauty, love, and power—and that by understanding His teachings and engaging in loving devotional service, every soul can attain its eternal relationship with Him.

"I, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna..." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 7.24)

"I am transcendental, beyond the fallible and infallible, and because I am the greatest, I am celebrated as the Supreme person, on the material, and spiritual planets, and in the Vedas." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 15.18)

197. What Indicates Genuine Spiritual Advancement?

External religious activities alone do not necessarily indicate genuine spiritual advancement. Visiting temples, making pilgrimages, performing worship (*puja*), chanting mantras, and practicing austerities are valuable when they purify the heart and transform one's character. Their true purpose is to cultivate devotion to God and develop divine qualities.

Real spiritual progress is reflected in how a person thinks, speaks, and behaves toward others.

According to the divine qualities described in **Bhagavad-Gita 16.1–3**, a spiritually advanced person strives to:

1. Always speak the truth.
2. Be honest, trustworthy, and faithful to promises.
3. Be humble and respectful toward everyone.
4. Serve God and help others according to one's ability.
5. Forgive the mistakes of others and remain tolerant during difficulties.
6. Be grateful for what one has and content with simple living.
7. Gradually reduce false ego, pride, lust, anger, greed, and envy.
8. Avoid causing unnecessary pain or harm to any living being.
9. Show kindness, compassion, and goodwill toward everyone.
10. Maintain cleanliness in body, mind, and habits.
11. Practice charity according to one's means.
12. Avoid harmful habits such as intoxication, gambling, and unnecessary violence.
13. Work for the welfare and spiritual upliftment of all living beings.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that these qualities—not merely external rituals—are the true signs of spiritual advancement. A person may perform many religious ceremonies, but unless these practices produce humility, compassion, truthfulness, service to others, tolerance, and devotion to Lord Krishna, their spiritual purpose has not yet been fully realized.

Thus, genuine spirituality is measured not by outward appearance or religious rituals alone, but by the transformation of one's heart and the development of divine character.

“A devotee who faithfully worships the Deity in the temple but does not behave properly with other devotees or people in general is called a materialistic devotee and is in the lowest position.” (Srimad-Bhagavatam 11.2.47)

Looking religious has no value. Purity is good thoughts and taking actions which benefit everyone.

198. What Are the Symptoms of a Genuine Spiritual Master?

Based on the Vedic scriptures, a genuine spiritual master (*guru*) is recognized not merely by learning or external appearance, but by his character, conduct, realization, and faithful adherence to the teachings of God. His life should exemplify the principles he teaches.

A genuine spiritual master strives to:

1. Always speak the truth.
2. Be humble, tolerant, forgiving, kind, and compassionate toward everyone.
3. Be free from lust, greed, anger, envy, and unnecessary violence.
4. Show kindness and respect to all living beings, including animals.
5. Promote harmony rather than creating unnecessary conflict or division.
6. Encourage strong moral character, family values, and responsible living.
7. Use donations responsibly and never exploit followers for personal wealth or luxury.
8. Be genuinely concerned for the welfare and spiritual advancement of others.
9. Show love and compassion to all people, regardless of whether they become followers.
10. Teach in accordance with the Vedic scriptures and support teachings with scriptural references.
11. Live simply, honestly, and without unnecessarily burdening others.
12. Lead by serving others rather than seeking personal prestige.
13. Treat all people with fairness and respect, without favoritism based on wealth, status, or background.
14. Humbly acknowledge that spiritual knowledge is received through a genuine disciplic succession and faithfully passed on to others.
15. Live transparently, with a life and character that can withstand sincere examination.
16. Teach that serving and caring for others is an important expression of devotion to God, recognizing the presence of the Supreme within every living being.
17. Give sincere guidance to help people solve spiritual and practical problems according to scriptural principles.
18. Faithfully care for and guide those who have accepted him as their spiritual teacher while showing kindness and respect to everyone.
19. Set an example through personal conduct, inspiring others by how he lives rather than by words alone.
20. Responds to questions and time disciplined.

Based on the Vaishnava tradition, the true measure of a spiritual master is not fame, miracles, wealth, or the number of followers, but purity of character, fidelity to the scriptures, selfless service, compassion, and unwavering devotion to Lord Krishna. His life should inspire others to develop the same divine qualities and deepen their relationship with the Supreme Lord.

"The symptoms of a sadhu are that he is tolerant, merciful, and friendly to all living entities. He has no enemies, he is peaceful, he abides by the scriptures, and all his characteristics are sublime." (Srimad-Bhagavatam 3.25.21)

"A sober person who can tolerate the urge to speak, the mind's demands, the actions of anger and the urges of the tongue, belly and genitals is qualified to make disciples all over the world." (Nectar of Instruction, text 1)

"The Supreme Lord said: O Uddhava, My devotee is very merciful to everyone and has no ill feeling towards any living entity. They are very tolerant and do not allow sinful desires to disturb them and they abide by the truth. They see everyone's pain and pleasure as their own and they work for everyone's ultimate benefit." (Srimad-Bhagavatam 11.11.29)

Nowadays, there are many bogus gurus who are only interested in collecting money and taking service for their own benefit. They have no interest in helping people to progress in spirituality and solve their problems in life. So be aware of this and don't judge anyone based on their clothing, name, or position held. Judge them by how they treat everyone and what they are doing for the benefit of everyone.

It is false to think that anyone who dresses saintly has the qualities of a saint. There are many ordinary people in t-shirt and jeans who have more saintly qualities than many who dress up in saintly clothing. It is also false to only serve and support those who are dressed up in saintly clothing. One should serve and support even those in t-shirt and jeans if they are doing saintly work. It's the actions taken that matter and not the clothing, name, and position held.

We do need to use our intelligence and not blindly accept, because there are many bogus gurus. The Vedic teaching is that the mother, father, and husband (for a married girl) are the highest authority. Because it is they who will maintain and care for you the most.

"You can get true knowledge and understanding by serving and inquiring from a self-realized spiritual master who has seen the truth." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 4.34)

Materialistic means bodily consciousness and thus sense gratification (engaging in violence/raids/sex/slavery, attachment to women and objects, intoxications). One should never accept a materialistic person as a Guru. One should only hear and learn religious values from saintly persons.

199. What is the Evidence for God?

The existence, cosmic order, and complexity of the universe point to an intelligent Supreme Being rather than to blind chance alone.

The following are philosophical reasons that contemplate the existence of God:

- **The existence of life.** Human beings can study living organisms, but they have not created life itself from non-living matter. The continual appearance of new life throughout nature is understood as evidence of a supreme source of life.
- **The order of the universe.** The universe operates according to remarkably consistent natural laws. From the Vedic perspective, such order reflects intelligent governance rather than randomness.

- **The complexity of living organisms.** Trees produce fruits, flowers, and seeds through intricate biological processes. The Vedic tradition sees this complexity as evidence of intelligent design.
- **The remarkable abilities of living beings.** For example, a cow transforms grass and water into nourishing milk through biological processes that humans can study but did not invent. This is viewed as part of the wisdom inherent in creation.
- **The power of the sun.** The sun continuously provides enormous amounts of energy that sustain life on Earth. The Vedic scriptures regard such cosmic order and power as reflecting the intelligence and energy of the Supreme Lord.
- **The regularity of nature.** The predictable succession of day and night, seasons, planetary motions, and natural cycles suggests an orderly universe governed by consistent principles.
- **The diversity of life.** The existence of countless species, each with unique characteristics and functions, is understood in the Vedic tradition as part of an intentional and purposeful creation.
- **The uniqueness of every individual.** Every human being possesses unique physical features and personality. The Vedic view sees this individuality as reflecting the uniqueness of each eternal soul.
- **The harmony of the human body.** The body's remarkable organization and coordination are viewed as signs of purposeful design.
- **The variety of consciousness.** Different species exhibit different capacities, instincts, and behaviors. According to the Vedic scriptures, these differences arise from the soul's embodiment according to the law of karma.
- **Intelligence behind organization.** Just as a building ordinarily requires architects and builders, the Vedic tradition argues that the order and complexity of the universe point to an intelligent supreme cause.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that the Supreme Lord, Lord Krishna, is the source, sustainer, and ultimate controller of all existence. From the Vaishnava perspective, the beauty, order, complexity, and intelligibility of the universe are not merely accidents but reflections of the wisdom and power of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

These considerations are intended as philosophical reasons to reflect on the existence of God. By studying the Bhagavad-Gita, cultivating devotion, and practicing Bhakti-yoga, one gradually comes to realize the presence of the Supreme Lord through personal spiritual experience.

"I am the origin of all creations. There is nothing, moving or non-moving, that can exist without Me." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.39)

"With a single particle of Myself [Krishna], I maintain the entire creation." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 10.42)

Reflecting on the Existence and Greatness of God

According to the Vaishnava tradition, Lord Krishna is unlimited in His greatness. The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that the entire material creation is sustained by only a fraction of His unlimited energy. Such descriptions are intended to help us appreciate the immeasurable nature of the Supreme Lord.

The following analogies are offered as philosophical reflections on why the existence of suffering or our inability to perceive God directly does not necessarily imply that God does not exist.

The Barber

A barber says, "There is no God, because if God existed there would be no poverty, disease, or suffering."

Someone replies, "There are many people with long hair and unshaven faces. Does that mean barbers do not exist?"

The barber answers, "No. Those people simply have not come to me."

Likewise, the Vaishnava tradition teaches that many people do not seek God or follow His spiritual instructions and therefore continue to experience the consequences of material life.

The Doctor

A doctor says, "If God exists, why is there so much disease?"

Someone replies, "There are many sick people. Does that mean doctors do not exist?"

The doctor answers, "People must come to us and follow treatment."

Similarly, spiritual healing requires sincerely approaching God and applying His teachings.

The Painter

Many buildings remain unpainted, yet no one concludes that painters do not exist.

Likewise, the existence of suffering does not, by itself, demonstrate the nonexistence of God.

The Banker

Banks contain money, but they do not distribute loans indiscriminately. People must meet certain qualifications.

The Vaishnava tradition similarly teaches that spiritual realization requires sincere effort, humility, and qualification.

The Optician

An optician helps only those who come seeking treatment.

Likewise, the Bhagavad-Gita teaches that those who sincerely seek God gradually gain spiritual vision.

The Desert

A person living in a desert may never have seen a waterfall, but that does not prove waterfalls do not exist.

Similarly, from the Vaishnava perspective, not personally seeing God does not prove that God cannot be known.

"Nobody Has Seen God"

No one can know everything that every person throughout history has experienced. Therefore, the statement "nobody has seen God" goes beyond what any individual can verify.

The Vedic scriptures describe many devotees who experienced direct realization of the Supreme Lord.

The Pilot

Millions of people have never flown in an airplane, yet pilots certainly exist.

Likewise, the Vaishnava tradition teaches that one approaches God through authentic spiritual guidance and disciplined practice.

The Medical Professor

Not everyone has attended medical school, yet no one doubts that medical colleges exist.

Similarly, spiritual realization requires study, discipline, and sincere practice.

The Athlete

Becoming an accomplished athlete requires dedication, training, and perseverance.

The Bhagavad-Gita teaches that spiritual realization likewise requires sincere effort and devotion.

The Cleaner

The existence of dirty places does not prove there are no cleaners.

Likewise, the existence of disorder in the world does not necessarily imply the absence of God.

The Blind Person

A blind person's inability to see others does not mean that no one exists.

Similarly, the Vaishnava tradition teaches that our inability to perceive God may reflect the limitations of our own spiritual vision rather than the absence of God.

"God Must Appear Before Me"

Some say they will believe in God only if He appears before them.

The Vaishnava tradition replies that the Supreme Lord is not obliged to satisfy demands made from skepticism. Rather, the Bhagavad-Gita teaches that God reveals Himself to those who sincerely approach Him with humility, devotion, and a genuine desire for truth.

Reading the Right Source

If someone wishes to study engineering, they consult engineering textbooks rather than cookbooks.

Similarly, the Vaishnava tradition teaches that if one sincerely wishes to understand Lord Krishna, one should study the Bhagavad-Gita, the Srimad-Bhagavatam, and the other Vedic scriptures, which are regarded within that tradition as revealing His nature, qualities, activities, and teachings.

From the Vaishnava perspective, the greatest evidence for God is not merely philosophical argument but personal spiritual realization. By studying the Vedic scriptures, associating with genuine spiritual teachers, practicing **Bhakti-yoga**, and cultivating devotion to Lord Krishna, a seeker gradually comes to know the Supreme Lord through direct spiritual experience.

200. What is the Essence of the Bhagavad-Gita Teachings?

Live with loyalty, honesty, kindness, justice, and service to others.

"Just become My devotee, always think of Me, bow down to Me, and worship Me. Then you will come to Me, without fail. I promise you this, as you are very dear to Me. Give up all other religious beliefs and just surrender unto Me [Krishna]. I will release you from all your sins. Do not worry." (Lord Krishna, Bhagavad-Gita 18.65-66)

Practical Daily Life Teachings from The Shrimad Bhagavad-Gita

Live a Pious Life

- ✓ Be truthful
- Be kind to everyone
- Be loving and caring
- Be a servant to everyone
- Be respectful to everyone
- Be charitable
- Be satisfied with what you have

The Shrimad Bhagavad-Gita was spoken to a very pious person, Arjuna.

Do Your Duties to the Best of Your Ability

- Wife duties
- Husband duties
- Children duties
- Soldier duties
- Occupational duties
- Business duties

The Shrimad Bhagavad-Gita was spoken to get Arjuna to do his duty.

Think of Lord Krishna

- Perform pujas
- Perform Deity worship
- Chant mantras
- Do some service in the local Temple
- Offer water, leaf, or flower to Deity
- Distribute Vedic knowledge

Thinking of Lord Krishna and following His instructions is Bhakti (devotional service unto God).

“Fearlessness, purification of one’s existence, cultivation of spiritual knowledge, charity, self-control, performance of sacrifice, study of the Vedas, austerity and simplicity; nonviolence, truthfulness, freedom from anger; renunciation, tranquility, aversion to faultfinding, compassion and freedom from covetousness; gentleness, modesty and steady determination; vigor, forgiveness, fortitude, cleanliness, freedom from envy and the passion for honor—these transcendental qualities, O son of Bharata, belong to godly men endowed with divine nature.”

(Lord Krishna, Shrimad Bhagavad-Gita 16.1-3)



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Inspiration to live with truthfulness, humility, courage, and compassion

Like a lotus rising from muddy water without being touched, live in the complex material world without being touched by its impurities.

