



Ancient Vedic Mantras and Rituals





Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Chapter-3 Shalok-35 | श्रीमद् भगवद्गीता अध्याय तीन-श्लोक पैंतीस | PDF

Chapter 3 – Karma Yoga

Verse 35

Sanskrit Verse

Śhreyān sva-dharmo viguṇaḥ para-dharmāt sv-anuṣṭhitāt
|
Sva-dharme nidhanaṁ śhreyaḥ para-dharmo bhayāvahaḥ
॥35॥

Simple Meaning

Lord Krishna says:

It is far better to perform one's own duty, even if imperfectly, than to perform another person's duty perfectly. Even death while performing one's own duty is beneficial, whereas following another's path is dangerous.

Detailed Explanation

The Importance of One's Own Duty





In this verse, Lord Krishna teaches that every individual has a unique **svadharma** (one's own duty), determined by one's nature, abilities, responsibilities, and stage of life.

Fulfilling this duty sincerely is far more valuable than imitating the role or responsibilities of others.

Spiritual growth begins when a person accepts and faithfully performs the duties assigned by their own nature.

One's Own Duty Is Superior

Lord Krishna declares that even if one's own duty is performed imperfectly, it is still superior to perfectly performing someone else's duty.

Every individual has different talents, qualities, and responsibilities.

Comparing oneself with others or trying to imitate their path often leads to confusion and dissatisfaction.

True success lies in faithfully performing the work that is naturally meant for us.

The Danger of Following Another's Path

The term **para-dharma** refers to performing duties that do not belong to one's own nature or rightful responsibilities.

When people abandon their own responsibilities in order to imitate others, they often experience fear, insecurity, and inner conflict.





Such actions can distract them from their true purpose and hinder both personal and spiritual growth.

Karma Yoga in Practice

Karma Yoga teaches that one should perform one's own duties with sincerity, dedication, and without attachment to the results.

Every action becomes an offering to God when it is performed selflessly and according to Dharma.

By remaining faithful to one's responsibilities, the mind gradually becomes purified and spiritual progress naturally follows.

Even Death in One's Duty Is Honorable

Lord Krishna states that even if a person dies while performing their own duty, it is spiritually beneficial.

This emphasizes that righteousness, integrity, and commitment to one's responsibilities are more important than worldly success gained through imitation.

Living according to one's Dharma brings inner strength, peace, and divine grace.

The Path to Inner Fulfillment

This verse encourages individuals to trust their own journey instead of comparing themselves with others.





When people recognize their God-given abilities and responsibilities, they develop confidence, contentment, and purpose.

Following one's own Dharma leads to a balanced life and steady spiritual evolution.

Key Points

One's own duty is superior to another's duty.

Even imperfect performance of one's own duty is spiritually beneficial.

Following another's path can create fear, confusion, and inner conflict.

Karma Yoga teaches selfless performance of one's rightful duties.

Performing duty according to Dharma purifies the mind.

Comparing oneself with others hinders spiritual growth.

Faithfully following one's own Dharma leads to peace and liberation.

Profound Spiritual Meaning

This verse teaches that every soul has a unique role in the divine order.

Rather than imitating others, a seeker should faithfully



perform the duties that align with their own nature and purpose.

Lord Krishna explains that selfless dedication to one's own Dharma purifies the heart, strengthens faith, and gradually leads the soul toward self-realization, inner peace, and ultimate liberation.

Word-by-Word Meaning

Śhreyān – Better, superior

Sva-Dharmaḥ – One's own duty, personal Dharma

Viguṇaḥ – Imperfect, with shortcomings

Para-Dharmāt – Than another's duty

Sv-Anuṣṭhitāt – Even if perfectly performed

Sva-Dharme – In one's own duty

Nidhanam – Death

Śhreyah – Beneficial, auspicious

Para-Dharmaḥ – Another person's duty

Bhayāvahaḥ – Dangerous, fear-producing

Message of the Verse

Lord Krishna teaches that every individual should faithfully perform their own duty according to their nature, abilities, and responsibilities



Even if carried out imperfectly, one's own Dharma is far superior to perfectly performing another's. Abandoning one's rightful path leads to fear and confusion, while selfless dedication to one's own duty purifies the mind and strengthens character. Through Karma Yoga, sincere performance of one's own Dharma becomes the path to inner peace, self-realization, and ultimately liberation.

Related Article



[Chapter-3 Shalok-33](#)



[Chapter-3 Shalok-34](#)



THANKS FOR READING



READ MORE RELIGIOUS
CONTENT ON



vedicprayers.com



Follow us on:

