



Ancient Vedic Mantras and Rituals





Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Chapter-3 Shalok-37 | श्रीमद् भगवद्गीता अध्याय तीन-श्लोक सैंतीस | PDF

Chapter 3 – Karma Yoga

Verse 37

Sanskrit Verse

Śhrī Bhagavān Uvācha:

Kāma eṣha krodha eṣha rajo-guṇa-samudbhavaḥ |
Mahāśhano mahā-pāpmā viddhy enam iha vairiṇam
॥37॥

Simple Meaning

Lord Krishna said:

It is desire, which later transforms into anger, born of the mode of passion (Rajo-guṇa). It is all-devouring, greatly sinful, and should be recognized as the greatest enemy of the soul.

Detailed Explanation

Desire Is the Root Cause of Sin

In this verse, Lord Krishna answers Arjuna's question by revealing the true cause of sinful actions.



He explains that **uncontrolled desire (Kāma)** is the force that drives a person away from righteousness.

When desires remain unfulfilled, they transform into **anger (Krodha)**, causing confusion, frustration, and harmful actions.

Thus, desire and anger are the primary inner enemies that obstruct spiritual progress.

The Connection Between Desire and Anger

Desire and anger are closely linked.

A person first develops attachment to a particular object, pleasure, or ambition.

If the desire is fulfilled, attachment grows stronger.

If it is obstructed or denied, the same desire turns into anger.

This anger clouds judgment, destroys discrimination, and often leads to sinful actions.

Born of the Mode of Passion

Lord Krishna states that desire and anger arise from **Rajo-guṇa**, the mode of passion.

Rajo-guṇa creates constant activity, ambition, competition, and longing for material enjoyment.

Although passion can inspire productive action, when uncontrolled it binds the mind through endless desires and restlessness.



True spiritual growth requires rising above these lower influences.

The All-Devouring Enemy

The word **Mahāśhana** means “the great devourer.”

Desire is never completely satisfied.

The more it is fed, the stronger it becomes, just like fire grows when more fuel is added.

Instead of bringing happiness, endless desires create dissatisfaction, anxiety, and suffering.

Therefore, Lord Krishna warns that uncontrolled desire can consume a person’s peace, wisdom, and spiritual strength.

The Great Source of Sin

Lord Krishna also calls desire **Mahā-pāpmā**, meaning “the great sinner” or “the great source of sin.”

When desire dominates the mind, people may abandon morality, truth, and compassion to fulfill selfish ambitions.

Greed, dishonesty, violence, jealousy, and hatred often originate from uncontrolled desires.

Recognizing desire as the root cause helps a seeker remain vigilant.



Karma Yoga in Practice

Karma Yoga teaches that desires should not merely be suppressed but purified.

When actions are performed selflessly as an offering to God, attachment to personal gain gradually disappears.

Through devotion, meditation, self-discipline, and righteous living, the influence of desire and anger weakens.

This inner purification allows wisdom and peace to flourish.

The Path to Victory

Lord Krishna encourages every seeker to recognize desire and anger as their true enemies.

Victory over the external world is meaningless without victory over the mind.

By controlling desires through spiritual wisdom, devotion, and selfless action, one becomes free from inner bondage and progresses toward self-realization and liberation.

Key Points

- Desire is the primary cause of sinful actions.
- Unfulfilled desire transforms into anger.
- Desire and anger arise from the mode of passion (Rajo-guṇa).



- Uncontrolled desire is never satisfied.
- Desire clouds judgment and weakens wisdom.
- Karma Yoga purifies desires through selfless action.
- Mastering desire and anger leads to inner peace and liberation.

Profound Spiritual Meaning

This verse teaches that humanity's greatest enemy is not external but internal.

Uncontrolled desire and the anger that follows create ignorance, attachment, and suffering.

Lord Krishna explains that true freedom comes by conquering these inner enemies through Karma Yoga, devotion, self-discipline, and spiritual knowledge.

As desire is purified, the mind becomes peaceful, the heart becomes pure, and the soul advances toward self-realization and ultimate liberation.

Word-by-Word Meaning

Śhrī Bhagavān Uvācha – The Supreme Lord said

Kāmaḥ – Desire, lust

Eṣhaḥ – This



Krodhaḥ – Anger

Eṣhaḥ – This

Rajo-Guṇa-Samudbhavaḥ – Born of the mode of passion

Mahāśhanaḥ – All-devouring, never satisfied

Mahā-Pāpmā – Great sinner, great source of sin

Viddhi – Know, understand

Enam – This

Iha – In this world

Vairiṇam – Enemy

Message of the Verse

Lord Krishna reveals that uncontrolled desire and the anger arising from it are the greatest enemies of every human being. Born from the mode of passion, they consume wisdom, create attachment, and lead to sinful actions. Through Karma Yoga, selfless service, devotion, self-discipline, and spiritual knowledge, one can conquer these inner enemies. By purifying desires and mastering the mind, a seeker attains inner peace, spiritual wisdom, self-realization, and ultimately liberation.



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