



Ancient Vedic Mantras and Rituals





Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Chapter–4 Shalok–2 | श्रीमद् भगवद्गीता अध्याय चार-श्लोक दो | PDF

Chapter 4 – Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga

Verse 2

Sanskrit Verse

Evaṁ paramparā-prāptam imaṁ rājarṣhayaḥ viduḥ |
Sa kāleneha mahatā yogo naṣṭaḥ Parantapa ॥2॥

Simple Meaning

Lord Krishna said:

O Arjuna, this divine Yoga was understood by the great royal sages through the sacred teacher-disciple tradition. However, over the course of a long period of time, this eternal Yoga became lost to the world, O conqueror of enemies.

Detailed Explanation

The Importance of the Guru–Disciple Tradition

Lord Krishna explains that this sacred Yoga was passed down





through a genuine **Guru–Shishya Parampara (teacher-disciple tradition)**. The knowledge was transmitted from one qualified teacher to a worthy student so that its true meaning and spiritual purpose could remain preserved.

This verse highlights that spiritual wisdom should be received with humility, faith, and proper guidance rather than being interpreted according to personal desires.

The Meaning of Rajarshis

The word **Rajarshis** refers to great kings who possessed the wisdom and spiritual qualities of sages.

These enlightened rulers performed their worldly responsibilities while remaining devoted to Dharma and spiritual principles. Their example shows that spiritual realization is not limited to monks or renunciates.

A person can perform duties in family, society, administration, or leadership while following the path of selfless action and spiritual wisdom.

How Divine Knowledge Became Lost

Lord Krishna says that after a very long passage of time, this Yoga became **lost or forgotten**.

The eternal truth itself does not disappear. Rather, people may gradually lose understanding of its true meaning because of ignorance, attachment, selfishness, and the weakening of the authentic spiritual tradition.





When spiritual principles are misunderstood or neglected, the original purpose of Yoga can become obscured.

The Role of Time in Spiritual Knowledge

With the passage of time, spiritual teachings can become distorted when they are not properly understood and practiced.

If knowledge is transmitted without realization, discipline, and proper guidance, its deeper meaning may gradually be forgotten.

Therefore, the preservation of spiritual knowledge requires sincere teachers, qualified students, and a living tradition based on authentic understanding.

Why Lord Krishna Revealed This Knowledge Again

In the previous verse, Lord Krishna explained that He originally taught this eternal Yoga to Vivasvan, who passed it to Manu and then to King Ikshvaku.

In this verse, Krishna explains that although the Yoga had been preserved through the royal sages, it eventually became lost over a long period of time.

Therefore, Lord Krishna was once again revealing this ancient spiritual wisdom to Arjuna so that its true teachings could be restored.

Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga in Practice





This verse emphasizes that spiritual wisdom must be preserved not only through words but also through practice.

The teachings of Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga encourage a person to perform duties without selfish attachment, cultivate spiritual knowledge, and dedicate actions to the Supreme.

When knowledge and selfless action are united, ordinary duties become a means of spiritual growth and liberation.

Key Points

This divine Yoga was transmitted through the sacred Guru–Shishya tradition.

Great royal sages, known as Rajarshis, understood and practiced this Yoga.

Rajarshis combined worldly responsibilities with spiritual wisdom.

Over a long period of time, the true knowledge of Yoga became lost or forgotten.

The eternal truth does not disappear, but human understanding of it can become weakened.

Authentic spiritual knowledge requires proper teachers and sincere students.

Lord Krishna revealed this ancient Yoga again to Arjuna.

Knowledge combined with selfless action leads toward



spiritual progress and liberation.

Profound Spiritual Meaning

This verse teaches that eternal spiritual truth remains unchanged, but human beings can lose sight of its true meaning over time. When the connection between authentic teachers and sincere students becomes weak, spiritual knowledge can gradually become distorted or forgotten.

Lord Krishna therefore emphasizes the importance of preserving divine wisdom through a genuine spiritual tradition. A sincere seeker should approach spiritual knowledge with humility, faith, discrimination, and devotion. By understanding and practicing the principles of selfless action and spiritual wisdom, one can overcome attachment, purify the mind, and progress toward Self-realization and liberation.

Word-by-Word Meaning

Evam – Thus, in this way

Paramparā-prāptam – Received through the disciplic succession or teacher-disciple tradition

Imam – This

Rājarṣhayaḥ – Royal sages, enlightened kings

Viduḥ – Knew, understood

Saḥ – That



Kālena – With the passage of time

Iha – In this world

Mahatā – Great, long

Yogaḥ – Divine Yoga

Naṣṭaḥ – Lost, forgotten

Parantapa – O conqueror of enemies, Arjuna

Message of the Verse

Lord Krishna teaches that the eternal science of Yoga was preserved through the sacred Guru–Shishya tradition and understood by great royal sages. However, over the passage of a very long period of time, its true knowledge became lost or forgotten in the world. This verse reminds us of the importance of authentic spiritual guidance, sincere practice, and preserving divine wisdom. By following the path of selfless action, spiritual knowledge, and devotion, a seeker can progress toward inner purification, Self-realization, and liberation.



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