



Ancient Vedic Mantras and Rituals





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

Chapter 4 – Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga Verse 4

Sanskrit Verse

Arjuna Uvācha:

Aparam bhavato janma param janma Vivasvataḥ ।
Katham etad vijānīyām tvam ādau proktavān iti ॥4॥

Simple Meaning

Arjuna said:

O Lord Krishna, Your birth is in the present time, while the birth of Vivasvan, the Sun God, occurred long before Yours. How am I to understand that You taught this eternal Yoga to Vivasvan in the beginning?

Detailed Explanation

Arjuna's Question About the Ancient Teaching

In this verse, Arjuna respectfully asks Lord Krishna about something that appears difficult to understand.



In the previous verses, Lord Krishna explained that He had originally taught this ancient Yoga to Vivasvan, the Sun God, who then passed it down through the spiritual tradition.

Arjuna now wonders how this could have happened because Lord Krishna appears to have been born much later than Vivasvan.

The Difference Between Krishna and Vivasvan's Birth

Arjuna points out that Lord Krishna's birth appears to be in the present age, while Vivasvan existed long before Him.

From the ordinary human point of view, a person who is born later cannot teach something to someone who existed earlier. Therefore, Arjuna sincerely asks Krishna how he should understand this statement.

His question opens the way for Lord Krishna to explain His divine nature and the mystery of His appearance in the world.

Arjuna's Sincere Curiosity

Arjuna is not asking this question out of disrespect or disbelief. He is sincerely trying to understand the deeper meaning of Krishna's words.

This demonstrates that a genuine spiritual seeker can ask questions while maintaining faith and respect toward the teacher.





Arjuna's willingness to express his doubt allows Lord Krishna to provide a deeper explanation of His eternal and divine nature.

The Divine Nature of Lord Krishna

Arjuna's question points toward an important distinction between an ordinary living being and the Supreme Lord.

Ordinary beings take birth according to the results of their past actions, whereas the appearance of the Supreme Lord is divine. Lord Krishna later explains that His birth and activities are not ordinary.

Thus, this verse prepares Arjuna to understand that Krishna's existence cannot be judged only through ordinary material concepts of birth and time.

The Importance of Understanding God's Divine Appearance

The question raised by Arjuna becomes important for understanding the nature of the Supreme Lord.

Lord Krishna is present before Arjuna in a human-like form, but His existence is eternal. His appearance in the world is connected with His divine purpose and His relationship with Dharma.

Therefore, Arjuna wants to know how Krishna could have existed in the beginning and instructed Vivasvan.



Spiritual Knowledge and Honest Questions

This verse teaches that sincere questioning is an important part of spiritual learning.

Arjuna does not ignore his confusion. Instead, he approaches Lord Krishna and asks for clarification. A sincere seeker should similarly seek proper understanding rather than accepting or rejecting spiritual teachings without reflection.

When questions are asked with humility and sincerity, they can lead to deeper spiritual knowledge.

Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga in Practice

This verse reminds us that spiritual wisdom requires both faith and understanding.

The path of **Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga** encourages a person to develop spiritual knowledge, understand the nature of the Supreme, and perform duties with the right consciousness.

By understanding the difference between ordinary material existence and divine consciousness, a seeker can gradually overcome ignorance and develop deeper faith in the Supreme.

Key Points

- Arjuna asks Lord Krishna about His statement regarding Vivasvan.



- Krishna's apparent birth occurred later than the existence of Vivasvan.
- Arjuna wants to understand how Krishna could have taught this Yoga to Vivasvan in the beginning.
- Arjuna asks this question with sincerity and respect.
- His question opens the way for understanding Krishna's divine nature.
- The appearance of the Supreme Lord is different from the ordinary birth of living beings.
- Sincere questioning is an important part of spiritual learning.
- Understanding the divine nature of Krishna helps a seeker progress in spiritual knowledge.

Profound Spiritual Meaning

This verse represents an important moment in the dialogue between Arjuna and Lord Krishna. Arjuna observes an apparent contradiction between Krishna's present birth and His statement that He taught the ancient Yoga to Vivasvan.

The deeper significance of Arjuna's question is that it leads to the revelation of **Lord Krishna's eternal and divine nature**. Ordinary living beings take birth according to material laws, while the Supreme



Lord appears in the world according to His divine will and purpose.

The verse also teaches that **spiritual understanding grows through sincere questioning, humility, faith, and proper guidance**. Arjuna's question allows Krishna to explain the mystery of His divine appearance and His eternal relationship with the world.

Word-by-Word Meaning

Arjuna Uvācha – Arjuna said

Aparam – Later, subsequent

Bhavataḥ – Your

Janma – Birth

Param – Earlier, prior

Janma – Birth

Vivasvataḥ – Of Vivasvan, the Sun God

Katham – How

Etat – This

Vijānīyām – May I understand, know

Tvam – You



Ādau – In the beginning

Proktavān – Spoke, taught

Iti – Thus, in this way

Message of the Verse

Arjuna respectfully asks Lord Krishna how He could have taught the ancient Yoga to Vivasvan in the beginning when Krishna's birth appears to have occurred much later than the birth of the Sun God. This question leads toward the deeper understanding of Krishna's **eternal and divine nature**. The verse teaches us that sincere questions, faith, humility, and proper guidance are essential for understanding profound spiritual truths.



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