



Ancient Vedic Mantras and Rituals





Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Chapter-4 Shalok-5 | श्रीमद् भगवद्गीता अध्याय चार-श्लोक पाँच | PDF

Chapter 4 – Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga

Verse 5

Sanskrit Verse

Śhrī Bhagavān Uvācha:

Bahūni me vyatītāni janmāni tava chārjuna |
Tāny ahaṁ veda sarvāṇi na tvaṁ vettha Parantapa ||5||

Simple Meaning

Lord Krishna said:

O Arjuna, both you and I have passed through many births. I remember all of those births, O conqueror of enemies, but you do not remember them.

Detailed Explanation

Lord Krishna Reveals the Mystery of Many Births

In this verse, Lord Krishna explains to Arjuna that both He and Arjuna have experienced many births.





This teaching introduces the deeper spiritual principle of reincarnation and the journey of the soul through different bodies. The present life is not considered the complete existence of the individual soul.

Lord Krishna reminds Arjuna that their relationship extends beyond their present physical lives.

Lord Krishna Remembers All His Births

Lord Krishna says that He knows and remembers all of His previous births.

This reveals the extraordinary nature of the Supreme Lord. While ordinary living beings are generally unable to remember their previous lives, the Lord possesses complete knowledge of His eternal existence and divine manifestations.

His consciousness is not limited by the ordinary conditions that affect embodied beings.

Arjuna Does Not Remember His Previous Births

Lord Krishna tells Arjuna that although Arjuna has also experienced many births, he does not remember them.

This reflects the condition of ordinary living beings. When a soul takes a new body, the memories and experiences of previous lives are generally not carried into conscious awareness.





As a result, a person usually identifies with the present body and considers the current lifetime to be the whole of their existence.

The Difference Between the Lord and the Individual Soul

This verse highlights an important distinction between Lord Krishna and ordinary living beings.

Both the Lord and individual souls may appear in different forms, but their nature and consciousness are not the same. The individual soul is limited in its awareness, while the Supreme Lord possesses complete knowledge.

Lord Krishna remembers all His divine manifestations, whereas Arjuna does not remember his previous births.

The Mystery of Memory and Forgetfulness

The inability to remember previous births is connected with the limitations of embodied existence.

Human beings can forget even many experiences from their present life, so remembering experiences from previous lives is beyond ordinary human awareness.

The Lord, however, is beyond such limitations. His knowledge extends across time, and He remains fully aware of His eternal nature and divine activities.



Understanding Krishna's Divine Nature

This verse prepares Arjuna for a deeper understanding of Lord Krishna's divine nature.

In the previous verse, Arjuna questioned how Krishna could have taught the ancient Yoga to Vivasvan in the beginning. Krishna now begins to explain that His existence and knowledge are not limited to His present appearance.

His divine manifestations are fundamentally different from the ordinary birth and death experienced by conditioned souls.

Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga in Practice

This verse encourages a seeker to understand the difference between the temporary body and the eternal soul.

The path of **Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga** teaches a person to develop spiritual knowledge, reduce attachment to the temporary body, and perform actions with a higher understanding of the Self.

When a person understands that the soul continues beyond the changing body, they can gradually become less attached to temporary circumstances and progress toward spiritual realization.

Key Points

- Lord Krishna and Arjuna have both experienced many births.



- Lord Krishna remembers all of His previous births.
- Arjuna does not remember his previous births.
- Ordinary living beings are generally unable to remember their previous lives.
- The Lord possesses complete knowledge of His divine manifestations.
- This verse highlights the difference between the Supreme Lord and individual souls.
- The physical body changes, while the soul continues its journey.
- Understanding the nature of the soul and the Supreme helps a seeker progress spiritually.

Profound Spiritual Meaning

This verse reveals the profound difference between the consciousness of the Supreme Lord and that of an ordinary embodied soul. Lord Krishna knows all His previous births, while Arjuna, despite having passed through many births, does not remember them.

The deeper message is that **the soul's journey extends beyond a single physical lifetime, while the Supreme Lord remains fully aware of His eternal nature and divine manifestations.**



Human beings are limited by the conditions of material existence, including memory and forgetfulness, whereas the Lord is not bound by such limitations.

Understanding this distinction helps a seeker move beyond identification with the temporary body. By cultivating spiritual knowledge, performing selfless actions, and developing devotion to the Supreme, one can gradually overcome ignorance and progress toward Self-realization.

Word-by-Word Meaning

Śhrī Bhagavān Uvācha – The Supreme Lord said

Bahūni – Many

Me – My

Vyatītāni – Have passed, have gone by

Janmāni – Births

Tava – Your

Cha – And

Arjuna – O Arjuna

Tāni – Those

Aham – I



Veda – Know

Sarvāṇi – All

Na – Not

Tvam – You

Vettha – Know

Parantapa – O conqueror of enemies, Arjuna

Message of the Verse

Lord Krishna teaches Arjuna that both of them have passed through many births, but there is a fundamental difference between them. Krishna remembers all of His previous births, whereas Arjuna does not remember his. This verse reveals the **divine knowledge and eternal consciousness of Lord Krishna** and helps us understand the soul's journey through different bodies. It reminds us that our present physical life is only one part of a greater spiritual journey. By developing spiritual knowledge, devotion, and selfless action, a seeker can rise above bodily identification and move toward Self-realization and liberation.



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