



Ancient Vedic Mantras and Rituals





Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Chapter-4 Shalok-12 | श्रीमद् भगवद्गीता अध्याय चार-श्लोक बारह | PDF

Chapter 4 – Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga Verse 12

Sanskrit Verse

Kāṅkṣantaḥ karmaṇāṁ siddhiṁ yajanta iha devatāḥ |
Kṣhipraṁ hi mānuṣhe loke siddhir bhavati karmajā
॥12॥

Simple Meaning

Lord Krishna said:

O Arjuna, those who desire success and the results of their actions in this world worship various celestial beings. In the human world, success born from action is attained quickly through such worship.

Detailed Explanation

The Desire for the Fruits of Action

In this verse, Lord Krishna explains how people's desires influence the way they perform spiritual practices and worship.



The words **kāñkṣhantaḥ karmaṇām siddhim** mean “desiring success or fulfillment from actions.” Many people perform religious rituals and worship with specific material goals in mind. They may seek wealth, prosperity, success, good health, recognition, comfort, or the fulfillment of particular desires.

Lord Krishna does not deny that such worship can produce results. However, He explains that this form of spiritual practice is primarily connected with the desire for the fruits of action rather than complete spiritual realization.

Kāñkṣhantaḥ Karmaṇām Siddhim – Seeking Success Through Action

The phrase **kāñkṣhantaḥ karmaṇām siddhim** describes people who desire success from their activities.

Human beings naturally want their efforts to produce favorable results. A person may work for wealth, study for success, perform rituals for prosperity, or pray for the fulfillment of a particular wish.

When spiritual practices are performed mainly to obtain worldly results, the focus remains connected with the temporary fruits of action.

The Bhagavad Gita encourages the seeker to gradually move beyond attachment to temporary



results and develop a deeper understanding of duty, devotion, knowledge, and spiritual freedom.

Yajanta Iha Devatāḥ – Worshipping Celestial Beings

The words **yajanta iha devatāḥ** mean “they worship the celestial beings in this world.”

In the Vedic tradition, different celestial beings are associated with different aspects of the cosmic order. People may worship particular deities with the desire to obtain specific blessings or material results.

Such worship can be performed with faith and discipline, but when the primary purpose is material gain, the consciousness of the worshipper remains directed toward a particular desired result.

Lord Krishna’s teaching here helps distinguish between **worship motivated by desire for results** and **devotion directed toward the Supreme Lord with selfless surrender**.

Kṣhipraṁ Hi Mānuṣhe Loke – Results Come Quickly

The phrase **kṣhipraṁ hi mānuṣhe loke** means “indeed, in the human world, quickly.”

Lord Krishna points out that people are often attracted to paths that appear to provide quick results.



When a person performs an action with a particular worldly objective, the corresponding result may appear relatively quickly, depending upon the action, circumstances, and laws governing karma.

This explains why people may be attracted to practices that promise immediate or visible benefits.

However, quick success should not be confused with permanent spiritual fulfillment. Material achievements are temporary, while the deeper goal of spiritual life is freedom from bondage, purification of consciousness, and realization of the eternal Self and Supreme Reality.

Siddhir Bhavati Karmajā – Success Born of Action

The words **siddhir bhavati karmajā** mean “success is produced from action.”

Every action has consequences. When actions are performed with a particular intention and supported by appropriate effort, they can produce corresponding results.

A person who seeks material success may therefore receive the fruits associated with those actions.

However, the result of karma remains within the field of cause and effect. As long as a person remains attached to the fruits of action, one continues to participate in the cycle of desire, action, and result.





The Gita therefore teaches the importance of performing one's duties without becoming bound by attachment to their results.

Difference Between Material Success and Spiritual Realization

This verse highlights an important distinction between **material success** and **spiritual realization**.

Material success may include wealth, comfort, recognition, power, prosperity, or the fulfillment of desires. These results can be meaningful within worldly life, but they are not permanent.

Spiritual realization concerns the deeper nature of the Self and one's relationship with the Supreme Lord. It involves purification of consciousness, freedom from attachment, wisdom, devotion, and liberation from the bondage of karma.

Therefore, a person may achieve worldly success and still remain spiritually dissatisfied.

The teaching of Lord Krishna encourages the seeker to understand that temporary achievements should not become the ultimate purpose of life.

Why People Seek Quick Results

Human beings naturally desire visible and immediate outcomes.



When a person works hard, performs a ritual, or worships with a specific desire, there may be an expectation that the desired result should appear quickly.

Lord Krishna explains this tendency without condemning the individual. Instead, He helps Arjuna understand the different levels of motivation behind human action.

A person may begin spiritual life with material desires. Over time, through knowledge and experience, the person can recognize the temporary nature of worldly results and gradually develop a desire for higher spiritual understanding.

Thus, even a desire-based beginning can become part of a gradual spiritual journey when consciousness continues to develop.

The Role of Karma

The teaching of this verse is closely connected with the law of karma.

Actions performed with particular intentions create corresponding consequences. When people act primarily for personal benefit, their consciousness remains connected with the expectation of results.

Such actions can produce success, but they can also create further desires.



Connection with Shloka 11

In Shloka 11, Lord Krishna explained:

Ye yathā mām prapadyante tāms tathaiva bhajāmy aham — people approach Him in different ways, and He reciprocates accordingly.

Shloka 12 continues this teaching by explaining one particular form of approach.

Some people seek success through action and worship celestial beings with specific material desires. Their objective is primarily the attainment of desired worldly results.

Thus, Shloka 12 shows how different intentions produce different spiritual and material experiences.

The previous verse established the principle of Divine reciprocation, while this verse explains how desire-driven action operates within that principle.

Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga in Practice

This teaching is an important part of **Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga**.

A seeker should not merely ask, “What result will I receive from this action?” Instead, one should gradually learn to ask, “Why am I performing this action, and how can it contribute to spiritual growth?”



When actions are performed only for personal gain, attachment to results can increase.

When actions are performed with knowledge, duty, devotion, and surrender, they can become a means of purification.

Lord Krishna does not teach Arjuna to abandon action. Rather, He teaches him to understand the nature of action and gradually rise above attachment to its fruits.

Key Points

- **Kāñkṣantaḥ karmaṇām siddhim** means desiring success or fulfillment from one's actions.
- People may worship celestial beings to obtain particular worldly results.
- Human beings are naturally attracted to paths that appear to provide quick results.
- Results obtained through action remain connected with the law of karma.
- Material success and spiritual realization are not the same.
- Temporary achievements cannot provide permanent spiritual fulfillment.
- Attachment to the fruits of action can create further desires.



- Spiritual growth involves gradually moving beyond selfish desire.
- Actions performed with knowledge, devotion, and surrender can purify consciousness.
- The verse encourages seekers to understand the difference between temporary results and the higher goal of spiritual realization.

Profound Spiritual Meaning

This verse reveals an important truth about human desire and the nature of success.

People often approach spiritual practices with specific expectations. They may pray for wealth, prosperity, success, protection, or fulfillment of personal wishes. Lord Krishna explains that such desire-oriented worship can lead to corresponding results within the material world.

The phrase **kāṅkṣhantaḥ karmaṇām siddhim** shows that the motivation behind an action is extremely important. When a person performs an action primarily for its reward, the mind remains attached to the result.

The phrase **kṣhipraṁ hi mānuṣhe loke siddhir bhavati karmajā** explains why people are attracted to such paths: worldly results obtained through action can appear relatively quickly.



However, the deeper teaching is that **quick material success is not the ultimate purpose of spiritual life.**

A wise seeker gradually understands that worldly achievements are temporary. Wealth, recognition, comfort, and other material results can change with circumstances. Therefore, the seeker begins to look beyond temporary rewards toward lasting peace, wisdom, devotion, and spiritual realization.

This verse does not simply reject desire-based worship. Instead, it places it within the broader spiritual journey. A person may begin by seeking material benefits, but through experience and spiritual knowledge, one can gradually develop higher aspirations.

The ultimate progress comes when action is no longer driven primarily by personal reward and instead becomes an expression of duty, devotion, wisdom, and surrender.

Word-by-Word Meaning

Kāṅkṣantaḥ – Desiring, seeking

Karmaṇām – Of actions, activities

Siddhim – Success, fulfillment, accomplishment

Yajantaḥ – Worshipping, performing worship or sacrifice

Iha – In this world

Devatāḥ – Celestial beings, deities

Kṣhipram – Quickly, soon



Hi – Indeed, certainly

Mānuṣhe Loke – In the human world

Siddhiḥ – Success, accomplishment, fulfillment

Bhavati – Becomes, occurs

Karma-jā – Born from action, produced by karma

Message of the Verse

Lord Krishna teaches that **people who desire worldly success often worship celestial beings and perform actions with the expectation of receiving specific results. Such actions can produce relatively quick material benefits, but these results remain temporary and connected with the law of karma.**

The verse encourages us to look beyond immediate success and understand the deeper purpose of spiritual life.

A person may begin the spiritual journey with worldly desires, but through **knowledge, selfless action, devotion, discipline, and surrender**, consciousness can gradually rise above attachment to temporary rewards.

The central message of this verse is that **material success obtained through action may come quickly, but true spiritual progress requires freedom from excessive attachment to the fruits of action and a gradual movement toward wisdom, devotion, and realization of the Supreme.**



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