

Chapter One

OBSERVING THE ARMIES ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF KURUKSETRA

Lesson 1: Preparations for War (1.1-27)

1. From whom should one take help in order to properly understand the *Bhagavad-gita*?
2. For which reasons did Duryodhana speak to Dronacarya:
 - a. Dronacarya is Duryodhana's guru, thus Duryodhana wants Dronacarya's blessings to defeat the Pandavas.
 - b. Duryodhana, concerned that the war was irreligious, was considering not fighting.
 - c. Duryodhana wanted to ascertain if Dronacarya had affection for the Pandavas.
 - d. The situation was serious, and Duryodhana was afraid.
3. Why is Lord Krsna called Hrsikesa?
4. Explain the inner significance of Arjuna asking Lord Krsna to drive the chariot. Why is Lord Krsna addressed as Acyuta (infallible)?

Lesson 2: Arjuna's Dilemma (1.28-46)

1. Arjuna addressed Lord Krsna as Govinda because:
 - a. Arjuna wants Krsna to satisfy his senses.
 - b. Arjuna, as a devotee of Krsna, wants to know how he can satisfy Krsna.
 - c. As Govinda, Krsna should be in the forest of Vrndavana with his cows, not on a battlefield.
 2. Write a paragraph discussing the importance of culture and family standards in maintaining a pure society.
 3. Discuss the nature and duties of a ksatriya.
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Chapter Two

CONTENTS OF THE GITA SUMMARIZED

Lesson 3: Arjuna's Surrender (2.1-10)

1. Why does Srila Prabhupada both glorify Arjuna's compassion (1.28, 45-46) and also condemn it (1.29-30, 2.1)?
2. Explain in your own words the example of the sunshine, sun disc, and sun planet in the understanding of the three phases of the Absolute Truth.
3. Why do we need a spiritual master (2.8)?
4. The essential qualification of a bona fide spiritual master is that the spiritual master: (2.9)
 - a. is learned in the Vedas.
 - b. is born in a brahmana family.
 - c. has mystic powers.
 - d. understands the science of devotion to Krsna.
 - e. has a long beard and dresses like a sadhu.

Lesson 4: Fight. There is no Death for the Soul. Part 1 (2.11-19)

1. Imagine you are explaining some basic principles of the *Bhagavad-gita* to a friend.
 - a. Use 2.12 to explain that the living entity and God are individuals.
 - b. Use 2.13 and 2.16 to explain that you are not your body.
2. Why is it important to continue to perform one's duties in spite of difficulties that may arise?
3. What is the basic symptom of the soul?

Lesson 5: Fight. There is no Death for the Soul. Part 2
(2.20-30)

1. List the six transformations of the material body.
2. Arjuna did not want to fight due to fear of sinful reactions. Use the examples of the justice of the peace and the surgeon (2.21) to explain to Arjuna why his fighting is not sinful.
3. Explain the analogy of the two birds in a tree (2.22).
4. Why is there no need to lament for the body - both for those who believe in the soul and for those who do not?

*Lesson 6: Fight. Gain Comes From Dutifully Fighting,
and Loss Comes From Not Fighting.*
(2.31-38)

1. Which of Arjuna's reasons for not fighting does Krsna answer in 2.37?
 - a. compassion
 - b. enjoyment
 - c. destruction of family
 - d. saintliness and fear of sin
 - e. indecision
2. In 2.31 Srila Prabhupada discusses two types of "sva-dharmas" or specific duties. Compare verses 2.31-37 to 2.38 and explain which type of "sva-dharma" is applicable to each.
3. Summarize the qualities of a ksatriya. What qualities does a ksatriya have that would make dishonor worse than death?
4. What would be the result if Arjuna did not fight? Would he escape sinful reaction?

Lesson 7: Fight. But Without Reaction. Part 1
(2.39-41, 2.47-51)

1. What is the main point of 2.40 purport?
 2. Explain the example of watering the root of the tree.
 3. In 2.47 Lord Krsna says, "You have a right to perform your prescribed duty, but you are not entitled to the fruits of action." Explain this in your own words.
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Lesson 8: Fight. But Without Reaction. Part 2
(2.42-46, 2.52-53)

1. Why is sense gratification contrary to spiritual life?
2. The common man is addicted to sense gratification, and to obtain it he will even act sinfully. The Karma-kanda portion of the Vedas recommends that if one really wants sense gratification then one should become pious, perform sacrifices, and go to the heavenly planets. In this way people wanting sense gratification are guided to give up sinful activity and become religious. Why is this process not recommended for Arjuna or ourselves?
3. How can the purpose of the Vedas best be fulfilled today?
4. Why does one who acts fully in Krsna consciousness become indifferent to Vedic rituals?

Lesson 9: Fight. Become Fixed in Krsna Consciousness. Part 1
(2.54-63)

1. Explain the example of the tortoise. If we cannot control our senses in this way, what should we do?
2. What enabled Ambarisha Maharaja to control his senses?
3. The mind, by nature, is always thinking of something. What happens when one neglects thinking of Krsna (2.63, 64, 67)?

Lesson 10: Fight. Become Fixed in Krsna Consciousness. Part 2
(2.64-72)

1. What is the basic principle behind the way a devotee uses his senses?
 2. Explain Srila Prabhupada's statement in 2.70, "That is the proof of a Krsna conscious man - one who has lost all inclinations for material sense gratification, although the desires are present."
 3. People usually think by fulfilling their desires they can attain a peaceful condition. What does Lord Krsna have to say about obtaining peace?
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Chapter Three

KARMA-YOGA

*Lesson 11: The Conclusion: Renunciation or Work?
Fight. Do Your Duty, But Without Attachment
(3.1-9)*

1. What was Arjuna's basic misconception?
2. Summarize Krsna's argument in this section.
3. Why is karma-yoga (working in Krsna consciousness) recommended over jnana-yoga (philosophical speculation or giving up work and taking sannyasa)?
4. Write a paragraph on how you could make your life more Krsna conscious.

*Lesson 12: From Karma-Kanda to Karma-Yoga
(3.10-16)*

1. What is the purpose of the material creation?
2. In 3.16 Srila Prabhupada writes: "The yajna system is planned in such a way that sensory conscious persons may satisfy their desires without becoming entangled in the reactions of sense gratificatory work." Explain.
3. Who are the demigods and how can they best be satisfied?
4. Why should we offer our food in sacrifice before eating?

*Lesson 13: Act Dutifully with Detachment
to Set the Correct Example. Part 1
(3.17-25)*

1. Were Arjuna an "atma-ratih" as described in 3.17, should he still fight? Why?
2. What is the main point of 3.22?
3. The performance of prescribed duty (karma, yajna) is discussed throughout this chapter. In 3.9-16 and 3.17-19 two types of people who perform their duty are discussed. Based on 3.19, explain the differences between them.
4. What is the difference between following the instructions of the Lord and imitating Him (3.24)?

*Lesson 14: Act Dutifully with Detachment
to Set the Correct Example. Part 2
(3.26-35)*

1. Most people are absorbed in eating, sleeping, sex, and economic development. How should a Krsna conscious person guide them (3.20, 21, 25, 28, 29)?

2. Match the following:

- a. nirmama
- b. vigata-jvara
- c. adyatma-cetas
- d. nirasih

1. one who depends fully on the Supreme Lord and is fully Krsna conscious

2. one has to act on the order of the master but should not expect fruitive results

3. not claiming proprietorship, nothing is mine

4. any reluctance should be thrown away, without feverish mentality or lethargy

3. Defeat the following nonsense: "What's wrong with living for sense gratification? It feels good; after all Krsna says in the *Bhagavad-gita*, 'What can repression accomplish?'"

4. Krsna says, "Destruction in the course of performing one's own duty is better than engaging in another's duty, for to follow another's path is dangerous." (3.35) Explain.

*Lesson 15: Beware of Lust and Anger
(3.36-43)*

1. Srila Prabhupada explains that lust (the all devouring sinful enemy) has its origin in the Supreme. But if God is all good and loving how can this be?

2. Krsna states that lust covers the living entity and bewilders him. Explain further the connection between ignorance of one's real self and lust.

3. Summarize the information in 3.42-43 on how to conquer lust.

Chapter Four

TRANSCENDENTAL KNOWLEDGE

Lesson 16: Transcendental Knowledge about Krsna. Part 1 (4.1-6)

1. Some translations of the *Bhagavad-gita* are authorized and valuable while others are useless speculations. Why? What are the differences?
2. Who can understand the *Bhagavad-gita*?
3. Discuss the differences between Krsna and the living entity (memory, birth, appearance, form, etc).
4. Explain the example of the sun in 4.6.

Lesson 17: Transcendental Knowledge about Krsna. Part 2 (4.7-10)

1. In order of importance, give three reasons Krsna descends.
2. What are the results of understanding Krsna's position?
3. Krsna says in 4.10 that one who is freed from attachment, fear, and anger can attain love for Him. Carefully read the purport and explain these three obstacles.

Lesson 18: Transcendental Knowledge Applied to Work (4.11-15)

1. Everyone is searching for Krsna in the different aspects of His manifestations (4.11). Explain.
2. Why does Krsna not recommend worshiping the demigods? After all, He admits that one can get quick results by doing so (4.12).
3. Why is a Krsna conscious person higher than a brahmana?
4. What's wrong with sense gratification? Didn't Krsna create this world? If He didn't want us to engage in some sense gratification then why did He create a world where it is possible (4.14)?

Lesson 19: Understanding Work as Sacrifice
(4.16-24)

1. Define karma, vikarma, and akarma.
2. Describe situations where (1) feeding the poor and (2) killing someone would be:
 - (a) karmic
 - (b) akarmic
 - (c) vikarmic.
3. In 1.44-45, 2.5, Arjuna thought fighting to be vikarmic. Also, in 3.1 he could not understand why Krsna was condemning fruitive work (karma) but still asking him to fight. Based on 4.19-22, answer Arjuna's doubts.
4. How does acting in Krsna consciousness cure the material fever (use example in 4.24)?

**Lesson 20: Sacrifices Properly Performed Lead to
Transcendental Knowledge**
(4.25-33)

1. What is the common principle behind the various types of sacrifices mentioned in 4.25-29? How does Krsna consciousness also fulfill this purpose?
2. Explain the relationship between yajna and happiness (4.31).
3. Explain Srila Prabhupada's statement in 4.33: "Sacrifices sometimes take different forms according to the particular faith of the performer."

Lesson 21: Summary of Transcendental Knowledge
(4.34-42)

1. Briefly explain the three aspects of approaching a spiritual master mentioned in 4.34 - inquiry, submission, and service.
 2. Explain Srila Prabhupada's comment in 4.35: "Absolute means that one plus one is equal to one, and that one minus one is also equal to one."
 3. Write a paragraph expanding Srila Prabhupada's statement in 4.40, "One should therefore follow the principles of revealed scriptures with faith and thereby be raised to the platform of knowledge."
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Chapter Five

KARMA YOGA - ACTION IN KRSNA CONSCIOUSNESS

Lesson 22: Working with Detachment and Devotion is Superior to Renouncing Work (5.1-6)

1. Why is action in Krsna consciousness better than renunciation of work?
2. Defeat this argument: "I am a conditioned soul, thus any activity I perform will be impure and lead me to further bondage. Therefore I will give up all activities."
3. In what sense are karma-yoga and sankhya the same? How are they different?

Lesson 23: Working with Detachment Enlightenment by Knowing the Three Doers (5.7-16)

1. Summarize the position of one who acts in Krsna consciousness.
2. Based on the knowledge in this section, why wasn't it sinful for Arjuna to fight?
3. The lotus leaf is on the water but is untouched by it. Use this analogy to explain how we should interact with this world.
4. Krsna says in 5.14 that the living entity is not the doer of the activities of the body - the modes of material nature are. Yet Krsna says in 5.15 that He does not assume anyone's sinful or pious activities. Explain then how the living entity is responsible for his activities even though he is not the controller of matter.

Lesson 24: Liberation, Astanga Yoga, and the Peace Formula (5.17-29)

1. Why does a Krsna conscious person not want to engage in sense gratification?
2. Summarize the characteristics of the wise man as given in this section.
3. Why is the process for obtaining peace mentioned in 5.27-28 inferior to that of 5.29?

Chapter Six

DHYANA YOGA

Lesson 25: Advancing in Yoga (6.1-9)

1. Who is a perfect yogi and true sannyasi. Why? (6.7)
2. Explain Srila Prabhupada's comment in 6.4: "Without Krsna consciousness, one must be always seeking self-centered or extended selfish activities."
3. Discuss Srila Prabhupada's statement (6.5) that the mind must be trained so that it will not be attracted by the glitter of material nature.
4. What is the difference between "academic knowledge" and "realized knowledge?"

Lesson 26: Stages in the Practice of Yoga. Part 1 (6.10-19)

1. What is the most important principle for a transcendentalist?
2. Why is unrestricted sex life incompatible with yoga practice?
3. List some of the conditions of a bona fide yoga practice.
4. How can Ambarish Maharaja's activities of cleaning a temple and touching the body of a devotee be considered yoga practice?

Lesson 27: Stages in the Practice of Yoga. Part 2
(6.20-32)

1. Srila Prabhupada writes: "There is an acceptance of transcendental pleasure in the Patanjali system, but the monists do not accept this transcendental pleasure, out of fear of jeopardizing the theory of oneness." (6.23) Explain how the principles of transcendental pleasure and impersonalism are incompatible.
2. Give brief explanations of the following elements in "advancing in yoga": determination, conviction and intelligence, and fixing one's mind on the lotus feet of the Lord (6.24-27).
3. What does a perfect yogi "see" (6.29-31)?
4. Discuss the differences between a "Krsna conscious yogi" and a yogi who is only seeking his own salvation.

Lesson 28: Controlling the Mind and the Unsuccessful Yogi
(6.33-45)

1. Imagine that you are explaining to someone the importance of controlling the mind. Use the analogy of the soul being the "passenger in the chariot of the material body" to explain the necessity of having strong spiritual intelligence.
2. How does Srila Prabhupada recommend that we cure the disease of the mind (6.35)?
3. What happens to one who takes to spiritual life but is unable to achieve perfection? What happens to one who does not take to spiritual life out of fear of giving up occupational duties?
4. What is the qualification to engage in devotional service?

Lesson 29: Conclusion: The Topmost Yogi
(6.46-47)

1. In the first six chapters various types of yoga practices have been discussed. Write an essay explaining why the culmination of yoga is to render loving service to Krsna. Quote from previous chapters as necessary.