

Shloka 8-7

**Tasmat sarveshu kaleshu, Mam anusmar, yudhya cha,
Mayi arpit manobuddhih, Mam eva ashyasi, asanshayam**

tasmat	therefore
sarveshu	(at) all
kaleshu	times
Mam	Me
anusmar	remember
yudhya	fight
cha	and
Mayi	to Me
arpit	devoted
manobuddhih	mind (and) intellect
Mam	Me
eva	only (and no one else)
ashyasi	shall come (reach) to
asanshayam	without doubt

Meaning: Therefore, at all times, remember me and fight. (Fighting) with mind and intellect devoted to Me, (you) will, without doubt, reach only Me.

Background

In Shloka 6-47, Bhagwan Krishna had explained how the most steadfast of Karma Yogis would engage in their duty (with Shraddha and with inner self absorbed in God). This shloka further clarifies the meaning of Shloka 6-47 and provides a practical example for everyone.

Explanation

In Shloka 6-47, we learnt that “We can worship God through our actions” if we do it with the right attitude, i.e, with “**shraddha**” and with “**madgaten anteratma**” (inner self absorbed in God). This shloka further exemplifies the thoughts expressed in that shloka. For example, the “action” that Bhagwan Krishna wants Arjuna to engage in is fighting. Arjuna can “worship” God by carrying on his “assigned” duty which to lead his forces (the Pandava army) in battle against the Kauravas. The importance of carrying out one’s duty is made clear in this shloka (and many other shlokas in the Gita) because Bhagwan Krishna urges Arjuna to fight. That Arjuna must do. But with what mental attitude or manner should Arjuna fight?

In Shloka 6-47 Bhagwan Krishna has used the phrase “**madgaten anteratmana**” (the inner self devoted to Me) to indicate the mental state of mind of the most steadfast of Karma Yogis (see also Shloka 12-10). In this shloka, He clarifies the meaning of these two words. “**Anteratma**”, as we learn from this shloka, is the combination of “man” and “buddhi” (mind and intellect). “Madgaten” which means “absorbed in Me” is clarified to mean “thinking of Me” (“Mam anusmar”).

What will happen if Arjuna fights with the right mental attitude? The answer is in the phrase “**Mam eva ashyasi, asanshayam**” which means “without doubt you will reach only Me”. The Bhagwad Gita states (Shloka 9-25) that the devotee reaches the level of the deity he or she worships. And here Bhagwan Krishna makes it clear that Arjuna will “reach” Him if he does do his “dharma”. This is a clear message that doing one’s “dharma” with the right mental attitude is not only a form of worship but the highest form of worship since it is the form of worship utilized by the highest of Karma Yogis.

What can we learn from this shloka? First, it is clear that in order to become a Karma Yogi, we must do our “assigned” duty. Hindus used the word “dharma” to indicate “assigned” duty. Arjuna’s “dharma” was to lead his forces to battle the best he could while respecting the rules of battle. Second, in order to perform our “dharma” in the same manner as the “highest” Karma Yogis, we must constantly be thinking of God as we perform our actions (this is not easy to do and requires a lot of practice as stated in the Bhagwad Gita in many shlokas including Shloka 12-8). Third, we will be spiritually elevated (we will get nearer to God) if we are able to perform our “dharma” with the right frame of mind.

The moral of this shloka is this: Practice Karma Yoga by doing your “dharma” with shraddha and devotion for God and with your inner self completely absorbed in God (which can be interpreted as thinking of God at all times).

Discussion Points for Gita Discussion for March 12 Upasana Service

Note: Children can write or type the answers on a sheet of paper and use the sheet of paper during the discussion. This sheet of paper should be inserted in the appropriate location in their Upasana Notebook.

Questions for All Children

1. What action does Bhagwan Krishna wants Arjuna to perform?
2. With what mental attitude does Bhagwan Krishna want Arjuna to fight?
3. What is Dharma?
4. Can doing one's "Dharma" become a form of worship. If so how?
5. Is it easy to be thinking of God at all time times while doing our work?
6. What is the Sanskrit word for intellect?
7. What is the meaning of the Sanskrit word, "anteratma"?

Questions for Older Children

1. What is a student's "dharma"?
2. What is a professor's "dharma"?
3. What is the moral of this shloka?
4. Write a very brief summary (three sentences) of what you have learnt from the three Gita shlokas (Shlokas 6-47, 6-48 and 8-7).