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Season 2 Episode #1
Gita Comes Alive Learning Community
hosted by VASA Publishing
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First Class of the New Season
Chapter 1: The Agony of Arjuna

- 19:07:46 AG-Scribe: 2 books of iti hasa = history = as it happened
19:07:52 AG-Scribe: Ramayana (12000 years ago) and Mahabharata
19:09:14 AG-Scribe: history is written by the victors. not a synonym for iti hasa because itihasa is what was actually spoken, not interpreted by the victors of a war
19:09:55 AG-Scribe: and what happened, who said what etc. was recorded in Sanskrit which doesn't drift over time = samskritam = the perfected language = the first programming language
19:10:31 AG-Scribe: imagine life without fire
19:10:40 AG-Scribe: context or reality
19:11:17 AG-Scribe: imagine - no matches... firewood, kindling...
19:11:33 AG-Scribe: how do you make dinner?? stay warm in a cold climate?
19:11:41 AG-Scribe: direct intimate relationship with fire
19:11:43 Abhilash Nambiar: A good video telling the difference between history and itihasa
19:11:44 Abhilash Nambiar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KS9ouAVIAWs>
19:12:46 AG-Scribe: cultures with linguistic sophistication
19:13:38 AG-Scribe: entropy = nature of matter is to decompose... 3 gunas
19:14:00 AG-Scribe: things created, things destroyed, in between they're in a useful stable form = Vishnu + Lakshmi
19:14:08 AG-Scribe: creative = Brahma and Sarasvati
19:14:15 AG-Scribe: recycling = Shiva + Durga

19:14:23 AG-Scribe: 3 departments of matter

19:14:31 AG-Scribe: beyond that is the ultimate being Bhagavan = has all the desirable characteristics and qualities that we find desirable to an unlimited degree

19:16:24 AG-Scribe: countless intelligences in charge of departments of matter

19:17:11 AG-Scribe: Varuna = the deva in charge of all water but especially the oceans. Greek Uranus. Undines...

19:17:20 AG-Scribe: the matter in nature is inert

19:18:30 AG-Scribe: everything happening except for randomness is purposeful. most matter is behaving purposefully except for random moments. they are being conducted by laws of nature

19:18:44 AG-Scribe: we only see the cause and effect; we don't see the beings behind it.

19:18:55 AG-Scribe: purposeful is the sign of an intelligence that designed it with purpose

19:20:31 AG-Scribe: ishtas, ishas, ishis

19:20:37 AG-Scribe: prakriti

19:20:51 AG-Scribe: itihasa

19:22:18 AG-Scribe: according to the Vedas, Bhagavan is coming down through Vishnu, arranges for a vast display of characters connected to the characters in Svarga Loka, level 10, coming down to level 8 (Bhumi Loka) to put on a display for the itihasa and to be the purposeful laws of nature. matter's job is to be random

19:22:43 AG-Scribe: divine beings have an actual interface to us as humans

19:23:12 AG-Scribe: some things we learn are only knowable here in matter, so we come here to gather experience and knowledge of them

19:24:23 AG-Scribe: the Bhagavad Gita is the condensed 700 verses of the Mahabharata, the wisdom manual for us to be an atma while living in prakriti, to regain our understanding of our self as the atma rather than misunderstand ourself as prakriti

19:24:40 AG-Scribe: we are our body as much as we are our shirt. made of fabric and made of parts.

19:25:05 AG-Scribe: this is being remedied. we as the atma have been embedded in and covered over by prakriti. our atma has not been visible to our self.

19:25:17 AG-Scribe: a tunnel is opened between our self and Brahman

19:25:32 AG-Scribe: things happen in Brahman without time and without cause and effect as we know it. things happen as they appear

19:25:58 AG-Scribe: the laws of matter do not exist in Brahman. can't understand the Vedic knowledge without understanding this

19:26:40 AG-Scribe: the epics were shows put on to explain all of this and be the context for the succinct text of the Bhagavad Gita

19:26:56 AG-Scribe: must adopt this worldview or the Bhagavad Gita will not give anything to you. that you are an atma!!

19:29:41 AG-Scribe: Mahabharata begins when certain devas came down to earth and impregnated a human woman with her consent and created a mixed breed between the devas and the humans. this is the context of the Mahabharata.

19:29:56 AG-Scribe: 5 Pandava brothers (Arjuna and his brothers)

19:30:09 AG-Scribe: Yudhishthira, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula, Sahadeva

19:30:40 AG-Scribe: their mothers had a mantra to call a deva to earth to impregnate them and produce a child that was a mixture of human and deva

19:31:44 AG-Scribe: unique pairing crossing dimensions

19:32:16 AG-Scribe: Yudhishthira's deva father was Yamaraja - when we leave our body, we go in front of him, and he scores our life movie review == karma

- 19:33:19 **AG-Scribe:** also called Dharmaraja = the personification of the laws of nature. he knows all the laws of nature like a perfect judge knowing all the laws
- 19:34:05 **AG-Scribe:** Bhima's father was Vayu the deva of the wind. his specialty - he was as strong as 10000 elephants. his father was Vayu - the air, the wind. no one stops the wind
- 19:35:42 **AG-Scribe:** Arjuna was born from Indra, the wielder of the thunderbolt == electricity. the leader of the devas with his female shakti/consort - shakti and shaktiman. all these beings are becoming characters on earth
- 19:37:41 **AG-Scribe:** these are all avatars - descend and appear in a human form. Nakula and Sahadeva - twin brothers, sons of the celestial physicians, also twins - when the sun rises in the morning the devi Ushas is scattering flower petals in front of the sun's chariot bringing the reddish tinge to the sky. the twin Ashvini Kumars, the healers
- 19:38:03 **AG-Scribe:** need to have this grand context to understand the Vedic perspective. this is not a "religion." being taught to think across dimensions
- 19:39:12 **AG-Scribe:** the Vedic knowledge is about something we cannot see, beyond our direct knowing at first
- 19:39:50 **AG-Scribe:** when a "yuga avatar" (as opposed to the deva avatars) comes to earth - this only happens 10 times in 8,400,000 years
- 19:40:03 **AG-Scribe:** Vishnu appears and does something major to rebalance the planet
- 19:40:31 **AG-Scribe:** 10 avatars:
Matsya, Kurma, Varahas-cha
Narasingho, cha-Vamana
Ramo, Rama, cha-Ramas-cha
Krishna, Kalkir, Janardanaha
(Matsya, Kurma, Varaha, Narasimha, Vamana, Parasurama, Rama, Balarama, Krishna and Kalki)
- 19:40:58 **AG-Scribe:** general entropy over the 8,400,000 years. the universe has a lifetime just like we do
- 19:42:42 **AG-Scribe:** Bhagavad Gita was spoken by Vishnu as the 9th historical avatar who takes birth when the universe is entering its last phase of manifestation until finally Kalki the last one comes and reduces the whole thing to its components. everyone goes into suspension for a while, then Brahma starts it all up over again
- 19:43:14 **AG-Scribe:** this isn't just about you; this is about the huge context that we can't see. we have a small perspective only right in front of us
- 19:43:17 **Beverly Akhurst:** If I got it right the seconds are 3 405 888 000 seconds in 108 years. :)
- 19:43:34 **AG:** that's a big context!!
- 19:44:31 **AG-Scribe:** "contextualizing the Gita"
- 19:45:52 **JA chants:** whoops! Forgot to do the guru mantra at the beginning

Om guru brahma guru vishnu
guru devo maheshvaraha
guru sakshat para brahma
tasmai shri guruveh namaha

The guru reveals Brahma, the creator
The guru reveals Vishnu, the preserver
The guru reveals Shiva, the destroyer
The guru reveals the supreme Brahman
I offer my respects to such a divine guru

19:46:34 **AG-Scribe: Chapter 1 verses 1-9**

19:47:55 **AG-Scribe:** (all the characters mentioned have backstories to them in the Mahabharata)

19:50:26 **Q&A – Richard:** Sanskrit as a "programming" language?

19:51:08 **AG-Scribe:** = intolerant for errors of any kind, not used for the pleasure of the speaker but to convey precise information that is unvarying and never less true. one step above mathematics.

19:52:37 **Q&A – Hana:** why is this "play" repeated again and again in all the universes?

19:53:26 **AG-Scribe:** why does the sun rise every day...? this grand iti hasa is being used to give us a vision of reality that we could not possibly have just by being within prakriti

19:55:45 **AG-Scribe:** can use this knowledge to leave prakriti and go back to Brahman = moksha. do you want to stay or leave?? you can stay until you've been every character in the Mahabharata... you fly your airplane. you are making karmic choices that determine your next birth. we are steering our self through space and time by action when we are embodied. you will live differently in your embodiment if you know this

19:57:03 **Q&A – Geza:** is the Gita being spoken on other planets throughout the universe at the same time and are we all in the same place in the yugas listening to the Gita in the same way?

19:59:19 **AG-Scribe:** we are here to gather experience and can come back as many types of characters and devas... you are the chooser of where you go next and this lila is giving us the biggest view anyone's ever given us of our choices, and there is more to it as well

20:00:22 **Q&A – Allan:** devas have less free will because they have a function... what happens after a deva lifetime?

20:00:27 **Sandi – VASA:** for SEVA

20:01:16 **AG-Scribe:** the devas have abdicated free will for a vacation life. like being on cruise. you have to follow the rules of the cruise but you're still on a cruise. the deva life is more pleasurable, and you get different experience in the jagat.

20:02:30 **AG-Scribe:** you can experience 8 million animal lives (types/species), 400,000 human, devas, others beyond it, all the way up to Brahma...

20:02:38 **AG-Scribe: Ch. 1 v. 9**

20:03:30 **AG-Scribe:** the Kuru side - the adharmic side - is greater in strength and numbers

20:04:06 **AG-Scribe:** they got Krishna's army but the Pandavas side got Krishna as Arjuna's chariot driver

20:07:54 **AG-Scribe:** Hanuman was the hero of the Ramayana. he is on the flag on arjuna's chariot -- the flag being handed forward by Hanuman for his heroic protection of dharma, now being passed forward to Arjuna

20:08:14 AG-Scribe: no civilians are involved in this war. all soldiers on the battlefield

20:09:09 AG-Scribe: the Pandavas have been trying to avoid this war

20:09:20 AG-Scribe: a psychological description of human life. dharma and adharma

20:10:48 AG-Scribe: the two leaders are "Duryodhana" and "Yudhishtira" == "yodha" = "Yoda" = Star Wars – was taken from here

20:11:10 AG-Scribe: Yudhishtira = staying dharmic even when fighting a war

20:11:22 AG-Scribe: Duryodhana = dirty fighter who will do anything to win

20:11:49 AG-Scribe: Yudhishtira = will only follow dharma and fight for dharma and the good of all living entities. light and dark fighting on a battlefield

20:13:00 AG-Scribe: the Pandavas went into exile to prevent this battle taking place with their cousins

20:14:07 AG-Scribe: these are the world leaders, power brokers. groups of families who have this kind of power in the world right now. they can influence the world right now on a high level we cannot imagine. a battle between the 2 departments of humanity and a battle within us to determine which group of humanity we are going to align our self with.

20:14:25 AG-Scribe: this is going on in the world right now and we are making very meaningful choices

20:14:47 AG-Scribe: how do these cycles manifest differently over time? this is the human conflict....

20:15:24 AG-Scribe: Arjuna is broken hearted at the confrontation that is now unavoidable though having worked for years to avoid it

20:19:52 AG-Scribe: kula = culture = clan

20:20:04 AG-Scribe: British took this to mean caste

20:21:08 AG-Scribe: the more you could know about a person's current vehicle (body), what their qualifications are and what would make them happy in this lifetime

20:24:05 AG-Scribe: the kshatriyas with power have enough power to have influence in the world. if they are dharmic they will not exploit people with less power. those without dharma will exploit

20:25:22 AG-Scribe: everyone has particular powers and abilities, and you do what you are skilled at and are trained at to be qualified

20:26:03 AG-Scribe: in the Vedic culture if you were going to have power you were trained for it. being a leader was a dharma and it was not just by birth. it had rigorous training

20:28:58 AG-Scribe: disturbing the kula.... a society with both a masculine and feminine divine - indigenous societies all had this. the feminine was usually in charge of the land, the ecology, the house... the female was usually considered the owner of the house

20:30:01 AG-Scribe: e.g., Sheila na gig - Celtic goddess comes from Sanskrit shaila = rock. above the door lintel in every house - reminder above the door of every house, you are entering the body/house of the feminine

20:30:50 AG-Scribe: all ecological societies are matriarchal. the female body is the personification of Mata Bhumi. protecting the females is guarding the relationship to nature, knowing women and children will never be homeless

20:32:36 AG-Scribe: Naraka is a loka. from where we are in a middle planet, we can go up to the deva lokas or down to the animal species or less habitable planets if we damaged this planet through our disruptive actions

20:33:26 Abhilash Nambiar: So interesting -- the dates

- 20:33:29 **Abhilash Nambiar:**
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_women%27s_legal_rights_in_the_United_States_\(other_than_voting\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_women%27s_legal_rights_in_the_United_States_(other_than_voting))
- 20:33:37 **AG-Scribe:** kula = genetic nest you were bred from. gave you certain characteristics. things your parents passed onto you.
- 20:33:56 **AG-Scribe:** four "body parts." Head = brain, speak knowledge. Brahmin
- 20:34:06 **AG-Scribe:** Kshatriya = arms - protectors
- 20:34:12 **AG-Scribe:** Vaishya = legs
- 20:34:19 **AG-Scribe:** Shudra = one particular skill set
- 20:34:44 **AG-Scribe:** assorted other tasks you do as your job
- 20:35:02 **AG-Scribe:** most people are shudras unless they specialize in something
- 20:35:20 **AG-Scribe:** jati - within a varna there are different tasks and types of skills necessary
- 20:36:10 **AG-Scribe:** e.g., all are kshatriya in the military but doing different tasks and different kinds of protectors e.g., logistics, munitions, cooking, strategy...
- 20:36:23 **AG-Scribe:** professor, protector, producer, provider
- 20:37:23 **AG-Scribe:** within a jati is the career ladder - shreni
- 20:37:47 **AG-Scribe:** e.g., lawyer then judge then supreme court judge
- 20:37:59 **AG-Scribe:** shreni jati varna kula
- 20:38:05 **AG-Scribe:** not determined by birth but by ability
- 20:38:23 **AG-Scribe:** Arjuna makes passing reference to all this but JA is fleshing it out here
- 20:43:59 **AG-Scribe:** Arjuna sits down on the field, his manas overcome with sorrow. dropping down his weapons, his responsibilities. I quit == the reaction of the followers of the Buddha dharma - taking yourself out of the game. I do nothing, I quit and hoping this leads to moksha. but what you do in a particular state of consciousness, that consciousness leads to the result. we are deciding whether to choose the dharmic path. will we understand what dharma is, what will we do when confronted with conflict? will we quit? the Buddha dharma got frustrated with that was going on around them at the time and quit. the Bhagavad Gita says you can't quit. it is not our highest option. you have to decide between dharma and adharma. Satyam eva jayate - the dharmic path always wins
- 20:44:09 **AG-Scribe:** how does this apply to our lives?
- 20:44:27 **AG-Scribe:** Krishna says, Arjuna you appear to have forgotten who you are. you think all these beings can die
- 20:44:39 **AG-Scribe:** and have been trying to keep life reasonable within a dog-eat-dog world
- 20:45:09 **AG-Scribe:** 4 animal propensities - eat sleep mate defend
- 20:45:41 **AG-Scribe:** humans manushyas have manas an additional faculty = thinking feeling willing memory, free will that even the devas don't have
- 20:45:50 **AG-Scribe:** devas have to come back as a human before moksha
- 20:46:03 **AG-Scribe:** we here in the class have probably all been devas in a past life
- 20:46:48 **AG-Scribe:** it's a constant Hawaii vacation - pleasure is constant. then you drop back down to human bringing a sattvic lifestyle
- 20:47:03 **AG-Scribe:** but life here is usually rajasic and tamasic, feels crazy
- 20:48:47 **AG-Scribe:** Buddha dharma is a reasonable conclusion. this is a horror show! I quit. I don't want to do it anymore. just do the minimum to stay alive
- 20:50:10 **AG-Scribe:** understand that everyone around us is a classmate

- 20:52:03 **Q&A – Abhilash:** not all followers of Buddha dharma are retreatants. can be very worldly...
- 20:53:00 **AG-Scribe:** Buddhist conclusion is that we are not individuals, there is nowhere to go, nothing to do, it's all nirvana, end of story, empty definition of self, no atma... the Buddha threw out the Vedas. technically the Buddha dharma leads to nothing.
- 20:53:15 **AG-Scribe:** they have denied the self having any future existence. the negation of nirvana.
- 20:54:39 **AG-Scribe:** Krishna says "Brahman nirvana." nirvana alone is just going to emptiness, no qualities. no matter what you do during your life you are more or less a hypocrite unless you are begging. there is no reason to do anything anymore... (yes this is pushing it to its philosophical edge.) there is no description in the Buddha dharma of an individual self
- 20:55:41 **AG-Scribe:** Buddha dharma threw out Vedanta. principles behind the tradition. difference behind the Buddha dharma and the Veda dharma from a viewpoint perspective
- 20:55:57 **AG-Scribe:** emptiness as a goal destroys your individuality
- 20:56:14 **AG-Scribe:** emptiness is the end of it regardless of how you live your lifestyle
- 20:57:03 **AG-Scribe:** its conclusion is completely contradictory to the Bhagavad Gita in terms of self definition and final goal. social practice is different according to human behaviour, yes.
- 20:59:15 **AG-Scribe:** Sandi says - yes Buddhism seemed like a relief from the material world when we were first introduced to it after our Abrahamic upbringing. most western people were told about Buddhism before Vedanta
- 21:00:01 **Q&A – Manjunath:** shunya - emptiness or zero. In China - people are going to nothing. it's a social movement. it does give slight relief to the chaos but then what. after nihilism, what's next? this is where Vedanta takes us
- 21:00:47 **AG-Scribe:** the oneness and noneness movements have swept the west, but they don't even adhere to a particular lifestyle
- 21:02:21 **AG-Scribe:** the Bhagavad Gita addresses us as individuals with volition. this is the premise of the Vedas. if you want moksha, you make a choice as an individual. or do you want to stay here?
- 21:02:46 **AG-Scribe:** we do have to do all the eat sleep mate and defend, how do we live within matter in a dharmic way and at the same time try for moksha??
- 21:04:14 **AG-Scribe:** should you give up your individuality?? how can you even?
- 21:04:21 **AG-Scribe:** you can't get rid of you!! you're stuck with you!
- 21:04:47 **AG-Scribe:** what the atma could do next... that is a very vital and important conversation
- 21:05:27 **AG-Scribe:** if you say your goal is to get rid of me you have misunderstood the Vedas. if you say your goal is to get back to Brahman, you have understood, and what you will be when you go back to Brahman... that is an important question
- 21:06:07 **AG-Scribe:** 3 pillars of evidence - Bhagavad Gita, 10 Principal Upanishads, Vedanta Sutras -- what we will be when we go back to Brahman - prasthan trayi
- 221:06:51 **AG-Scribe:** what is the final destination of the individual?
- 21:07:25 **AG-Scribe:** schools of Vedanta have different interpretations/answers
- 21:10:30 **AG-Scribe:** mantra to Hari - the remover of all things within us that should not be there

21:11:24 **AG-Scribe:** heart = hridaya (hari daya) - the seat upon which Hari (Shri + Hari) is sitting - on a daya = a couch. our heart is the seat of Shri and Hari

21:11:46 **AG-Scribe:** this mantra is like the ultimate bathing in the ganga, taking a bath

21:12:50 **JA chants:**

hari haraya namaha
krishna yadavaya namaha
yadhavaya madhavaya keshavaya namaha
gopala govinda ram shri madhusudan
giridari gopinatha madhana mohan

21:12:56 **AG-Scribe:** each of these names fills you with Hari

21:13:59 **AG-Scribe:** this is the concept of yoga - each of us as an atma need to reach toward what we want. yoga is that reaching. reaching directly to Hari through the names of Hari and let that reset, reboot our vibratory state. associating with Bhagavan who is not at great distance but is within our hearts

21:14:06 **AG-Scribe:** sadhu = cutting away the bonds

21:15:22 **AG-Scribe:** we're either pashu - an animal tied by the ropes of the gunas to a tree and not free, or we are an atma and go for moksha - link with the highest source of divine reality and become just like them = samadhi- the goal of yoga to become the same as them through tapasya, svadhyaya, ishvara pranidana