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Season 2 Episode #9

Gita Comes Alive Learning Community

hosted by VASA Publishing

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Chapter 9: The Secrets of Dharma and Devotion

- 19:03:51 **Zubin Parihar:** Diwali!
- 19:04:46 **AG-Scribe:** victory of light over darkness - Ram and Sita return to Ayodhya
- 19:05:31 **AG-Scribe:** **last week's homework:** smaranam - #315-317
- 19:10:42 **AG-Scribe:** Rishis. they had drishti. they could see. even through hearing
- 19:11:28 **JA chants:** **guru mantra:**
- 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.
- 19:12:21 **AG-Scribe:** shining the light of this vidya for 7582 years
- 19:12:37 **AG-Scribe:** the lighting of the fire within, true knowing within our heart. jnana dipena – the light of knowledge

19:12:52 AG-Scribe: Ch. 9 – we are halfway through the Bhagavad Gita
 19:12:54 AG-Scribe: pivotal chapter. Krishna takes us to the next level
 19:13:40 AG-Scribe: **homework for next week:** learn/study the 4 core verses - summary of entire Bhagavad Gita

19:13:46 AG-Scribe: **v1 #339**
 19:14:23 AG-Scribe: immunization in a different context
 19:14:28 AG-Scribe: what is the disease? forgetfulness of who I am!
 19:15:06 AG-Scribe: one lifetime cultures are missing an essential vitamin
 19:15:19 AG-Scribe: the secret – understanding who we are
 19:15:25 AG-Scribe: and what is the relationship with the source of our existence?
 19:15:45 AG-Scribe: just hold the right perspective/attitude. Be sincerely inquisitive, and Shri Krishna says, I can share these secrets with you just because you hold that right attitude
 19:16:13 AG-Scribe: this secret hidden in the gu (nas)

19:16:17 AG-Scribe: **v2 #340**
 19:17:33 AG-Scribe: clarity of our permanent, individual nature, and we're on a long learning journey here within the realm of prakriti
 19:18:10 AG-Scribe: this knowledge supports dharma - dhri = makes it what it is. companion word karma
 19:18:30 AG-Scribe: we want those with the most power to know this knowledge first
 19:18:47 AG-Scribe: the disease of unlimited power without restraint
 19:19:01 AG-Scribe: and taking away people's individuality
 19:19:21 AG-Scribe: they are the first to know who they really are – those who get power – because the power could be easily abused

19:19:26 AG-Scribe: **v3 #341**
 19:20:24 AG-Scribe: dharma, shraddha, samsara
 19:20:33 AG-Scribe: Shraddha DOES NOT translate as faith. It is direct seeing, the knowledge of who we are carried from life to life.
 19:21:37 AG-Scribe: dharma = ecology - the insurance policy that everything will continue correctly for the next generation

19:21:42 AG-Scribe: **v4 #342**
 19:22:21 AG-Scribe: jagat = universe = goes forward by birth = ja, janma, gat (gate) = goes forward - goes through the next gate
 19:22:43 AG-Scribe: murti = the form. our seeing has to learn that which is so large it can't be seen with our eyes three-dimensionally as Bhagavan
 19:22:53 AG-Scribe: instead we have to awaken another kind of seeing – dipavali

19:23:02 AG-Scribe: **v5 #343**
 19:24:34 AG-Scribe: Krishna is talking to us as individuals. the difference between His atma and our atma is that His atma is the source of everything. His yoga is to bring everything into manifestation through his meditation. He meditates yogically and brings all of this into existence.
 19:24:43 AG-Scribe: all the living entities within it like Him are immortal beings
 19:24:54 AG-Scribe: he didn't bring them into existence, they decided to come here from the Brahman realm which we can't directly see

19:25:18 **AG-Scribe: v6 #344**
19:26:10 **AG-Scribe:** Vayu is resting in space. Like Vayu, we are a bubble in a vast ocean of space – akash. There is context, and there is something that exists within that context
19:26:39 **AG-Scribe:** so we are all resting upon Bhagavan

19:26:46 **AG-Scribe: v7 #345**
19:26:50 **AG-Scribe:** kalpa = one day for the creator Brahma
19:27:34 **AG-Scribe:** everything in matter has a lifespan
19:28:22 **Zubin Parihar:** 8.64 Billion Years for 1 day and 1 night of Brahma

[technical interruption]

19:53:17 **AG-Scribe:** v7 #345 describes the back-and-forth between the manifest and unmanifest states during one day and one night of Brahma – just like the class was brought back online into manifestation when the internet went back on!

19:53:42 **AG-Scribe:** describing the scale of manifestation of one jagat (universe) and the Brahma that is the creator of that universe

19:53:50 **AG-Scribe: v8 #346**

19:54:00 **AG-Scribe:** a "where were we??" moment

19:54:19 **AG-Scribe:** just like when we reincarnate ..."where am I?"

19:54:39 **AG-Scribe: v9 #347**

19:55:11 **AG-Scribe:** Krishna is showing us HIS meditation, his yoga

19:55:17 **AG-Scribe: v10 #348**

19:55:29 **AG-Scribe:** hetu

19:55:50 **AG-Scribe:** etu = etumos = etymology

19:56:02 **AG-Scribe:** the hetu is the core logic behind anything

19:56:09 **AG-Scribe:** allows all the connectedness to occur

19:56:32 **AG-Scribe:** the hetu underneath all of prakriti – the entire material manifestation – and by that logic Bhagavan brings it into being, brings back the entities, etc.

19:56:53 **AG-Scribe: v11 #349**

19:57:15 **AG-Scribe:** bhuta maha ishvara

19:57:20 **AG-Scribe:** profound mystery

19:57:43 **AG-Scribe:** when he comes as an avatar people think he is just another human

19:58:10 **AG-Scribe:** but while he's playing that lila - that game - he's also supporting everything and bringing it out of his own self – that's HIS yoga

19:58:19 **AG-Scribe: v12 #350**

19:58:32 **AG-Scribe:** two possible outcomes of being an atma in matter

19:58:37 **AG-Scribe:** asura = not light. (Diwali)

19:58:56 **AG-Scribe:** can be in the dark or come out into the light

19:59:13 **AG-Scribe:** 2nd stage of asura = become so endarkened and you eat people around you to get their energy

19:59:51 **AG-Scribe:** the asuras know if you eat babies and children it is powerful health food.

Rakshasa = the eaters

20:00:11 **AG-Scribe:** at a certain stage of degradation you go beyond asura - lost in the dark - and become rakshasa = cannibal, literally or figuratively

20:00:18 **AG-Scribe:** leave a mess behind like our own civilization

20:00:33 **AG-Scribe:** mostly without meaning to we are living as asuras and rakshasas in western civilization, continuing to eat the whole world == colonization

20:01:56 **AG-Scribe: v13 #351**

20:02:14 **AG-Scribe:** everyone in the realm of matter is chasing chunks of beauty

20:02:31 **AG-Scribe:** where is all this beauty coming from and would we like to go there?

20:02:38 **AG-Scribe:** like an art museum. the source of everything

20:02:48 **AG-Scribe:** then you wouldn't need to chase little pieces of it

20:03:11 **AG-Scribe:** Bhagavan = all those beauties, delicious and wonderful = bhaga + van = the one who possesses them

20:04:17 **AG-Scribe:** if you found the source of all the beauty you wouldn't need anything else.

20:04:43 **AG-Scribe:** look within and have a relationship with Bhagavan, have access to all the beauty == yoga

20:04:50 **AG-Scribe: v14 #352**

20:06:01 **AG-Scribe:** Bhagavan comes before us so we see it's possible for each one of us to have a one-on-one with the Ultimate Being. It's almost inconceivable to us, our self esteem is so low. the Ultimate source of all beauty would take an interest in us??

20:06:18 **AG-Scribe:** we have been taught to fear this, not believe it

20:06:27 **AG-Scribe:** but meet the Being who is source of all beauty!

20:06:34 **AG-Scribe:** hari haraya namaha

20:06:41 **AG-Scribe:** that's how you do it – kirtayanto – by always chanting and singing His names

20:07:00 **AG-Scribe:** that's all you have to do – switch accounts, change channels, go to kirtayanto satatam mam – always singing and chanting my names

20:07:20 **AG-Scribe: v15 #353**

20:07:55 **AG-Scribe:** all the stars are smiling faces looking at us across the universe

20:08:20 **AG-Scribe:** the unlimited faces of Bhagavan shine forth a different ray of beauty from every star in every direction as the

20:08:30 **AG-Scribe:** every star is a face of Bhagavan as the light shining across the universe in every direction

20:08:45 **AG-Scribe:** dipavali!!! the light shining across the universe and we can relight the lamp in our own heart and never be in the dark again

20:08:50 **Andrea G:** jai!

20:10:02 **AG-Scribe:** Questions

20:10:28 **Q&A – Hana: #342 –** an apparent paradox. Bhagavan can be a person and do things we can't do as humans...?

20:10:38 **AG-Scribe:** He can be the source of everything and be inside everyone's heart too

20:11:02 **AG-Scribe:** He's inside us but we don't enclose Him within us = achintya

20:11:34 **AG-Scribe:** we are not of the magnitude to encompass/surround the Source of Everything, but it doesn't matter because the exchange of intimacy isn't affected by that

20:12:34 **AG-Scribe:** yogamaya - all we see is our friend or lover or beloved. we stop seeing Him as bigger than us and go to beloved intimacy. some day we will dance with Bhagavan. we won't see that enormity anymore, just enjoy the dance together

- 20:12:51 **AG-Scribe:** we are jiva atmas always. we will never be Paramatma
- 20:13:09 **AG-Scribe:** the closest you can get to that level of being is to become a Brahma and be a creator in a jagat
- 20:14:22 **Q&A – Andrea G: #353** - the stars shining in the night as the facets of Bhagavan – is this figurative and literal??
- 20:14:35 **AG-Scribe:** that IS Brahman! We don't see Brahman. We are sparkles of light in a context of dark. Our default setting is dark. Our concept of reality is dark, unconscious being our default setting, in the context of Brahman – luminous, conscious, and no kala – no calendar. Everything exists there in Brahman in a realm made of light and everything has form and beauty, existing without time. No sequence of manifestation. One thing does not follow another linearly or sequentially. Linear cause and effect within time is the limitation here in prakriti. Everything only lasts for so long. In Brahman there is no clock ticking. There is individuality and nothing is dark. We can't imagine it. Because our manas is based in prakriti, all is dark and cause and effect. Here we see the movie but we haven't seen the movie "stars". Each "star" is a movie star playing a part of the movie in Brahman. it is achintya to us in our tiny little dark caves here in prakriti. We can go beyond it all and see what Bhagavan is seeing if we allow it.
- 20:17:14 **AG-Scribe: v16-19 #354-357**
- 20:17:37 **AG-Scribe: other homework:** pay attention to these aham phrases
- 20:17:58 **Sandi - VASA:** I LOVE this part of the book - we numbered them so no one would skip over them
- 20:18:48 **AG-Scribe:** 😊
- 20:22:15 **AG-Scribe:** the material of meditation - those qualities of Bhagavan are the subject of meditating upon Him
- 20:22:36 **Sandi - VASA:** what is your job description?
- 20:22:45 **AG-Scribe: v20-21 #358-359**
- 20:25:17 **AG-Scribe:** devas represent the laws of nature personified
- 20:25:37 **AG-Scribe:** they are a level or two up from us - level 10 svarga loka. we are on level 8
- 20:25:51 **AG-Scribe:** deva loka is like a tropical vacation, then we have to come back to our job as humans
- 20:26:08 **AG-Scribe:** reciprocity with the devas makes us like them and we go be them next life
- 20:26:19 **AG-Scribe:** gives us another experience within matter. human and deva
- 20:26:24 **AG-Scribe:** come back as a human who's been a deva
- 20:26:34 **AG-Scribe:** but something feels wrong here
- 20:27:01 **AG-Scribe:** we're then ready for a (higher) yoga to take us to another level. that's what yoga is for
- 20:27:08 **AG-Scribe: v22-26 #360-364**

#364, Ch.9 v.26

patraṁ puṣpaṁ phalaṁ toyaṁ yo me bhaktyāprayacchati
tad ahaṁ bhaktyupahṛtam aśnāmi prayatātmanaḥ

If anyone offers Me, with love and devotion, a leaf, a flower, a fruit, or some water, I accept their offering as an act of love.

20:28:11 AG-Scribe: patram pushpam phalam toyam
20:29:02 AG-Scribe: whoever you make offerings to, whoever you're thankful to in a higher realm, you'll go there, or you'll go to a lower realm. whatever you are in love with here, you will go there

20:29:10 AG-Scribe: if you make an offering to Krishna you go to Him
20:29:13 AG-Scribe: what does He want??
20:29:24 AG-Scribe: a leaf, a flower, a fruit, some water – so expensive!?!?
20:29:29 AG-Scribe: pretty easy to find those things
20:30:28 AG-Scribe: “awww, is that flower for me??” the dirty mangled dandelion petal from a toddler. offer Me anything and Bhagavan loves it

20:30:42 AG-Scribe: that blade of grass dripping with your love
20:30:59 AG-Scribe: we put our hunger to love and serve into the flower
20:31:19 AG-Scribe: He's waiting until we're ready
20:31:28 AG-Scribe: and no amount of money needed to practice this
20:31:38 AG-Scribe: person to person!!
20:32:00 AG-Scribe: no congregation or intermediary needed
20:32:17 AG-Scribe: whatever we want we can go there
20:32:46 AG-Scribe: and then do Christmas... “Krishna's mas”
20:33:01 AG-Scribe: Christianity the charisma of Krishna Christos
20:33:10 AG-Scribe: Krishna's light
20:33:16 AG-Scribe: stay focused on the light
20:33:24 AG-Scribe: celebrate the most attractive being

20:33:31 AG-Scribe: **v27 #365**
20:34:45 AG-Scribe: redirect to Bhagavan. whatever you do. whatever you go to take or is given as a grace. even the inconvenience. offer it to Bhagavan

20:34:47 AG-Scribe: **v28 #366**
20:35:22 AG-Scribe: offer everything to Bhagavan
20:35:42 AG-Scribe: well, maybe not a McDonald's hamburger...
20:35:55 AG-Scribe: better to start with that than nothing
20:36:22 AG-Scribe: but it will work eventually
20:36:53 AG-Scribe: and next you'll be offering a flower instead of the hamburger and you'll become a vegetarian

20:37:00 AG-Scribe: **v29-31 #367-369**
20:38:13 AG-Scribe: see everyone as a beloved
20:39:44 AG-Scribe: easy to forget and get lost for a little while, but Bhagavan won't forget
20:39:49 AG-Scribe: namaste = I see you as the atma
20:39:58 AG-Scribe: shanta rasa = hands balanced at heart
20:40:07 AG-Scribe: I am in a mood with Bhagavan similar to petting a pet animal
20:40:59 AG-Scribe: Bhagavan purrs when we offer things to Bhagavan
20:41:03 AG-Scribe: purrson lol

20:41:37 AG-Scribe: **v32 #370**
20:42:10 AG-Scribe: anyone who through karma is in a dark spot - if they simply establish this link with Bhagavan, eventually those karmas will wear off and not continue to hold them down.

20:46:11 **AG-Scribe:** Sandi says – in this translation we took a bit more liberty with this verse and de-chauvinized. compare it to a few other Gitas which have a very sexist leaning to it, denigrating women in most other translations.

20:42:21 **AG-Scribe: #371**
20:42:27 **AG-Scribe:** dharmic rulers. once you understand this it tempers everything you do

20:42:53 **AG-Scribe: #372**
20:42:57 **AG-Scribe:** manmana bhava
20:44:17 **AG-Scribe:** don't give everything away. OFFER it all to Bhagavan in His seva. how can I be of seva to You?

20:44:30 **AG-Scribe:** how can I reduce the pain and suffering around me... if you're a leader??
20:44:38 **AG-Scribe:** dream of how to reduce peoples suffering

20:48:11 **Q&A/Comment – Dr. Debanek:** re v22 #360
20:51:40 **Dr. Debanek:** story re commentator and his interpretation of this verse... Bhagavan carries the bhaktas' requirements on His back!
20:51:47 **AG-Scribe:** yes, it's all about this sublime and beautiful reciprocity and that it's all very personal

20:52:28 **AG-Scribe:** Krishna is still letting us go through our journey. that's why we're here
20:52:57 **AG-Scribe:** just because we approach Bhagavan it doesn't cancel out our journey and give us superpowers etc. the poignancy of us feeling and truly being so vulnerable and having a love that has nothing to do with my situation (or theirs)

20:53:04 **AG-Scribe:** my desire if for everyone to have this but I cannot force that
20:53:24 **AG-Scribe:** we become more and more refined in this intimacy. the gap between big and small disappears

20:53:37 **AG-Scribe:** we begin to understand that this is all taking place outside of us and within us. we the individual are having the "outside" experiences to decide where we're eventually going and what is the most important relationship

20:55:29 **Q&A – Reivin:** does Krishna ever define/use a word for culture? Kula? Does the term “vedic” mostly get understood in a material way because people think it's just another word for culture?

20:56:06 **AG-Scribe:** the first culture to apply that to is agriculture = our direct relationship with Mata Bhumi. we have lost several direct contacts we had with Mother Earth

20:56:11 **AG-Scribe:** e.g. building a fire to eat food and everything that was part of that, gathering wood, not taking too much, etc. This was all much more personal before.

20:56:49 **AG-Scribe:** our lifestyle has taken away our sense of connecting with nature, reciprocity
20:57:05 **AG-Scribe:** the culture is normally dependent on the region, the local trees etc.
20:58:24 **AG-Scribe:** dharma = deep cooperation with the laws of nature that causes a reciprocity and a culture, an agri-culture in the place where we live

20:58:42 **AG-Scribe:** we don't know this because we think we have a "culture" but it's distorted and separated, we don't know how the natural systems work. We are missing a “participatory” culture

20:59:13 **AG-Scribe:** danam = some form of giving, but not giving as charity which is either condescending or more of an afterthought

20:59:24 **AG-Scribe:** think of it more as circulation, spreading/sharing the resources, cooperating with the plants etc., integrating more with nature and the people who need more

- 20:59:46 **Sandi - VASA:** DANAM is not CHARITY - wrong connotation - Jeffrey suggests it should be circulation of energy throughout society
- 21:00:49 **AG-Scribe:** yajna = putting the ashes from the fire back into the garden. we have lost that whole chain of activity. we are out of the loop because we don't light the fire, gather and thank the trees, ...
- 21:01:27 **AG-Scribe:** if you want to go direct to Bhagavan you have to go through the devas too and try to develop the culture. Can't just go straight to Bhagavan without also developing the culture. Can't take everything and leave a dead planet.
- 21:02:27 **Reivin Johnson:** The exact answer I needed
- 21:02:34 **AG-Scribe:** **Sandi says:** Jeffrey's last Citti Media video on vegetarianism https://youtu.be/sf75VwX1N_0
- 21:03:18 **Q&A – Aaron:** #358 and 363 mirroring each other?
- 21:04:38 **AG-Scribe:** conversation around the "employees" (devas)
- 21:04:45 **AG-Scribe:** Abrahamics say do not talk to the hired help
- 21:05:03 **AG-Scribe:** out in nature and you know you're not alone
- 21:05:21 **AG-Scribe:** you can feel the consciousness, there's something behind everything
- 21:05:50 **AG-Scribe:** they were angry about the attention to the hired help
- 21:05:57 **AG-Scribe:** but whoever you thank, that thanks go to Bhagavan
- 21:06:13 **AG-Scribe:** but also have to direct your attention straight to him
- 21:06:29 **AG-Scribe:** we are likely to ask the devas for material benefit and get greedy
- 21:06:54 **AG-Scribe:** do not ask the devas for anything. say thank you for everything
- 21:07:20 **AG-Scribe:** then you'll become a deva and it's an experience we can have within matter
- 21:07:45 **AG-Scribe:** not here just to get here and go straight back to Bhagavan. we are here to have the whole experience. take all possible births. no time limit
- 21:07:54 **AG-Scribe:** but everything we do does have a result
- 21:08:22 **AG-Scribe:** and we realize the universe is an experiment made by something behind it

#299, Ch.7 v.19

bahūnām janmanām ante jñānavān mām prapadyate
vāsudevaḥ sarvam iti sa mahātmā sudurlabhaḥ

After many, many births in pursuit of divine knowledge, one finally surrenders unto Me alone, saying: Vasudeva sarvam iti 'Vasudeva is the vast source of all and is everything'. Such a mahatma is very rare.

- 21:09:09 **AG-Scribe:** finally thinks it though and comes to the conclusion that Vasudeva Bhagavan is the source of it ALL.
- 21:09:18 **AG-Scribe:** can speed it up and thank Bhagavan for it all
- 21:09:55 **AG-Scribe:** if its moksha you want this lifetime you can't have addictions within matter. no penalty, but you will come back and try it again
- 21:11:09 **AG-Scribe:** papa punya sukha dukha
- 21:11:20 **AG-Scribe:** don't negate the realm of the devas, but it is a temporary step
- 21:11:44 **AG-Scribe:** you can go there, but you have to come back to being human before moksha. only humans can get moksha. devas have to become a human again
- 21:11:50 **AG-Scribe:** they can't just leave prakriti
- 21:12:03 **AG-Scribe:** have a big view of it all - sa mahatma sudur labhah

- 21:12:54 **Beverly Akhurst:** If there is an opportunity in a newsletter could we touch on the relationship between hetu and ritam?
- 21:13:04 **Sharon Hinckley:** Happy Diwali
- 21:13:27 **Sandi - VASA:** Thanks Andrea Parker & Ethan for SEWA this week!
- 21:13:40 **AG-Scribe:** we become a dipa - someone who has lit the lamp of Brahman in their heart
- 21:13:47 **AG-Scribe:**
- Om asato ma sad gamaya
Tamaso ma sat gamaya
Mrityor ma amritam gamaya
- 21:14:40 **AG-Scribe:** from the temporariness of prakriti to the immortality of Brahman. Asato/sad usually translated as from the unreal lead us to the real, but it's a mistranslation – it's all real
- 21:14:50 **AG-Scribe:** lead us from the temporary to the immortal
- 21:15:30 **Sandi - VASA:** Sat/asat: Eternal. One of the characteristics of the atma. The opposite is asat 'temporary'.
- 21:15:16 **AG-Scribe:** tamaso ma jyotir gamaya
- 21:15:48 **AG-Scribe:** please lead me to the light of Brahman, my origin and destination
- 21:15:58 **AG-Scribe:** mrityor ma amritam gamaya
- 21:16:44 **AG-Scribe:** om namo bhagavate vasudevaya
- 21:20:05 **AG-Scribe:** Namaste, happy Diwali!

HOMEWORK:

- Learn/study the 4 core verses –summary of the entire Bhagavad Gita Ch. 10, v 8-11, #380-383.
- Meditate on the AHAM phrases in Chapter 9, v 16-19 #354-357.