Gita Chapter 7 -Class 23. Feb 22

* Revision
* V15/16  
  - the grading/sequence of development of appreciation of Isvara  
  - 1. not ready for bhakti  
  - 2. only when I am in trouble   
  - 3. as help in achieving worldly gain  
  - 4. inquire about Isvara directly, not just as an aid  
  - 5. cognize/experience that Isvara is my core, and I am indeed independent
* V17  
  - answers a natural question in our minds – which is the best?  
  - **the answers removes many misconceptions**
* #1: bhakti is as good as ज्ञानं, knowledge  
  - ज्ञानं is difficult, dry; I am not suited to it. Bhakti suits my emotional nature  
  - Krishna says no. Ultimately you have to resort to ज्ञानं  
  - karma => upasana (bhakti) => knowledge
* #2: I can just meditate  
  - advanced meditation, like TM, vipasana are good enough for me  
  - Krishna says no. Only a systematic study of the self over a length of time under a competent teacher who has gone through the discipline  
  - a study that deals with both the higher and lower nature systematically  
  - so not only bhakti of forms (saguna upasana), but also the bhakti of the formless (nirguna upasana)
* #3: a ज्ञानी (gyani) is not a भक्त (bhakta)  
  - no. If you see a person who has no bhakti, he/she has not understood  
  - the greatest gyani is also the greatest bhakta  
  - a scientist alone can appreciate the greatness of Einstein
* Gives an important reason: नित्ययुक्तः (nityayukta) – is steadfast   
  - does not see Isvara sporadically  
  - does not waver in pleasure and pain
* Br. U. has an important teaching (याज्ञवल्क्य teaching his wife मैत्रेयी)  
  - it says please see/understand that you love others conditionally; your love for the self is unconditional  
  - similarly, your love for God needs to be understood as unconditional  
  - in fact both are the same
* A gyani knows that God alone is the self
* V18  
  - it is not to say all are not doing well  
  - but please see that they all need crutches, are dependent  
  - whereas the gyani is now well, and can throw away the crutches  
  - how? Because the individuality has been discarded in favor of totality, which is my nature
* V19
* - the four stages of growth/maturity; it takes time; it is not trivial  
  - it may take several incarnations  
  - does not mean you need more; it may happen in this life itself
* वासुदेव = वसुः + देवः   
  वसुः = वसन्ति सर्वाणि भूतानि अस्मिन इति   
  - one in which all living and non-living things owe their existence to  
  - the existence principle itself. सत् स्वरुप   
  - देवः = चित् स्वरुप – the nature of consciousness/knowledge principle
* So the form and content of the entire creation. Isvara. Brahman
* With V19, the topic (started in V 13) of using devotion to Isvara as a tool (साधन) to gain freedom from problems in life, is over.  
  - with V 20, a new topic is started