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