

Summary of Chapter 2 - Part 1

Chapter 2 - SAMKHYA YOGA

This chapter is considered to be the summary of the entire Gita.

Samkhya is one of the six Hindu schools of philosophy. Swami Chinmayananda says that Samkhya denotes "the logic of thought in a philosophy."

The word samkhya can be divided into:
Sam - meaning "Union", and
Khya - meaning "Knowledge."

Samkhya therefore can be considered as "union with the Knowledge." In this instance it is the total knowledge about the "Atman and Paramatma," which is all about the "Eternal Truth."

The main purpose of the Gita is to give mankind the lessons on the philosophy of living.

Arjuna was made to analyse his feelings and act according to the commands of the sastras. If all of us act according to our inner conscience, (provided we have received the basic education on the scriptures) we can make this world a better place to live.

+++++

Sloka 3

KLAIBYAM MAA SMA GAMAHA PARTHA NAITAT TVAYI UPAPADYATE
KSHUDRAM HRIDAYA DAURBALYAM TYAKTVOTTISHTA PARANTAPA

O Partha, do not yield to this wretchedness. It does not befit you. Cast off this wretched weakness of the heart. Arise, O scorcher of the enemies.

+++++

This is a very famous sloka in the Gita and is considered as a very strong mantra for the mankind. Whenever there is a philosophical subject under discussion, many a scholars quote this verse. Swamy Vivekananda considers this sloka to be the entire summary of the Gita philosophy. He picks up two words in this sloka as the best words used by Krishna. They are:

Klaibyam - wretchedness,
Utthishta - arise.

The lesson to mankind: In states of distress, do not succumb to this weakness which makes one lose capacity to conduct the duties. Stand up and carry on the ordained duties in which one has received the basic training.

The Gita is basically meant to give one strength to overcome the state of momentary grief which everyone of us experience sometime or other in our lives. Grief is nothing but a state of "weakness of the mind."

*** will be continued ***

