Sloka 8  (Chapter 4)

PARITRANAYA SADHOONAAM VINASHAYACHA DUSHKritaAM
DHARMA SAMSTHAPANARTHAYA SAMBHAVAAMI YUGE YUGE

For the protection of the righteous, for the destruction of wicked, and for the establishment of Dharma, I am born in every age.

***  continuation from last week  ***

He promises to destroy the wicked. There are some who do not like the idea of the Lord punishing, killing wicked people. We have to look at it as a way of clearing the evil from the face of earth. We should understand this aspect of Lord’s actions clearly. In every society, there are people to uphold the law of the land. No society would like to harm its citizens. But it has a duty towards protection of its citizens. This is not a contradictory statement at all.

Similarly, we have to see the Lord as the Universal protector of dharma. After all He is the universal Justice of Law.

To punish the wicked is not to be looked upon as an act of hatred but as an act of mercy by the Lord. We, the humans have to climb up from being Stone-men to the level of God-men on earth. The world is a combination of men of the following four categories:

Stone-man
Animal-man
Man-man
God-man.

Most of the criminal acts are by Animal-men on earth.

We either have to climb up in the spiritual ladder or fall down to lower levels of birth and be born again and again till we develop the intellectual maturity to reach the level of God-men on earth. This is the path to Moksha or Liberation.

The Lord is guiding us towards the path of Moksha through the sacred book the Gita, and warns us through this Sloka not to fall from the heights of birth as humans. The sastras say that the birth right of every individual is to attain the final Liberation. The Lord, out of immense love to His creation is only assisting the individual to reach the final goal.

Our enemy is “Arishadwargas.” It is the family of six evils:
Kama, krodha, lobha, moha, mada and matsarya.
The leader is “Kama”, the desire, lustful desire. If the leader is destroyed, his followers will surrender and peace will be established. The Lord’s incarnation is destroying the leaders that bring havoc on earth.

Sloka 9

JANMA KARMA CHA ME’ DIVYAM EVAM YO VE’TTI TATVATAHA
TYAKTVA DEHAM PUNARJANMA NAITI MAAME’TI SO’RJUNA.

O Arjuna, he who thus knows My divine birth and action, having abandoned the body, is not born again, but to Me, he comes.
In the secular world, knowing and becoming are two different entities and we should not apply the same principle in understanding this Sloka.

As a matter of fact this Sloka is really the re-iteration of the Upanishad declaration:
Brahmavit Brahmaiva bhavati.
It means the one who knows Brahman, becomes Brahman.

Let us try to understand this declaration first.

What the Lord has taught us so far is the fact that each of us has the Atman within which is the true Self. This Self is covered with the outer physical body made up of five elements. We are not the body but the Atman. The Atman is “Brahman.” He who knows this basic spiritual principle of the Hindu philosophy comes to understand and live with the “Eternal Truth.”

Such an individual realises the process of birth and death due to the play of the gunas and maya and soon learns to live with the bliss of “Atma Jnana.” Such an individual attains one-ness with the Brahman. This is the Upanishad declaration.

*** will be continued ***