



॥ भगवद् गीता ॥
... Bhagavad Gītā ...

Chapter 4

AI Summary - Class 172

For Bhagavad Gītā 2, by Acharya Tadany Cargin dos Santos
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Question before class

Understanding Dharma

Dharma is not an absolute value but relative to circumstances and context. (Acharya Tadany)

Key Principles:

- Dharma should be prioritized over personal likes and dislikes
- People often justify actions based on preferences rather than dharma itself
- The Bhagavad Gītā helps establish dharma as the primary decision-making framework
- An enlightened person (jñāni) applies dharma objectively without personal bias

Practical Example:

The upadeśa included a contextual example about eating meat high in the Himalayas, illustrating that dharma requires considering practical circumstances and context rather than following absolute rules

Summary

The Nature of ātmā (Consciousness)

ātmā is the ever-actionless, all-pervasive consciousness principle

Fundamental Characteristics:

- All-pervasive like space
- Cannot perform actions because actions require movement
- Ever-free from karma and activities
- Motionless and eternal



- Does not possess or own actions

Space Analogy:

Acharya Tadany used space as a primary analogy to explain consciousness:

- Just as space is everywhere but doesn't move or act
- Space cannot travel from one place to another
- Similarly, consciousness pervades all but remains actionless
- Consciousness cannot engage in physical or mental movements

ātmā vs. Body-Mind-Sense Complex

ātmā (Consciousness)	Body-Mind-Sense Complex (ahaṁkāra/anātmā)
Ever actionless	Always in motion
Motionless and eternal	Made of matter, constantly moving
Free from karma	Subject to karma and action
All-pervasive	Limited and localized
Cannot be renounced (not possessed)	Can be engaged or disengaged

The Concept of Perpetual Motion

Motion at Multiple Levels

Atomic Level:

- Motion never stops, even in seemingly motionless objects
- Walls and solid objects are composed of constantly moving atoms and particles
- Like a spring under tension - potential energy represents constant motion

Cosmic Level:

- Earth is in constant rapid movement
- Galaxies are continuously moving
- The naṭarāja dance symbolizes universal movement
- Everything in the universe is in perpetual motion

Even when something appears to be at rest, at the atomic level, motion continues without cessation. (Acharya Tadany)



Practical Application: Finding Peace in Action

The Paradox of Action and Inaction

Common Misconception:

- People believe they need to escape from action to find peace
- Life circumstances (work, family, responsibilities) are seen as obstacles to spiritual growth
- Waiting for the "right time" to practice spiritual teachings

Krishna's Teaching:

- Don't try to escape from action
- Own up to your state of permanent rest and peace at the ātmā level
- Find leisure and peace within action itself, not by waiting for inaction
- Recognize the motionless consciousness amidst life's constant movements

The Wise Person's Perspective

A wise person sees the actionlessness of ātmā even when there are actions at the anātmā level, discovering peace regardless of activities or responsibilities. (Acharya Tadany)

Key Insights:

1. Peace is not dependent on external circumstances
2. Inner fulfillment comes from connecting with one's true nature
3. True nature (ātmā) is ever-present and unchanging
4. Understanding potential actions even during rest

Illuminating Analogies

Movie Screen Analogy:

- The screen remains motionless while the movie plays
- Similarly, consciousness (ātmā) remains still while life's activities unfold
- The screen is not affected by the action in the movie
- Consciousness is not affected by the body-mind's activities

Light Analogy:

- Light illuminates all objects but remains unchanged
- Consciousness illuminates all experiences but remains unaffected



Two Key Lessons from Krishna

- Lesson 1: ātmān is Ever Actionless**
 - The consciousness principle cannot perform actions
 - It is free from karma because it doesn't possess or own actions
 - You cannot renounce something you don't possess
 - Therefore, ātmā is inherently free
- Lesson 2: Distinction Between ātmā and Material Body**
 - The body-mind-sense complex is made of matter
 - Matter is always in motion (either actual or potential)
 - Consciousness remains motionless and eternal
 - Understanding this distinction is key to spiritual realization

Challenges in Spiritual Practice

Common Obstacles

- Work responsibilities and career demands
- Family obligations and relationships
- Postponing spiritual practice for "better times"
- Believing external circumstances must change first
- Seeking peace through inaction rather than understanding

The Solution

The key is not to change external circumstances but to recognize the ever-present peace at the ātmā level, regardless of external activities. (Acharya Tadany)