

## Nishkam Karma Conception in Bhagvadgeeta

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Human being is superior to all creatures by being the source of thoughts, emotions and planned action. The intelligence helps it to cultivate all its dormant qualities. The modern science has proved that humans can even reprogramme genes. No other creature can even dream of it. Humans can explore their inner selves to reach the spiritual heights. Gita knowledge is a ladder to those heights and meet creator. Lord Krishna has revealed the possibilities of various spiritual exercises including Karma Yoga. Karma is natural reaction of a man. It leads to bindings and worldly trappings. Gita teaches us ways to escape those bindings and trappings. He propounds the divine theory of selfless deeds and non attachment to the rewards of deeds -

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन ।

मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि ॥<sup>1</sup>

It does not mean that if the fruits of labour are inconsequential then why do the labour at all? Do your duty forgetting about your desires and the difference between the success and the failure. It is what we call 'total equanimity'.

योगस्थः कुरु कर्माणिसङ्गं त्यक्त्वा धनंजय

सिद्धयसिद्धयोः समो भूत्वा समत्वं योग उच्यते ॥<sup>2</sup>

What is action and what is inaction? Pondering over these even wise one gets confused or misled. In Gita Lord Krishna explained the element of Karma-

कर्मण्यकर्म यः पश्येदकर्मणि च कर्म यः ।

स बुद्धिमान्मनुष्येषु स युक्तः कृत्स्नकर्मकृतः ।<sup>3</sup>

A man who sees inaction in action and vice versa, such man is the wise one and that 'Yogi' is the doer of all deeds. Karma as dharmadone in small measure or attempted to, protects one from the terror of the life and death cycle.<sup>4</sup>

Lord Krishna says about Karma योगः कर्मसु कौशलम्<sup>5</sup> He who is equanimous not concerned in sin or charity leaves them back in this very world. So, one must adopt equanimity of mind. It is the only way to get away from the tangles of deeds. These wise only who are equanimous they forego the fruits of deeds and liberate themselves from the bonds of life and unite the creator to attain Nirvana or final salvation.<sup>6</sup> A man who mentally exercising control over the sense, being bereft of desire, performs physical deeds, he is called the superior one.

यस्त्विन्द्रियाणि मनसा नियम्यारभतेऽर्जुन ।

कर्मेन्द्रियैः कर्मयोगमसक्तः स विशिष्यते ।<sup>7</sup>

Lord Krishna says a man can do the worthwhile deeds prescribed in the scriptures. Because doing deeds is better than avoiding deeds.

नियतं कुरु कर्म त्वं कर्म ज्यायो ह्यकर्मणः ।

शरीरयात्रापि च ते न प्रसिद्ध्येदकर्मणः ।<sup>8</sup>

Lord Krishna says about Karma do deeds (Karma) for the religious purposes remaining detached. Lord Krishna says own faith is preferable and superior than other's faith.

श्रेयान्स्वधर्मो विगुणः परधर्मात्स्वनुष्ठितात् ।

स्वधर्मे निधनं श्रेयः परधर्मो भयावहः ।<sup>9</sup>

Karma is natural one can live without some deed. Lord Krishna advises to perform one's duty detached from the thoughts of the consequences. Lord Krishna revealed, Avoidance of Karma and detached Karma, both are equally good. But Karma Yoga (detached action) is better being easier of the two.<sup>10</sup> Lord Krishna tells Asceticism without detached Karma is very difficult to attain. But a Karma Yogi whose entire effort is to concentrate his mind into God, such Karma Yogi instantly Zeroes in God. Detached Karma is the only way to get Supreme power (God).

सन्न्यासस्तु महाबाहो दुःखमाप्तुमयोगतः ।

योगयुक्तो मुनिर्ब्रह्म नचिरेणाधिगच्छति ।।<sup>11</sup>

A knower of the soul knowledge is free of all desires. His deeds are selfless. So, the consequences of the deeds don't accrue to him. Such a Karma Yogi<sup>12</sup> has no involvement even in the acts he performs. A man who performs his duties without conscious involvement, he remains clear of the sins just like the petals of the lotus that make the water drops roll off without wetting them.

ब्रह्मण्याधाय कर्माणि संगं त्यक्त्वा करोति यः ।

लिप्यते न स पापेन पद्मपत्रमिवाम्भसा ।।<sup>13</sup>

Selfless Karma Yogi performs deeds only aimed at the purification of conscience as Lord Krishna says-

कायेन मनसा बुद्ध्या केवलैरिन्द्रियैरपि

योगिनः कर्म कुर्वन्ति संगं त्यक्त्वात्मशुद्धये ।।<sup>14</sup>

Lord Krishna says, Karma Yoga is superior because selfless Karma Yogi delinks himself from the rewards or consequences of his deeds and enjoys the supreme happiness of proximity to God. Whereas selfish man eyes the rewards for his deeds and gets trapped in bonds.

युक्तः कर्मफलं त्यक्त्वा शान्तिमाप्नोति नैष्ठिकीम् ।

अयुक्तः कामकारेण फले सक्तो निबध्यते ।।<sup>15</sup>

The deeds inspired by the knowledge are simple, noble and carry no expectation or pride. Lord Krishna terms it the way to the supreme peace.

Lord Krishna propounds divine theory of selfless, unattached deeds and non attachment to the rewards of deeds. This Karma theory is quoted world wide. He analysed the manifest and unmanifest form of power Supreme.

#### **Reference :**

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3. Shrimadbhagvadgeeta. 4/18
4. Shrimadbhagvadgeeta. 2/40
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