

PHILOSOPHICAL CONCERNS IN MAHABHARATHA AND BHAGAVADGITA : A STUDY

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Abstract:

Indian traditions and culture are deeply rooted in our vedic scriptures like Ramayana, Mahabharatha and Bhagavadgita. In the present modern era people are busy with materialistic life, leading a mundane life. It is the right moment now to recollect the religious philosophy of Bhagavad gita, Mahabharatha. Krishna's preaching's are lucid, simple and have a deeper connotation of life. It is an abundant treasure of knowledge and philosophy. Krishna Tatva is an amalgamation of deep knowledge and life skills. The purpose of writing this paper is to enlighten the readers and create awareness about The Mahabharatha and The Gita. Though Krishna's preachings are a mystic one, it is a great source of inspiration to the entire generations of people. Human consciousness, conflict management, leadership, decision making, Soft skills, Karma theory etc are portrayed in this paper.

Key words

Indian traditions, culture, soft skills and Karma.

Introduction

Indian philosophy and religion is predominantly the outcome of conventions and spiritual living. Sankara Bhagavadpada has patronized the doctrine of uniqueness of the universe in his commentaries on Upanishads, Bramhasutras and Bhagavadgita. The substance of his preaching is undeniably proved in all atobrakavyas where in the righteousness like truth, non-violence, patience, humbleness etc. These views are widely propagated and implemented in numerous works of Indian philosophy in Sanskrit language.

In 1785 Sir Charles Wilkins translated the first English translation of the Bhagavad Gita. Veda Vyasa composed it as the Global longest poem, part and parcel of Mahabharatha. Gita with a composition of 700 verses. It is a combination of life skills, emotional intelligence, duty and work.

“The earliest of the 100,000 verses could have been orally composed around 3140 BC, while written documentations were dated between 300 BC and 200 AD.”¹

The Bhagavad gita is undoubtedly a great treasure to a student of Indian philosophy. Gita's

teachings are simple and universally valued. In the modern era the concept of stress and strain conflicts and struggle are a common phenomenon, the role of Bhagavadgita is highly important. It offers a community of Human interest and support to attain peace. Duty is considered as a social and individual responsibility. Duty is to be fulfilled with dedication and commitment, but not with the personal benefits or ego. Continual practice of truth, non violence will result in peace and happiness, not only to the individual but also to the society. Purity of thought, purity of work, purity of speech for any person and the individual become eligible for the understanding of the universal self. The conflicting ideas are raised and suitable solutions are offered by the lord in Bhagavadgita.

“According to Gandhi during his stay at Satyagraha Ashram in Ahmedabad at the time of February and November 1926 he devoted much of his time and energy to translating the Gita from Sanskrit into his native Gujarathi.”²

Gita shows medicinal treatment for the current malaise of the world. It paves the psychological and spiritual solutions to the world. Proper understanding of the Bhagavadgita, one can have the state of realization on the facts without any ego or biased feelings. Fifth chapter of the Gita, describes renunciation of the fruit. Sixth chapter portrays different levels of our behavior and food habits. Excessive involvement of mind and sense organs will result in negative ideas and create destruction. Hence, Indian philosophy explains performance of duty with a spirit of non attachment and without desire.

“Desires lead to our behaviors, and the achievement or non-achievement of a desire causes positive or negative emotions though self-reflection, and the practice of karma yoga, desires can be better managed, it facilitate healthy management of emotions.”³

Truth is the ultimate goal, as enunciated by the Gita for which the mind should possess the vision of purity. Impurities selfishness mind, sense desire will create downfall to any one in the society. By attaining knowledge and wisdom, a person is considered to be capable and efficient to lead the society.

Ethics make the man fit to occupy the highest position and allows him to have the philosophical understanding of the oneness of the universe. This makes us happy and gives us peace in this world.

“Bhagavadgita is usually considered as mystical and religious poetry, it focuses on the story of a battle between two sets of cousins of the Aryan clan.”⁴

Bhagavadgita is a Krishna's knowledge book. It became popular one, changed the fate of humans. It influenced generations of people. Sri Krishna is the first soft skills manager in the world. Why because Lord Krishna preached ethics in the hymn.

Klaibhyam masmagama partha naithath vayupapadhayethe

Kshudram Hrudaya daurbalyam taktova Thistaparam Tapaha! (2-3)

Lord Krishna addressed Arjuna and advices him not to yield to cowardice. It is not a free one. Leave this cowardice, be ready for the war. In this hymn the entire essence of gita is depicted. An adage runs thus:

If you protect dharma, it protects us. What is dharma? Dharma helped Rama's victory over Ravana, Pandava's victory over Kouravas. In each yuga god is incarnating to restore Dharma, protecting good people from the hands of wicked people.

Indians worship cow as Gomatha. In Mahabharatha Anu sasanika parva Bhishma preached Gomathi yaga, prominence of Gomatha Bhishma's preaching runs thus: In any one completes education among cows, it gives very good results. Cow has positive vibrations, healing powers. Most of the Indians regard Krishna as Gopala and revered one.

Krishna's preaching runs as follows:

“Annadhbhavanthi Boothani Parjanayadhana sambhava

Yagnad bhavathi parjanya yagnaha karma samudhbhavam”

Krishna paramatma asserts I am forever. One who implores me, I will rescue them from

samsara sagara.

Lord Krishna removes egoism from the heart of Arjuna, teaches Karma yoga, readies him to the war. Human beings follow the footsteps of good people and consider them as ideal people. Raga Devsha are human's first enemies . One who conquers these ones can understand Gita. Human weaknesses are arusgadvargas , we should conquer these ones. Self praise, blaming others, creation of scuffle, telling lies, stealing others property, uttering the foul language. If we are abstain away from all the above evil deeds. We will understand the sweetness of Gita. Bhagavadgita preaches duty, adaptability to life struggles. Confrontation of conflicts and how to gain confidence.

Bhagavadgita started with Dharma shabdha. Dharma is a pillar of good life. It removes sadness, restores goodness. It gives solution to removal of sadness, wellbeing of humanbeing. In Krishna's words Kama, krodha, Lobha are doors of hell. These spoilt soul. Human beings should sacrifice. Humans must possess the quality of Dhana.

One day Lord Krishna went to Karna's home during that time of Karna's bathing. Krishna finds a precious pitcher coated with valuable vajras. Krishna tries to test karna, asks karna to donate . Karna gives with left hand, intervenes karna, Krishna does not accept and addresses him.

"Oh ! karna do you donate with left hand? Don't you know the traditions?"

Karna replies to him , " Hey Krishna the present wealth may disappear and the present life may end. Human beings Dharma intellect may change that is why without wiping oil hand my mind may change. Suddenly I would like to handover the pitcher with left hand. He answered.

Krishna feels ecstatic Dhana should happen suddenly otherwise mind may be changed.

Niyatham kurur karmathvam karma jayho hukarmana

Sarira yatra pichatena prashidhya dhakar mana."

Krishna advises Arjuna, do some karmas, if you do not perform karma, body yatra can not run. The Bhagavan said: Fearlessness, purity of heart, steadfastness in knowledge and devotion , alms giving, self control, and sacrifice, study of the scriptures, austerity and uprightness, nonviolence, truth, freedom from anger, renunciation, tranquility, aversion to slander, compassion to living beings, freedom from covetousness, gentleness, modesty and steadiness, courage, patience, fortitude, purity and freedom from malice and overwhelming conceit these belong to him, who is born to heritage of the demons."5

Lord Krishna assures him to surrender all duties, do not lament, I will release you from all sins.

Nasthomoha : Smurithirla bhadha thvatpra sadhanmaya chutha

Sthithosmigatha sahandeyha karishya varchanam Tavaha"

Arjuna addresses Krishna due to your kindness I lost paranoia, learnt knowledge, solved doubts. I am ready to abide by your laws.

In the thirteenth chapter of Bhagavadgita, a Brahmin Harideksita lived in a famous city Harihara, located on Tungabhadra river in South India. His wife was a wicked woman, leads uncontrolled life. After her death, she suffered a lot due to her vicious life in her former birth and in her next birth, she was born in the Chandala home. In the next life, she lived uncontrolled life. One day as she was passing by the side of Lord shiva's temple she heard a Brahmin's chantings of 13th chapter of sacred Gita. On hearing this she was released from all her sins and after the demise she reached heaven in a celestial car.

" Those who perceive by their spiritual insight the distinction between the body and the soul and the deliverance from nature, the cause of all beings they reach the supreme."6

The Bhagavad Gita (VI :5-6) says,

"Raise yourself by your self;

Don't let yourself down,

For you alone are your own friend,

You alone are your enemy.

One becomes one's own friend

When one has conquered oneself;
But to the unconquered self,
He or she is inimical (and becomes)
Like (an external) enemy.”⁷

Kurukshetra war episode was a prominent one in Mahabharatha. This war occurred between Kauravas and Pandavas for the sake of the throne in Hastinapura. This war occurred at Kurukshetra in Haryana.

Based on beliefs, it happened in between 3000 -1000 Result favored pandavas. Kaurava's leader is Bhishma, Pandavas leader is Dhruvacharya.

Kaurava's Sainidikaras : Bhishma, Dhruvacharya, Karna, Duryodhana, Aswathama.

Kaurava's crew : 2,405,700 soldiers.

Pandava's Crew: 1,530,900 soldiers.

Deaths: Total number of Kauravas died except Aswathama, Krupa, Krutha varma.

Total Pandavas died except 8 members Pandavas (5), Srikrishna, Satayaki, Yuyuthusa.

Kurukshetra war occurred 18days. Depiction of war appeared in Bhishma, Dhruvacharya, Karna, Salva, Upariksha parvas. Bhagavadgita emerged at the beginning time of Kurukshetra war. Srikrishna brought the chariot in the middle of the battle field by the wish of Arjuna. Arjuna witnessed gurus, friends, kith and kin at the battle field. Arjuna feels sad, vain to slay others. In a perplexed mood , Arjuna implores Krishna. What is my duty? It led to Bhagavadgita.

Day 1 :- Pandavas war plan : Vajra

Kauravas war plan : Sarvatho Mukha

On the first day Krishna preached Gita to Arjuna. Bhishma showed his strength in archery. Abhimanyu, Arjuna confronted him to some extent.

Day 2: Pandavas war plan: Krauncha

Kauravas war plan: Trikuta

On the second day , Arjuna tormented Bhishma, Bhima enraged and created flutter among Kalinga sena. Abhimanyu showed his valour against Bhishma, Dhruvacharya.

Day3: Pandava's war plan : Artha Chandra

Kaurava's war plan: Garuda

Due to Bhishma's enagement Arjuna showed his strength and slays Kaurava sena.

Day4: On that day Abhimanyu, Bhima, participated in the war very well. Bhima slayed Nine Kaurava brothers.

Day5: Pandavas war plan : Sheyasa

Kauravas war plan : Makara

On this day Bhishma slays Satyaki's ten sons. Arjuna kills 25,000 charioteers.

Day6 : Pandava war plan: Makara

Kauravas war plan: Krauncha

Bhima , pandavas fight vociferously against Kauravas. Drupada, Dhruvacharya confronts each other.

Day7 : Pandava war : Vajra

Kaurava war: Mandala

Bhaghadatta drives away Gatochakacha , satyaki drives away Alambarudu.

Day8 : Pandava war plan : Bhrungataka

Kaurava war plan: Kurma

Bhima slays 12 kauravas.

Day9 : Pandava war plan : Mandala vyuhe

Kaurava war plan: Sarvathobhadra

Bhishma showed great valour. No one stopped him.

Day10: Dronacharya, Bhishma, Arjuna, Sikandi participated in the war fiercely. Bhishma

reached Ampassya.

Day11: Karna entered into the battle field for the first time. Dhrona tries to capture Dharma Raja. Arjuna prevents it.

Day12: Arjuna slays Bhagha Datta. The first duel war takes place between Arjuna and Karna.

Day13: Dhronacharya hatches a plot of Padmavyuha. Abhimanyu crosses padma Vyuha confronts the foes.

Day 14: Kaurava created sakata+ Padma + Suchi view. This view is created to protect saindhava but arjuna moves swiftly. On 14th day Karna wished to kill Arjuna. Ghatokacha participated voluntarily in the night war. Finally , Arjuna fulfills his oath by killing Saindhava. Karna uses his energy , kills Ghatothkacha.

Day15: On fifteenth day Bhima , Dhrustadhumna fought against Dhronacharya. Krishna realizes that it is not easy to end the life of Dronacharya. Krishna plays psychological blackmail of Aswathama Hatha Kunjarah. By believing the words of Krishna , he discards the ammunition. Dhrusadhumma takes revenge on Dronacharya and slays him. On that night Kunthi meets secretly karna and requests him not to kill pandavas. Karna vows his mother not killing pandavas except Arjuna.

Day16: On this day Karna kills many valiant personalities in Karnarjuna dual war. Karna demolishes Arjuna's Gandiva. At the time of dusk karna stops war. Krishna admires Karna's warfare.

Day17: On 17th day Karna defeats Bhima. Yudhistara leaves them without killing and fulfills his promise. Later dual war takes place in between Karna and Arjuna.

Karna chariot goes down into the earth. He requests some time to spare him but Krishna reminds the episode of Abhimanya. Enraged Arjuna kills karna without any mercy. On the same day Bhima kills Dhushasana. Kunthi explains how karna is their brother. After realizing karna's story they felt very sad but Arjuna asks karna to forgive him at his last breath.

Day18: Kaurava crew leader salya leads the war. Dharma Raja kills salya, Sahadeva kills Shakuni, Bhima kills Duryodhana's brother. Duryodhana absconds and hides in a pond. Pandavas find his hiding spot.

He opts Bhima for dual war. Bhima hits duryodhana's thigh and kills him. Krishna ruled 36 years at Dwaraka after Kurukshetra battle. Krishna saw all his clan men destroy themselves. After the death of Balarama, he wandered in deep meditation he pronounced the words. The time has come on for me to go fell asleep on the ground. A hunter mistook him as a wild animal shot an arrow at Krishna. He dies and leaves earth.

Bhagavadgita is a treasure house of knowledge. In Gita we find many life skills and softskills. It is a part of Mahabharatha, but now a days it has become a great propellant for younger generations.

It reflects all our struggles which we face in our life. Bhagavad gita is like a mirror. It shows the way. what are the common things we must adopt , adept in our life. It is a ladder for younger generations to lead the new life. Bhagavad Gita is one of the most sacred books of India. It is not a name of the book.

It reflects philosophical concerns. It is a combination of various theories. In Mahabharatha Lord Krishna rescues the chastity of Draupadi from the clutches of jealous minded kauravas in Maya sabha.

In Gita, Krishna consoles Arjuna to come out of the coward ship and initiates Arjuna gives hope in the minds of people through his preaching. His ideas are good to instill the confidence. We do some works, take decisions, others also pursue the same. In those works , some works are bad and good. We claim others works are good and bad. Sri Krishna says, one who possesses equality of mindship, can leave sin and punyam. We do not give scope for unnecessary ones in our life. Our mind is full of various thoughts. When we are in youth, our life is controlled by parents, family members, friends views. We should not add our views for

everything, accept the circumstances as it is the best one. Do not entangle in any aspect, understand both stands of life. If any one attains ability, we can concentrate on anything. It is a stable state.

In the Bhagavad Gita, Samniyamya indriya verse states a three fold way to achieve divinity. The first way highlights controlling senses. One should not yield to external happenings should possess inner peace. In the second way, we should maintain a balanced mind in all situations. One who really delights others welfare achieves real happiness through non selfish motives. It enhances one's spiritual journey. Lord Krishna asserts that those who practice these qualities sense of control, balanced mindset, and altruism will reach God.

Human beings seek peace in life. Distress, conflict are common ones in everyone's life. The Bhagavadgita shows solution that rely on actions but not the results. Some people are persistent, produce the real outcomes. However, our steadfastness, inner thoughts pave the success in life. Krishna says: "He who has no wishes, who is pure, unconcerned who is selfless in all his endeavors- dear to me is the man who is devoted to me."

Listening is one of the most crucial skill, necessary for the growth of relationship and survival skills. In the words of Ronald Adler, Listening involves the ears, the eyes, and the heart. Chinese consider listening as a total –body experience. As its core, listening is "the ability to hear, perceive, analysis, response to the meaning of another individual's spoken and nonverbal communication."⁸

Lord Krishna convinces Arjuna not to procrastinate the duty, inculcated some ideology in him. Many people don't possess an idea to keep their efforts for decisions. Why do we postpone we all aware of how unpleasant results can be? We are not disciplined and organized to get the results? Procrastination is a bad habit in many years of practice.

Ancient Indian traditions persuaded the pursuit of both peace and prosperity in human life. It can provide the much required wisdom of right livelihood on the earth with a sense of the sacred. Lord Arjuna was nervous about this participation in the Kurukhetra because he had never defied kith and kin. As he entered the battlefield, he felt hard to remain focused. He struggled to control his thoughts in his mind.

Lord Arjuna listened with a positive attitude and open mind, determined to participate in the war. Cooperative learning benefitted Arjuna, by possessing good listening skills. Questioning, brainstorming, mapping helped Arjuna to identify where gaps in his knowledge. He mastered the information from Krishna, committed to duty. Critical thinking allowed him to make decisions analyzing in various angles. As a mentor Krishna developed work ethic, suggested to change the attitude, behavior, actions and life. He showed practical behavior, actions and life. He showed practical possible change with Gita and became a role model for Arjuna to embrace the moment, choice. L –star system (Listening, setting it down, translation of thoughts, analysis and remembrance)

Arjuna said, My illusion is gone. By thy decorum, O Achyuta, I am free from doubt." I will act according to your words." Arjuna's listening skills, helped him to become fortunate person in the areas of victory, prosperity and righteousness.

Conclusion: Indian traditions, culture is based on Bhagavadgita. It is a part and parcel of our lives. It inspired many lives. As a soft skills manager Lord Krishna restored Dharma and became role model for many generations.

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