

Answers to Chapter Questions

These questions are based on the complete text, verse and purports of the *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. Reading the chapter summaries in this book is not sufficient.

Chapter One

- 1. What is the name of Chapter 1?**
Observing the Armies on the Battlefield.
- 2. Who is Dhṛtarāṣṭra?**
The blind king who is the brother of Pāṇḍu and Vidura. His wife is Gāndhārī and his eldest son is Duryodhana. Being the eldest son, Dhṛtarāṣṭra was supposed to be the king, but because he was blind, the ministers wanted his younger brother Pāṇḍu to be king.
- 3. How many sons did he have?**
One hundred sons.
- 4. What is Dhṛtarāṣṭra's eldest son's name?**
Duryodhana.
- 5. Who was Duryodhana's teacher?**
Droṇācārya.
- 6. What is the name of Dhṛtarāṣṭra's secretary?**
Sañjaya.
- 7. Who protected and led the Pāṇḍava army?**
Bhīma.
- 8. Who protected and led the Kuru army?**
Grandfather Bhiṣma.
- 9. What happened when the Kuru's blew their conchshells?**
Nothing happened.
- 10. What is the name of Kṛṣṇa's conchshell? What are the names of the Pāṇḍavas' conchshells?**
Kṛṣṇa's: Pāñcajanya; Arjuna's: Devadatta; Bhīma's: Pauṇḍra; Yudhiṣṭhira's: Anantavijaya;

Nakula's: Sughoṣa and Sahadeva's: Mañipuṣpaka.

- 11. What happened when Kṛṣṇa and the Pāṇḍavas blew their conchshells?**
The noise shattered the hearts of Dhṛtarāṣṭra's sons.
- 12. What did Arjuna ask Kṛṣṇa to do?**
To draw his chariot between the armies.
- 13. What did Arjuna see on the battlefield and how did he feel?**
He saw in both armies his family and friends and he felt overwhelmed with compassion. He felt his body quivering and trembling and his mouth drying up. His hairs were standing on end. His bow Gāṇḍīva was slipping from his hand and his skin was burning.
- 14. What reasons did Arjuna give Kṛṣṇa for not wanting to fight?**
 - a. I would not be happy winning a kingdom after killing all my family and friends.
 - b. If the elder members of the family are killed, the rest of the family will become irreligious. The women will become unchaste and have many unwanted children who will make life hellish for everyone.
 - c. We will get sinful reactions for killing the sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra.

Chapter Two

- 1. What is the name of Chapter 2?**
Contents of the Gītā Summarized.
- 2. What is compassion?**
Compassion means feeling merciful and sympathetic towards all living entities.

3. What is material compassion? What is spiritual compassion?

Material compassion is feeling sympathetic towards the material body. Spiritual compassion is feeling merciful and sympathetic to all living entities and helping them to come to their original pure consciousness, Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

4. What examples does Śrīla Prabhupāda use to show how foolish material compassion is?

The drowning man whose coat alone was saved and not him. Also, the bird in the cage. The owner of the bird is dusting and cleaning the cage but does not feed the bird who lives in the cage.

5. What verse shows us how Arjuna accepted Kṛṣṇa as his guru?

text 7: *kārpanya-doṣopahata-svabhāvaḥ...* I am confused about my duty...

6. Why did he surrender to Kṛṣṇa?

Out of confusion he did not know what to do. He wanted Kṛṣṇa to tell him.

7. What did Kṛṣṇa say was Arjuna's problem?

Arjuna thought that his family and friends were their bodies.

8. How did Lord Kṛṣṇa explain there was no need to lament?

There is no need to lament because we are not this body.

9. What is the only way to solve the problems of life?

By devotional service.

10. Why is it foolish to lament for the material body?

As it is just a covering for the soul, the body must die someday whereas the soul is eternal.

11. If Arjuna is a pure devotee, how could he be in illusion?

Kṛṣṇa put him into illusion with His *yoga-māyā* so that the *Bhagavad-gītā* could be spoken for the benefit of all living entities.

12. What is happiness and distress compared to and why?

Winter and summer seasons, because neither happiness nor distress will last forever. It comes and goes just like the seasons come and go.

13. What does Kṛṣṇa say one must do when happiness and distress come?

Tolerate them without being disturbed.

14. How big is the spirit soul and where is it situated?

1/10,000 the size of the tip of the hair, situated in the heart of the living being.

15. What happens to the material body as soon as the spirit soul is out of it?

It dies, which means that the subtle body carries the soul to its next body while the gross body decomposes.

16. Name as many differences as possible between the material and the spiritual body.

The soul cannot be cut, wet, burnt, broken or withered; the body can. The soul is invisible and unchangeable; the body isn't. The soul does not die; the body does. The soul is full of bliss; the body is full of misery and trouble. The soul is eternal and full of knowledge. The body is a temporary lump of skin, bones and blood.

17. What are the six changes of the body?

It is born, grows, stays awhile, produces offspring, grows old and dies.

18. What is the soul's changing bodies compared to?

A person changing clothes.

19. How is it possible for the spirit soul to go from one body to another?

The Supersoul makes it happen.

20. Why does the spirit soul continually change from one body to another?

Because of his material desires he gets different bodies.

- What's dif. betw. mat. desires & sp. desires.

21. What did Kṛṣṇa say was the best thing for Arjuna to do and why?

To fight was the best thing because it was his duty as a *kṣatriya*. If he didn't do his duty he would incur sins. He had to fight or lose his reputation as a fighter and be considered a coward.

22. What are the Vedas and who wrote them? What do the Vedas really try to teach us?

The Vedas are writings that tell us all about the material world and how to live in it so that we can be happy. The main teaching of the Vedas is how to get out of the material world. Vyāsadeva wrote them.

23. Kṛṣṇa tells Arjuna exactly how he should do his duty of fighting. What does He say?

Kṛṣṇa says that Arjuna should fight because it is his duty. He should not care about winning or losing, or about happiness or distress.

24. Arjuna asks Kṛṣṇa how he can tell if someone is in transcendental consciousness. What does Kṛṣṇa say?

- A pure devotee is not disturbed by happiness and distress. He is not interested in sense gratification. He is free from attachment, fear, and anger. He controls his senses and fixes his mind on Me.

Chapter Three

1. What does Arjuna ask Kṛṣṇa?

Why do You encourage me to fight in this ghastly warfare if You think that I should give up fruitive activities?

2. What is Kṛṣṇa's answer?

That work done for Viṣṇu is not fruitive activity. Such work frees one from the material world. If Arjuna fights on Kṛṣṇa's order, his fighting will be devotional service, not fruitive action.

3. What forces everyone to act?

The 3 modes of material nature.

4. What are the 3 modes of nature?

Goodness, passion and ignorance.

5. Why can't a person stop himself from doing something?

Because the 3 modes will force him to act.

6. What does Kṛṣṇa say about someone who controls his senses, but whose mind is thinking of sense gratification?

He is a pretender.

7. What happens if one performs *yajña*?

One will get all the good things that he needs.

8. What happens if one doesn't perform sacrifice?

He will be living a sinful, useless life.

9. Why must we work for Viṣṇu?

Because work done for Viṣṇu frees us from this material world of birth and death, action and reaction.

10. Why must a great man be a good example?

Because common men will follow in his footsteps and do what he does.

11. What forces a man to act sinfully even though he doesn't want to?

Lust, material desire.

12. What does Kṛṣṇa say about lust and how can we control it?

It is the all-devouring enemy of everyone, it burns like fire and is never satisfied. We control it from the beginning of our lives by regulating the senses.

Chapter Four

1. What is the disciplic succession?

The unbroken line of *guru* and disciple extending back to Kṛṣṇa.

2. What is transcendental knowledge?

Knowledge that is not material, but spiritual. Transcendental knowledge purifies one of material contamination.

3. What does Kṛṣṇa say about His original teaching of *Bhagavad-gītā*? Why does He appear?

In the beginning He gave transcendental knowledge to the sun-god, Vivasvān, He has passed through many births and can remember all of them, and in every millenium He appears in His transcendental form to protect His devotees.

4. Why did Kṛṣṇa speak this knowledge to Arjuna?

Because he was Kṛṣṇa's friend and devotee.

5. What happens if a person understands all about Kṛṣṇa's appearance?

He takes shelter of Him, becomes purified and goes back to home, back to Godhead.

6. How is it that just by understanding Kṛṣṇa's appearance, one can go back to Godhead?

Knowledge of Kṛṣṇa's appearance is like fire and burns up all fruitive reactions.

7. What different kinds of *yajñas* are talked about here and which is best?

Sacrifice of material possessions, sacrifice in pursuit of transcendental knowledge, sacrifices of the body, the mind and the intelligence. The best sacrifice is the sacrifice performed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness by giving everything—one's possessions, and one's own self to serve Kṛṣṇa.

8. How does one get transcendental knowledge?

From *guru*, *sādhu* and *śāstra*.

9. What must a person do if he wants knowledge from the *guru*?

Serve him and ask questions of him in a submissive way.

10. What do you learn when you have received knowledge from the *guru*?

You understand that all living entities are part of Kṛṣṇa.

11. What should you do if you have doubts about spiritual life in your heart?

Destroy the doubts with transcendental knowledge.

12. What does Kṛṣṇa tell Arjuna at the end of Chapter 4?

Stand up and fight.

Chapter Five

1. Which is better, renunciation or work in devotion?

Work in devotion (devotional service).

2. What is real renunciation?

Serving Kṛṣṇa without attachment to the results.

3. Explain the example of watering the roots of the tree and how it relates to serving Kṛṣṇa.

All living beings are connected with Kṛṣṇa, just as the leaves and branches are connected with a tree. Just as watering the root of the tree brings water to the branches and leaves, so when one serves Kṛṣṇa he simultaneously gives the best service to everyone.

4. What is the city of nine gates? Who resides there?

The city of nine gates is the material body. The embodied soul lives there.

5. Discuss the example of the lotus.

A lotus leaf floats upon the water but does not become wet. Similarly, one who does his duty without attachment, giving the results of his actions to Kṛṣṇa, is not contaminated by sinful reactions.

6. What is equal vision?

Understanding that the differences are only due to the body, while the soul is the same. In all hearts Kṛṣṇa as Paramātmā is dwelling.

7. How is the bonafide spiritual master like the sun?

The sun lights up everything. One cannot see things clearly in the darkness but the light of

the sun makes everything clear. In the same way, the spiritual master helps one to see everything clearly and to learn the difference between the soul and the Supersoul.

8. How can you tell if you are making spiritual progress?

If one's mind is peaceful in both happiness and distress, and one is not attached to material sense pleasure, he knows he is making spiritual progress.

9. How does the living entity become entangled by material nature?

Bodily identification, fruitive activity and seeking to please the senses.

10. What is Lord Kṛṣṇa's "peace formula"?

Peace is obtained by knowing Kṛṣṇa to be the Supreme Lord, the well-wisher of all living entities and the ultimate enjoyer.

11. What is the name of Chapter Five?

Karma-Yoga—Action in Kṛṣṇa Consciousness.

Chapter Six

1. What is the name of Chapter 6?

Dhyāna-Yoga.

2. What is a renounced person really like?

He does his duty without being attached to the results.

3. What can be either your friend or your enemy?

When the mind is controlled it is your best friend. If it is uncontrolled it is your worst enemy. If you can control your mind you can follow Kṛṣṇa's instructions.

4. Kṛṣṇa tells Arjuna how to practice yoga. What does He say?

Sit straight and stare at the tip of the nose. Become free from fear and sex desire and think always about the Supreme Lord.

5. A person can't be a yogī if he.....

eats too much or eats too little, sleeps too much or too little, or is interested in material sense enjoyment.

6. What does Kṛṣṇa say we must do if our mind starts thinking of things that are not Kṛṣṇa conscious.

Fix our minds on Him alone and thus bring it back under control.

7. What does Arjuna say about the yoga that Kṛṣṇa is telling him to do?

He says that it is too difficult because the mind is harder to control than the wind.

8. What does Kṛṣṇa say when Arjuna says that the yoga is too difficult?

Yes, but you can do it by constant practice and by detaching yourself from material things.

9. What is the 2nd question that Arjuna asks Kṛṣṇa in this chapter?

What happens if you start *yoga* and stop before becoming perfect?

10. What is Kṛṣṇa's answer to Arjuna's question?

Such a person will enjoy in the heavenly planets then take birth in a rich or pious family to continue his spiritual path.

11. What are some kinds of yoga and which is the best?

Karma-yoga, jñāna-yoga, rāja-yoga, haṭha-yoga and *bhakti-yoga*. *Bhakti-yoga* is the highest.

Chapter Seven

1. Of what 8 things is the material energy made?

Earth, water, fire, air, ether, mind, intelligence, and false ego.

2. Give at least three examples of how the Lord can be seen through different material and spiritual things.

Any three: He is the taste of water, the light of the sun and moon, the light in fire, the fra-

grace of the earth, the intelligence of the intelligent, and the strength of the strong.

3. **What 4 kinds of men surrender to Kṛṣṇa? Which is the best?**
One who is unhappy, one who needs money, one who is curious, one who wants spiritual knowledge. The one who wants spiritual knowledge is the best.
4. **What 4 kinds of men don't surrender to Kṛṣṇa?**
The foolish (*mūḍhas*), the lowest among men (*narādhama*s), those whose knowledge is stolen by illusion, and those who hate God and don't believe in Him.
5. **Why do people worship the demigods?**
To get some kind of material benefit; to fulfill some material desire.
6. **Why do the Vedas recommend demigod worship?**
So that people who are very attached to material enjoyment can satisfy their desires and at the same time slowly advance towards becoming pure devotees.
7. **What does Kṛṣṇa say about people who worship the demigods?**
They do not have much intelligence because the demigods cannot give eternal boons.
8. **What other kind of person does Kṛṣṇa consider unintelligent?**
The Māyāvādī or impersonalist.
9. **Why can't foolish, unintelligent people understand Kṛṣṇa?**
Because He is covered by *yoga-māyā*.
10. **Who are the only people who can understand Kṛṣṇa?**
The person who is doing devotional service.

Chapter Eight

1. **What seven things does Arjuna ask about in the beginning of Chapter 8?**
What is Brahman, what are fruitive activities, what is this material manifestation, what are the demigods, how does the Lord live in the body, where does He live, and how can the devotees know Kṛṣṇa at the time of death.
2. **Which question does Kṛṣṇa spend the most time answering?**
The question about how the devotees can know Him at the time of death.
3. **How can we remember Kṛṣṇa at the time of death?**
By practicing our whole lives to remember Him at every moment.
4. **Do you think that you could act sinfully throughout your life and then chant Hare Kṛṣṇa at the time of death and go back to Godhead? Explain (why or why not?)**
No, because what we remember at the time of death depends on what we have been thinking about the most throughout our lives.
5. **What happens if we remember Kṛṣṇa at the time of death?**
We go back to Godhead, to the spiritual world.
6. **Kṛṣṇa tells Arjuna to think of Him as what?**
The one who knows everything, who is the oldest, who is the controller, who is smaller than the smallest, the maintainer of everything, who is beyond any material conception, who is always a person, luminous as the sun, beyond material nature and transcendental.
7. **What does Kṛṣṇa say about the material world?**
From the highest to the lowest planet, the material world is full of misery, a temporary place of repeated birth and death.

8. What does Kṛṣṇa say about the spiritual world?

It is eternal, supreme, never destroyed and the highest place one can go. If one goes there, he never returns.

9. What is an auspicious time for the yogī to leave his body?

During the influence of the sun, in the light, at an auspicious moment, during the fortnight of the moon, and the six months when the sun travels in the north.

10. What is an inauspicious time for the yogī to leave his body?

During the smoke, the night, the moonless fortnight, and the six months when the sun passes in the south.

11. What are the two ways that yogīs can leave this world?

Light and darkness.

12. What do the devotees do about preparing to leave their bodies at the right time?

Nothing, because they know that by being constantly engaged in devotional service, their passage back to Godhead is guaranteed.

(Note: The teacher should see the purport to text 27 for more elaborate explanations when teaching the answer to question 12)

Chapter Nine

1. What is the most secret of all secrets?

Knowledge about unalloyed, pure devotional service.

2. What are three of the things that Kṛṣṇa says about this secret?

Any three: It is the king of education, the most secret of all secrets, the purest knowledge, helps you to understand your real self, directly the highest religion, everlasting and joyfully performed.

3. What is confidential knowledge?

Knowledge that the spirit soul is different from the body.

4. What is the most confidential knowledge? How does one get it?

The most confidential knowledge is knowledge about pure devotional service. One gets this knowledge by being engaged in devotional service under the guidance of a spiritual master.

5. What are two things that a person needs if he wants to be successful in Kṛṣṇa consciousness?

Faith and association of devotees. Faith is created by association with the devotees and without faith one cannot perform devotional service. Real faith is the conviction that simply by serving the Lord one will be successful.

6. Tell the story of Nārada Muni's becoming purified.

Nārada Muni was the son of a maidservant, but he got the opportunity to associate with pure devotees, hear from them and take their remnants. He got a very strong desire for devotional service and as a result of associating with and serving the pure devotees he also became completely pure.

7. Name seven of the things that Kṛṣṇa says He is.

Any seven: The ritual, the offering to ancestors, the sacrifice, the fire and the offering, the father, mother, maintainer and grandfather of the universe, knowledge, purity, *Oṃ*, *Vedas*, the goal, the upholder, the master, the witness, the home, the shelter, the most dear friend, the creation and annihilation, basis of everything, the resting place and the eternal seed, the controller of heart, rain and drought, immortality and death personified.

8. What does Kṛṣṇa say about offering things to Him?

If you offer Him a leaf (vegetables), flowers, fruit or water He will accept it if it is offered with love. Everything you do should be offered to Him.

9. What four things does Kṛṣṇa ask us to do?

Always think of Him, become His devotee, offer obeisances, and worship Him.

10. Why should one become a devotee?

It is the only real way to solve all one's problems and be happy. Our eternal position is as Kṛṣṇa's servant.

11. What qualification must one have to take shelter of Kṛṣṇa?

Everyone is eligible if they will humbly submit themselves to the bonafide spiritual master.

Chapter Ten

1. What is the name of Chapter 10?

The Opulence of the Absolute.

2. What are Kṛṣṇa's six opulences? Why is He called Bhagavān?

Most beautiful, strongest, most intelligent, richest, most famous, most renounced. He is called Bhagavān because He has these six opulences in full.

3. How can a devotee understand Kṛṣṇa?

Simply by studying His words in the *Bhagavad-gītā* and the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and by serving Him with devotion.

4. What does it mean that Kṛṣṇa is God?

That He is the source of all spiritual and material worlds, and everything comes from Him.

5. What twenty-five people are born from Kṛṣṇa's mind?

The seven great sages, the four other great sages, and the four Manus.

6. What does a person do when he is completely convinced about Kṛṣṇa's opulences?

He engages in unalloyed devotional service.

7. Lord Caitanya compares devotional service to sowing a seed in the heart. Explain.

Devotional service is like a seed. When one associates with a pure devotee this seed of devotional service is planted in the heart of the

living entity. If he waters it with hearing and chanting it will grow and grow until it pierces the covering of the material universe and enters the spiritual sky until finally it comes to rest at Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet and there bears the fruit of love of God.

8. Why doesn't a devotee have to worry about the material necessities of life?

Because when he removes the darkness from his heart, everything is provided automatically by the Lord.

9. How can we best understand *Bhagavad-gītā*?

By following Arjuna's example and accepting everything Kṛṣṇa says.

10. Why did Arjuna ask Kṛṣṇa to describe His opulences?

To benefit the common people, so that they could have an easy way to meditate on Him.

11. Why do the devotees want to hear about Kṛṣṇa?

The devotees just enjoy hearing about Him. It is nectar to them.

12. Kṛṣṇa mentions 72 opulences in this chapter. Complete the following twenty:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. Of lights I am the... | Radiant sun |
| B. Among stars I am the... | Moon |
| C. Of the <i>Vedas</i> I am the... | <i>Sāma Veda</i> |
| D. Of demigods I am... | Indra |
| E. Of the senses I am the... | Mind |
| F. Of the mountains I am... | Meru |
| G. Of sacrifices, I am... | The chanting of the holy names |
| H. Of immovable things... | The Himālayas |
| I. Of bodies of water... | The ocean |
| J. Among men, I am the... | Monarch |
| K. Of weapons ... | Thunderbolt |
| L. Among dispensers of law... | Yamarāja, the lord of death |
| M. Among beasts ... | The lion |
| N. Among subduers... | Time |
| O. Among poetry ... | Gāyatri |
| P. Among women ... | Fame, fortune, |

	fine speech, memory, intelligence, steadfastness and patience
Q. Of sages ...	Vyāsa
R. Of the Pāṇḍavas ...	Arjuna
S. Of flowing rivers ...	Ganges
T. Of creations ...	The beginning, middle and end

Chapter Eleven

1. **What is the name of Chapter 11?**
The Universal Form.
2. **Give three reasons why Arjuna asked to see Kṛṣṇa's universal form.**
(1) He had heard about the opulences and now he wanted to see them. (2) So that people in general would know that He is God. (3) To stop imposters in the future. Such imposters should be prepared to show their universal form.
3. **In general, what could Arjuna see in Kṛṣṇa's universal form?**
The form was decorated with celestial garments, garlands, ornaments, and had many weapons. His effulgence was brighter than hundreds of thousands of suns rising in the sky at the same time. He had unlimited faces, eyes, mouths, and terrible teeth, arms, legs, thighs, and bellies. He had blazing fire coming from His mouth into which all the great warriors were rushing like rivers flowing into an ocean or like moths dashing into fire. Some of these warriors' heads were smashed between His teeth.
4. **Who besides Arjuna could see the universal form?**
Lord Śiva, the Ādityas, the Vasus, the Sādhyas, the Viśvedevas, the two Aśvis, the Maruts, the forefathers, the Gandharvas, the Yakṣas, the Asuras, and the perfected demigods.

5. Discuss time.

By time's effect everyone changes, grows older and decays, and dies. By the passing of time everyone will die, and ultimately the planets of the material world also will pass away.

6. Which did Kṛṣṇa like better, when Arjuna treated Him as a friend, or when Arjuna treated Him as the Supreme Personality of Godhead?

When he treated Him as a friend.

7. How important is the universal form of Kṛṣṇa to the devotees?

Not very important. The devotees prefer Kṛṣṇa's two-armed three-fold bending form.

Chapter Twelve

1. **What is the name of Chapter 12?**
Devotional Service.
2. **What was Arjuna's question at the beginning of the chapter?**
Which is better, to engage in devotional service or to worship the impersonal Brahman?
3. **What is the perfection of meditation?**
To fix the mind on Kṛṣṇa's personal form.
4. **Is the impersonal discipline difficult or easy to follow?**
Difficult.
5. **Why is the path of bhakti better than the impersonal discipline?**
Because it is easier for the conditioned souls with material bodies to be able to use their senses in doing things for Kṛṣṇa.
6. **Explain the example of the mailbox.**
If you put your mail in the official mailbox it reaches its destination, but if you put your mail in another box that is not authorized it will not reach its destination. Similarly, by worshiping the *arca-vigraha* (authorized deity form of the Lord) our worship is accepted by Kṛṣṇa.

7. In planning for death, what is the difference between a yogī and a devotee?

A devotee doesn't have to plan. He knows that if he is engaged in devotional service, at the time of death Kṛṣṇa will come on the back of Garuḍa to deliver him from material existence.

8. If one cannot fix his mind always upon Kṛṣṇa, what should he do?

Follow the regulative principles of *bhakti-yoga*.

9. If he cannot do that (the answer to #8) then what should he do?

Work for Kṛṣṇa.

10. And if he cannot do that, what should he do?

Give the results of his work to Kṛṣṇa.

11. And if he can't do that, what should he do?

Cultivate knowledge.

12. What does a devotee do when someone treats him as an enemy or when he finds himself in difficulty?

He thinks, "This person is acting as my enemy due to my own past misdeeds. So it is better to suffer than to protest." A devotee is also always kind to everyone, even to his enemy.

13. What are some of the qualities of a devotee?

Non-jealous, treats friends and enemies the same, always satisfied, doesn't care for any home, always engaged in devotional service. He doesn't disturb anyone, and he is not disturbed by anyone. He is not disturbed by happiness and distress.

Chapter Thirteen

1. What is the title of Chapter 13?

Nature, the Enjoyer and Consciousness.

2. What is the field, and who is the knower? Is there more than one knower? What is the difference between them?

The field is the body. There are two knowers. The individual soul is the knower of the body and the Supersoul is the knower of all bodies.

3. What is jñānam [knowledge]?

To understand the body, its individual knower, and that Kṛṣṇa is the knower in all bodies.

4. What are the twenty-four elements of the field of activities?

The five great elements: (1)earth, (2)water, (3)fire, (4) air and (5)ether; then the (6>false ego, (7)intelligence, (8)the unmanifested stage of the three modes of material nature; next the five senses for acquiring knowledge: (9)eyes, (10)ears, (11)nose, (12)tongue, and (13)skin; five working senses: (14) voice, (15)legs, (16)hands, (17)anus, and (18)genitals; (19)the mind; the five objects of the senses: (20)smell, (21)taste, (22)form, (23)touch, and (24)sound.

5. What is the symptom of the existence of the soul?

Consciousness.

6. Why does the Supersoul have hands, legs, eyes, heads, etc. everywhere?

There are living entities everywhere and all living entities exist in the Supreme. The living entities have unlimited hands, legs, eyes, heads, etc and the Supersoul is in every atom and the heart of every living entity so He is all-pervading.

7. What is the cause of suffering and enjoyment in this world?

Identification with the body and senses.

8. Why did the living entity come into contact with the material nature?

Because of his desire to lord it over material nature.

9. **How can the living entity become free from the influence of the material nature?**

By understanding the nature and relationships of the body, the Supersoul, the individual soul and material nature.

10. **How can one understand these things?**

By hearing from the pure devotee and performing devotional service.

Chapter Fourteen

1. **What is the title of Chapter 14?**

The Three Modes of Material Nature.

2. **What are the three modes of material nature?**

Goodness, passion and ignorance.

3. **Who is the father of all creatures?**

Kṛṣṇa.

4. **What are the characteristics of the mode of goodness? What happens to one who dies in the mode of goodness?**

Wisdom and happiness, freedom from sinful reactions. One who dies in the mode of goodness goes to the higher planetary systems where the sages and demigods dwell.

5. **Give examples of types of persons in each of the modes.**

Goodness: *brāhmaṇa*, poet, philosopher. Passion: persons seeking wealth, fame, position, etc. Ignorance: drunkard, drug addict, etc.

6. **What are the characteristics of one in the mode of passion? What happens to one who dies in the mode of passion?**

Sexual desire, desire for material enjoyment, wealth, honor, family. Working very hard to achieve these things. One who dies in the mode of passion will take birth among those engaged in fruitive activities on the earthly planets.

7. **What are the characteristics of one in the mode of ignorance? What happens to one who dies in the mode of ignorance?**

Attraction to intoxicants, acting whimsically without regulation, no interest in spiritual life, laziness, madness and oversleeping. One who dies in the mode of ignorance takes birth among the animal species.

8. **Why should a person not kill animals?**

It causes the animal to suffer, the killer has to take birth as an animal, and it is displeasing to Kṛṣṇa.

9. **Discuss the perspectives of those in goodness, passion and ignorance. Why is it only that in the mode of goodness one can advance in spiritual understanding?**

Goodness: proper perspective; Passion: in terms of own sense enjoyment; Ignorance: bewilderment, meaninglessness.

10. **How can one transcend the modes of nature?**

By taking shelter of a bona fide spiritual master, surrender to Kṛṣṇa.

11. **What are the characteristics of one who has transcended the modes?**

Determination, peacefulness, treating all equally, detachment, unaffected by modes, accepting those things favorable for Kṛṣṇa consciousness and rejecting everything unfavorable.

Chapter Fifteen

1. **What is the title of Chapter 15?**

The Yoga of the Supreme Person.

2. **Describe the example of the banyan tree. What does the banyan tree represent?**

The banyan tree represents the entanglement in the material world. The banyan tree has many stems and many roots and it is very hard to tell where it begins and ends. The banyan tree is upside down.

3. What are the branches, twigs, leaves and fruits of the tree?

The leaves represent the Vedic hymns. The branches represent the various planetary systems. The fruits are the results of the living entities' activities. The twigs represent the sense objects.

4. Why is the tree upside down?

Because it is a reflection of the real tree as the material world is a perverted reflection of the spiritual world.

5. How can the tree be cut down?

With knowledge and detachment one can become detached from it.

6. How can one surrender to Kṛṣṇa?

Give up pride, the idea that one is the proprietor, and false notions of family, and country. One should also cultivate transcendental knowledge.

7. Why is there no need of light in the spiritual world?

Kṛṣṇa is illuminating everything.

8. There is only one path to the spiritual world. What is it?

Surrender to Kṛṣṇa.

9. Explain how consciousness is like water or air. What determines your next birth?

Air carries scent and water carries color. Consciousness likewise is affected by the desires of the living entity. One's soul is carried by the desires of the subtle body into one's next body after death.

10. How does Kṛṣṇa help us go back to the spiritual world?

As the Supersoul He gives us guidance from within, by giving us the *Vedas* He gives us instruction, and by giving us the spiritual master He helps us to understand the *Vedas*.

Chapter Sixteen

1. What is the name of Chapter 16?

The Divine and Demonic Natures.

2. What is *varṇāśrama* and what is its purpose?

Varṇāśrama is the institution that divides society into four divisions of social life (1) *sannyāsī*—renounced (2) *vānaprastha*—retired (3) *gṛhastha*—householder (4) *brahmacārī*—student, and four occupational divisions (1) *brāhmaṇa*—priestly (2) *kṣatriya*—administrative and warrior (3) *vaiśya*—merchant (4) *sūdra*—worker.

The purpose is to keep society in a state of peace and prosperity and to help people make progress in spiritual life.

3. Who is the spiritual master of all the other orders?

The *brāhmaṇa*. The *sannyāsī* is the spiritual master of the *brāhmaṇas*.

4. What are the qualities of *sannyāsis*?

Fearlessness, renunciation, trusting God, and purity.

5. What should the householder do?

Engage in charity, exercise self-control, and perform sacrifices.

6. What seven qualities should everyone cultivate?

Simplicity, *ahimsā* (nonviolence) *satyam* (truthfulness), *akrodha* (restraining anger), *apaśūnam* (not fault finding), *hrī* (modesty), and *acāpalam* (determination).

7. What are the demonic qualities?

Pride, arrogance, conceit, anger, harshness and ignorance.

8. What are the gates to hell?

Lust, anger and greed.

9. What is the difference between the divine and demonic natures?

The person of divine nature follows the regulative principles of the scriptures, but the person of demonic nature does not obey scriptural injunctions.

10. What are the four defects?

Imperfect senses, propensity for cheating, committing mistakes and being illusioned.

11. How are the demoniac envious of God?

They deny His existence, they often claim to be God, they don't follow His instructions, and they want to be the controller and enjoyer.

Chapter Seventeen

1. What is the title of Chapter 17?

The Divisions of Faith.

2. What are the three types of worship?

Worship in the modes of ignorance, passion and goodness.

3. What are the characteristics of penance in the mode of ignorance?

Penance in the mode of ignorance is performed out of foolishness, harming oneself or others.

4. What are the characteristics of charity given in the mode of goodness?

Charity in the mode of goodness is given out of duty, without expectation of reward, to a worthy person at the proper place and time.

5. Who is worshipped by men in the mode of passion and what do they desire from such worship?

Men in the mode of passion worship demons and political heroes. They want honor, prestige and wealth.

6. What are the characteristics of food in the mode of ignorance, passion and goodness?

See if you can give an example of each. How is *prasādam* different?

Food in the mode of ignorance is stale, spoiled, tasteless and untouchable (meat, alcohol). Food in the mode of passion is too bitter, salty, hot, pungent, dry and burning (hot peppers). Food in the mode of goodness is juicy, fatty, wholesome and pleasing to the heart (milk, sugar, fruit, vegetables, grains).

Prasādam is spiritual and transcendental food not influenced by the modes of nature. It not only nourishes the body, but also the soul.

7. What is the problem with just being a "good person?"

Goodness is one of the modes of material nature and one acting according to the modes is still under the influence of material nature. Those acting in the mode of goodness are still desirous of fulfilling some desire, such as elevation to the heavenly planets. Those in Kṛṣṇa consciousness are transcendental to the modes of nature and desire only to please Kṛṣṇa.

8. What is the austerity of the body?

Worshipping the Supreme Lord, the *brāhmaṇas*, and the spiritual master and superiors like father and mother. Cleanliness, simplicity, celibacy and non-violence.

9. What is the austerity of speech?

Truthfulness, speaking what is pleasing, beneficial and not agitating to others and regularly reciting Vedic literature.

10. What is austerity of the mind?

Satisfaction, simplicity, gravity, self-control and purification of one's existence.

11. To whom does "Om tat sat" refer and why are actions dedicated in this way considered to be "sat?"

"Om tat sat" refers to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. "Sat" means eternal actions performed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness that are dedicated to the pleasure of the Supreme Lord.

Chapter Eighteen

1. What is the title of Chapter 18?

The Perfection of Renunciation.

2. What is real renunciation?

Giving up the fruit of one's actions and acting only for the pleasure of Kṛṣṇa.

Handwritten notes: 17.17 goodness - not for SPG but for SPG. 17.18 penance - for respect honor, worship. #17.9

Handwritten notes: 17.20 passion - expect some return, in judgement mood. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 850. 851. 852. 853. 854. 855. 856. 857. 858. 859. 860. 861. 862. 863. 864. 865. 866. 867. 868. 869. 870. 871. 872. 873. 874. 875. 876. 877. 878. 879. 880. 881. 882. 883. 884. 885. 886. 887. 888. 889. 890. 891. 892. 893. 894. 895. 896. 897. 898. 899. 900. 901. 902. 903. 904. 905. 906. 907. 908. 909. 910. 911. 912. 913. 914. 915. 916. 917. 918. 919. 920. 921. 922. 923. 924. 925. 926. 927. 928. 929. 930. 931. 932. 933. 934. 935. 936. 937. 938. 939. 940. 941. 942. 943. 944. 945. 946. 947. 948. 949. 950. 951. 952. 953. 954. 955. 956. 957. 958. 959. 960. 961. 962. 963. 964. 965. 966. 967. 968. 969. 970. 971. 972. 973. 974. 975. 976. 977. 978. 979. 980. 981. 982. 983. 984. 985. 986. 987. 988. 989. 990. 991. 992. 993. 994. 995. 996. 997. 998. 999. 1000.

Handwritten notes: cause distress, misery, disease. give strength, health, increase duration of life.

- 3. What kind of happiness pleases the senses, and is like nectar at the beginning and poison at the end?**

Happiness in the mode of passion.

- 4. What is like broken serpent's teeth, and why?**

The senses of a devotee on the platform of Brahman realization are like broken serpent's teeth, because he no longer fears them. They have no power to do him any harm since his senses are controlled and he no longer has material desires.

- 5. Why is the example of a green bird in a green tree given to explain the oneness with the Supreme?**

Although the green bird enters a green tree, still the bird and the tree maintain their separate identity. When Kṛṣṇa says that the pure devotee "enters into Me," He does not mean that the individual identity of the devotee is lost.

- 6. What are the five causes of action? Because a person cannot stop acting, how can he be free from the results of his actions?**

The body, the doer (person), the type of work, the senses, and the Supersoul. A person can become free of the results of his actions by acting under the direction of the Supersoul.

- 7. Describe the qualities of a *brāhmaṇa*.**

Peacefulness, purity, austerity, truthfulness, tolerance, knowledge, religiousness and wisdom.

- 8. Why does it help to know how the modes of nature influence knowledge, understanding, action, happiness, determination and individual qualities?**

So one can know how to act in the mode of goodness.

- 9. How is pure devotional service better than the mode of goodness or even Brahman realization?**

The mode of goodness is still a material mode of nature. Devotional service transcends the modes of nature. The pure devotee goes beyond Brahman realization to the highest goal of pure loving devotional service to the Supreme. He does not desire liberation. One can only understand Kṛṣṇa as He is by pure devotional service.

- 10. Who is dearest to Kṛṣṇa?**

One who explains this transcendental knowledge to others.

- 11. How does Kṛṣṇa say that we can come to Him and become free of all sinful reactions?**

By abandoning all varieties of religion and surrendering unto Him, to think of Him always, worship Him alone and become His devotee.