

VAISNAVA ACADEMY BALTIMORE
Teaching Bhagavad-gita

Bhagavad-gita class consists of two parts:

1. slokas (20 minutes)

5-6 year olds can learn half a sloka a day. Teach them half a line at a time then join the halves together. Then teach the second line a half at a time. Do not worry too much if all the children cannot perfectly recite the sloka at the end of class. Eventually with repetition each day they will soon know it well. At the beginning of each day's class, review the last 5-10 slokas that they have already learned.

2. Philosophy class (20-30 minutes)

If possible, it is better to have these two parts at two different times. Young children find it difficult to sit that long at one time. If sloka and philosophy classes must be at the same time, then the sloka class can be 15 minutes. To break the routine of sitting for such a long time, the teacher can have the children do some exercise, game or finger play song for 2-3 minutes in between the slokas and philosophy. Teacher can also have the children sitting at their desks for the first part then transfer to the rug or floor for the second part. These changes help to break the monotony. The philosophical part of class shouldn't go for more than ten minutes each day unless an interesting presentation of the points being taught. Then it can go on for 20 minutes, no more. End when interest is still high so that they will look forward to the class the next day.

Read and explain the summary of the chapter to the children. If possible, teach the summary by memory. Chapters one and two are easiest to do. Then ask the questions and teach the answers. If chapters are not memorized by children (which is actually hard to do) use the questions as a guide to teaching the different philosophical points. For example, ask the question, then tell the children the answer, discussing and explaining at length. Use pictures, drawings, stories, skits whenever possible for this really keeps their interest. After explaining answer thoroughly, have children learn the answer by memory. It should take one day to teach the answer to one question. Therefore if a chapter has 12 questions, that will take two weeks. Plus you need a day or two at the beginning to read the summary and give a general explanation and a day or two or three at the end to review and give an oral quiz. Some questions take more than one day to learn.

- Philosophy class should only be 10-20 minutes. The last ten
- minutes read a Krsna book story.

The idea is that in two years (Kindergarten and 1st grade) the children will get an overview of the whole Bhagavad-gita. In the first year they learn chapters 1-9 (approx. 1 month per chapter). However, chapter 2 usually takes longer than the others, while chapters 3-9 can each be done in three weeks if necessary.

Teaching Bhagavad-gita (cont'd)

Note on sloka class: Srila Prabhupada wanted the children to learn the whole Bhagavad-gita, so start at the beginning and just keep going. Slokas will proceed at a different pace to the philosophy class. 5-6 year olds don't need to learn translations. But the teacher can give a general idea of the meaning of the verse.

PRAYER AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS:

My dear Lord Krsna, although I have forgotten you for so many long years here in this material world, today I am surrendering unto You. I am your sincere and eternal servant. Please engage me in Your service. My dear Lord, from this day, I am Yours.

BHAGAVAD-GITA

First teach:

1. Why we learn Bhagavad-gita. Meaning of words "Bhagavad-gita", i.e., a song of God.
2. Story leading up to battle of Kuruksetra.
3. Then go on to teach summaries of the chapters of Bhagavad-gita.

pictures enclosed for chpt. 1

Chapter One: Observing the Armies on the Battlefield

"O Sanjaya, what did my sons and the sons of Pandu do after getting ready to fight at Kuruksetra?"

Duryodhana went to his teacher and told him, "O my teacher, look at the armies of the Pandavas, so nicely arranged by your student. They have many great fighters in their army. I also have many great fighters in my army, and my army is more powerful than the Pandavas. We are protected by Grandfather Bhishma."

Then Grandfather Bhishma blew his conchshell, and all the other Kurus blew their conchshells, bugles, trumpets and horns.

On the other side Lord Krsna blew his conchshell Pancajanya, and the other Pandavas also blew their conchshells. This made a very loud noise that shattered the hearts of Dhrtarastra's sons.

Then Arjuna said to Krsna, "O Krsna, please draw my chariot between the two armies so that I may see who has come to fight with us in this great battle."

"Just look, O Partha. See all the Kurus that are here."

Arjuna could see in both armies his family and friends and he became overwhelmed with compassion.

"My dear Krsna, seeing my friends and family here ready to fight, I feel my body quivering and trembling and my mouth is drying up. My hairs are standing on end. My bow Gandiva is slipping from my hand and my skin is burning.

"I do not care to win this battle and a kingdom if I have to kill my family and friends. That would not make me happy.

"We will get sinful reaction for killing the sons of Dhrtarastra. If the elder members of the family are killed, the rest of the family will become irreligious. The women will become unchaste and have lots of unwanted children, who will make life hellish for everyone.

"It would be better to just let the sons of Dhrtarastra kill me."

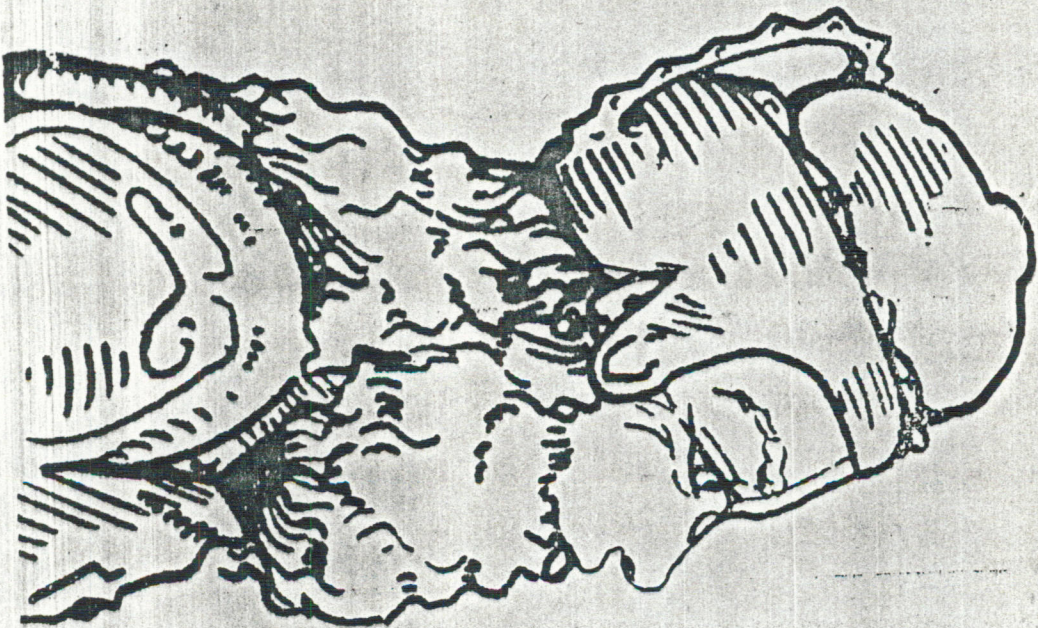
Then Arjuna put down his bow and sat down on the chariot feeling very sad.

Chapter 1

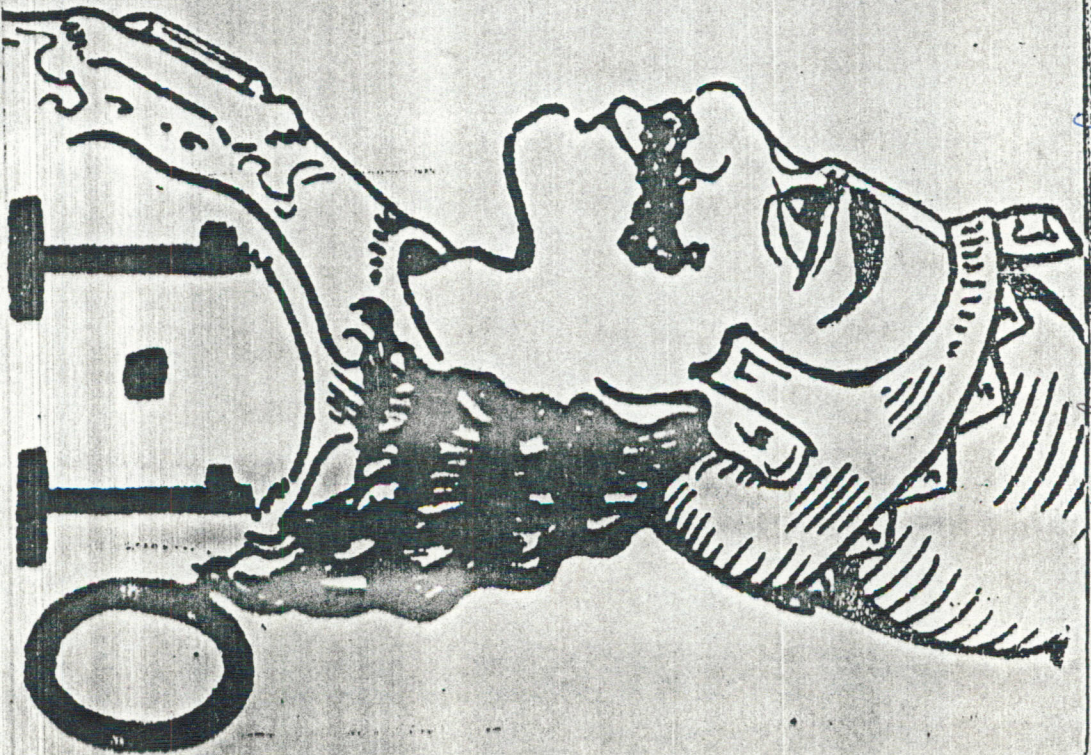
1. What is the name of chapter 1?
Observing the Armies on the Battlefield.
2. Who is Dhrtarastra?
The blind king.
3. How many sons did he have?
One hundred.
4. What is Dhrtarastra's eldest sons name?
Duryodhana.
5. What is the name of Dhrtarastra's guru?
Sanjaya.
6. Who is Duryodhana's teacher?
Dronacarya.
7. Who protected and led the Pandava army?
Bhima.
8. Who protected and led the **Kuru** army?
Grandfather Bhisma.
9. What happened when the Kuru's blew their conchshells?
Nothing happened.
10. What is the name of Krishna's conchshell? What are the names of other conchshells?
Krishna's: Pancajanya; Arjuna's: Devadatta; Bhima's: Paundra; Yudisthira: Anantavijaya; Nakula & Sahadeva: Sughosa & Manipuspa
11. What happened when Krishna and the Pandavas blew their conchshells?
The noise shattered the hearts of Dhrtarastra's sons.
12. What did Arjuna ask Krishna 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 Gandiva was slipping from his hand and his skin was burning. *What is Arjuna's bow called?*
14. What reasons did he give Krishna for not wanting to fight?
a. I would not be happy if I win a Kingdom, but all my family and friends are killed. 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 lots of unwanted children, who will make life hellish for everyone. c. We will get sinful reaction for killing the sons of Dhrtarastra.

Who are the 5
Pandavas?

Grandfather Blusma - in drg. of Kurus



Beyona - in drg. of Pandoras



Puripodhana - happy

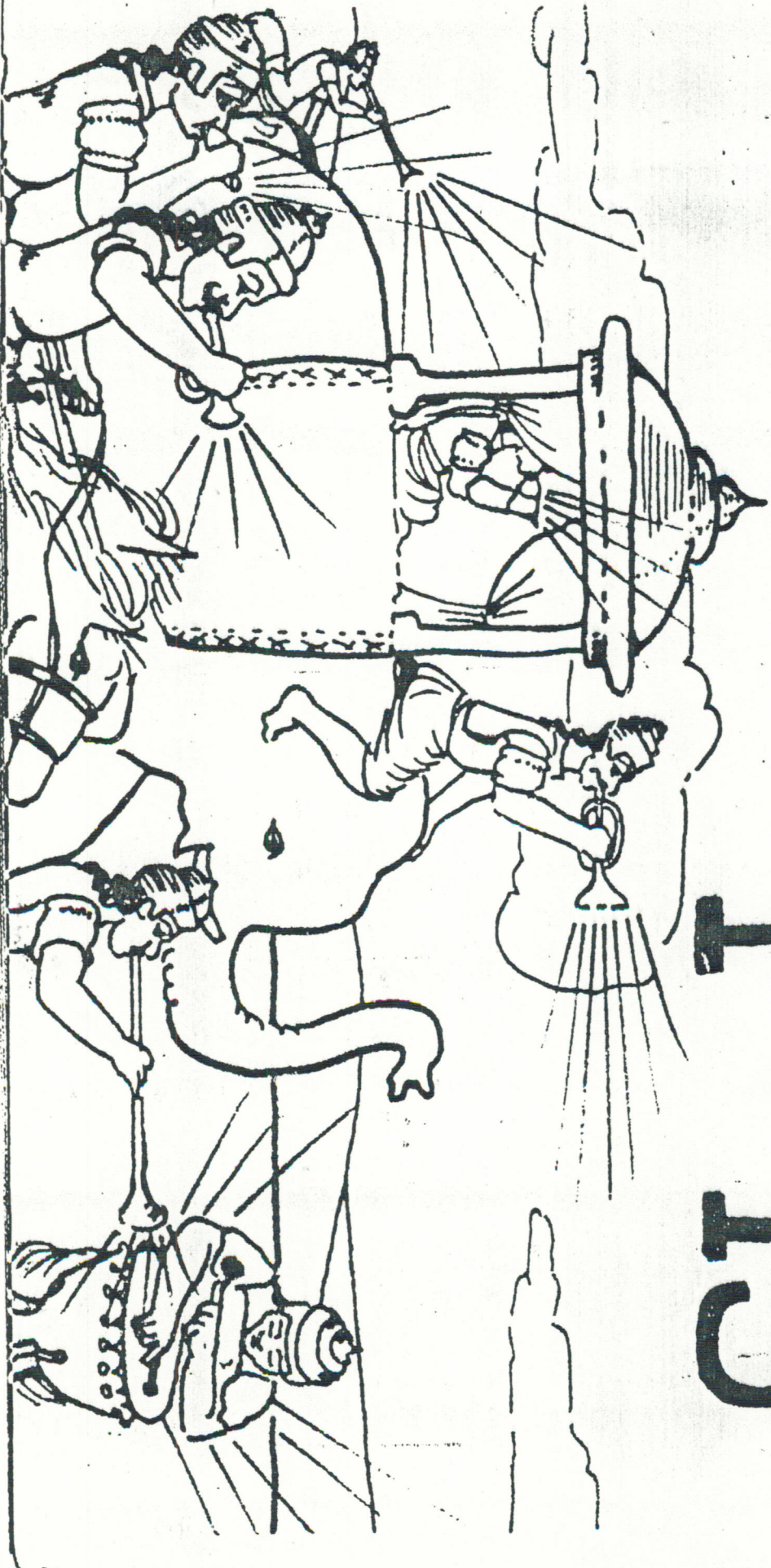
Grandfather Bhaisma

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Kurus blowing conchshells, bugles, trumpets and horns.

1-13

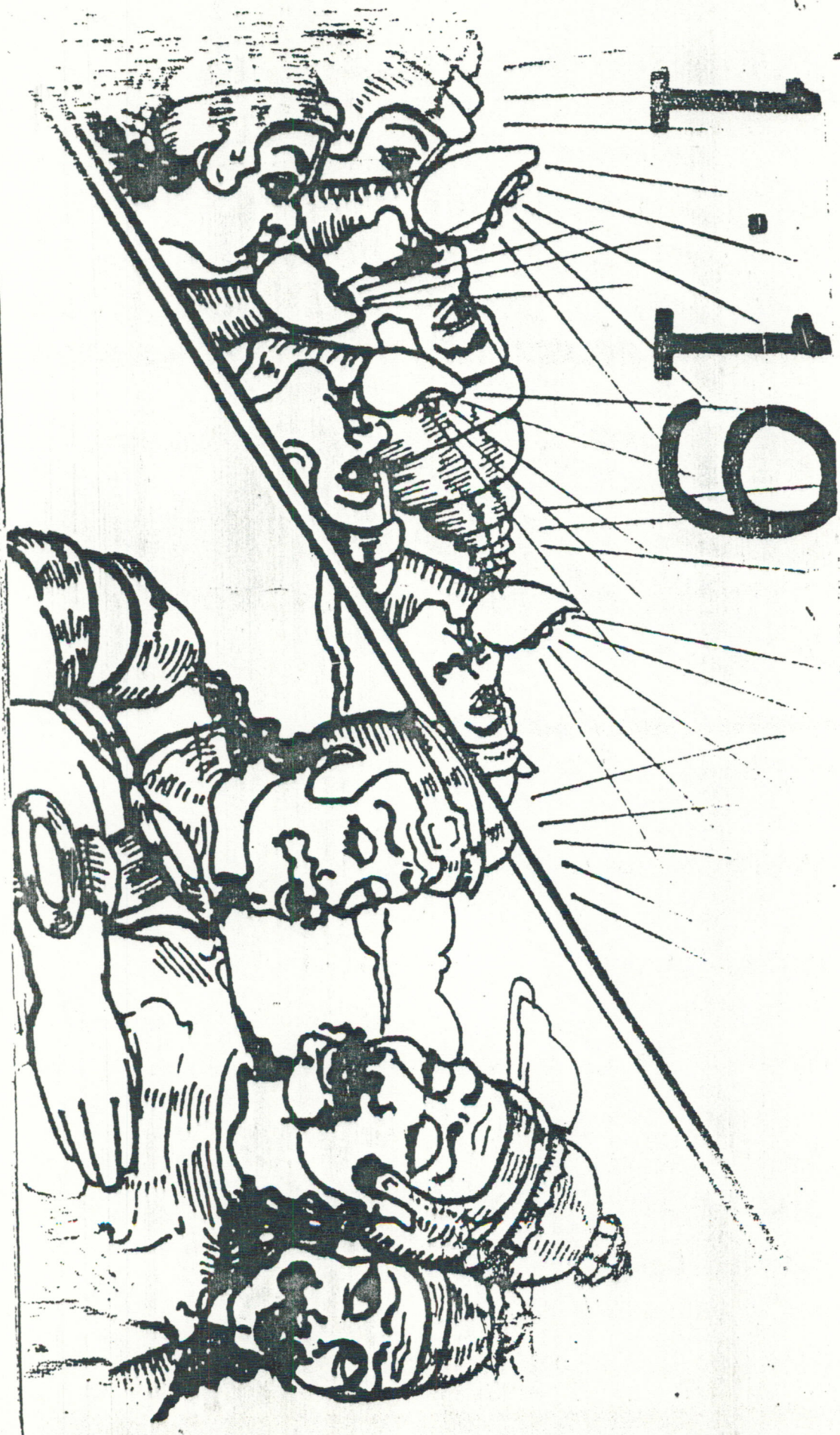


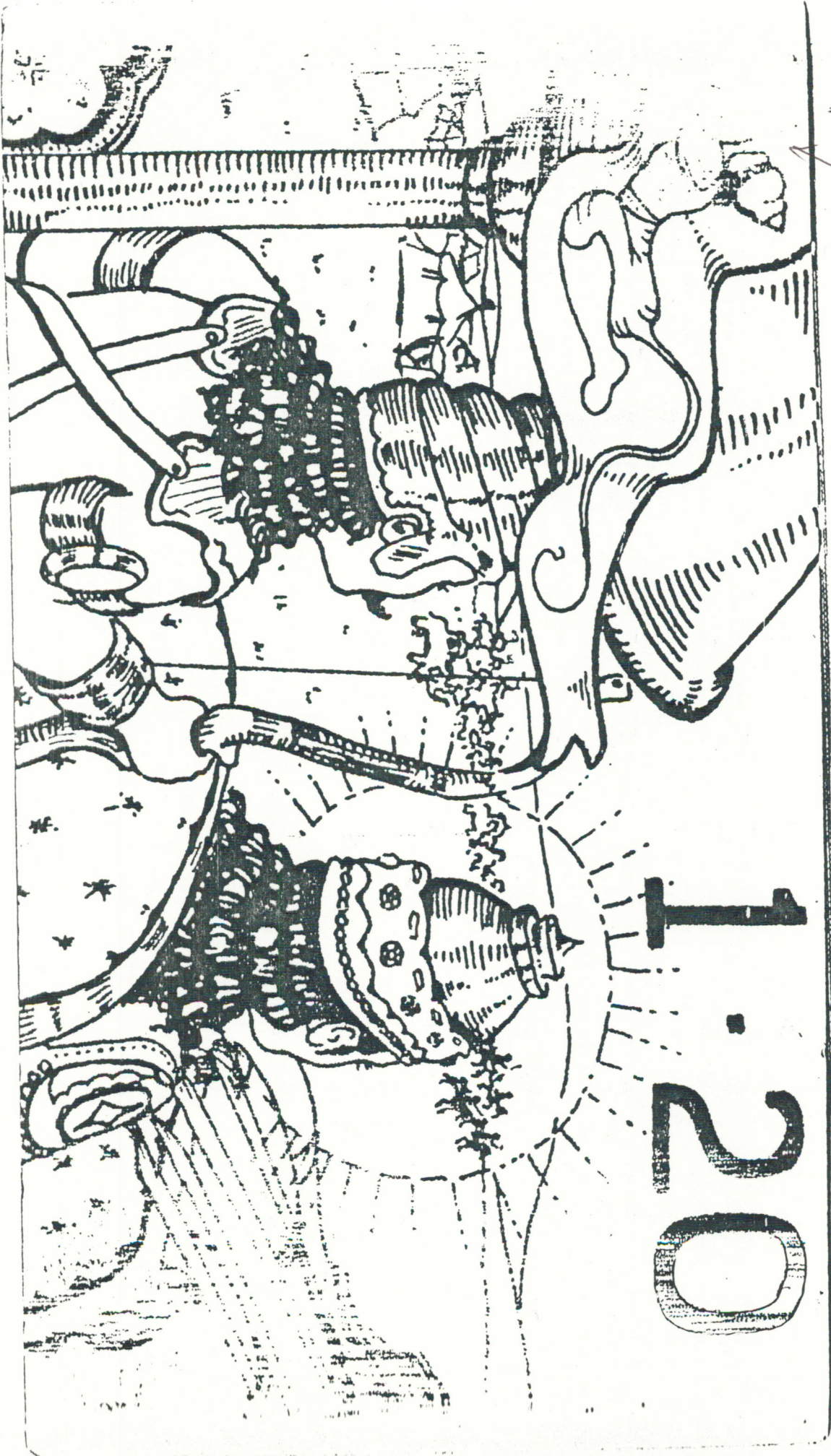


Krishna blew his conchshell, Pancajanya, Arjuna blew his - Devadatta

Pandavas blew conchshells - shattered hearts of Dhritarashtra's sons

1.10





Hannan

Krishna pulls chariot between 2 armies
Arjuna prepared to fight

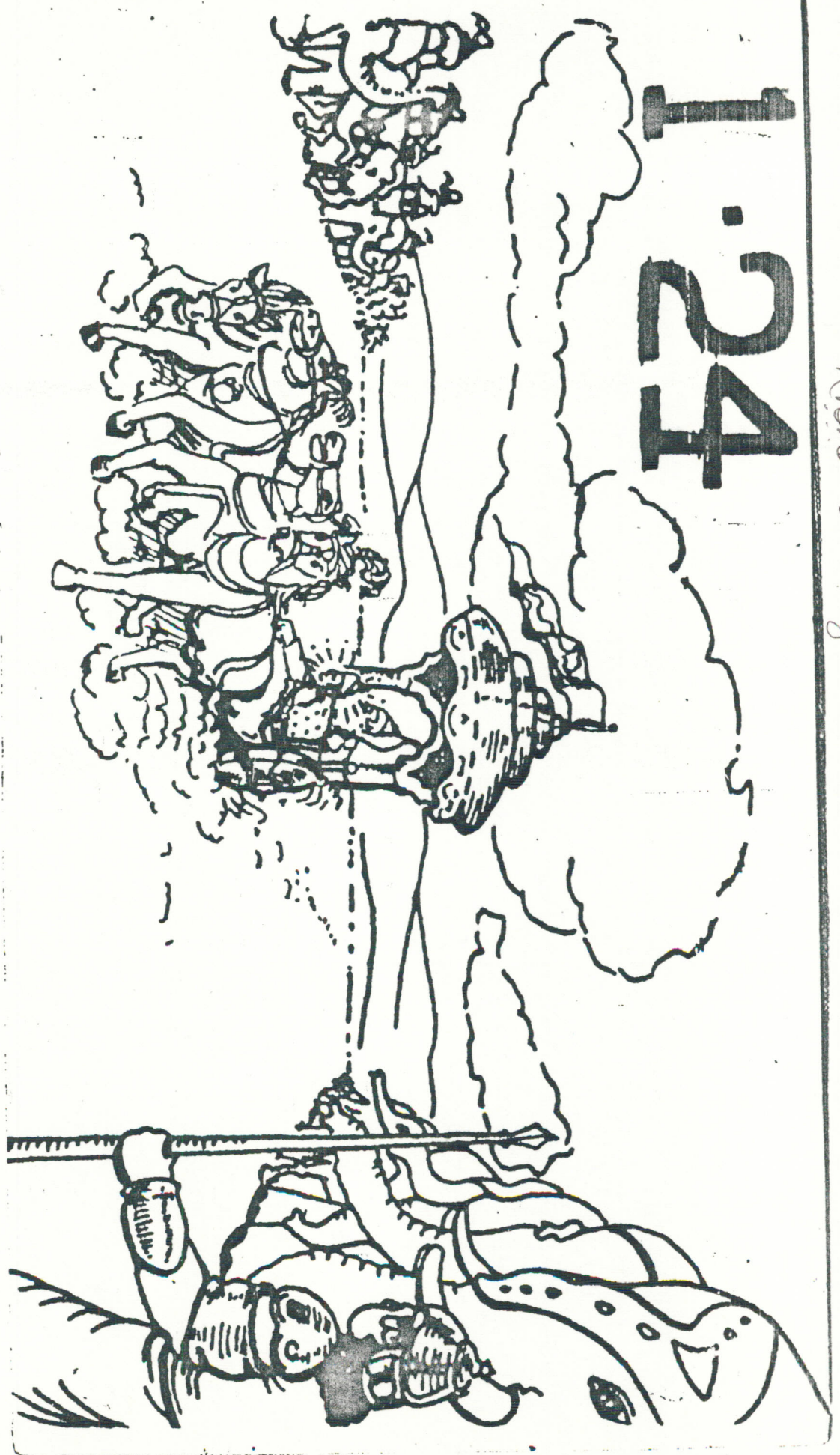
Agumas asking Kista to pull chariot between armies.



1.21.22

Krishna driving chariot

1.24



Kronos telling Argima that all the Kurus with
Bhisma, Drona, etc. are all there.



Arjuna becomes overwhelmed
with compassion - quivering

1.27



Arjuna feels limbs quivering and
mouth drying up.

1.28

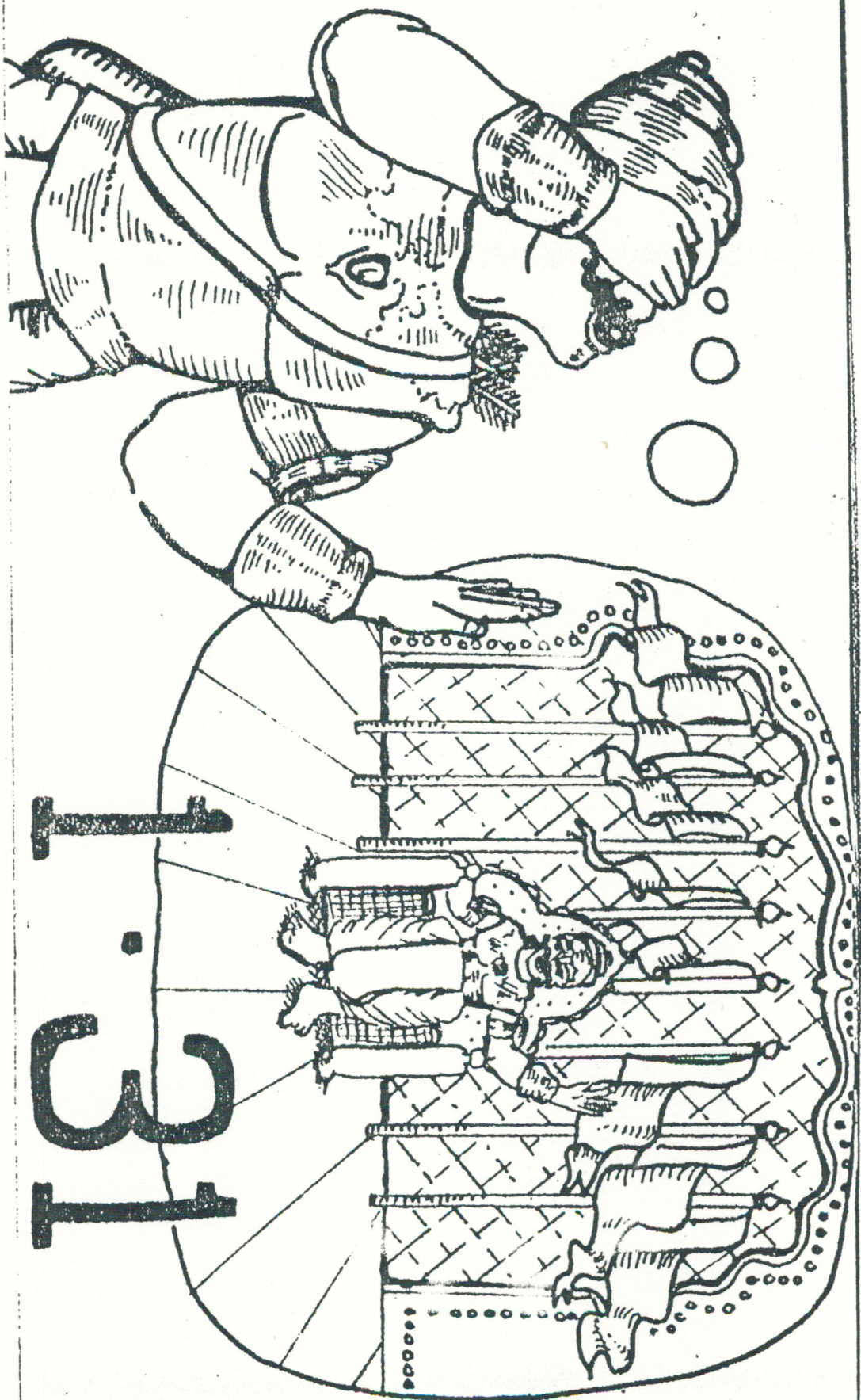


Origins: whole body bumbles, hair stands on end, bow - quiver -
slipping from hand, skin burning.

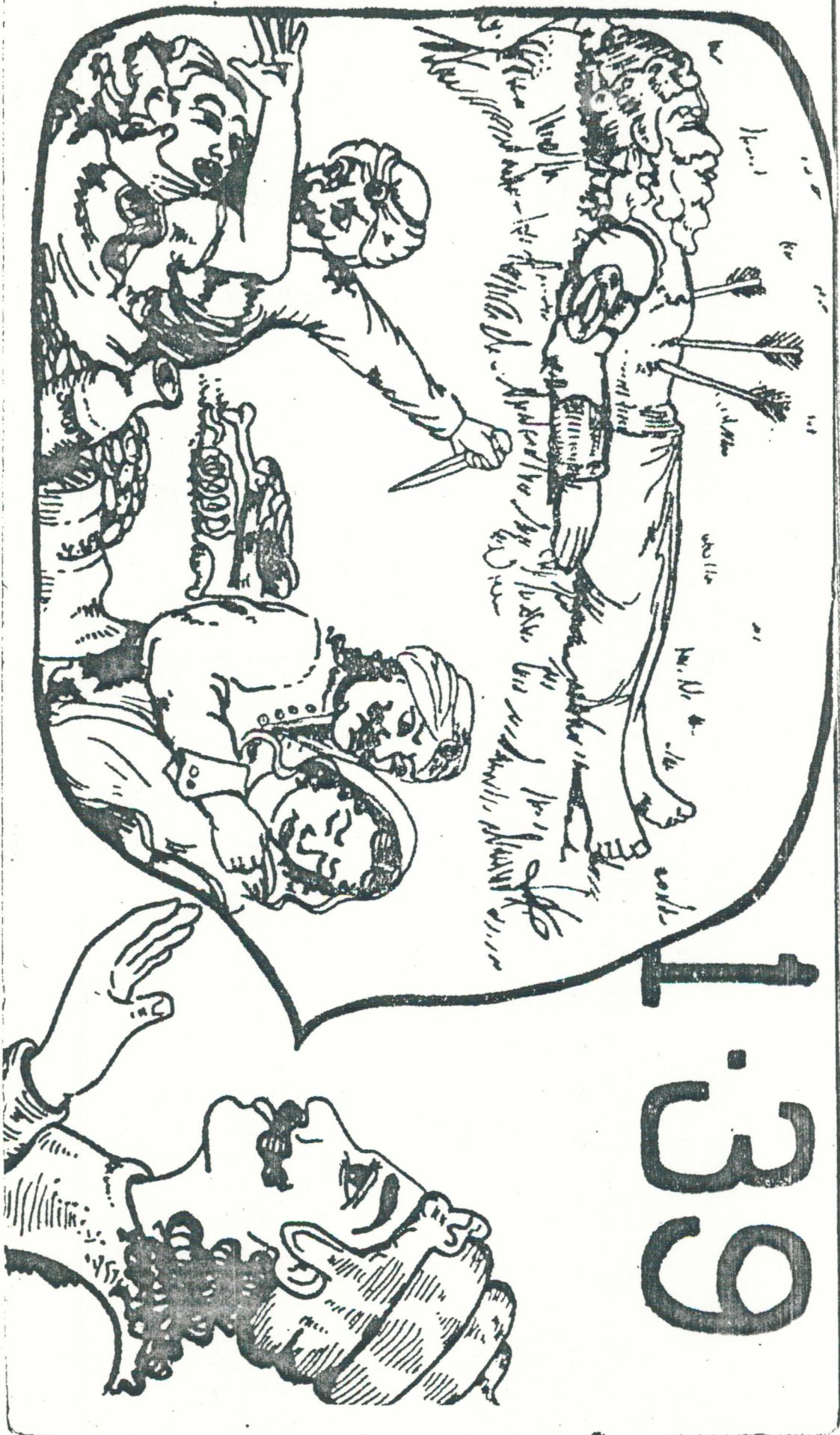


1.20

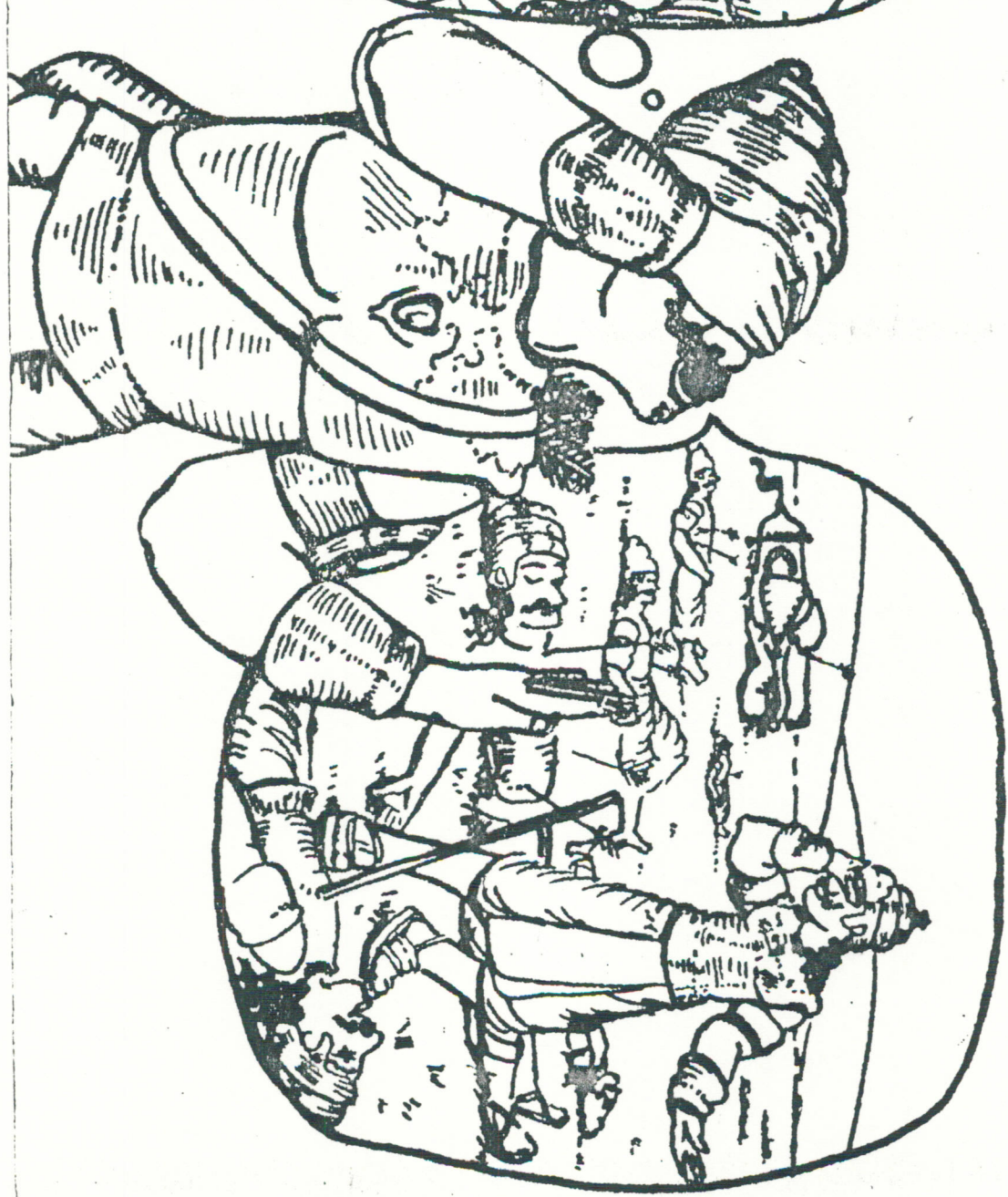
Arguing can't see any good if we bulls the businessmen
just so we can have the kingdom.



With the destruction of the dynasty, family becomes wrongers



We would be overcome with sin - how could we be happy?



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Woman will become degraded; there will be unwanted children.



Chapter Two: Contents of the Bhagavad-Gita Summarized

Seeing Arjuna full of compassion and very sad, Krsna said, "My dear Arjuna, give up this weakness. Get up."

And Arjuna said, "Now I am confused about what to do. Please tell me clearly what is best for me to do. Now I am Your disciple and a soul surrendered unto You. Please instruct me."

"You are crying for something that is not even important. You are not the body, you are spirit soul. We are all eternal persons.

"As a person puts on new clothes giving up his old ones, the soul takes new material bodies, giving up the old and useless ones.

"The soul cannot be cut into pieces by any weapon, nor can he be burned by fire, nor moistened by water, nor withered by the wind."

"The soul is invisible. It cannot be broken and cannot be changed. It is always the same. It does not die when the body dies.

"If you know this, you should not be sorry for anyone.

"The best thing for you is to fight because it is your duty as a ksatriya. If you don't do your duty you will get sinful reaction and you will lose your reputation as a fighter. The great generals will think you are a coward.

"You should fight because it is your duty. And you should not care about winning or losing, about happiness or distress.

"Give up fruitive work and do devotional service."

Arjuna said, "How can we know if someone is a pure devotee? How does he speak? How does he sit and how does he walk?"

The Supreme Personality of Godhead said, "O Partha, a pure devotee is not disturbed by happiness and distress. He is not interested in sense enjoyment; he is free from attachment, fear and anger. He controls his senses and fixes his mind on Me. Someone who acts like this even at the hour of death can enter the kingdom of God."

temporary What does eternal mean?

Questions chapter 2

1. What is the name of Chapter 2 *Contents of the Gita Summarized*
2. What is compassion?
Compassion means feeling sorry for someone.
3. What is material compassion? What is spiritual compassion?
Material compassion is feeling sorry for the body. Spiritual compassion is feeling sorry for the soul.
4. What examples does Srila Prabhupada use to show how foolish material compassion is?
The drowning man whose coat alone was saved and the bird in the cage.
5. What verse shows us how Arjuna accepted Krsna as guru?
Ch 2:7 karpanya doso pahata svabhava...
Eng: Now I am confused about my duty...
6. Why did he surrender to Krsna? *What does it mean to surrender to Krsna? Do what Krsna says.*
Because he was confused and did not know what to do. He wanted Krsna to tell him.
7. What did Krsna say was Arjuna's problem?
He thought that his *family* and friends were their bodies.
8. Krsna explains why there is no need to lament. What did He say?
No need to lament because we are not the body.
9. What is the only way to solve the problems of life?
By devotional service. *What are the 4 problems of mat. life: Birth, death, disease, old age*
10. Why is it foolish to lament for the material body?
Because it isn't the person and it must die someday, but the real person never will.
11. If Arjuna is a pure devotee, how could he be in illusion?
Krsna put him into illusion with His yoga-maya so that He could speak the Bhagavad-Gita 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 Krsna 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?
1/10,000th the size of the tip of a 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 loses consciousness, it dies.

16. Name as many differences as possible between the material body 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 full of misery and trouble. The soul is eternal and full of knowledge. The body is a temporary lump of skin and bone 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 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. *What is another name for the Supersoul? Paramatma.*
20. Why does the spirit soul continually change from one body to another?
Because of his material desires he gets different bodies.
21. What did Krsna say was the best thing for Arjuna to do and why was it the best thing for him?
To fight was the best thing because it was his duty as a ksatriya. If he didn't do his duty he would get sinful reaction. He had to fight or lose his reputation as a fighter and would 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. Vyasadeva wrote them *down.*
23. Krsna tells Arjuna exactly how he should do his duty of fighting. What does he say?
Krsna says, "You should fight because it is your duty, and you should not care about winning or losing, about happiness or distress."
24. Arjuna asks Krsna how he can tell if someone is in transcendental consciousness. What does Krsna say? What shows us if a person is Krsna conscious?
"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."

The Sanskrit word for devo. serv. is *ॐ*?
Bhakti-yoga

Name the 2 kinds of maya. *Yogamaya and mahamaya*

Chapter 3 Karma Yoga

Arjuna said, "O Janardana, O Kesava, why do you encourage me to fight in this ghastly warfare if you think that I should give up fruitive activity?"

"I am bewildered by Your instructions. Therefore, please tell me clearly what is best for me."

Krsna said, "You cannot become free from reaction by not working; you cannot become perfect by renunciation alone."

"Because the three modes force everyone to act, no one can stop themselves from doing something, not even for a moment."

"It is better to do your duty than to do nothing, because everyone must work, just to maintain the body."

"You must work for Visnu, otherwise work binds you to this material world. So if you work for Visnu you will become free from bondage."

"If men perform yajna, they will get all the good things that they need."

"But if they do not perform yajna, they will be living a sinful, useless life."

"So you should work for Visnu without being attached to the fruits of activities."

"A self-realized soul does not need to perform any duty. But common men always follow what a great man does, so pure devotees do their duties just to show others a good example."

"You should not be lazy and you should not care about winning. Just fix your mind on Me and fight to please Me."

Arjuna asked, "O Krsna, what forces a man to act sinfully, even though he doesn't want to?"

Krsna said, "It is lust only, Arjuna, which comes from the mode of passion and which is the all-devouring enemy of everyone. This demon lust is never satisfied and burns like fire."

"Therefore, O Arjuna, in the very beginning kill this demon lust by controlling the senses."

Question, chapter 3

1. What does Arjuna ask Krsna?

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

2. What is Krsna's answer?

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

3. What forces everyone to act?

The 3 modes of 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 Krsna 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 yajna? (means sacrifice)

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 Visnu?

Because work done for Visnu frees us from material bondage, but any work not done for Visnu binds us more to this material world of birth and death, action and reaction.

10. Why must a great man show 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, desire.

12. What does Krsna 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 must control it from the beginning by regulating the senses.

Bhagavad Gita

Chapter 4

Transcendental Knowledge

- learn disc. succ.

- 1) Krsna said, "I instructed this spiritual knowledge to the sun God Vivasvan and Vivasvan instructed it to Manu, and Manu instructed it to Ikshvaku.
- 2) This greatest spiritual knowledge was passed down through the chain of disciplic succession and the saintly kings understood it in that way.
- 3) But after some time the succession was broken and the knowledge as it is seems to be lost.
- 4) So today I am going to tell you all about that ancient knowledge of the relationship with the Supreme, because you are My devotee as well as My friend, therefore you can understand it. *
- 5) Arjuna said, "The sun God Vivasvan is older than you. How could you have spoken this knowledge to him in the beginning?"
- 6) Krishna said, "We have both passed through many, many births. I can remember all of them, but you cannot, O Arjuna.
- 7) Every millenium I appear in my transcendental form to protect the devotees and kill the demons. *
- 8) Those who can understand all about My appearance take shelter of Me. They become purified and go back to my eternal abode.
- 9) ~~Because~~ This perfect knowledge is just like a fire that burns up all fruitive reactions.
- 10) You must try to learn this knowledge by going to a spiritual master. If you submissively ask him questions and serve him, he will teach you this knowledge, because he understands it perfectly. *
- 11) When you have learnt^{ed} from the spiritual master, you will understand that all living entities are part of Me.

Bhagavad Gita chpt. 4 cont.

12) Some one who works only for Me, not for himself and who has no doubts about spiritual life, will not get any reactions.

13) So, if you have any doubts in your heart, about what to do, slash those doubts with the weapon of knowledge. Armed with Yoga, stand and fight."

Bhagavad Gita Questions Chapter 4 *name of chpt. 4*

- 1) What is the disciplic succession? *sanskrit name?*
- 2) What is transcendental knowledge?
- 3) What does Krsna say about himself in Chapter 4? Why does he appear?
- 4) Why did Krsna speak this knowledge to Arjuna?
- 5) What happens if a person understands all about Krsna's appearance?
- 6) How is it that just by understanding Krsna's appearance, one can go back to Godhead? *They take shelter of Krsna and become completely purified.*
- 7) What different kinds of Yajna's are talked about here and which is best?
- 8) How does one get transcendental knowledge? *inquire w/ submission be submissive, render service*
- 9) What must a person do if he wants knowledge from the Guru?
- 10) What do you learn when you have received knowledge from the Guru?
- 11) ...What should you do if you have any doubts about spiritual life in your heart?
- 12) What does Krsna tell Arjuna at the end of Chapter 4?

B.G. Chapter 5 Karma Yoga--Action in Krsna Consciousness

- 1) Arjuna said, " O Krsna, first of all you ask me to stop doing fruitive work, then again you tell me to work with devotion. Now will you kindly tell me which of the two is better?"
- 2) Krsna said, " Giving up work is good for liberation and doing devotional work is also good for liberation. But of the two, work in devotional service is better than giving up work.
- 3) No one can become happy by just giving up material work. To become happy, he must also do devotional service. By doing devotional service, a person becomes purified and quickly gets Krsna.
- 4) A pure soul who does devotional service and who can control his mind and senses is ² dear to everyone and everyone is dear to him.
- 5) He ³ understands that he is not this body, he is a spirit soul. He is ⁴ not interested in material sense enjoyment, because he ⁵ enjoys thinking of the Supreme Lord.
- 6) He is not bothered by happiness and distress. He does his duty ⁷ without attachment and gives the results to the Supreme Lord. ⁸ So he gets no sinful reaction.
- 7) This humble sage sees with equal vision, a learned brahmin, a cow, an elephant, a dog, and a dog eater. He works to help everyone to make spiritual advancement.
- 8) The sages who know that I am the goal of all sacrifices and austerities, that I am the Supreme Lord of all planets and demigods, and the best friend of all living entities, get peace from material miseries.
 Controller, proprietor, best friend

Questions on Chapter 5 *what is name of chpt.?*

- 1) What did Arjuna ask Krsna at the beginning of Chapter 5?
- 2) What was Krsna's reply?
- 3) What must a person do if he wants to become happy?
- 4) Besides becoming happy what else happens when a person does devotional service?
- 5) Krsna tells us about a pure devotee. What does He say about him?
- 6) Why isn't a pure devotee bothered by happiness and distress?
- 7) Why isn't the pure devotee interested in material sense enjoyment?
- 8) Why doesn't the pure devotee get sinful reaction?
- 9) What happens to a person who is attached to material enjoyment and who is greedy for the results of his work?
- 10) How does a pure devotee see all living entities?
- 11) How does he work to help all living entities?
- 12) What 3 things does everyone need to know if they want peace from *material miseries*?

(77)
B. G. Chapter 6 Dhyana-Yoga

- 1) Krsna said, "The truly renounced person does his duty without being attached to the results of his work. One who just does no work at all is not really renounced.
- 2) It is important to control the mind, if you control your mind it is the best friend, if you don't, the mind is your worst enemy. Someone who controls the mind can easily follow the instructions of Supersoul, and he is not disturbed by material happiness and distress.
- 3) To practice Yoga, one should go to a secluded place and should lay kusa grass on the ground, and then cover it with a deer skin and a soft cloth. The seat should neither be too high, nor too low and should be in a sacred place.
- 4) The Yogi should sit very straight and stare steadily at the tip of the nose. When his mind is free from fear and desire for sex life, he can always think about the Supreme Lord. Then he easily goes back to Godhead, because he has given up material life.
- 5) But a person can't be a yogi if he eats too much or eats too little, sleeps too much or does not sleep enough. The perfect yogi who is not interested in material sense enjoyment, because he is always thinking of ME, enjoys unlimited transcendental happiness with his spiritual senses and he is freed from sinful reaction.
- 6) So fix your mind on ME and nothing else. When the mind wanders to other things, bring it back under your control.
- 7) Arjuna says "This yoga that you are telling me about, seems too hard for me because the mind is very strong and restless, and is harder to control it than to control the wind."
- 8) Krsna says "Yes, it is difficult to control the mind, but you can do it by practicing constantly and by not being attached to material things."
- 9) Arjuna asks, "What happens to someone who starts to do yoga but stops before he becomes perfect?"
- 10) Krsna says, "He will enjoy for many years on heavenly planets. Then he takes birth in a rich family or a family of advanced devotees and continues doing yoga to become perfect.
- 11) After many births of practice he becomes perfect and goes back to Godhead.

B.G. Chpt. 6 cont.

- 17) Yoga is better than any other process, and of all the yogis, one who always worships Me with devotional service is the highest of

B.G. Questions Chpt. 6

- 1) What is the name of Chapter 6?
- 2) What is a renounced person really like?
- 3) What does Krsna say about controlling the mind?
- 4) Krsna tells Arjuna how to practice yoga. What does he say?
- 5) A person can't be a yogi if he
- 6) What does Krsna say we must do if our mind starts thinking of things that are not Krsna Conscious.
- 7) What does Arjuna say about the yoga that Krsna is telling him to do?
- 8) What does Krsna say when Arjuna says that the yoga is too difficult?
- 9) What is the 2nd Question that Arjuna asks Krsna in this chapter?
- 10) What is Krsna's answer to Arjuna's question?
- 11) What are some different ways to make spiritual advancement and which is the best?

B. G. Chapter 7 Knowledge of The Absolute

- 1) The Supreme Lord said, "Now hear O son of Prtha how you can fully understand the Absolute Truth, if you fix your mind on Me. I shall now tell you this knowledge about Myself. Once you understand this you will understand everything."
- 2) Most people are not at all interested in becoming perfect in spiritual life. Only a few try to become perfect. And out of all the ones who do become perfect only one of them really knows Me.
- 3) Earth, water, fire, air and ether, mind, intelligence and false ego. These eight make up my material energy. Besides this inferior material energy there is a superior (spiritual) energy which is made up of all the living entities who are struggling in the material world and who are making it work.
- 4) I create and destroy everything. There is nothing superior to Me. Everything rests on Me as pearls are strung on a string.
- 5) O son of Kunti, I am the taste of water, the light of the sun and moon, the syllable OM in Vedic mantras. I am the sound in ether and the ability in man.
- 6) I am the original fragrance of the earth, and I am the light in fire. I am the life of all that lives and I am the penances of all ascetics. I am the seed of everything, the intelligence of the intelligent and the prowess of all powerful men.
- 7) I am the strength of the strong. I am sex life to have Krsna Conscious children, O Lord of the Bharatas. I create the 3 modes that control everything. But they do not control Me. It is very difficult to get free from this material world. But those who surrender to Me can do it easily.
- 8) Those who are very foolish (mudhas)
The lowest among men (naradhama)
Those whose knowledge is stolen by Maya
and those who hate God and don't believe in Him
do not surrender to Me.
- 9) Four kinds of pious men do devotional service to Me. The one who is unhappy, who needs money, one who is looking for God, and one who wants to learn about everything. Of these the wise one who is looking for God is the best. For I am dear to him and he is dear to Me.
- 10) Men who don't have much intelligence worship the demigods. The things that they get from the demigods do not last forever. Those who worship the demigods go to the planets of the demigods, but

B. G. Chpt 7 cont.pg 2

who worship the demigods go to the planets of the demigods, but My devotees reach My Supreme abode.

- 11) Other unitelligent men think that My form is material. Because they do not have much knowledge, they do not understand that I am Supreme and I do not change. Foolish unintelligent people can not understand Me because I am covered by Yogamaya. Only by doing devotional service can person understand Me even at the time of death."

Questions on Chapter 7

- 1) Of what 8 things is the material energy made up?
A. Earth, water, fire, air, ether, mind, intelligence, and false ego.
- 2) Give some examples of how the Lord can be seen through different material and spiritual things.
A. See the 5th, 6th, and 7th paragraphs of the summary.
- 3) What 4 kinds of men surrender to Krsna? Which is the best?
A. See the 9th paragraph of the summary.
- 4) What 4 kinds of men don't surrender to Krsna?
A. See the 8th paragraph of the summary.
- 5) Why do people worship the demigods?
A. To get some kind of material benefit; to fulfill some material desire.
- 6) Why do the Vedas recommend demigod worship?
A. 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 Krsna say about people who worship the demigods?
A. See paragraph 10.
- 8) What other kind of person does Krsna consider unitelligent?
A. The Mayavadi.
- 9) Why can't foolish unitelligent people understand Krsna?
A. Because He is covered by Yoga Maya.
- 10) Who are the only people who can really understand Krsna?
A. The person who is doing devotional service.

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B. G. Chapter 8 Attaining the Supreme

- 1) Arjuna asked, " O my Lord, O Supreme Person, what is Brahman? What are fruitive activities? What is this material manifestation? And what are the demigods? How does the Lord live in the body? Where does He live, O Madhusudana? And how can the devotees know You at the time of death?
- 2) The Supreme Personality of Godhead said, "The spirit soul is called Brahman. Anything done for the material body is fruitive activities. This material world is the universal form of the Lord, and I am that Lord living as Supersoul in the heart of every living entity.
- 3) Anyone who at the time of death, leaves his body remembering Me, comes to Me. Whatever one remembers at death, that determines what body he will have in his next life. Therefore, O Arjuna, you should always think of Me and at the same time you should continue your prescribed duty and fight. If your mind is always fixed on me and you do all your activities to please Me, you will surely come to Me. By practicing to always remember the Supreme Lord without being deviated, one is sure to reach My planet.
- 4) You should think of the Supreme Person as the one who knows everything, who is the oldest, who is the controller, who is smaller than the smallest, who is the maintainer of everything, who is beyond any material conception and who is always a person. He is luminous like the sun, beyond this material nature and transcendental.
- 5) One who always remembers Me, because he is constantly engaged in devotional service, easily comes to Me and never comes back to this temporary world so full of miseries.
- 6) From the highest planet in the material world down to the lowest, all are places of misery where repeated birth and death take place.
- 7) There is another place which is eternal. It is Supreme and never destroyed. When all in this world is destroyed that place stays the same. It is the highest place to which one can go. When one goes there, one never returns. That is My Supreme Abode.
- 8) Now I shall explain the different times of passing from this world. Those who know the Supreme Brahman pass away from this world; (1) during the influence of the fiery god, (2) In the light
(3) At an auspicious moment (4) during the fortnight of the moon (5) And the 6 months when the sun travels in the

B. G. Chpt 8 cont.

- (3)At an auspicious moment (4)during the fortnight of the moon (5)And the 6 months when the sun travels in the north.
- 9) The mystic who passes from this world (1)during the smoke (2)the night (3)the moonless fortnight (4)the sixth month when the sun passes to the south and again comes back.
- 10) There are 2 ways of passing from this world, one is light and one in darkness. When one passes in darkness he returns. The devotees are not confused by these different things. So be fixed in devotional service.

Questions on Chpt. 8

- 1) What 7 things does Arjuna ask about in the beginning of Chpt. 8?
A. See 1st paragraph.
- 2) Which question does Krsna spend the most time answering?
A. The question about how the devotees can know Him at the time of death.
- 3) How can we remember Krsna at the time of death?
A. 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 Krsna at the time of death and go back to Godhead? Explain (or why not?)
A. 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 Krsna at the time of death?
A. We go back to Godhead.
- 6) Krsna tells Arjuna to think of Him as what?
A. See paragraph 4.
- 7) What does Krsna say about the material world?
A. See paragraph 5 and 6.
- 8) What does Krsna say about the spiritual world?
A. See paragraph 7.
- 9) What is an auspicious time for the yogi to leave his body?
A. See paragraph 8.

B.G. Questions on Chpt 8 cont.

- 10) What is an inauspicious time for the yogi to leave his body? A. See paragraph 9.
- 11) What are the 2 ways that yogi's can leave this world?
A. See paragraph 10.
- 12) What do the devotees do about preparing to leave their bodies at the right time?
A. Nothing, because he knows that by being constantly engaged in devotional service, his passage back to Godhead is guaranteed.
(Note: Teacher should see the purport to text 27 for more elaborate explanations when teaching the answer to question 12.)

B.G. Chpt.9 The Most Confidential Knowledge

- 1) The Supreme Lord said:"Because you are never envious of Me, O Arjuna, I shall give you this most secret knowledge. When you know this you will be free from the miseries of the material world.
- 2) This knowledge is the King of education, the most secret of all secrets. It is the purest knowledge. It helps you to understand your real self. It is the highest religion. It is everlasting and joyfully performed.
- 3) So far I have never taught any of the concepts in verses 3-15 to the children. But I didn't know if I dare just leave them out completely.
- 4) I am the ritual, the sacrifice, the offering to ancestors, the healing herb, the transcendental chant. I am the butter, and the fire and the offering. I am the father, mother, maintainer and grandfather of all this universe. I am what is to be known, I am purity, I am OM. I am the Rg, Sama, and Yajur Vedas.
- 5) I am the goal, the upholder, the master, the witness, the home, the shelter, and the most dear friend. I am the creation and the annihilation, the basis of everything, the resting place and eternal seed. I control heat, the rain and drought. I am immortality and I am death personified.
- 6) Those who study the Vedas and drink soma juice because they want to go the heavenly planets are also worshipping me, but not directly. They will take birth on the planets of Indra, and enjoy heavenly pleasures. After they have enjoyed these heavenly pleasures, they come back to this planet again. So the happiness they get lasts only for a little while. But those who worship Me with devotion, meditating on my transcendental form--to them I give whatever they need and keep safely whatever they already have. When people worship other demigods the offering is actually for Me, but they don't understand that.
- 7) If one offers Me with love and devotion, a leaf, a flower, fruit or water I will accept it. O Son of Kunti, all that you do, all that you eat, all that you offer and give away as well as all austerities that you may perform, would be done as an offering

B.G. Chpt. 9 cont.

to Me.

- 8) Engage your mind always in thinking of Me, become ~~My~~ devotee, offer obeisances and worship Me. Being completely absorbed in Me, surely you will come to Me.

Questions on Chapter 9

- 1) What is the most secret of all secrets?
A. Knowledge about unalloyed, pure devotional service.
- 2) What are some of the things that Krsna says about this secret?
A. See paragraph 2.
- 3) What is confidential knowledge?
A. Knowledge that the spirit soul is different from the body.
See purport to text 2.
- 4) What is most confidential knowledge? A. Most confidential knowledge is knowledge about pure devotional service.
How does one get this most confidential knowledge? A. By being engaged in devotional service under guidance of a spiritual master.
- 5) There are 2 things that a person needs if he wants to (be successful) do well in Krsna Consciousness. A. Faith and association of devotees. See purport of text 3.
- 6) Tell the story of Narada Muni's becoming purified. See purport of text 2.
- 7) Name some of the things that Krsna says He is. A. Paragraph 4&5.
- 8) What does Krsna say about offering things to Him? A. Paragraph 7.
- 9) What 4 things does Krsna ask us to do. A. See paragraph 8.
- 10) Why should one become a devotee? A.
- 11) What qualification must one have to take shelter of Krsna?
A.

Bhagavad Gita

Chapter 10

The Opulence of the Absolute

1. What are Krsna's six opulences?

Why is He called Bhagavan?

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

2. How can a devotee understand Krsna?

A: Simply by studying His words in the Bhagavad Gita and the Srimad Bhagavatam and by serving Him with devotion.

3. What does it mean that Krsna is God?

A: That He is the source of all spiritual and material worlds, and everything emanates (or comes) from Him.

4. What twenty-five people are born from Krsna's mind?

A: The seven great sages, the 4 other great sages, and the 4 manus.

5. What happens to a person who is completely convinced about Krsna's opulences?

A: He engages in unalloyed devotional service .

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

A: (see text 9 purport).

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

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

8. How can we best understand Bhagavad Gita?

A: By following Arjuna's example and accepting everything that Krsna says.

9. Why did Arjuna ask Krsna to describe His opulences?

A: To benefit the common people. So that they could have an easy way to meditate on Him.

10. Why do the jnani's want to hear about Krsna? Why do the devotees want to hear about Krsna?

A: The jnani's want to understand Krsna fully. The devotees just enjoy hearing about Him. It is like nectar to them.

11. Mention some of the 72 opulences that Krsna describes in this chapter.

Chapter 11 *the Universal Form*

1. Give 3 reasons why Arjuna asked to see Krsna's universal form.

(1) He had heard about the opulences, 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.

2. In general what could Arjuna see in Krsna's universal form?

A: 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 saw unlimited faces, eyes, mouths, and terrible teeth, arms, legs, thighs, and bellies.

He saw blazing fire coming from His mouth and all the great warriors rushing into His mouths like rivers flowing into an ocean or moths dashing in to fire and some of their heads are smashed between His teeth.

3. Who besides Arjuna could see the universal form?

A: Lord Siva, the Rudras, the Adityas, the Vasus, the Sadhyas, the Visvedevas, the Asvis, the Maruts, the forefathers, the Gandarvas, the Yaksas, and the asuras and the perfected demi-gods.

4. Which did Krsna like better—when Arjuna treated Him as a friend, or when Arjuna treated Him as the Supreme Personality of Godhead?
A: When he treated Him as a friend.

5. How important is the universal form of Krsna to the devotees?
Not very important. The devotees prefer Krsna's two-armed three fold bending form.

Chapter 12

1. What is the name of Chp. 12?

A: Devotional service.

2. What was Arjuna's question at the beginning of the chapter?

A: Which is better, to engage in devotional service or to worship the impersonal Brahman?

3. What is the perfection of meditation?

A: To fix the mind on Krsna's personal form.

4. Is the impersonal discipline difficult or easy to follow?

A: Difficult.

5. Why is the path of bhakti better than the impersonal discipline?

A: Because it is easier for conditioned souls with material bodies to be able to use their senses in doing things for Krsna.

6. Explain the example of the mailbox (see purport to text 5, 2nd paragraph).

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

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

8. If one cannot fix his mind always on Krsna, what should he do?

A: Follow the regulative principles of bhakti yoga.

9. If one can not do that (the answer to #8) what should one do?

A: Work for Krsna.

10. If one can not do that (answer to #9) what should one do?

A: Give the results of his work to Krsna.

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

A: Cultivate knowledge.

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

A: See purport to text 14.

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

A: Non-envious, 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 any one. Not disturbed by happiness, and distress etc.