



श्रीमद्भगवत् गीता  
एकादशोऽध्यायः - विश्वरूपदर्शनयोगः  
**Chapter 11**  
**Volume 6**

आख्याहि मे को भवानुग्रूपो नमोऽस्तु ते देववर प्रसीद ।  
विज्ञातुमिच्छामि भवन्तमाद्यं न हि प्रजानामि तव प्रवृत्तिम् ॥ 11 - 31

श्री भगवान् उवाच  
कालोऽस्मि लोकक्षयकृत्यप्रवृद्धो लोकान् समाहर्तुं मिह प्रवृत्तः ।  
ऋतेऽपि त्वां न भविष्यन्ति सर्वे येऽवस्थिताः प्रत्यनीकेषु योधाः ॥ 11 - 32

तस्मात्त्वमुत्तिष्ठ यशो लभस्व जित्वा शत्रून् भुङ्क्ष्व राज्यं समृद्धम् ।  
मयैवैते निहताः पूर्वमेव निमित्तमात्रं भव सव्यसाचिन् ॥ 11 - 33

द्रोणं च भीष्मं च जयद्रथं च कर्णं तथा न्यानपि योधवीरान् ।  
मया हतांस्त्वं जहि मा व्यथिष्ठा युध्यस्व जेतासि रणे सपत्नान् ॥ 11 - 34

Sri Krishna is now responding to Arjuna's request, namely.

आख्याहि मे को भवानुग्रूपो नमोऽस्तु ते देववर प्रसीद ।  
विज्ञातुमिच्छामि भवन्तमाद्यां न हि प्रजानामि तव प्रवृत्तिम् ॥ 11 - 31

O! Lord

आख्याहि मे - Please tell me.

को भवानुग्रूपः - Who are You, whose form is so terrifying? Are You the same Krishna that I have known all along? I have never seen You before in this उग्ररूपं - भयंकर रूपं - terrifying form.

भवन्तम् आद्यं - You being the ONE who has been existing, before any one else, and hence, You being the only ONE, who knows all about Yourself

विज्ञातुं इच्छामि, को भवान्, आख्याहि मे - I want to know exactly who You are, as I see You now in Your विश्वरूपं. Please tell me.

Responding to Arjuna's request, भगवान् says:



श्री भगवान् उवाच

कालोऽस्मि लोकक्षयकृत्यप्रवृद्धो लोकान् समाहर्तुं मिह प्रवृत्तः ।

ऋतेऽपि त्वां न भविष्यन्ति सर्वे येऽवस्थिताः प्रत्यनीकेषु योधाः ॥ 11 - 32

कालोऽस्मि - अहं कालः अस्मि - I am काल - The TIME; I am नित्यकालः - The Eternal TIME

लोकक्षयकृत् कालः - I am That काल that devours the whole world, all the जीवs and all the people. I am That TIME, that devours TIME Itself

प्रवृद्धः कालः - I am That TIME in its expanded form, in its विश्वरूपं - all-inclusive form, so that you can see the past, present and future, in the wheel of time. I am in the form of काल here, because,

लोकान् समाहर्तुम् इह प्रवृत्तः - at this time and place, I am here to bring about the destruction of all the people assembled here on both sides of this battle-field. I appear before you in the Form of Destruction, because, I am the cause for their destruction. You must know that I am indeed the cause for their creation, their sustenance, and their destruction as well. But, at this time and place, I am here for their destruction only. As I said before, My very presence here is for

परित्राणाय साधूनां विनाशाय च दुष्कृतां

धर्मसंस्थापनार्थाय सभवामि युगे युगे ॥

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All the people who are ordained by ME to undergo that विनाश - destruction, for the protection of धर्म in society, they are all assembled here, and I am here to bring about the destruction of all of them, as काल - TIME, as the very Law of कर्म and कर्मफल.

From the very process of Destruction seen by you in this विश्वरूपं, you can understand that everything in this creation is changing all the time, and nothing in this creation is permanent. This entire creation is माया रूपं. All manifestations of माया are अनित्यं, they are असत् - they have only a transient existence. The only thing that is नित्यं, that is सत्यं - that which is permanent, never subject to change is अव्यक्त स्वरूप अक्षर ब्रह्मन् - Unmanifest ब्रह्मन्. Again, as I said earlier,

नासतो विद्यते भावो नाभावो विद्यते सतः - 2-16 That which has only a transient existence has really no existence at all; and that which has existence, has no non-existence. Therefore, all the people who are now destined to be destroyed, have only माया रूपं -



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they have no real existence at all. They are all here only because of their **कर्मफल**s, and those **कर्मफल**s are now nearing exhaustion, by virtue of **काल** – TIME. Consequently, they are all now ready to fall.

The manifestation of **माया** here is **काल** – the Wheel of TIME. The Wheel of TIME keeps moving all the time, and everybody is caught in it. That is what you saw in the **विश्वरूपं**. All these people are already in the process of being devoured by Me, as **काल**. Their deaths have nothing to do with you, or your powers, or your wishes, or your will. Arjuna, as you may recall, you said earlier (in Chapter 1):

“एतान् न हन्तुं इच्छामि घ्नतोऽपि मधुसूदन 1-35 - I do not wish to kill them, even though I am killed”. Arjuna, please understand this clearly – you need not wish to kill any body, because,

ऋतेऽपि त्वां न भविष्यन्ति सवे - त्वां विना अपि, न भविष्यन्ति सवे - even without you, the job is done already. All these people will not exist when this war is over. Even without your participation in this war, all these people, namely,

येऽवस्थिताः प्रत्यनीकेषु योधाः - those who are standing here as commanders of the different groups of armies on both sides of the battlefield, including **भीष्म**, **द्रोण**, **कर्ण**, **दृष्टद्युम्नु**, **सात्यकि**, etc., all of them

न भविष्यन्ति - they will not exist when this war is over. All of them are already in the process of being destroyed by Me, as **काल** – as The Wheel of TIME. For their destruction, you are not the cause. Whatever be your wish, their times are over, they are destined to die, and they will die in this war. That is their **कर्मफल**, and I am The **कर्मफलदाता** – The Giver of the Fruit of Actions. Your part in this war is very simple, do what you need to do, in terms of your own duty and there is nothing more for you to do.

तस्मात्त्वमुत्तिष्ठ यशो लभस्व जित्वा शत्रून् भुङ्क्व राज्यं समृद्धम् ।

मयैवैते निहताः पूर्वमेव निमित्तमात्रं भव सव्यसाचिन् ॥

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तस्मात् त्वं उत्तिष्ठ - Therefore, Arjuna – उत्तिष्ठ – Wake up to your duty. Do what you have to do, as your duty. As a **क्षत्रिय**, it is your duty to protect **धर्म** in society. Therefore, do what needs to be done, what has been left for you to do, at this time and place. By so doing,



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यशो लभस्व – May you gain fame. You will get all the fame, that you conquered even those great warriors such as भीष्म, and द्रोण, who cannot be conquered even by the Devas. People will talk about your valor in such glorious terms.

जित्वा शत्रून् भुङ्क्ष्व राज्य समृद्धम् – gaining victory over those who stand here as your enemies, may you also gain and enjoy a prosperous and unrivalled kingdom. Such fame and such victory can come only to those who are पुण्य पुरुष – meritorious people. By your पूर्व कर्म – past actions, you are indeed a पुण्य पुरुष. That is why you are blessed with all the faculties and powers you are endowed with, and you are also blessed with this opportunity to use all of them fully and effectively for the benefit of the whole world. At the same time, please listen, and understand this properly

मया एव, एते निहताः पूर्वम् एव – all these warriors, standing here in this battlefield, have already been

निहताः निश्चयेन हताः – killed by Me, beyond doubt

मया एव – killed by Me ONLY, as काल – TIME, by Me as the very Law of कर्म and the Giver of कर्मफल. Their times are now over, and they are all ready to fall. Therefore,

सव्यसाचिन् – O! Arjuna, the one who can wield weapons effectively even by the left hand, just as well as by the right hand, O! Arjuna

निमित्तमात्रं भव – for the formal destruction of these warriors here, you be purely My Instrument, and nothing more. O! Arjuna, please realize

निमित्तमात्रं भव – you are only an instrument to carry out My Will – The Will of परमेश्वर – and nothing more. All the destruction that is going to happen here in this battlefield, is प्रारब्धकर्मफल – the fruit of their own actions, for each one of them. In this matter, neither your wish, nor your will, nor your power is involved. Your will is only with respect to what you need to do, as your own duty, by virtue of your own प्रारब्धकर्मफल, and nothing more. Always remember:

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते, मा फलेषु कदाचन (2-47) - At this time and place, your duty is simple and clear, and that is:

उत्तिष्ठ - Wake up to your duty; and, as I told you before

मां अनुस्मर वयुध्य च (8-7) – Hold on to Me, as परमेश्वर, and fight, simply as a matter of duty to yourself

उत्तिष्ठ निमित्तमात्रं भव – Wake up to your Duty, and Be only an Instrument to carry out the Will of परमेश्वर



That is the गीतोपदेश The Teaching here. The entire purpose of this Chapter on विश्वरूपदर्शन योग is only to impart this all-important Teaching to Arjuna, effectively. This Teaching is not only for Arjuna under his own circumstances, it is also for all of us for all times, under all circumstances.

उत्तिष्ठ and निमित्तमात्रं भव – These are Upanishad words. These are command-words of परमेश्वर. When properly understood and appreciated, these words are मन्त्रs – Words of Power. उत्तिष्ठ simply means – Stand up, Get up, or Wake up. As a, मन्त्र it is a powerful wake-up call to uplift oneself from transient reality to Absolute Reality. This उत्तिष्ठ मन्त्र is a powerful operational tool to uplift every ईश्वर भक्त at any level of human existence, to a higher level of spiritual existence.

Even before गीतोपदेश started, भगवान् used this उत्तिष्ठ मन्त्र – Wake-up call, to uplift Arjuna from the sense of despondency and mental depression that he was suffering from at that time. We may recall भगवान् 's words then

क्लैब्यं मा स्म गमः पार्थ, न एतत् त्वयि उपपद्यते ।

क्षुद्रं हृदय दौर्बल्यं त्यक्त्वा उत्तिष्ठ परंतप ॥

2 - 3

पार्थ, परंतप – O! Arjuna, you are not an ordinary person, you are परंतप – you are Arjuna, The Great

क्लैब्यं मा स्म गमः – Do not fall into the trap of cowardliness. You are a क्षत्रिय, both by गुण and कर्म, and it is your duty to uphold धर्म in Society. Do not yield to क्लैब्यं – unmanliness. It is totally unnatural to you

न एतत् त्वयि उपपद्यते – it does not befit you at all. It does not befit a man of your stature to be overcome by sorrow, distress and sadness at this time and place

क्षुद्रं हृदय दौर्बल्यं त्यक्त्वा – getting rid of this fear and weak-heartedness

उत्तिष्ठ – stand-up, wake-up, grow-up and live up to your real nature, said Sri Krishna.

It is again this उत्तिष्ठ मन्त्र that Sage Viswamitra used to lovingly wake up Sri Rama to The Divine Mission of His own अवतार. As the Valmiki Ramayana says:

After a long walk from Ayodya, the Sage Viswamitra, along with Rama and Lakshmana, reached the southern bank of the river सरायू, where they spent the night (सुसुखं ऊषुः) happily and comfortably, lying on the ground on a bed of grass.

It is now day-break time, next morning. For Viswamitra, and indeed, for the whole world, it is an extraordinarily auspicious time, because, Sri Rama's Mission in Life, as अवतार



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पुरुष in the world of human beings is about to begin, and, it is left for the पुण्य पुरुष Viswamitra to initiate this Divine Mission. For Vishwamitra, this is particularly an extraordinary and auspicious time. The परब्रह्मन्, The परमेश्वर, appearing in the Form of Rama, is now by the very side of Viswamitra, sleeping soundly like a child. What an Extraordinarily Beautiful and Blissful Sight it is for Viswamitra to see and enjoy that sight itself. It is total fulfillment in life for Viswamitra. Viswamitra sees and sees, looks at Rama again and again, all the time enjoying the very presence of परब्रह्मन् परमेश्वर in human form, by his very side. The morning is approaching, it is now day-break time, and the time has now come for Viswamitra, to do his part in the Divine Mission of Sri Rama.

With overflowing Love for SRI RAMA, as परमेश्वर, with परम प्रेम स्वरूप ईश्वर भक्ति, (Valmiki says)

अभ्यभाषत काकुत्स्थं, शयानं पर्णसंस्तरे ।

Viswamitra spoke these words looking at Sri Rama lying on the bed of grass.

कौसल्या सुप्रजा राम पूर्वा सन्ध्या प्रवर्तते ।

उत्तिष्ठ नरशार्दूल कर्तव्यं दैवमाह्निकम् (वा. रामा. बाल. 23 – 2)

कौसल्या सुप्रजा राम – O! blessed Son of कौसल्या, नरशार्दूल – O! पुरुषोत्तम – SRI RAMA – उत्तिष्ठ – please wake up, it is now time for you to commence the Divine Mission of Your अवतार to bring Peace and Happiness to the whole world.

Please understand – this is not mere story telling. This is Ramayana as स्मृति – some thing to be remembered every day. What is to be remembered here is: उत्तिष्ठ मन्त्र is one's spontaneous expression of परम प्रेम स्वरूप ईश्वर भक्ति, whose very nature is परमानन्द स्वरूप – Absolute Love is Absolute Happiness, which is ब्रह्मस्वरूपं. When properly understood, the words of Viswamitra apply to every person, every day of one's life, because, whether one knows it or not, every person is born only to do one's part in the overriding Divine Mission of bringing Peace and Happiness to all living beings, including oneself. That is also the content of भगवान्'s, निमित्तमात्रं भव उपदेश to Arjuna.

Therefore, in pursuance of the overriding Divine Mission of bringing Peace and Happiness to all, let every one of us wake up every morning, uplifted by the Words:



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कौसल्या सुप्रजा राम पूर्वा सन्ध्या प्रवर्तते  
उत्तिष्ठ नरशार्दूल कर्तव्यं दैवमाह्निकम्

Again, it is this उत्तिष्ठ मन्त्र, कठोपनिषत् uses to remind everyone of one's own overriding duty to oneself, namely, to uplift oneself and fulfill oneself.

उत्तिष्ठत जाग्रत प्राप्य वरान् निबोधत ।

क्षुरोस्य धारा निशिता दुरत्यया दुर्गम् पथः तत् कवयो वदन्ति

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Arise, awake, seek help from great Teachers, and get educated in ब्रह्मविद्या beyond doubt. The path leading to मोक्ष – Freedom, Total Fulfillment in life is like the sharp edge of a razor, and hence it is very difficult to tread. There are too many obstacles. Beware - तत् कवयो वदन्ति, so say The Enlightened Ones, which is the Upanishadic way of communicating an established truth.

Here, in this Chapter of The भगवत् गीता, Sri Krishna uses the उत्तिष्ठ मन्त्र before He imparts the all-important Teaching, namely:

### निमित्तमात्रं भव

Here, the उत्तिष्ठ मन्त्र is not merely a call for Arjuna to recognize his duty to fight in the war he is already in, but it is also a call for Arjuna to recognize his own even greater duty to himself, namely: निमित्तमात्रं भव

Recognize yourself ONLY as an Instrument of परमेश्वर, to carry out The Will of परमेश्वर. Such recognition is even a greater duty of Arjuna to himself, because, the mental disposition arising from such recognition is the necessary prerequisite for gaining पूर्ण ईश्वर भक्ति, पूर्ण ईश्वर ज्ञानं and पूर्ण ईश्वर शरणागति, the confluence of all of which leads to मोक्ष, श्रेयस्, शान्ति – Freedom, Happiness, Peace that Arjuna seeks.

As if to reinforce the उत्तिष्ठ निमित्तमात्रं भव Mantra again, भगवान् says:

द्रोणं च भीष्मं च जयद्रथं च कर्णं तथा न्यानपि योधवीरान् ।

मया हतास्त्वं जहि मा व्यथिष्ठा युध्यस्व जेतासि रणे सपत्नान् ॥

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Sri Krishna's message in this verse is meant not only to completely eliminate all fears and doubts in the mind of Arjuna about the ultimate outcome of this war, the message is also meant to reach particularly the ears of the King धृतराष्ट्र who is also listening, through Sanjaya, all that Arjuna and Sri Krishna are talking at this time.

Duryodana depends entirely on these four people, namely: द्रोण, भीष्म, जयद्रथ and कर्ण for his success in this war. If these 4 people are gone, Duryodana is as well gone, Duryodana knows that and धृतराष्ट्र also knows that. भगवान् wants both Arjuna and King धृतराष्ट्र to hear clearly, explicitly and directly through His own words about the fate of these 4 people, and the ultimate outcome of this war. Therefore, भगवान् tells Arjuna loudly, clearly and explicitly these words:

द्रोणं च भीष्मं च जयद्रथं च कर्णं तथा न्यानपि योधवीरान् ।  
मया हतांस्त्वं जहि मा व्यथिष्ठा युध्यस्व जेतासि रणे सपत्नान् ॥

द्रोण, भीष्म, जयद्रथ and कर्ण, and all the other heroic warriors standing in this battlefield, all of them have already been killed by Me – as काल, as TIME, by Me as the very Law of कर्म, by Me as the कर्मफलदाता – as the Giver of the fruit of their actions.

त्वं जहि – all that is left for you to do is to kill them formally, by your own weapons, just being ONLY an instrument to carry out My Will and nothing more. Your wish or your will is not involved in their destruction and you are not the cause for their deaths. They are already dead, and they are ready to fall, just by the touch of your arrows

मा व्यथिष्ठाः - तेभ्याः भयं मा कार्षीः - Do not entertain any kind of fear or guilt feelings about their deaths

युध्यस्व - Fight with full force, just as a matter of duty, just as an instrument to serve My Will – The Will of परमेश्वर

जेतासि - You are already a Winner. The very fact that you have withstood the विश्वरूपदर्शन you have had so far, means that you have already won the war within yourself. You have also won the war that is outside of yourself too.

जेतासि रणे सपत्नान् - Be assured, you are the conqueror of all those who stand before you as your enemies in this battlefield. Let there not be any kind of concern about the ultimate outcome of this war. You do your part - do what has been left for you to do at this time and place; the victory is already yours.





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So saying, Sri Krishna concludes His response to Arjuna's question, and gives Arjuna some time to recover from the shock of His own words.

Hearing Sri Krishna's words, Arjuna is stunned, dumbfounded, and filled with deep and mixed emotions. He is now trying to collect himself, before he starts to speak again.

All that he saw in विश्वरूपदर्शनं, all that he said about what he saw, and all that he has just heard from Sri Krishna, all these have brought about profound changes in the mind and बुद्धि of Arjuna, and made him momentarily speechless, with unsteady emotions. Arjuna has just experienced a great turning point in his mental disposition. The changes in Arjuna's mind and बुद्धि which have brought about this turning point are briefly the following.

- ✓ Arjuna has now come to realize that Sri Krishna is no longer the Krishna he knew before, but He is परमेश्वर Itself in human form
- ✓ Arjuna's fears about भीष्म and द्रोण have vanished
- ✓ Arjuna's doubts about who will win this war have also vanished
- ✓ At the same time, Arjuna's ego – अहंकार, is severely hurt and totally flattened.

Arjuna is deeply saddened by the impending departure of his respected and loved ones from this world, and by his own total helplessness and irrelevance in this matter.

At the same time, भगवान् 's उत्तिष्ठ मन्त्र is uplifting Arjuna to a higher plane of ईश्वर भक्ति, and भगवान्'s निमित्तमात्रं भव Teaching has turned Arjuna's mind, बुद्धि and his entire अन्तःकरण towards पूर्ण ईश्वर भक्ति, पूर्ण ईश्वर ज्ञानं and पूर्ण ईश्वर शरणागति. With these changes, Arjuna is becoming a new person, and भगवान्'s गीतोपदेश also assumes a new direction, all of which we will see as we go along.

We will continue with this Chapter next time.