

The Madhyama Shatkam: The Path of Devotion

Bhagavad Gita Collection

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 **Description:** An exploration of Chapters 7-12 of the Bhagavad Gita, focusing on Bhakti Yoga as the vehicle to liberation

 **Tags:** bhagavad-gita, madhyama-shatkam, bhakti-yoga, devotion, moksha, krishna, spirituality, parama-bhakti

The Madhyama Shatkam (Middle Set of Six Chapters) constitutes the chapters spanning Chapter 7 through Chapter 12 of the Bhagavad Gita. This section is fundamentally focused on the doctrine of Bhakti Yoga (the path of devotion).

In the overarching structure of the Gita's 18 chapters, the Madhyama Shatkam serves as the core teaching, bridging the preliminary practices (Prathama Shatkam: Karma and Gnana Yoga) with the subsequent clarification and conclusion (Tritiya Shatkam).

Core Tenets of the Madhyama Shatkam (Bhakti Yoga)

1. The Vehicle for Moksha



The Madhyama Shatkam introduces Bhakti Yoga as the "vehicle" necessary for the Jeevatma (individual soul) to successfully travel from its current state (point A) to the state of Moksha (liberation, point B).

This vehicle of Bhakti Yoga requires two wheels for propulsion, which are Karma Yoga and Gnana Yoga (knowledge), illustrating that devotion must be supported by selfless action and philosophical understanding.

2. Bhakti Yoga Defined

The sources make a crucial distinction between mere Bhakti (simple devotion like chanting or offering flowers) and Bhakti Yoga.

Ashtanga Yoga: Bhakti Yoga is a formalized practice based on the eight limbs of yoga: Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dharana, Dhyana, and Samadhi.

Maturation of Knowledge: Bhakti is the mature Gnana (knowledge) that evolves from initial Karma (action). For instance, a child initially brushes its teeth as a burdensome karma, later gains gnana about its purpose (cleansing), and finally develops true bhakti (love) for the process when the knowledge matures.

3. Paramountcy of Krishna

This section establishes Krishna as the supreme object of devotion. The theme is encapsulated in a key verse cited from the beginning of this shatkam: "matta parataram nanyatu kinchitasthi dhananjaya mai sarvam idam proktam sutre maniganayiva". This reinforces the teaching that nothing is superior to Krishna.

4. Chapter Specific Content

The chapters within this section detail various aspects of devotion:

Chapter 9: Rajavidya Rajaguhya (The King of Sciences and the King of Secrets).

5. The Highest Levels of Devotion

The path of Bhakti Yoga leads to ascending levels of spiritual attainment:

1. Parabhakti
2. Parajnana
3. Parama Bhakti

Parama Bhakti is the highest stage, where the devotee achieves the realization that they cannot exist without the Divine, feeling an inseparable attachment to Bhagavan.

6. The Problem of the End Moment

The teaching of Bhakti Yoga presents a challenge related to the goal of Moksha. Krishna stipulates a difficult condition for liberation: whatever the Jeevatma thinks of in the last minute on the deathbed (Yo Yo Yap Yap), that is what they shall become in the next birth.

If the seeker thinks of Krishna, they attain Moksha. If they think of anything else, they will take rebirth (punarjanma). This condition worried Arjuna, as concentration is difficult even in sound health.

This difficult precondition is the reason why the subsequent Tritiya Shatkan concludes with the instruction to surrender (Charama Shlokam), allowing the Bhakti Yoga begun in this life to succeed.



Reference

This blog post is based on notes taken from the following video :

Video Sources: - [Watch on YouTube](#) - [Watch on YouTube](#) - [Watch on YouTube](#)

For a more detailed explanation, I highly recommend watching the original videos.



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