



REVIEW ARTICLE

Vol. 11. Issue.2. 2024 (April-June)

ISSN INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA
2395-2628(Print):2349-9451(online)

EXPLORING THE DIVINE: THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURE IN THE
"BHAGAVAD GITA"

Dr. Shivani Tiwari

Assistant Professor (Guest Faculty), Department of English, Govt. Girl's College Mandal,
Bhilwara, Rajasthan

Email: shivani10tiwari@gmail.com

doi: 10.33329/ijelr.11.2.69



Article information

Article Received:02/4/2024
Article Accepted:16/05/2024
Published online:23/05/2024

ABSTRACT

"The Bhagavad Gita", a revered Hindu Scripture, serves as a profound philosophical discourse between Lord Krishna and prince Arjuna set amidst the battlefield of Kurukshetra. This paper delves into the significance of nature within the Bhagavad Gita, elucidating its pivotal role in understanding the divine. Through an analysis of key verses and themes, this study explores how nature is portrayed as a manifestation of the divine, reflecting the interconnectedness of all existence. Furthermore, it examines the symbolism of various natural elements, such as the ocean, mountains and trees, in conveying spiritual truths and guiding ethical conduct. By contemplating the dynamic interplay between humanity and the natural world, the Bhagavad Gita imparts timeless wisdom on harmonizing one's inner and outer landscapes, ultimately leading to spiritual enlightenment and fulfilment.

Key Words- Bhagavad Gita, Hinduism, divine, nature, dharma, spirituality, metaphor, teachings, sacred text.

Introduction

The Bhagavad Gita, often referred to as the Gita, is a sacred Hindu Scripture that encapsulated profound philosophical teachings imparted by Lord Krishna to Prince Arjuna amidst the battlefield of Kurukshetra. Central to its discourse is the exploration of the divine and the paths to spiritual realization. In response to Arjuna's turmoil, Lord Krishna, the divine charioteer and incarnation of God, imparts timeless wisdom that transcends the immediate conflict and addresses the universal principles governing life. While the Gita encompasses a wide array of themes, the significance of nature stands out as a prominent motif throughout the text. This article seeks to delve into the importance of nature in the Bhagavad Gita, examining its symbolic representation and its role in guiding human conduct and spiritual evolution.

Nature as a Manifestation of the Divine- in the Bhagavad Gita, nature is portrayed as a manifestation of the divine presence. Lord Krishna, representing the Supreme Being, emphasizes the interconnectedness and divine essence inherent in all living beings and natural phenomena. He states:

“I am the taste in water, the light of the sun and the moon, the syllable OM in the Vedic Mantras; I am the sound in ether and ability in man” (Bhagavad Gita 7.8)

Here, Krishna reveals his omnipresence in various aspects of nature, illustrating the divine permeation within the universe. This perspective underscores the sacredness of nature and underscores its role as a medium for spiritual realization.

Nature as Teacher- the Bhagavad Gita presents nature as a profound teacher from whom valuable lessons can be gleaned. In chapter 4, verse 25, Krishna declares

“Some perceive the Self within themselves through the practice of meditation, others through the path of knowledge, and still others through the path of yoga. Yet there are those who do not understand the self, but they live in harmony with nature, always performing the right actions.” (Bhagavad Gita ch-4, verse 25)

Here, Krishna acknowledges that nature itself can lead individuals to spiritual realization, even without explicit knowledge or practice. Moreover, throughout the Gita, Krishna extols the virtues of equanimity in the face of dualities such as pleasure and pain, success and failure. He urges Arjuna to remain steadfast like a mountain amidst the turbulence of life’s challenges. This metaphorical portrayal of nature as unwavering and resilient serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of inner strength and resilience on the spiritual path.

Symbolism of Natural Elements- the Bhagavad Gita employs rich symbolism to convey spiritual truths through natural elements. The ocean, symbolizing the vastness of existence, represents the infinite potentiality of the divine. Mountains, with their stability and loftiness, symbolized the unwavering resolve and steadfastness required on the path to spiritual enlightenment. Trees, with their roots firmly grounded in the earth and branches reaching towards the sky, symbolize the interconnectedness of the material world and eternal soul. By contemplating these natural symbols, individuals are encouraged to recognize the underlying unity of all creation and aspire towards higher states of consciousness. Furthermore, Krishna identifies himself with various aspects of nature, affirming his omnipresence and omnipotence. In chapter 10, known as the Vibhuti Yoga, Krishna declares:

“Of all creations, I am the beginning and the end and also the middle, o Arjuna of the sciences I am the spiritual science, and among logicians I am the conclusive truth” (Bhagavad Gita 10)

Here, Krishna reveals his divine presence in every aspect of creation, from the majestic mountains to the gentle flow of rivers, from the brilliance of the sun to the serenity of the moon.

Guidance for Ethical Conduct- nature serves as a guiding metaphor for ethical conduct and righteous living in the Bhagavad Gita Lord Krishna admonishes Arjuna to perform his duty selflessly, akin to the natural order for the universe. He advises:

“One who is not motivated by false ego whose intelligence is not entangled, though he kills men in this world, does not kill? Nor is he bounded by his actions” (Bhagavad Gita 18.17)

Here Krishna emphasizes the importance of detaching oneself from the fruits of action and aligning with the harmonious rhythm of nature. By following the principles of dharma, individuals can lead a virtuous life in harmony with the cosmic order.

The *Bhagavad Gita* emphasizes the interconnectedness of all living beings and the divine source from which they arise. Just as a river merges into the ocean, losing its individual identity in the vast expanse of water, the individual soul merges into the divine consciousness, realizing its inherent unity

with the supreme. Through contemplation of nature's wonders, one can glimpse the transcendental beauty and harmony that permeate the universe, leading to a deeper understanding of the divine.

Moreover, the Gita extols the virtues of detachment and equanimity advocating a balanced approach to life amidst its ever-changing circumstance. Just as the lotus remains unaffected by the muddy waters in which it blooms, the spiritually enlightened individual remains untouched by the dualities of pleasure and pain, success and failure. By attuning oneself to the rhythms of nature, one can cultivate inner peace and resilience, transcending the limitations of the ego and attaining union with the divine.

Conclusion

The Bhagavad Gita presents nature as a gateway to understanding the divine and realizing one's true self. Through allegories, metaphors, and direct teachings the Gita reveals the inherent unity between natural world and the divine source of all creations. By contemplating the divine presence in nature and aligning with its inherent wisdom, individuals can transcend worldly limitations and attain spiritual enlightenment. Thus, exploring the importance of nature in the Bhagavad Gita not only enriches our understanding of this sacred text but also deepens our connections to the natural world and the divine within.

References

- Basu, Madhurima. (2019). The Essentials of Organizational Management: A Study on the Bhagavad Gita. *Management Insight - The Journal of Incisive Analysers*. 15. 10.21844/mijia.15.1.3.
- Soni, Aditya. (2024). A Comprehensive Review of the Bhagavad Gita: Insights into Philosophy, Ethics, and Spirituality. 10.13140/RG.2.2.22045.52961.
- The Bhagavad Gita: The Song of Divine, *Sanskrit Text and English Translation*, Gorakhpur: Gita press, India, 2002. www.gita society.com.