

Chapter 11: Vishwa Roopa Darshan Yiga – Yoga of Vision of Cosmic Form

This chapter is known as *Vishwaroop Darshan Yoga* or *Yoga of the “vision of cosmic form”*.

The man living in this world is able to unify himself with the cosmos when he perceives himself as well as the cosmos as part and parcel of the Lord’s manifestations.

When the Lord described to Arjuna about His Divine manifestation, Arjuna put before the Lord his earnest request to show him His forms. He totally believed in the Lord and only by inquisitiveness and not by suspicion he wanted to see the forms of the Lord described to him as being His own. Arjuna very reverently calls the Lord variously as Parameshwara, Purushottama and Yogeswara thereby expressing his full faith in Lord Krishna, as being God Himself. The Lord also had great love for Arjuna and willingly showed him His forms, as desired by Arjuna.

The Lord tells Arjuna to see within His body 12 Adityas, 8 Vasus, 11 Rudras, 2 Ashwini Kumars, 49 Maruts, the whole Universe and all living and non-living things and anything else known or unknown which he desired to see. He offers Arjuna Divine Eyes to see His Divine form, because with human eyes it was not possible for him to see the subtle image of the Lord.

On receiving the Divine Eyes, Arjuna was able to see a magnificently illumined Divine form extending in all the directions, from ground to sky, the whole of the horizon; he saw all living beings in many many different forms, including Brahma, Shankar Mahadeva, sages and saints. He saw the armies of Kauravas and Pandavas, which were flying and falling into the mouth of Lord Krishna, which was blazing with fire. Arjuna became frightened upon seeing these unimaginable forms and started trembling with fear.

Arjuna started praying with folded hands and requested the Lord to withdraw this terrible form and show him His Loving four-armed form, the form of absolute peace. The form which was holding conch, discus, mace and lotus in the four hands. His head wears a crown and the body is adorned with a garland of beautiful flowers. The Lord, always being kind to his devotees obliged Arjuna who was able to see the four-armed form of Lord Sri Krishna, as Lord Vishnu. The same form was earlier shown to mother Devaki and mother Kaushalya. The Lord gave assurance to Arjuna that He had withdrawn His cosmic form, so he should not be afraid anymore. Arjuna expressed his utmost reverence and told the Lord that he was now back to his senses on seeing His beautiful form and had attained supreme peace.

The Lord told Arjuna that it was not possible for even great saints and Demi Gods to witness His four-armed form. Persons, who satisfy the following 5 characteristics, may be considered for witnessing this form of His:-

1. Those to perform only His tasks
2. Those who consider Him to be everything
3. Those who worship Him constantly
4. Those who are not attracted to the world of senses
5. Those who do not entertain thoughts of enmity to anyone

Such a person is able to know Him and is able to achieve Him at the end of his life.

Arjuna was fortunate to witness all three forms of Lord Krishna, the two-armed form, and the four-armed form, as well as the thousand-armed form. This chapter can be considered to be the meeting point of Karma Yoga, Jnana Yoga and Bhakti Yoga.