

Chapter 8: Akshara Brahma Yoga – Yoga of Imperishable Bhrahma

This chapter has 28 verses. Arjuna puts before Lord Krishna 8 questions. Nowhere else in the Gita Arjuna asks 8 questions in one go.

The Lord answers all eight questions in this chapter. If one is able to understand it in its entirety then nothing else remains to be known. The soul residing in the human body transcends it and it becomes part of that supersoul which cannot be diminished i.e. "Akshar Bhrahma". Hence this chapter is called 'Akshar Brahma Yoga' or Yoga of the Imperishable Bhrahma.

The Akshar Bhrahma is said to be 8 types. They are described in this chapter along with the means of attaining Akshar Bhrahma. The monosyllable "OM" has also been described. There is also description of the day of Lord Bhrahma and his night and also his era (age). The origin of world and the method of its destruction have also been explained.

The Pure form of the Lord and the means by which He can be obtained is outlined. Two routes called *Shukla Marga* and *Krishna Marga* have been mentioned. The fate of the pure soul at the time of death proceeding on either of the two routes has been given. The Yogi who has complete understanding of both these routes has been glorified.

On attaining complete understanding of this chapter it is easy to understand Samanyaas Yoga, Bhakti Yoga and Karma Yoga. One is also able to understand Vedanta Yoga and Brahma Yoga. All the Yogas in their diversity can be understood and their unity can also be understood and the misconceptions in the mind can be driven away. Swami Ji Maharaj has expressed that he has read many commentaries on this chapter and no one is akin to another. Also, he was unable to decode the exactness of the paths shown by different commentaries. Hence it is obvious that such and all-encompassing knowledge cannot be contained within a few words. The knowledge can only be gained over a long period of time in a stepwise manner. Hence the only proper way of obtaining these Supreme secretive sermon's extracts would be to pray to Lord Krishna. The supreme Lord is very kind and with His grace the true meaning of this chapter would one day be revealed to us.

All saints are unified in their understanding that with the continuous practice of the principles of the Gita it is possible to arrive at solutions within one self.