

# God of Gita is Incorporeal, say Religious Leaders

**Abu Road, October 6:** The God of Bhagavad Gita can only be incorporeal, not a corporeal figure such as Shri Krishna, and the battle depicted in that scripture is a metaphor for the struggle in the human mind between good and evil, said religious leaders, spiritualists and legal figures at a seminar here today.

The metaphors used in the Gita show that the battle of Kurukshetra is an allegory for the battle in the human mind between negative and positive traits, said H. H. **Swami Brahmadev, President, International Brahma Vidyapeeth, Trinidad.**

He said Arjuna's chariot really stood for the human body, which has been called 'vivek rath' in the Mandukyopanishad.

Similarly, he said, Shri Krishna's 'sudarshan chakra' was really about swadarshan or looking at the self. "We have to look within at who I am. For this, the Gita mentions three eyes: physical eyes, the eyes of knowledge and eyes of divinity."

He further noted that in the Mahabharata, Shri Krishna had counselled against war in the court of the Kauravas. "No one wants war," Swami Brahmadev said, adding that like lamps, people should spread the light of the Gita's knowledge all over the world.

He was speaking at a seminar on 'Repetition of Gita Episode' as part of the grand finale of the platinum jubilee celebrations of the Brahma Kumaris here.

**Swami Sarvanand Saraswati, Founder and President of International Bhajan Sukhsewa Mission, and Chancellor of Bhartisreepeeetham University, New Delhi,** declared that the God of the Gita was incorporeal. He prescribed three practices for leading a righteous life: taking care of one's character, being careful about food, and treating everyone with love and respect. This advice, given to him years ago by Prajapita Brahma, the founder of the Brahma Kumaris, had stood him in good stead all his life, he said.

**Justice Ramesh Garg from Indore** said the Gita taught us that righteous persons in any society should be active. It is because they are passive that evil-minded people prevail and intimidate the upright majority.

**Justice V. Eshwariah of the Andhra Pradesh High Court** said the problems bedeviling society and the world could be solved only through the spiritual knowledge being given by the Brahma Kumaris.

**Dr. Pushpa Pandey, an expert on the Gita from Jabalpur,** quoted figures about the Pandava and Kaurava armies and the number of those killed to show that the Mahabharata war was only an allegory for the battle between good and evil. The Arjuna of the Gita stands for one who imbibes knowledge. After imbibing this knowledge one becomes stable and detached, she said.

Arjuna is told that the enemies are lust and anger, and that he can become a yogi only if he conquers these vices. He is also told to slay doubt with the sword of knowledge.

"The Pandavas, who are fewer in number, are those who have spiritual and divine power while the Kaurava and Yadava army is made up of those whose senses are not in their control. They are slaves to their senses," she said.

The number of those killed mentioned in the Mahabharata was impossible because it was close to the present population of India, she said.

**B.K. Ramesh Shah, Additional Secretary General, Brahma Kumaris,** said many episodes had been added to the original Mahabharata, an example being the episode of the attempted disrobing of Draupadi, which was added to the epic in the eighth century. Similarly, Buddhists say that Gautam Buddha was the first to use the word nirvana, and it was later added to the Gita. He also noted that the word 'paramdham' appears in the Gita, but scholars had ignored it because they knew little about it.

**B.K. Om Prakash, Director, Brahma Kumaris, Chhattisgarh and Indore,** said the common belief was that God comes in every Age. "Did he come in the Golden Age to usher in the Silver Age, or in the Silver Age to bring in the Copper Age? He comes only at the time of extreme irreligiosity, at the end of the Iron Age and before the dawn of the Golden Age," he explained.

God comes in ordinary form in the body of an aged man, and those who hear the knowledge given by Him through this human medium are called Brahmins.

He said the Mahabharat war really referred to a world war in which weapons of mass destruction annihilate mankind. The portents of such a war were visible today, he said.

**B.K. Mohini, Regional Coordinator of the Brahma Kumaris in the Americas,** said connecting with God becomes easy once we get the correct introduction of God and know our relationship with Him.

**B.K. Jayanti, Director of the Brahma Kumaris activities in Europe,** pointed out that the idea of an omnipresent God did not fit with the idea of His reincarnation. Moreover, if He was everywhere, all matter should be sentient, she said.

Earlier, explaining the objective of the seminar, **B.K. Brij Mohan, Chief Spokesman and Additional Secretary General of the Brahma Kumaris,** said the event was meant to remove the contradictions that had crept into beliefs about God and the Gita over the centuries.

God, he noted, was called the Supreme Mother, Father, Friend and Companion, but only an incorporeal God could have all relations with humans. "We do not feel that we can have all relations with deities as they are shown as male or female, young or old, single or married," he said.

First of all, he said, to have a relationship with God, "we have to adopt the first lesson of the Gita by becoming aware that we are souls, not bodies. God is the Father of souls, not bodies."

If one considers oneself a body, one will not adopt eternal values as one will not think of a life after death, he added. "We take various inspirations from the Gita, but not the full benefit that one can gain by adopting its teachings in life, he concluded.

In her blessings, **Dadi Janki, the Head of the Brahma Kumaris,** said: the essence of spiritual knowledge was that now it was time for all souls to return home. "Always think that you are on the pilgrimage of remembrance of God. We just have to see the Father and follow Him. To become number one, use time well. Become pure and a raj-yogi."

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