



Vedanta Society of Northern California

2323 VALLEJO STREET ◦ SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94123

INTERNATIONAL GITA CONFERENCE Message

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

The Bhagavad Gita is one of the most popular and celebrated spiritual classics known to mankind. As a great spiritual guide it teaches a practical philosophy of moral activism that combines action and contemplation. It has been described by the great Shankaracharya as “the quintessence of the Vedas in its condensed form.” In other words, the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita constitute the heart of Sanatana-Dharma. It is one of the triple foundations, or the three authoritative sourcebooks (prasthanatraya), of Vedanta.

The Gita teaches the most sublime form of universal spiritual humanism built on the principles of the immanence, omnipresence and transcendence of the Absolute Reality combined with the ideals of “Svadharmā” and “Nishkama-Karma.” Through the ideal of the harmony of four yogas (Karma, Bhakti, Jnana and Raja yogas) the Gita presents to us a most rational and practical method of practicing spirituality and leading a spiritual life in whatever situation we are in – whether in the factory, university, office – anywhere. The Gita teaches that by practicing the harmony of the Yogas we can spiritualize our everyday life. Then every action becomes an act of worship, every thought becomes meditation, our fellow human beings become expressions of the One Divine Truth, the whole world becomes the temple of God, and the secular merges with the spiritual. Thus, the Bhagavad Gita is not just a metaphysical and spiritual classic. It is also a practical manual for daily life, and handbook of practical instructions to all of us in our everyday life situations.

Any attempt to present the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita to the modern public is laudable because it is a service to the whole humanity. It is, from a spiritual standpoint, as important and relevant as meditation or prayer.

It is gratifying to see how "Path to Anandam" is trying to bring awareness and spread the great message of the Bhagavad Gita by stressing its relevance in the context of the complex realities of life in modern times, by sponsoring the International Gita Conference on July 18, 2015, in Sunnyvale, California. I congratulate Satya Kalra, the conference chairperson, and all her colleagues for the noble task they have undertaken. I wish the conference, as well as the souvenir success, and pray that the message of the Bhagavad Gita spreads far and wide not only in the United States but all over the world.

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