

Meanings of verses 1 to 15

BG 2.1: Sanjay said: Seeing Arjuna overwhelmed with pity, his mind grief-stricken, and his eyes full of tears, Shree Krishna spoke the following words.

BG 2.2: The Blessed Lord said: My dear Arjuna, how has this delusion overcome you in this hour of peril? It is not befitting an honorable person. It leads not to the higher abodes, but to disgrace.

BG 2.3: O Partha, it does not befit you to yield to this unmanliness. Give up such petty weakness of heart and arise, O vanquisher of enemies (scorcher of the enemies).

BG 2.4: Arjuna said: O Madhusudana, how can I shoot arrows in battle on men like Bheeshma and Dronacharya, who are worthy of my worship, O destroyer of enemies?

BG 2.5: It would be better to live in this world by begging, than to enjoy life by killing these noble elders, who are my teachers. If we kill them, the wealth and pleasures we enjoy will be tainted with blood.

BG 2.6: We do not even know which result of this war is preferable for us—conquering them or being conquered by them. Even after killing them we will not desire to live. Yet they have taken the side of Dhritarashtra, and now stand before us on the battlefield.

BG 2.7: I am confused about my duty and am overpowered with anxiety and faintheartedness. I am your disciple and am surrendered to you. Please instruct me for certain what is best for me.

BG 2.8: I can find no means of driving away this anguish that is drying up my senses. Even if I win a prosperous and unrivalled kingdom on the earth, or gain sovereignty like the celestial gods, I will be unable to dispel this grief.

BG 2.9: Sanjaya said: Having thus spoken, Gudakesha, the destroyer of enemies, addressed Hrishikesha: “Govinda, I shall not fight,” and became silent.

BG 2.10: O Bharata (Dhritarashtra), thereafter, in the midst of both the armies, Shree Krishna smilingly spoke the following words to the grief-stricken Arjuna.

BG 2.11: The Blessed Lord said: While you speak words of wisdom, you are mourning for those who are not worthy of grief. The wise lament neither for the living nor for the dead.

BG 2.12: Never was there a time when I did not exist, nor you, nor all these kings; nor in the future shall any of us cease to be.

BG 2.13: Just as the embodied soul continuously passes from childhood to youth to old age, similarly, at the time of death, the soul passes into another body. The wise are not deluded by this.

BG 2.14: O son of Kunti, the contacts of the senses with the objects, which cause heat and cold, pleasure and pain, have a beginning and an end; they are impermanent; endure them bravely O descendent of Bharat.

BG 2.15: O Arjuna, noblest amongst men (chief among men), that person who is not affected by happiness and distress, and remains steady in both, becomes eligible for liberation (is fit for attaining immortality).