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# Gita Vahini



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# Greetings

**B**hagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is the Timeless Charioteer (*Sanathana Sarathi*), who communicated the *Gita* scripture to Aditya (Sun God) and helped Manu (the first law-giver) and King Ikshvaku to know it. He was Arjuna's charioteer during the great battle between good and evil fought at Kurukshetra. When the rider, Arjuna, was overcome with grief at the prospect of the fight, Krishna instructed him in the science of recognizing one's Oneness with all and removed the grief and the fear. Krishna is the charioteer even now, for every one of us; let me greet you as a fellow sufferer and a fellow disciple. We have but to recognize Him and accept Him in that role, holding the reins of discrimination and flourishing the whip of detachment, to direct the horses of the senses along the path of truth (*sathya*), asphalted by righteousness (*dharma*), and illumined by love (*prema*) toward the goal of peace (*santhi*). Arjuna accepted Him in that role; let us do likewise. When worldly attachment hinders the path of duty, when ambition blinds the eyes of sympathy, when hate shuts out the call of love, let us listen to the *Gita*. Krishna teaches us from the chariot whereon He is installed. Then, He showers His grace, His vision and His power, and we are made heroes fit to fight and win.

This precious book is not a commentary or summary of the *Bhagavad Gita* that was taught on the field of Kurukshetra. We need not learn any new language or read any old text to imbibe the lesson that the Lord is eager to teach us now, for victory in the battle we are now waging. This Stream of Divine Song (*Gita Vahini*) is the same stream, refreshing and revitalizing, brought by the same divine Restorer to revivify man caught in the mesh of modern dialectics, in the pride of modern science, in the cynical scorn of modern superficiality. The teaching set forth here will comfort, console, and confer strength and faith.

Let us listen to these words with as much care and concentration as Arjuna had, even in the turmoil of a battle field, and we too will declare when the book nears its final pages, "My delusion is dissolved; I have become aware of My Reality, which is God."

The Ancient Charioteer who is in you and me has responded to the call of the conflict-ridden hearts; He gave these lessons in the "*Sanathana Sarathi*", which is published from the Abode of Peace (*Prasanthi Nilayam*). Now they are with you, between covers, as a book, which you can read as often as you can or must.

May the faith with which you have started to scan these pages grow from day to day; may you be drawn by the ever-widening vista of knowledge that this book reveals to the grand glory of the experience of the Oneness that is the basis of this manifoldness.

N. KASTURI

Editor, Sanathana Sarathi

Gokulashtami

8-9-1966

## Preface for this edition

The first English edition of the *Gita Vahini* was translated from Telugu by N. Kasturi. This edition improves on that previous edition in several ways. Some grammatical errors and typos have been corrected, and some sentences have been rewritten to smooth and clarify the presentation —of course, without disturbing the original meaning. Some long paragraphs have been split in two where it made sense and provided easier reading.

Sanskrit words have been replaced by their English equivalents, to make the *Gita Vahini* more accessible to readers who do not know Sanskrit. However, the Sanskrit has been retained (in parentheses, following the English). Many Sanskrit words have no exact English equivalent, and retaining the Sanskrit keeps the edition accurate.

Some Sanskrit compounds have been hyphenated between their constituent words to aid those who like to analyze the meanings of the individual words.

Several Sanskrit words have made their way into the English language and can be found in most dictionaries —e.g. *dharma*, *guru*, *yoga*, and *moksha*. These words have generally been used without translation, although their meanings appear in the glossary at the end of the book.

Besides definitions of Sanskrit words used in the *Gita Vahini*, the Glossary contains descriptions of the people and places mentioned.

The chapters of the *Gita Vahini* are not titled. In order to help the reader get a sense of the structure of the *Gita Vahini*, a synopsis of each chapter is included at the beginning of the chapter and in the table of contents.

Finally, this edition, in ebook form (for the Ipad, Kindle, Nook, and other tablets) or interactive pdf form, has “hyperlinks” to the Glossary: in most places, clicking on the name of a person, a place, or a Sanskrit word will take you to its definition. Your ebook reader should have a button to take you back to where you were reading. We have not used this feature for all references to *Gita*, *Krishna*, and *Arjuna*, since they occur so often.

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