

# SAI LINK

Production of Sai Centre Katong,  
Singapore

*March 2006*

## THE Bhagavad Gita

The Divine Song of God



IN THIS EDITION, ENJOY THE STORIES OF THE BHAGAVAD-GITA. PROVE YOUR IQ BY PARTICIPATING IN THE RIDDLES COMPETITION. READ ABOUT SWAMI'S WONDERFUL DARSHAN TO THE SINGAPORE GROUP IN WHITEFIELD. DON'T MISS OUT THE SAI LINK FEATURE ON SAI SPIRITUAL RETREAT IN KOTA TINNGI. ALSO, CHILDREN, IT'S COLOURING COMPETITION TIME!

'Many people have difficulties understanding the Bhagavad-Gita. Actually, it's not that difficult. You should know what this holy book teaches is how to live happily in the world. It is an ancient holy book of Hinduism (also known as Sanatana Dharma), but it can be understood and followed by people of any faith. The Gita has eighteen (18) chapters and a total of only 700 verses. Anyone can be helped by daily practice of only a few of its teachings.

In ancient times there was a king who had two sons, Dhritarashtra and Pandu. The former was born blind; therefore, Pandu inherited the kingdom. Pandu had five sons. They were called the Pandavas. Dhritarashtra had one hundred sons. They were called the Kauravas. Duryodhana was the eldest of the Kauravas.

After the death of king Pandu, his eldest son, Yudhishthira, became the lawful King. Duryodhana was very jealous. He also wanted the kingdom. The kingdom was divided into two halves between the Pandavas and the Kauravas. Duryodhana was not satisfied with his share. He wanted the entire kingdom for himself. He tried several evil plots to kill the Pandavas and take away their kingdom. Somehow he took over the entire kingdom of the Pandavas and refused to give back without a war. All peace others failed, so the big war of

be avoided. The Pandavas didn't want to two choices: fight for their their duty or run away from for the sake of peace and non-the five Pandava brothers, battlefield.

He had to choose between ing his most revered guru, who very dear friends, close rela-warriors; or running away from peaceful and nonviolent. The of the Gita are the talk be-and his best friend, mentor and

an incarnation of God --- on the battlefield of Kurukshetra near New Delhi, India, about 5,100 years ago. This conversation was reported to the blind king, Dhritarashtra, by his charioteer, Sanjay. It is recorded in the great epic, Mahabharata.

All lives, human or nonhuman, are sacred, and nonviolence or Ahimsa is one of the most basic principles of Hinduism. So when Lord Krishna advises Arjuna to get up and fight, this may confuse you about the principle of Ahimsa if you don't keep in mind the background of the war of Mahabharata.

This spiritual talk between the Supreme Lord, Krishna, and His devotee-friend, Arjuna, occurs not in a temple, a lonely forest, or on a mountain top, but on a battlefield on the eve of a war.

In this edition of Sai Link, we will cover 2 easy-to-understand stories which can best summarize Chapters 1 and 2 of the Bhagavad-Gita. **Write to us and tell us if you are keen to include one story covering 1 chapter of the Bhagavad-Gita in the coming editions of Sai Link. We want to hear from you!**



Lord Krishna as Arjuna's Charioteer and Guide

talks by Lord Krishna and Mahabharata could not

fight, but they had only right because it was war and accept defeat violence. Arjuna, one of faced this choice in the

fighting the war and kill-was on the other side; his tives, and many innocent the battlefield to be entire eighteen chapters tween confused Arjuna cousin, Lord Krishna ---

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The Lord descends whenever there is a decline in religious principles. Although there are many transcendental forms of the Lord, they are all one and the same Supreme Personality of Godhead (BG 4.7)

## Mr. Truthful

There once lived a great hermit, who was famous for telling the truth. He had taken a vow not to lie and was popularly known as "Mr. Truthful." No matter what he said, everyone believed him because he had earned a great reputation in the community where he lived and did his spiritual practices.

One evening, a robber was chasing a merchant to rob and kill him. The merchant was running for his life. To escape from the robber, the merchant ran towards the forest, where the hermit lived outside the village.

The merchant felt very safe because there was no way the robber could find out where he was hiding in the jungle. But the hermit had seen the direction in which the merchant went. The robber came to the hermit's cottage and paid his respects. The robber knew that the hermit would tell only the truth and could be trusted, so he asked him whether he had seen somebody running away. The hermit knew that the robber must be looking for somebody to rob and kill, so he faced the big problem. If he told the truth, the merchant would certainly be killed. If he lied, he would incur the sin of lying and lose his reputation. Ahimsa (non-violence) and truthfulness are two most important teachings of all religions that we must follow. If we have to choose between these two, which one should we choose? This is a very difficult choice.

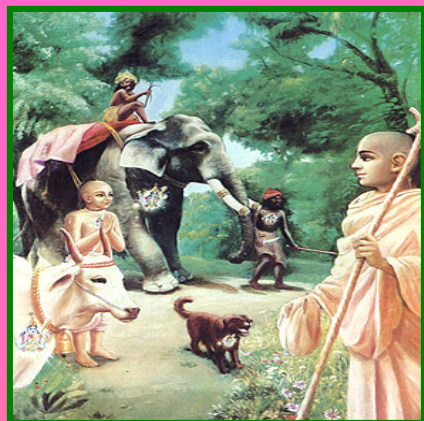
Because of his habit of telling the truth, the hermit said: Yes, I saw someone going that way. So the robber was able to find the merchant and kill him. The hermit could have saved a life by hiding the truth, but he did not think very carefully and made a wrong decision.

Lord Krishna's purpose in telling Arjuna this story was to teach Arjuna that sometimes we have to choose between a rock and a hard place. Lord Krishna told Arjuna that the hermit shared with the robber the sin of killing a life. The robber could not have found the merchant if the hermit had not told the truth. So when two noble principles conflict with each other, we have to know which one is the higher principle. Ahimsa has the highest priority, so the hermit should have lied in this situation to save a life. One may not tell a truth that harms a person in any way. It isn't easy to apply Dharma (or righteousness) to real life situations because what is Dharma and what is Adharma (or unrighteousness) can sometimes be very difficult to decide. In such a situation expert advice should be sought.

Lord Krishna gave another example of a robber coming to a village to rob and kill the villagers. In this situation, killing the robber was an act of non-violence because killing one person may save many lives. Lord Krishna Himself, on several occasions, had to make such decisions to win the war of Mahabharata and put an end to all the evil-doers.

Remember, do not tell a lie and do not kill any living being or hurt anybody, but saving a life comes first.

**Summary of Chapter 1 of the Bhagavad-Gita: Arjuna asked his charioteer friend, Lord Krishna, to drive his chariot between the two armies so that he could see the Pandava's army. Arjuna felt great compassion to see his friends and relatives on the opposite side, whom he must kill to win the war. He became confused, spoke of the evils of war, and refused to fight.**



## The Graduation Test

Guru Drona was the military teacher for both the Kauravas and the Pandavas. At the end of their military training came the final examination time. Drona put a wooden eagle on the branch of a nearby tree. Nobody knew it was just a doll. It looked like a real eagle. To pass the graduation test, every one of the students was supposed to cut off the eagle's head with one arrow. Guru Drona first asked Yudhishthira, the eldest of the Pandavas: "Get ready, look at the eagle, and tell me what you are seeing."

Yudhishthira replied: "I see the sky, the clouds, the tree trunk, the branches, the leaves and the eagle sitting there"

Guru Drona was not very pleased with this answer. He asked the same of all the students, one by one. Every one of them gave a similar answer. Then came Arjuna's turn for the test.

Drona asked Arjuna: "Get ready, look at the eagle, and tell me what you are seeing."

Arjuna replied: "I only see the eagle and nothing else" Drona then asked a second question: "If you are seeing the eagle, then tell me how strong is its body and what is the color of its wings?" Arjuna replied: "I am only seeing its head and not the entire body." Guru Drona was much pleased with Arjuna's answer and asked him to go ahead with the test. Arjuna easily cut off the head of the eagle with one arrow because he was concentrating on his aim with a single mind. He passed the test with flying colors. Arjuna was not only the greatest warrior of his time, but also a compassionate KarmaYogi. Lord Krishna chose Arjuna as His tool to give us the knowledge of the holy Gita.

We all should follow the example of Arjuna. Read the Gita and be like Arjuna. "Arjuna Bano, Arjuna Bano," my dear grandson! Whatever work you do, do it with single-minded attention and put your whole heart into it. This is the main theme of KarmaYoga of the Gita and the secret of success in anything you do.

**Chapter 2 summary: Lord Krishna taught us, through Arjuna, the difference between Atma and body. We are Atma with a body. Atma is unborn and undestructible. One and the same Atma dwells inside all bodies, human or nonhuman. Thus we are all connected with each other. We should do our duty to the best of our ability without worrying about success or failure. We must learn from our failures and go forward without letting our failures defeat us. To become a perfect person, we need to control or limit our desires.**

## Chinese New Year Celebrations at Whitefield



The Chinese Lunar New Year was celebrated by devotees in Brindavan on the 6th of February. The Sai Ramesh Hall was beautifully decorated in Red to usher in the Lunar New Year. As is the normal routine, Bhajans began at 9:30 a.m. by the devotees from Singapore, China, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. At 9:45 a.m., Swami emerged from the Trayee Brindavan gates, led by a procession of two lions performing the lion dance to the beat of the drummers. There were also two people with masks, dressed as dolls, dancing along with the lions holding typical Chinese hand-fans. Swami was escorted to the Sai Ramesh Hall by a few children and a couple of families. Swami then went up and down the whole length of Sai Ramesh Hall in His chair along the central aisle, giving the devotees His most coveted Darshan from closer quarters. He also filled the hearts of the Chinese devotees with joy as he went around them a couple of times accepting their letters and offerings of love.

Do you know one of our SSEHV brothers, brother Shennind from Group 2 performed in front of Swami? Can you spot him in one of the pictures?

Test your IQ. Simply answer any or all the questions and win attractive prize for each of the correct answer you get. Send in your answers to: [sailink\\_katong@yahoo.com](mailto:sailink_katong@yahoo.com), no later than 31 March 2006.

Father/son riddle — A man while looking at a photograph said, "Brothers and sisters have I none. That man's father is my father's son." Who was the person in the photograph?

Date riddle — What happened in 1961 that will not happen again for over 4000 years?

Numbers riddle — A man wanted to enter an exclusive recreational club but did not know the password that was required. He waited by the door and listened. A club member knocked on the door and the doorman said, "twelve." The member replied, "six" and was let in. A second member came to the door and the doorman said, "six." The member replied, "three" and was let in. The man thought he had heard enough and walked up to the door. The doorman said, "ten" and the man replied, "five." But he was not let in. What should he have said?

### EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE OF THE "SAINET" MISSION TO LAOS.

"Hands that Serve are Holier than the Lips that Pray" Baba

A group of Sai devotees and volunteers from Singapore will be visiting 19 villages with a population of 17,000, in Laos to distribute 4,000 Insecticide-Treated Mosquito Nets and 40 Tons of Rice to the needy families there. Our Sai Link Editor will be joining this trip and will be bringing you the exclusive story and pictures of this 'Seva' in the April edition of Sai Link. Don't miss it!

*"SAINET" - a branded, insecticide-treated mosquito net (ITN) - to be distributed, free of cost, to people living in malaria-prone areas, particularly to high-risk groups (families with pregnant women and/or children below five years), will represent a gift of self-less Love from SAI through His devotees to people in need, without any discrimination on grounds of race, religion or ethnicity.*

Don't miss the April Sai Link on "Seva/Service"