

# CHAPTER XV -The Bhagavad-Gita

In Chapter XV of the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna presents the allegory of the Aswattha tree, symbolizing material life, to impart wisdom on detachment and spiritual liberation. He describes how the Aswattha tree, known as the Banyan tree, stands with its roots upwards and branches down, mirroring the inversion of spiritual reality in physical existence. This tree's leaves symbolize the hymns of the Vedas, whispering truths of the universe to those who understand its nature.

Krishna explains that the branches, which stretch towards heaven and earth, represent human actions born from the three qualities (gunas) of nature, leading to the cycle of cause and effect in the earthly and heavenly realms. The tree's continuous growth, driven by the sun's warmth and air, parallels human desires under the influence of sensory experiences. Its roots, anchoring it to the ground, signify actions in the material world binding the soul with ever-tightening chains.

To transcend this cycle of rebirth and attachment, Krishna advises wielding the axe of detachment to sever the roots of ignorance and desire, thereby laying low the Aswattha tree of sense-life. This act symbolizes breaking free from the cycle of samsara (reincarnation) to attain eternal bliss and unity with the Divine.

Krishna further declares that those who understand the true essence of the Aswattha tree, acknowledging its origin, form, and the ultimate end, will seek refuge in the Supreme Being. By doing so, they will transcend temporal pleasures and sufferings, moving beyond the reach of earthly tempests to a realm where no sun, moon, or worldly light prevails, but where divine radiance exists. In this eternal abode, souls bask in the ultimate peace and sanctity, having returned to the origin from which they once emerged.

This discourse illustrates the journey of the soul from ignorance to enlightenment, emphasizing the importance of detachment, discernment, and devotion to the divine for liberation from the cycle of birth and death. Through this allegory, Krishna guides aspirants towards spiritual liberation, urging them to pursue a path that leads away from the transient to the everlasting reality.