

## Bhagavad Gīta - Chapter Summary

Three sets of six chapters:

Chapter	General Topic	Main Practice
---------	---------------	---------------

Ch 1-6	Jīva (tvam)	Karma
--------	-------------	-------

Ch 7-12	Ishvara (tat)	Bhakti
---------	---------------	--------

Ch 13-18	Identity (asi)	Jnānam
----------	----------------	--------

Key:

A=Arjuna, K=Krishna, S=Sanjaya, D=Dhritarāshtra

Important verses shown on right side

## Ch 1 Arjuna Vishāda Yoga - Arjuna's Distress

D	1	Dhritarāshtra asks about battlefield	1
S	2-6	Duryodhana describes Pāndava army	3
	7-11	Duryodhana describes Kaurava army	10
	12-19	Conches blow on battlefield	13
A	20-23	Arjuna tells Krishna to drive chariot	21
S	24-27	Arjuna sees armies	27
A	28-31	Arjuna's reaction	29
	32-37	Cannot kill relatives for kingdom	32
	38-44	Sin of destroying family	40
	45-46	Better to die than to sin	46
S	47	Arjuna drops bow & arrows	47

## Ch 2 Sāṅkhya Yoga - Knowledge

K	1-3	Be strong and fight	3
A	4-6	I cannot kill them	5
	7-8	Please teach me	7
S	9-10	Arjuna's reluctance	9
K	11-19	Distinction between body & indweller	11
	20-25	True nature of ātmā	20
	26-30	Inevitability of rebirth	28
	31-32	Duty of warrior	31
	33-36	Avoid infamy	36
	37-38	Win or lose, better to fight	37

## Ch 2 Sāṅkhya Yoga (continued)

	39-41	Buddhi yoga (karma yoga)	41
	42-46	Don't seek the fruits of rituals	46
	47-53	Give up attachment to fruits of work	47
A	54	How does enlightened person act?	54
K	55-57	Free from likes & dislikes	55
	58-68	Senses must be controlled	62-3
	69-72	Nature of enlightened person	70

<b>Ch 3</b>	<b>Karma Yoga</b>		
<b>A</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>If knowledge is better, why fight?</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Paths of action &amp; renunciation</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>4-6</b>	<b>Inaction is useless &amp; impossible</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>7-8</b>	<b>You must act, but without attachment</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>9-16</b>	<b>Role of yajna - Vedic rituals</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>17-19</b>	<b>For the wise, action not necessary</b>	<b>17</b>
	<b>20-26</b>	<b>Act for the sake of the world</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>27-30</b>	<b>Action due to gunas</b>	<b>27</b>
	<b>31-35</b>	<b>Motivation for action</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>What makes people sin?</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>37-40</b>	<b>Desire deludes by covering knowledge</b>	<b>37</b>
	<b>41-43</b>	<b>Control of senses with intellect</b>	<b>42</b>

<b>Ch 4</b>	<b>Jnāna Karma Sannyāsa Yoga</b>		
	<b>Renunciation through Knowledge</b>		
<b>K</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>Lineage of teachers</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>How could Krishna be first teacher?</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>Krishna as avatāra</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>9-14</b>	<b>Seeking Krishna</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>15-18</b>	<b>Actionless action of the wise</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>19-23</b>	<b>Freedom from attachment</b>	<b>22</b>
	<b>24-32</b>	<b>Spiritual practices as yajna</b>	<b>28</b>
	<b>33-35</b>	<b>Knowledge as yajna</b>	<b>34</b>
	<b>36-38</b>	<b>Pāpa karma destroyed by knowledge</b>	<b>38</b>
	<b>39-42</b>	<b>Goal attained by knowledge</b>	<b>39</b>

<b>Ch 5</b>	<b>Sannyāsa Yoga - Renunciation</b>		
<b>A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Is karma yoga or sannyāsa better?</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>2-5</b>	<b>Karma better, both lead to same goal</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>6-7</b>	<b>Karma yoga prepares for sannyāsa</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>8-14</b>	<b>The wise perform no action</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>15-19</b>	<b>Fruits of knowledge</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>20-23</b>	<b>The wise not affected by anything</b>	<b>22</b>
	<b>24-26</b>	<b>Absorption in brahman</b>	<b>26</b>
	<b>27-29</b>	<b>Introduction to next chapter</b>	<b>27</b>

<b>Ch 6</b>	<b>Dhyāna Yoga - Meditation</b>		
<b>K</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>Yoga is renunciation of karma phala</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>5-6</b>	<b>Self-control</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>7-9</b>	<b>Equanimity</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>10-13</b>	<b>Preparation for meditation</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>14-17</b>	<b>Life of meditation</b>	<b>17</b>
	<b>18-22</b>	<b>Results of meditation</b>	<b>19</b>
	<b>23-26</b>	<b>Meditation instructions</b>	<b>26</b>
	<b>27-28</b>	<b>Joy of meditation</b>	<b>28</b>
	<b>29-32</b>	<b>Seeing Ishvara in all, all in Ishvara</b>	<b>29</b>

<b>Ch 6</b>	<b>Dhyāna Yoga (continued)</b>		
<b>A 33-34</b>	<b>Mind is difficult to control</b>		<b>34</b>
<b>K 35-36</b>	<b>Controlled by practice and dispassion</b>		<b>35</b>
<b>A 37-39</b>	<b>What fate for one who fails?</b>		<b>37</b>
<b>K 40-44</b>	<b>Better rebirth, resume practice of yoga</b>		<b>40</b>
<b>45-47</b>	<b>Praise of yogi</b>		<b>45</b>

<b>Ch 7</b>	<b>Jnāna Vijnāna Yoga - Knowledge of Ishvara</b>		
<b>K 1-3</b>	<b>Knowledge of Ishvara</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>4-7</b>	<b>Nature of Ishvara</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>8-12</b>	<b>Krishna (Ishvara) pervades everything</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>13-15</b>	<b>Krishna not recognized due to māyā</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Four kinds of devotees</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>17-19</b>	<b>Enlightened is best devotee</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>20-23</b>	<b>All worship blessed by Krishna</b>		<b>21</b>
<b>24-27</b>	<b>Krishna not known due to māyā</b>		<b>25</b>
<b>28-30</b>	<b>Those free from delusion know Krishna</b>		<b>28</b>

<b>Ch 8</b>	<b>Akshara Brahma Yoga (End of Life)</b>		
<b>A 1-2</b>	<b>How to know Krishna at time of death</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>K 3-4</b>	<b>Akshara &amp; kshara brahma</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>5-7</b>	<b>Remembering Krishna at time of death</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>8-15</b>	<b>Preparation for death</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>16-19</b>	<b>Cycle of creation &amp; dissolution</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>20-22</b>	<b>Consciousness is never destroyed</b>		<b>20</b>
<b>23-26</b>	<b>Two paths after death</b>		<b>26</b>
<b>27-28</b>	<b>Yogi transcends both paths</b>		<b>27</b>

<b>Ch 9</b>	<b>Rāja Vidyā Rāja Guhya - Divine Knowledge</b>		
<b>K 1-3</b>	<b>I will give you (Arjuna) divine knowledge</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>4-6</b>	<b>Krishna pervades all</b>		<b>4-5</b>
<b>7-10</b>	<b>Krishna is the creator &amp; destroyer</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>11-14</b>	<b>How Krishna is known rightly, wrongly</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>15-19</b>	<b>Worship by knowing Krishna</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>20-22</b>	<b>Vedic worship</b>		<b>21</b>
<b>23-25</b>	<b>Worship of deities goes to Krishna</b>		<b>24</b>
<b>26-28</b>	<b>Offer everything to Krishna</b>		<b>26</b>
<b>29-34</b>	<b>All devotees dear to Krishna</b>		<b>29</b>

**Ch 10 Vibhuti Yoga - Glories of Ishvara**

<b>K</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>Krishna not recognized as source of all</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>4-6</b>	<b>All glories from Krishna</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>7-11</b>	<b>Knowledge of Krishna</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>12-15</b>	<b>Only Krishna knows his glories</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>16-18</b>	<b>How to meditate on Krishna</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>19-38</b>	<b>Narration of Krishna's glories</b>	<b>22</b>
	<b>39-42</b>	<b>Krishna is source of all glories</b>	<b>41</b>

**Ch 11 Vishvarūpa Darshana Yoga - Cosmic Form**

<b>A</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>Show me your real form</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>See my real form with divine sight</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>9-14</b>	<b>Sanjaya describes cosmic form</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>15-24</b>	<b>The whole world is within Krishna</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>25-31</b>	<b>Krishna is time, devourer of all</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>32-34</b>	<b>Arjuna, you are merely an instrument</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Arjuna bows</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>36-40</b>	<b>Arjuna praises Krishna</b>	<b>38</b>
	<b>41-44</b>	<b>Apology for treating Krishna casually</b>	<b>41</b>
	<b>45-46</b>	<b>Request Krishna's return to prior form</b>	<b>46</b>

**Ch 11 Vishvarūpa Darshana Yoga (continued)**

<b>K</b>	<b>47-49</b>	<b>Krishna agrees to return</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Krishna returns to prior form</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>Arjuna now free from fear</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>52-55</b>	<b>This can be seen only with devotion</b>	<b>54</b>

**Ch 12 Bhakti Yoga - Devotion**

<b>A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Better to meditate on you or formless?</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>2-5</b>	<b>Meditation on formless God difficult</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>6-8</b>	<b>Meditation on Krishna is easy</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>9-12</b>	<b>How to reach perfection</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>13-20</b>	<b>Qualities of an ideal devotee</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>Ch 13</b>	<b>Kshetra Kshetrajna - Knower &amp; Known</b>		
<b>K</b>	<b>1-6</b>	<b>Knower and Known</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>7-11</b>	<b>Values necessary for knowledge</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>12-18</b>	<b>Ishvara is to be known</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>19-23</b>	<b>Consciousness and nature</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>24-29</b>	<b>Discovery of ātmā</b>	<b>27</b>
	<b>30-34</b>	<b>Discovery of paramātmā</b>	<b>31</b>

<b>Ch 14</b>	<b>Guna Traya Vibhaga Yoga - Three Qualities</b>		
<b>K</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>Brahman=womb, Krishna=seed</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>5-8</b>	<b>Three gunas - sattva, rajas, tamas</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>9-18</b>	<b>Effects of each guna</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>19-20</b>	<b>Transcending the gunas</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Who transcends the gunas?</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>22-25</b>	<b>Description of one who transcends</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>26-27</b>	<b>Gunas transcended through devotion</b>	<b>26</b>

<b>Ch 15</b>	<b>Purushottama Yoga - Supreme Lord</b>		
<b>K</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>Tree of worldly life</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>3-6</b>	<b>Transcending worldly life</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>7-9</b>	<b>Krishna dwells in all beings</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>10-11</b>	<b>Krishna perceived with knowledge</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>12-15</b>	<b>Krishna is support of all beings</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>16-18</b>	<b>Supreme beyond kshara &amp; akshara</b>	<b>16</b>
	<b>19-20</b>	<b>Knowledge of the supreme</b>	<b>19</b>

<b>Ch 16</b>	<b>Daivāsura Sampat - Divine &amp; Demonic</b>		
<b>K</b>	<b>1-5</b>	<b>Divine traits</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>6-18</b>	<b>Demonic traits</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>19-22</b>	<b>Lower rebirth due to demonic traits</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>23-24</b>	<b>Scriptures cannot be ignored</b>	<b>23</b>

**Ch 17 Shradhdhā Traya - Three Kinds of Faith, etc.**

<b>A</b>	<b>1-5</b>	<b>Arjuna asks about faith</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>2-6</b>	<b>Three kinds of faith (shraddhā)</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>7-10</b>	<b>Three kinds of food (āhāra)</b>	
	<b>11-13</b>	<b>Three kinds of sacrifice (yajna)</b>	
	<b>14-19</b>	<b>Three kinds of austerity (tapas)</b>	
	<b>20-22</b>	<b>Three kinds of charity (dāna)</b>	
	<b>23-28</b>	<b>Meaning of "om tat sat"</b>	<b>24</b>
		<b>(three kinds = sāttvika, rājasa, tāmasa)</b>	

**Ch 18 Moksha Sannyāsa Yoga - Liberation**

<b>A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Arjuna asks about renunciation</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>2-12</b>	<b>Three kinds of renunciation</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>13-18</b>	<b>Five factors of action (karma)</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>19-22</b>	<b>Three kinds of knowledge (jnāna)</b>	
	<b>23-25</b>	<b>Three kinds of action (karma)</b>	
	<b>26-28</b>	<b>Three kinds of agent (kartā)</b>	
	<b>29-32</b>	<b>Three kinds of intellect (buddhi)</b>	
	<b>33-35</b>	<b>Three kinds of resolve (dhriti)</b>	
	<b>36-39</b>	<b>Three kinds of happiness (sukha)</b>	
	<b>40-44</b>	<b>Qualities of the four castes</b>	
		<b>(three kinds = sāttvika, rājasa, tāmasa)</b>	

**Ch 18 Moksha Sannyāsa Yoga (continued)**

	<b>45-49</b>	<b>Perfection of action</b>	<b>47</b>
	<b>50-53</b>	<b>Qualities necessary for perfection</b>	<b>52</b>
	<b>54-57</b>	<b>Knowledge of Krishna by devotion</b>	<b>54</b>
	<b>58-60</b>	<b>Don't be overpowered by own nature</b>	<b>59</b>
	<b>61-63</b>	<b>Seek refuge in divinity within</b>	<b>62</b>
	<b>64-66</b>	<b>Final instructions to Arjuna</b>	<b>66</b>
	<b>67-71</b>	<b>Teaching the Gīta to others</b>	<b>67</b>
	<b>72</b>	<b>Arjuna, is your delusion gone?</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>Yes, I will follow your guidance</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>74-78</b>	<b>Praise of dialogue</b>	<b>78</b>