

CHAPTER – 11
THE UNIVERSAL FORM

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.1

arjuna uvāca
mad-anugrahāya paramam
guhyam adhyātma-samjñitam
yat tvayoktam vacas tena
moho 'yam vigato mama

TRANSLATION

Arjuna said: By my hearing the instructions You have kindly given me about these most confidential spiritual subjects, my illusion has now been dispelled.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.2

bhavāpyayau hi bhūtānām
śrutau vistaraśo mayā
tvattaḥ kamala-patrākṣa
māhātmyam api cāvyayam

TRANSLATION

O lotus-eyed one, I have heard from You in detail about the appearance and disappearance of every living entity and have realized Your inexhaustible glories.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.3

evam etad yathāttha tvam
ātmānam parameśvara
draṣṭum icchāmi te rūpam
aiśvaram puruṣottama

TRANSLATION

O greatest of all personalities, O supreme form, though I see You here before me in Your actual position, as You have described Yourself, I wish to see how You have entered into this cosmic manifestation. I want to see that form of Yours.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.4

manyase yadi tac chakyaṁ
mayā draṣṭum iti prabho
yogeśvara tato me tvaṁ
darśayātmānam avyayam

TRANSLATION

If You think that I am able to behold Your cosmic form, O my Lord, O master of all mystic power, then kindly show me that unlimited universal Self.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.5

śrī-bhagavān uvāca
paśya me pārtha rūpāṇi
śataśo 'tha sahasraśaḥ
nānā-vidhāni divyāni
nānā-varṇākṛtīni ca

TRANSLATION

The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: My dear Arjuna, O son of Pṛthā, see now My opulences, hundreds of thousands of varied divine and multicolored forms.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.6

paśyādityān vasūn rudrān
aśvīnau marutas tathā
bahūny adṛṣṭa-pūrvāṇi
paśyāścaryāṇi bhārata

TRANSLATION

O best of the Bhāratas, see here the different manifestations of Ādityas, Vasus, Rudras, Aśvinī-kumāras and all the other demigods. Behold the many wonderful things which no one has ever seen or heard of before.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.7

īhaika-sthaṁ jagat kṛtsnam
paśyādya sa-carācaram
mama dehe guḍākeśa
yac cānyad draṣṭum icchasi

TRANSLATION

O Arjuna, whatever you wish to see, behold at once in this body of Mine! This universal form can show you whatever you now desire to see and whatever you may want to see in the future. Everything — moving and nonmoving — is here completely, in one place.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.8

na tu mām śakyase draṣṭum
anenaiva sva-cakṣuṣā
divyaṁ dadāmi te cakṣuḥ
paśya me yogam aiśvaram

TRANSLATION

But you cannot see Me with your present eyes. Therefore I give you divine eyes. Behold My mystic opulence!

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.9

sañjaya uvāca
evam uktvā tato rājan
mahā-yogeśvaro hariḥ
darśayām āsa pārthāya
paramaṁ rūpam aiśvaram

TRANSLATION

Sañjaya said: O King, having spoken thus, the Supreme Lord of all mystic power, the Personality of Godhead, displayed His universal form to Arjuna.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.10

aneka-vaktra-nayanam
anekādbhuta-darśanam
aneka-divyābharaṇam
divyānekodyatāyudham

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.11

divya-mālyāmbara-dharam
divya-gandhānulepanam
sarvāścarya-mayaṁ devam
anantaṁ viśvato-mukham

TRANSLATION

Arjuna saw in that universal form unlimited mouths, unlimited eyes, unlimited wonderful visions. The form was decorated with many celestial ornaments and bore many divine upraised weapons. He wore celestial garlands and garments, and many divine scents were smeared over His body. All was wondrous, brilliant, unlimited, all-expanding.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.12

divi sūrya-sahasrasya
bhaved yugapad utthitā
yadi bhāḥ sadṛśī sā syād
bhāsas tasya mahātmanaḥ

TRANSLATION

If hundreds of thousands of suns were to rise at once into the sky, their radiance might resemble the effulgence of the Supreme Person in that universal form.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.13

tatraika-sthaṁ jagat kṛtsnaṁ
pravibhaktam anekadhā
apaśyad deva-devasya
śarīre pāṇḍavas tadā

TRANSLATION

At that time Arjuna could see in the universal form of the Lord the unlimited expansions of the universe situated in one place although divided into many, many thousands.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.14

tataḥ sa vismayāviṣṭo
hr̥ṣṭa-romā dhanañjayaḥ
praṇamya śirasā devaṁ
kṛtāñjalir abhāṣata

TRANSLATION

Then, bewildered and astonished, his hair standing on end, Arjuna bowed his head to offer obeisances and with folded hands began to pray to the Supreme Lord.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.15

arjuna uvāca
paśyāmi devāṁs tava deva dehe
sarvāṁs tathā bhūta-viśeṣa-saṅghān
brahmāṇam īśaṁ kamalāsana-stham
ṛṣīṁś ca sarvān uragāṁś ca divyān

TRANSLATION

Arjuna said: My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, I see assembled in Your body all the demigods and various other living entities. I see Brahmā sitting on the lotus flower, as well as Lord Śiva and all the sages and divine serpents.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.16

aneka-bāhūdara-vaktra-netraṁ
paśyāmi tvāṁ sarvato 'nanta-rūpam
nāntaṁ na madhyaṁ na punas tavādiṁ
paśyāmi viśveśvara viśva-rūpa

TRANSLATION

O Lord of the universe, O universal form, I see in Your body many, many arms, bellies, mouths and eyes, expanded everywhere, without limit. I see in You no end, no middle and no beginning.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.17

kirīṭinaṁ gadināṁ cakriṇāṁ ca
tejo-rāśiṁ sarvato dīptimantam
paśyāmi tvāṁ durnirīkṣyaṁ samantād
dīptānalārka-dyutim aprameyam

TRANSLATION

Your form is difficult to see because of its glaring effulgence, spreading on all sides, like blazing fire or the immeasurable radiance of the sun. Yet I see this glowing form everywhere, adorned with various crowns, clubs and discs.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.18

tvam akṣaram paramaṁ veditavyam
tvam asya viśvasya param nidhānam
tvam avyayaḥ śāśvata-dharma-goptā
sanātanas tvāṁ puruṣo mato me

TRANSLATION

You are the supreme primal objective. You are the ultimate resting place of all this universe. You are inexhaustible, and You are the oldest. You are the maintainer of the eternal religion, the Personality of Godhead. This is my opinion.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.19

anādi-madhyāntam ananta-vīryam
ananta-bāhum śaśi-sūrya-netram
paśyāmi tvām dīpta-hutāśa-vaktram
sva-tejasā viśvam idam tapantam

TRANSLATION

You are without origin, middle or end. Your glory is unlimited. Your arms, and the sun and moon are Your eyes. I see You with blazing fire coming forth from Your mouth, burning this entire universe by Your own radiance.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.20

dyāv ā-prthivyor idam antaram hi
vyāptam tvayaikena diśaś ca sarvāḥ
dṛṣṭvādbhutam rūpam ugram tavedam
loka-trayam pravyathitam mahātman

TRANSLATION

Although You are one, You spread throughout the sky and the planets and all space between. O great one, seeing this wondrous and terrible form, all the planetary systems are perturbed.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.21

amī hi tvām sura-saṅghā viśanti
kecid bhītāḥ prāñjalayo gṛṇanti
svastīty uktvā maharṣi-siddha-saṅghāḥ
stuvanti tvām stutibhiḥ puṣkalābhiḥ

TRANSLATION

All the hosts of demigods are surrendering before You and entering into You. Some of them, very much afraid, are offering prayers with folded hands. Hosts of great sages and perfected beings, crying "All peace!" are praying to You by singing the Vedic hymns.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.22

rudrādityā vasavo ye ca sādhyā
viśve 'śvinau marutaś coṣmapās ca
gandharva-yakṣāsura-siddha-saṅghā
vīkṣante tvām vismitās caiva sarve

TRANSLATION

All the various manifestations of Lord Śiva, the Ādityas, the Vasus, the Sādhyas, the Viśvedevas, the two Aśvīs, the Maruts, the forefathers, the Gandharvas, the Yakṣas, the Asuras and the perfected demigods are beholding You in wonder.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.23

rūpaṁ mahat te bahu-vaktra-netraṁ
mahā-bāho bahu-bāhūru-pādam
bahūdaram bahu-damṣṭrā-karālam
dṛṣṭvā lokāḥ pravyathitās tathāham

TRANSLATION

O mighty-armed one, all the planets with their demigods are disturbed at seeing Your great form, with its many faces, eyes, arms, thighs, legs, and bellies and Your many terrible teeth; and as they are disturbed, so am I.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.24

nabhaḥ-sprśam dīptam aneka-varṇam
vyāttānam dīpta-viśāla-netram
dṛṣṭvā hi tvām pravyathitāntar-ātmā
dhṛtim na vindāmi śamaṁ ca viṣṇo

TRANSLATION

O all-pervading Viṣṇu, seeing You with Your many radiant colors touching the sky, Your gaping mouths, and Your great glowing eyes, my mind is perturbed by fear. I can no longer maintain my steadiness or equilibrium of mind.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.25

daṁṣṭrā-karālāni ca te mukhāni
dṛṣṭvaiva kālānala-sannibhāni
diśo na jāne na labhe ca śarma
prasīda deveśa jagan-nivāsa

TRANSLATION

O Lord of lords, O refuge of the worlds, please be gracious to me. I cannot keep my balance seeing thus Your blazing deathlike faces and awful teeth. In all directions I am bewildered.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.26

amī ca tvām dhṛtarāṣṭrasya putrāḥ
sarve sahaivāvani-pāla-saṅghaiḥ
bhīṣmo droṇaḥ sūta-putras tathāsau
sahāsmadīyair api yodha-mukhyaiḥ

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.27

vaktrāṇi te tvaramāṇā viśanti
daṁṣṭrā-karālāni bhayānakāni
kecid vilagnā daśanāntareṣu
sandṛśyante cūrṇitair uttamāṅgaiḥ

TRANSLATION

: All the sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra, along with their allied kings, and Bhīṣma, Droṇa, Kāṇa — and our chief soldiers also — are rushing into Your fearful mouths. And some I see trapped with heads smashed between Your teeth.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.28

yathā nadīnām bahavo 'mbu-vegāḥ
samudram evābhimukhā dravanti
tathā tavāmī nara-loka-vīrā
viśanti vaktrāṇy abhivijvalanti

TRANSLATION

: As the many waves of the rivers flow into the ocean, so do all these great warriors enter blazing into Your mouths.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.29

yathā pradīptam jvalanam pataṅgā
viśanti nāsāya samṛddha-vegāḥ
tathaiva nāsāya viśanti lokās
tavāpi vaktrāṇi samṛddha-vegāḥ

TRANSLATION

I see all people rushing full speed into Your mouths, as moths dash to destruction in a blazing fire.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.30

lelihyase grasamānaḥ samantāl
lokān samagrān vadanair jvaladbhiḥ
tejobhir āpūrya jagat samagram
bhāsas tavogrāḥ pratapanti viṣṇo

TRANSLATION

: O Ṣṇ u, I see You devouring all people from all sides with Your flaming mouths. Covering all the universe with Your effulgence, You are manifest with terrible, scorching rays.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.31

ākhyāhi me ko bhavān ugra-rūpo
namo 'stu te deva-vara prasīda
vijñātam icchāmi bhavantam ādyaṁ
na hi prajānāmi tava pravṛttim

TRANSLATION

: O Lord of lords, so fierce of form, please tell me who You are. I offer my obeisances unto You; please be gracious to me. You are the primal Lord. I want to know about You, for I do not know what Your mission is.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.32

śrī-bhagavān uvāca
kālo 'smi loka-kṣaya-kṛt pravṛddho
lokān samāhartum iha pravṛttaḥ
ṛte 'pi tvāṁ na bhaviṣyanti sarve
ye 'vasthitāḥ pratyanikeṣu yodhāḥ

TRANSLATION

The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: Time I am, the great destroyer of the worlds, and I have come here to destroy all people. With the exception of you [the Pāṇḍavas], all the soldiers here on both sides will be slain.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.33

tasmāt tvam uttiṣṭha yaśo labhasva
jītvā śatrūn bhuñkṣva rājyaṁ samṛddham
mayaivaite nihataḥ pūrvam eva
nimitta-mātraṁ bhava savya-sācin

TRANSLATION

Therefore get up. Prepare to fight and win glory. Conquer your enemies and enjoy a flourishing kingdom. They are already put to death by My arrangement, and you, O Savyasācī, can be but an instrument in the fight.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.34

droṇaṁ ca bhīṣmaṁ ca jayadrathaṁ ca
karṇaṁ tathānyān api yodha-vīrān
mayā hatāms tvaṁ jahi mā vyathiṣṭhā
yudhyasva jetāsi raṇe sapatnān

TRANSLATION

Droṇa, Bhīṣma, Jayadratha, Karṇa and the other great warriors have already been destroyed by Me. Therefore, kill them and do not be disturbed. Simply fight, and you will vanquish your enemies in battle.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.35

sañjaya uvāca
etac chrutvā vacanaṁ keśavasya
kṛtāñjalir vepamānaḥ kirītī
namaskṛtvā bhūya evāha kṛṣṇaṁ
sa-gadgadaṁ bhīta-bhītaḥ praṇamya

TRANSLATION

Sañjaya said to Dhṛtaśrastra: O King, after hearing these words from the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the trembling Arjuna offered obeisances with folded hands again and again. He fearfully spoke to Lord Kṛṣṇa in a faltering voice, as follows.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.36

arjuna uvāca
sthāne hṛṣīkeśa tava prakīrtyā
jagat prahṛṣyaty anurajyate ca
rakṣāmsi bhītāni diśo dravanti
sarve namasyanti ca siddha-saṅghāḥ

TRANSLATION

Arjuna said: O master of the senses, the world becomes joyful upon hearing Your name, and thus everyone becomes attached to You. Although the perfected beings offer You their respectful homage, the demons are afraid, and they flee here and there. All this is rightly done.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.37

kasmāc ca te na nameran mahātman
garīyase brahmaṇo 'py ādi-kartre
ananta deveśa jagan-nivāsa
tvam akṣaram sad-asat tat param yat

TRANSLATION

: O great one, greater even than Brahmā, You are the original creator. Why then should they not offer their respectful obeisances unto You? O limitless one, God of gods, refuge of the universe! You are the invincible source, the cause of all causes, transcendental to this material manifestation.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.38

tvam ādi-devaḥ puruṣaḥ purāṇas
tvam asya viśvasya param nidhānam
vettāsi vedyam ca param ca dhāma
tvayā tataṁ viśvam ananta-rūpa

TRANSLATION

You are the original Personality of Godhead, the oldest, the ultimate sanctuary of this manifested cosmic world. You are the knower of everything, and You are all that is knowable. You are the supreme refuge, above the material modes. O limitless form! This whole cosmic manifestation is pervaded by You!

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.39

vāyur yamo 'gnir varuṇaḥ śaśāṅkaḥ
prajāpatis tvam prapitāmahaś ca
namo namas te 'stu sahasra-kṛtvaḥ
punaś ca bhūyo 'pi namo namas te

TRANSLATION

You are air, and You are the supreme controller! You are fire, You are water, and You are the moon! You are Brahmā, the first living creature, and You are the great-grandfather. I therefore offer my respectful obeisances unto You a thousand times, and again and yet again!

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.40

namaḥ purastād atha pṛṣṭhataḥ te
namo 'stu te sarvata eva sarva
ananta-vīryāmita-vikramas tvam
sarvaṁ samāpnoṣi tato 'si sarvaḥ

TRANSLATION

Obeisances to You from the front, from behind and from all sides! O unbounded power, You are the master of limitless might! You are all-pervading, and thus You are everything!

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.41

sakheti matvā prasabham yad uktam
he kṛṣṇa he yādava he sakheti
ajānatā mahimānaṁ tavedaṁ
mayā pramādāt praṇayena vāpi

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.42

yac cāvahāsārtham asat-kṛto 'si
vihāra-śayyāsana-bhojaneṣu
eko 'tha vāpy acyuta tat-samakṣam
tat kṣāmaya tvām aham aprameyam

TRANSLATION

Thinking of You as my friend, I have rashly addressed You "O Kṣn a," "O Yādava," "O my friend," not knowing Your glories. Please forgive whatever I may have done in madness or in love. I have dishonored You many times, jesting as we relaxed, lay on the same bed, or sat or ate together, sometimes alone and sometimes in front of many friends. O infallible one, please excuse me for all those offenses.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.43

pitāsi lokasya carācarasya
tvam asya pūjyaś ca gurur garīyān
na tvat-samo 'sty abhyadhikaḥ kuto 'nyo
loka-traye 'py apratima-prabhāva

TRANSLATION

You are the father of this complete cosmic manifestation, of the moving and the nonmoving. You are its worshipable chief, the supreme spiritual master. No one is equal to You, nor can anyone be one with You. How then could there be anyone greater than You within the three worlds, O Lord of immeasurable power?

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.44

tasmāt praṇamya praṇidhāya kāyaṁ
prasādaye tvām aham īśam īḍyam
piteva putrasya sakheva sakhyuḥ
priyaḥ priyāyārhasi deva soḍhum

TRANSLATION

You are the Supreme Lord, to be worshiped by every living being. Thus I fall down to offer You my respectful obeisances and ask Your mercy. As a father tolerates the impudence of his son, or a friend tolerates the impertinence of a friend, or a wife tolerates the familiarity of her partner, please tolerate the wrongs I may have done You.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.45

adṛṣṭa-pūrvam hṛṣito 'smi dṛṣṭvā
bhayena ca pravyathitaṁ mano me
tad eva me darśaya deva rūpaṁ
prasīda deveśa jagan-nivāsa

TRANSLATION

After seeing this universal form, which I have never seen before, I am gladdened, but at the same time my mind is disturbed with fear. Therefore please bestow Your grace upon me and reveal again Your form as the Personality of Godhead, O Lord of lords, O abode of the universe.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.46

kirīṭinaṁ gadinam cakra-hastam
icchāmi tvāṁ draṣṭum ahaṁ tathaiva
tenaiva rūpeṇa catur-bhujena
sahasra-bāho bhava viśva-mūrte

TRANSLATION

O universal form, O thousand-armed Lord, I wish to see You in Your four-armed form, with helmeted head and with club, wheel, conch and lotus flower in Your hands. I long to see You in that form.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.47

śrī-bhagavān uvāca
mayā prasannena tavārjunedaṁ
rūpaṁ param darśitam ātma-yogāt
tejo-mayaṁ viśvam anantam ādyaṁ
yan me tvad anyena na dṛṣṭa-pūrvam

TRANSLATION

The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: My dear Arjuna, happily have I shown you, by My internal potency, this supreme universal form within the material world. No one before you has ever seen this primal form, unlimited and full of glaring effulgence.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.48

na veda-yajñādhyayanair na dānair
na ca kriyābhir na tapobhir ugraiḥ
evam-rūpaḥ śakya ahaṁ nṛ-loke
draṣṭuṁ tvad anyena kuru-pravīra

TRANSLATION

O best of the Kuru warriors, no one before you has ever seen this universal form of Mine, for neither by studying the Vedas, nor by performing sacrifices, nor by charity, nor by pious activities, nor by severe penances can I be seen in this form in the material world.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.49

mā te vyathā mā ca vimūḍha-bhāvo
dṛṣṭvā rūpaṁ ghoram iḍṛṇ mamedam
vyapeta-bhīḥ prīta-manāḥ punas tvaṁ
tad eva me rūpaṁ idaṁ prapaśya

TRANSLATION

You have been perturbed and bewildered by seeing this horrible feature of Mine. Now let it be finished. My devotee, be free again from all disturbances. With a peaceful mind you can now see the form you desire.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.50

sañjaya uvāca
ity arjunaṁ vāsudevas tathoktvā
svakaṁ rūpaṁ darśayām āsa bhūyaḥ
āśvāsayām āsa ca bhītam enaṁ
bhūtvā punaḥ saumya-vapur mahātmā

TRANSLATION

Sañjaya said to Dhṛtaśṛṅgā: The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa, having spoken thus to Arjuna, displayed His real four-armed form and at last showed His two-armed form, thus encouraging the fearful Arjuna.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.51

arjuna uvāca
dṛṣṭvedaṁ mānuṣaṁ rūpaṁ
tava saumyaṁ janārdana
idānīm asmi samvṛttaḥ
sa-cetāḥ prakṛtiṁ gataḥ

TRANSLATION

When Arjuna thus saw Kṛṣṇa in His original form, he said: O Janārdana, seeing this humanlike form, so very beautiful, I am now composed in mind, and I am restored to my original nature.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.52

śrī-bhagavān uvāca
su-durdarśam idaṁ rūpaṁ
dṛṣṭavān asi yan mama
devā apy asya rūpasya
nityaṁ darśana-kāṅkṣiṇaḥ

TRANSLATION

The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: My dear Arjuna, this form of Mine you are now seeing is very difficult to behold. Even the demigods are ever seeking the opportunity to see this form, which is so dear.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.53

nāhaṁ vedair na tapasā
na dānena na cejyayā
śakya evaṁ-vidho draṣṭuṁ
dṛṣṭavān asi mām yathā

TRANSLATION

The form you are seeing with your transcendental eyes cannot be understood simply by studying the Vedas, nor by undergoing serious penances, nor by charity, nor by worship. It is not by these means that one can see Me as I am.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.54

bhaktyā tv ananyayā śakya
aham evaṁ-vidho 'rjuna
jñātum draṣṭum ca tattvena
praveṣṭum ca parantapa

TRANSLATION

My dear Arjuna, only by undivided devotional service can I be understood as I am, standing before you, and can thus be seen directly. Only in this way can you enter into the mysteries of My understanding.

BHAGAVAD-GITA 11.55

mat-karma-kṛn mat-paramo
mad-bhaktaḥ saṅga-varjitaḥ
nirvairaḥ sarva-bhūteṣu
yaḥ sa mām eti pāṇḍava

TRANSLATION

My dear Arjuna, he who engages in My pure devotional service, free from the contaminations of fruitive activities and mental speculation, he who works for Me, who makes Me the supreme goal of his life, and who is friendly to every living being — he certainly comes to Me.