

BOOK REVIEW

Global Eco-Architecture: Paradigm from the Bhagavad Gita. By Sachidananda Padhy Mauritius: LAP LAMBERT - Academic Publishing. 2019, 214 pp. (Hardbound). ISBN: 978-613-9-45449-5

Gita refers to a conversation between a student and teacher; the former putting a question of ethical importance and the latter explains with a befitting answer. There are sixteen such Gita versions in the epic 'Mahabharat'. The Bhagavad Gita is supreme among these narrated by Sri Krishna in the mid of the battlefield of Kurukshetra. It is written in poetic form in Sanskrit and accepted as the most sacred religious text of Hinduism. The text is divided into eighteen chapters, presented in question (by Arjuna) and answer form (by Sri Krishna) in seven hundred verses.

Every human being (as well as each and every living entity) has *Aatman*, which dwells inside the physical body controlled by the mind. When the mind gives emphasis to the physical body, the latter comes under its control. When the mind emphasises on the *Aatman*, the former goes under the latter and gets merged, and this is known as *Mukti* or *Mokhya* (Liberation). If the mind works on keeping balance between the body and *Aatman*, it has to give importance to the work-culture. But one should not stress on the fruits of his actions, because fruits are under actions. Fruit is according to *Karma* (actions), which is responsible for availing oneself a physical body (*Sarira*) in this life and forthcoming birth. This is the basic theme of Indian spirituality, a matter of Vedic Upanisadas. This motif is narrated by Sri Krishna in lucid form with an open heart language to Arjuna, that is, The Bhagavad Gita.

Gita is analysed from the *Gyana* (knowledge), *Yoga*, *Bhakti* (devotion), *Karma* (duty), *Sansaara* (worldly affairs) and *Sanyasa* (renunciation) point of view by many saints and learned persons. Every culture and religion finds support for their own philosophy in Gita. Gita supports all sorts of belief and worship: God is single, God is dual, God is formless, God is with a form, God is concentrated at a point and God is

omnipresent. The introspection into this epic to understand the divinity through widespread nature and search out the basic theme of environmental science is a new adventure by Dr. Padhy reflected in the book: 'Global Eco-Architecture: Paradigm From The Bhagavad Gita'. It is a humble rediscovery of environmental consciousness of human civilisation five thousand years ago.

Sri Krishna's mission for environmental education to humanity has explained the cosmic ecology, the age of the universe and its creation and destruction. He has focused on the origin of life, biological evolution and diversity of biotic characters, on aspects of modern ecological science such as ecological factors, flow of energy in the ecosystem, nature's hydrological cycle, ecological niche, socio-ecological pyramids, and the ecological responsibility of human beings and basic theme for conservation and ramification of the biodiversity are discussed in the book. A comparison of the environmental conditions five thousand years ago vis-à-vis the present status is interesting. Moreover an anthropological investigation of thirty-three human characters are analysed and depicted.

Gita has vividly focused on the ecological factor *Guna* (quality), the inward cause for diversity of nature. They are three essential constituents named *Sattva*, *Raajs* and *Taamas*, which are the property and essence of all things as Indian ancient science has realised since the Vedic age, and not recognised by the modern science. Discussion of the *Gunas* and their effects are nicely focused on in the book.

Work culture for any living system, designed by nature is highly essential for the sustenance of the biodiversity. Elaborations of work culture by Sri Krishna are so focused and so vast that, it never gives scope to any one for any sort of misunderstanding in performing his own duty. The day-to-day performance of duty by every individual of the global biodiversity stands as the flywheel to rotate the life cycle of the nature in right motion and prospective direction, where human civilisation is a part and parcel. The allotment of duty to any living being is a responsibility of nature (God) and performance for sustenance is the option of the individual.

Dr. Sachidananda Padhy's book is supported by international publications. D M.K. Bhasin (Retired Professor and Ex-Head, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, Delhi, India) has thoroughly gone through his research papers, has edited and recommended for publication. I personally express my heartfelt feelings for Professor Bhasin who stood firm behind Dr. Padhy to put forth the ancient environmental science of India. Kamla-Raj Enterprises, Delhi and LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, Mau-

ritius are equally responsible and thankful to project out the Bhagavad Gita internationally with a different and special taste.

The book is very well written with good number of up to date references. Deep scientific meaning of Sanskrit words is nicely presented. It will certainly catch the worldwide interest of ethno biologists, historians, philosophers, spiritually motivated persons, academicians and moral preceptors. Whoever, interested to understand Sri Krishna, will certainly choose to read this book.

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