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Preface

The Bhagavad Gītā is one of the world's oldest spiritual books. It is widely read, chanted and studied not only in India, but all around the world, also here in the Netherlands. As disciples of Vedanta teacher Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati we were taught the profound knowledge of the Bhagavad Gītā and learned how to chant these wonderful verses in the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam near Coimbatore in South-India.

Since 2015 we share this knowledge with Dutch Vedanta students. For our chanting classes we missed a book that is specifically designed for easy chanting. This book is presented for our students and for everyone who wants to learn or has learned to chant the 'song of the Lord'.

Veda Vyāsa composed the verses of the Bhagavad Gītā in two types of metres: *anuṣṭubh* and *triṣṭubh*. Most verses are in the common *anuṣṭubh* metre, wherein each verse consists of thirty two syllables. *Triṣṭubh* metre verses are longer. They contain forty four syllables and occur occasionally. These longer verses are meant to recapture our attention, providing a dramatic effect.

In this book, each verse is divided into four quarters in order to take a short break after each quarter. To assist this, words have been appropriately split where needed, conforming to Sanskrit grammar rules.

This is the method of chanting we learned from our teacher Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati, who in turn learned this from one of his Sanskrit teachers. Currently, this method is widely adopted and has become the standard way to chant the Bhagavad Gītā.

In this book the Bhagavad Gītā is presented only in transliteration. There is also a Devanāgarī edition available.

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Gītā-dhyānam

om̐ pārthāya pratibodhitām̐ bhagavatā
nārāyaṇena svayaṁ,
vyāseṇa grathitām̐ purāṇa-muninā
madhye mahābhāratam |
advaitāmṛta-varṣiṇīm̐ bhagavatīm̐
aṣṭādaśādhyāyinīm̐,
amba tvām̐ anusandadhāmi bhagavad-
gīte bhava-dveṣiṇīm̐ | ¹

namo'stu te vyāsa viśāla-buddhe,
phullāravindāyatapatranetra |
yena tvayā bhāratataila-pūrṇaḥ,
prajvālito jñānamayaḥ pradīpaḥ | ²

prapanna-pārijātāya, totra-vetraikapāṇaye
jñāna-mudrāya kṛṣṇāya, gītāmṛtaduhe namaḥ | ³

sarvopaniṣado gāvaḥ, dogdhā gopāla-nandanah
pārtho vatsaḥ sudhīrbhoktā, dugdham̐ gītāmṛtam̐ mahat | ⁴

vasudeva-sutam̐ devaṁ, kaṁsa-cāṇūra-mardanam̐
devakī-paramānandaṁ, kṛṣṇaṁ vande jagad gurum̐ | ⁵

1. Arjuna-viṣāda-yoga

*om śrī-paramātmāne namaḥ,
atha prathamo'dhyāyaḥ*

dhṛtarāṣṭra uvāca

dharmakṣetre kurukṣetre, samavetā yuyutsavaḥ
māmakāḥ pāṇḍavāścaiva, kim akurvata sañjaya | ^{1.1}

sañjaya uvāca

dṛṣṭvā tu pāṇḍavānikam, vyūḍham duryodhanastadā
ācāryam upasaṅgamyā, rājā vacanam abravīt | ^{1.2}

paśyaitām pāṇḍu-putrāṇām, ācārya mahatīm camūm
vyūḍhām drupada-putreṇa, tava śiṣyeṇa dhīmatā | ^{1.3}

atra sūrā maheṣvāsāḥ, bhīmārjuna-samā yudhi
yuyudhāno virāṭaśca, drupadaśca mahārathaḥ | ^{1.4}

dhṛṣṭaketuścekitānaḥ, kāśirājaśca vīryavān
puruḥjit kuntibhojaśca, śaibyaśca nara-puṅgavaḥ | ^{1.5}

yudhāmanyuśca vikrāntaḥ, uttamaujāśca vīryavān
saubhadro draupadeyāśca, sarva eva mahārathāḥ | ^{1.6}