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## ***Summa Sophia***

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*All things arise and cease due to  
interdependent causes and conditions*

### Chapter One

## **Bhagavad-Gita Study Notes**

### **Sanskrit Names and Terms**

*By Bing Escudero © 2000 v1.2*

As the mother of all languages, Sanskrit also brought forth the original unity of philosophy, science, religion and art. For there is no field of human endeavor that Sanskrit has not touched upon, in one way or another. Above all, Sanskrit is the eternal language of spirituality. Not in the public domain, there is more to the Sanskrit sounds, rhythm and meanings when given expression through the human voice. The power of healing sounds is one of them. To this day, thousands of manuscripts still remain untranslated into English.

The two greatest Epics in the world, *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* were originally written in Sanskrit. The *Bhagavad-Gita* is the most popular part of the *Mahabharata*.

Most studies on the *Gita* tend to emphasize the second chapter on decision-making, skipping the first chapter as largely containing strange names of characters. But these names have ideal meanings relating to spiritual qualities within our own consciousness.

What follows are but a few helpful terms in coming to a deeper spiritual understanding of the *Gita*. Its universality enhances whatever faith anyone belongs to. Give it a try. Uplifting surprises await you.

***Summa Sophia***

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*Summa Sophia: In the service of the quest for truth  
What do you think? What does it mean?*

## Chapter One Bhagavad-Gita Study Notes

### Sanskrit Names and Terms mostly retained in English translations

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*(Sanskrit names are listed as they appear in the first chapter, but some insertions are made as their immediate proximity lends greater meaning. The first chapter of the Gita gives us the esoteric hints to the metaphysical foundation for understanding the rest of the story. All these names and terminologies symbolize conditions or aspects of consciousness within each one of us, leading to self-realization.)*

1. Dhritarashtra - means "having a firm empire" from (*dhrita*, firm + *rashtra*, empire, domain, dominion, greater kingdom), belonging to earth or materiality rather than spirituality. The "firmness" refers to grasping firmly or attachment to material possessions. Born blind, the eldest son of Vyasa (father) and of Ambika (mother), who was formerly Vicitravirya's widow.

Dhritarashtra, the blind king, son or offspring of Vyasa and Ambika means that when we are in a state of spiritual blindness, the condition is caused by Vyasa or by merely taking the letter of the wisdom teachings and, by the union with Ambika, formerly widowed or disunited from the original unity with Vicitravirya, the strength of consciousness that enables the realization of wisdom.

Dhritarashtra is also called "Lord of the Earth," esoterically refers to cosmic involution, the descent of spirit into matter (*the best, so far, workable conception of evil*) as contrasted to or in polarity with cosmic evolution, the ascent of matter into spirit (*the summum bonum* or highest good of Greek philosophy). He is also the Teacher of Drupada's son. The earth or nature is also our teacher.

1.1 Vyasa is accredited to have recorded the Vedas. He symbolizes the *letter* of the spiritual teachings as contrasted with the *spirit* of its realization.

1.2 Ambika or Ambalika means motherly from (*amba*, mother), a general name for all Goddesses; formerly Vicitravirya's widow, who later married Vyasa.

1.3 Vicitravirya means "the strength that enables us to come to the wisdom of knowledge" from (*vi*, vidya, wisdom of knowledge or to know wisdom + *cit*, *chit*, consciousness + *virya*, strength).

Esoterically, marriage is a metaphor for union or being united, and being widowed means separation or having been disunited. Marital bliss, mistakenly taken in a literal manner, is used as a symbol of divine bliss, *ananda*, or union with God.

When we are without "the strength of consciousness that enables the wisdom" within, then we are as Ambika who is widowed or without Vicitravirya. Remarrying Vyasa, we are clinging to the letter (as those who merely quote or render lip-service to the written scriptures), rather than living the spirit of the wisdom teachings.

1.4 Drupada means "the melting way" from (*dru*, *druti*, melting + *pada*, way or path), another expression of spiritual union as in the melting together of different metals. The metallic state symbolizes the hardest or most solid state of physical matter as in iron or other metallic alloys. Here, it is matter melting into spirit.

1.5 Dhritarashtra married Gandhari, and he fathered many (100) sons, the Kauravas (*See No. 6*), Duryodhana as the eldest son.

1.6 Duryodhana means "hard to approach wealth" from (*dur*, *durasada*, hard or difficult to approach + *dhana*, values, wealth or the hidden wealth) of truth as in the "hidden pot of gold." The wealth or richness of truth is difficult to approach, unless the ego or selfish self is sacrificed. When we are in difficulty, we are as Duryodhana who is spiritually impoverished, being without the hidden wealth of truth. Material values or wealth devoid of spirituality is real poverty.

1.7 Gandhari means "beautiful" from (*gandha*, beauty), the deceptive beauty of matter. Also, *gandhi* means fragrant.

When we are ignorant or blind to truth or reality, we are Dhritarashtra married to the deceptive beauty of matter who is Gandhari. We may have many ideas or offsprings of the mind, but they are all like the eldest son Duryodhana, as we will find it difficult or hard to approach the hidden wealth of truth within, the pot of gold buried in our own deeper consciousness. Ideas devoid of the ideals make life more difficult.

1.8 Dhritarashtra had two other brothers, Pandu and Vidura.

1.9 Pandu means "five" from (*pan*, fivefold), referring to our fivefold universe and our fivefold nature: (1) physical, *stula*; (2) emotional, *kama*; (3) mental, *manas*; (4) intuitional, *buddhi*; and (5) volitional, *atma*. Pandu also means "whitish or white," symbol of purity or selflessness. In the white light all colors are a unity.

1.10 Vidura means "to know difficulty or taking the difficult approach" from (*vi*, *vidya*, to know + *dur*, *durasada*, hard or difficult to approach). Just like learning the wrong or hard way.

Again, when we are blind to truth or reality, we are in the state of Dhritarashtra whose blindness is related to Pandu, our fivefold universe and our fivefold human nature, and to its truth we find it difficult to approach in order to come to its realization, which is the other relationship to Vidura as the difficulties or hassles of life.

2. Sanjaya means "all-victorious" from (*san, sam*, all or total + *jaya*, victory). He was the Charioteer of Dhritarashtra, the blind King, to whom he related the "all-victorious" or "total victory" of Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita, along with all that happened during the Mahabharata war.

3. Kurukshetra means "place of battle" from (*kuru*, battle or fight + *shetra*, place), the battlefield within mind, the original Armageddon.

4. Dharmashetra means "place of pilgrimage or our spiritual destiny" from (*dharma*, spiritual nature, duty or destiny + *shetra*, place).

Dharma has many other multi-faceted meanings, such as, true nature, essential quality, spiritual principle, true faith, divine order, justice, righteousness, ethical code, law, edict, governance, rulership. Another example, a functional definition: the dharma of the fire is to burn, the dharma of water is to be wet, the dharma of the Sun is to shine, the dharma of the flower is to be beautiful, and so on.

Thus, *What is our human dharma?* Our dharma is to be truly what we are, as the flower is to its beauty, which is to be the original spiritual being that we are, in the governance or rulership of our own individual consciousness, that is not separate from the universal.

5. Pandavas - Forces of light, virtues to be upheld, defending themselves against the Kauravas as the forces of darkness.

6. Kauravas - Adversary, forces of darkness, vices and heavy hassles of life, Arjuna had to conquer (*See No. 1.5*).

6.1 Kuru - Family dynasty of both the Kauravas and Pandavas. Represents the manifested cosmic universe of matter and spirit.

7. Duryodhana, Prince; a disciple of Drona (*See previous section under No. 1.6, and 8, next*).

8. Drona means "bucket-born" having been generated by Rishi Bharadwaja in a bucket. *Rishi*, Seer. Bharadwaja means "support, protection" from (*bharanyu, bharata*, supporter, protector, savior + *aja*, unborn), thus, that unborn, therefore deathless, portion or bucket of support and protection that is always with each one of us on the spiritual path of seership.

*To be continued: The Forces of Light*