गीता माहात्म्यम् — श्लोक १

Gītā Māhātmyam · verse 1 — the Earth's question

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Recite the śloka · walk through the words · hear it in English · close with the heart of it.

1 · The śloka — with the reading split

देवनागरी

धरोवाच ।
भगवन् परमेशान भक्तिरव्यभिचारिणी ।
प्रारब्धं भुज्यमानस्य कथं भवति हे प्रभो ॥ १ ॥

धरा-उवाच ।
भगवन् परम-ईशान भक्तिः-अव्यभिचारिणी ।
प्रारब्धम् भुज्यमानस्य कथम् भवति हे प्रभो ॥ १ ॥

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IAST

dharovāca |

bhagavan parameśāna bhaktiravyabhicāriṇī |

prārabdhaṃ bhujyamānasya kathaṃ bhavati he prabho || 1 ||

dharā-uvāca |

bhagavan parama-īśāna bhaktiḥ-avyabhicāriṇī |

prārabdham bhujyamānasya katham bhavati he prabho || 1 ||

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ITRANS

dharovAcha |

bhagavan parameshAna bhaktiravyabhichAriNI |

prArabdhaM bhujyamAnasya kathaM bhavati he prabho || 1 ||

dharA-uvAcha |

bhagavan parama-IshAna bhaktiH-avyabhichAriNI |

prArabdham bhujyamAnasya katham bhavati he prabho || 1 ||

§2 §3 §4 §5

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2 · Every word — with its meaning

#	शब्दः	IAST	ITRANS	English
1	धरोवाच धरा-उवाच	dharovāca dharā-uvāca	dharovAcha dharA-uvAcha	**Dharā said** — धरा: the Earth, the ground beneath all life (she is the questioner here); उवाच: she said (√वच्, perfect)
2	भगवन्	bhagavan	bhagavan	**O Blessed One** — the address to the Lord (vocative of भगवत्)
3	परमेशान परम-ईशान	parameśāna parama-īśāna	parameshAna parama-IshAna	**O supreme Lord** — परम: the highest · ईशान: the ruler, the Lord (vocative)

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4	भक्तिरव्यभिचारिणी भक्तिः-अव्यभिचारिणी	bhaktiravyabhicāriṇī bhaktiḥ-avyabhicāriṇī	bhaktiravyabhichAriNI bhaktiH-avyabhichAriNI	**unswerving devotion** — भक्तिः: devotion · अव्यभिचारिणी: not going astray, never swerving (अ + व्यभिचारिणी)
5	प्रारब्धं प्रारब्धम्	prārabdhaṃ prārabdham	prArabdhaM prArabdham	**prārabdha** — the past karma that has begun to bear fruit; the life one is now living through
6	भुज्यमानस्य	bhujyamānasya	bhujyamAnasya	**of one who is experiencing it** — genitive of the present participle भुज्यमान (√भुज्, passive: being tasted, being undergone)

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7	कथं कथम्	kathaṃ katham	kathaM katham	**how?** — in what way
8	भवति	bhavati	bhavati	**does it come to be?** — arises, happens (√भू, present, 3rd sing.)
9	हे	he	he	**O!** — the vocative call
10	प्रभो	prabho	prabho	**O Lord** — vocative of प्रभु, the master, the lord

§1 §3 §4 §5

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3 · The śloka in English

Dharā (the Earth) said: O Blessed One, O supreme Lord! How does devotion that never swerves arise in one who is living out his prārabdha — the karma of his past that has now begun to bear fruit — O Lord?

§1 §2 §4 §5

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4 · The heart of the śloka (tātparyam)

The praise of the Gītā opens with a question — and the question is ours.

- **A question, not a praise** — the māhātmyam could have begun with glory; instead its first voice is the Earth's, the ground we all stand on, asking the one thing every seeker carries: can a person still caught in his own past love steadily?
- **"That never swerves"** — *avyabhicāriṇī* is the exact word: the devotion asked for is not intense or spectacular — it is **unswerving**; it keeps its direction through everything.

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- **The person in the question** — *prārabdha-bhujyamānasya*: not a saint already free of his past, but one still **tasting** what his past has cooked — the exact condition of every human being. The question is whether devotion can live *there*.
- **Asked of the Lord** — *he prabho*: the Gītā's praise begins in the tone of a prayer, not a debate; the asker stands on the side of the devotee.
- **The answer is everything that follows** — the whole māhātmyam is the Lord's reply: instance after instance of what the Gītā does for the one who turns to it.

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In one line: *the praise of the Gītā opens with our hardest question — can devotion be whole in a life still bound by its own past? — and everything after it is the answer.*

§1 §2 §3 §5

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5 · The padaccheda — the complete word list

The badge shows the §2 word each padaccheda word belongs to — a shared word carries both numbers.

#	शब्दः	IAST	ITRANS	English	
1	धरा	dharā	dharA	the Earth (nom. sing.; धरा = the bearer, the ground)	1
2	उवाच	uvāca	uvAcha	said (√वच्, perfect, 3rd sing.)	
3	भगवन्	bhagavan	bhagavan	O Blessed One (vocative of भगवत्)	2
4	परम	parama	parama	supreme; the highest	3
5	ईशान	īśāna	IshAna	the Lord, the ruler (vocative; ईशान = master)	
6	भक्तिः	bhaktiḥ	bhaktiH	devotion (nom. sing.)	4

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#	शब्दः	IAST	ITRANS	English
7	अव्यभिचारिणी	avyabhicāriṇī	avyabhichAriNI	unswerving; not going astray (अ + व्यभिचारिणी — not deviating) [4]
8	प्रारब्धम्	prārabdham	prArabdham	prārabdha — the karma already begun, now bearing fruit (acc. of प्रारब्ध; प्र + आ + √रभ्) [5]
9	भुज्यमानस्य	bhujyamānasya	bhujyamAnasya	of one who is undergoing it (gen. of भुज्यमान, pres. part. pass. √भुज्) [6]
10	कथम्	katham	katham	how? [7]

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#	शब्दः	IAST	ITRANS	English
11	भवति	bhavati	bhavati	comes to be; arises (√भू, present, 3rd sing.) [8]
12	हे	he	he	O! (vocative particle) [9]
13	प्रभो	prabho	prabho	O Lord (vocative of प्रभु) [10]

§1 §2 §3 §4

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