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December 17, 2022

sanskritdocuments.org
One who is sincere obtains knowledge.

Reference:
shrImad bhagavadgIta chapter 4 verse 39

Main Shloka:

श्रद्धार्धलभतेः ज्ञानं

श्रद्धार्धलभतेः ज्ञानं तत्तपः संयतेऽधृष्टः

tāndṛṣ्टः

॥

shabdArtha:
shraddhAvA.Nllabhate j nAnaM

One with Sincere Faith, labhate = obtains,

j nAnaM = Knowledge, saMyatendriyaH = Who has mastered his senses, labdhvA = having obtained, shAntiM = peace (mokSha, liberation), achireNa = not in long time (quickly),

adhigachchati = attains

Meaning (भावार्थः):

He, who has faith, is devoted to Me and has secured mastery over his senses, obtains that knowledge and having got it attains quickly shAnti (MokSha, liberation)

Description:

This verse occurs in the j nana yoga chapter of shrImad bhagavadgIta. Shri Krishna is describing to Arjuna the essential qualification necessary in an aspirant desirous of
knowledge which leads to liberation. That qualification is shraddha, which means total dedication and sincerity of purpose. Such devotion and dedication coupled with mastery over ones senses leads to true knowledge. When one accquires true knowledge, one quickly attains immense peace.

In previous verses, He emphasizes the purifying ability of true knowledge. He instructs that a sincere aspirant should endeavor to acquire knowledge by prostration, by enquiry, and by service. In later verses, He warns that those who remain insincere, ignorant, and doubtful perish. Those who cannot clear their doubts have neither happiness in this world nor the world beyond. He, therefore, urges Arjuna to cut asunder the doubts born out of ignorance with knowledge accquired through sincere enquiry and stand up for battle.

Main Reference:
shrImad bhagavadgIta chapter 4, chapter 17

Related story:
Mahabharata

Further readings:
MahAbharata
shrImad bhagavtaM

Comments:
Shrimad BhagavadgIta is a very widely available resource and there are many interpretations of it available these days. Shrimad BhagavadgIta forms the core of vedantic thoughts. It is a dialogue between shri Krishna and Arjuna (shrikRiShNArjuna saMvada). It essentially teaches the science of the infinite (brahma vidya) and a practical methodology (yoga shastra) of reaching that Supreme Reality as emphasized at the end of each chapter of it. Any
interpretation that strays from what is contained in the colophon could be potentially a suspect. The tradition has given us chiefly three system of interpretation namely, Advaita, VishiShThAdaivta and Dvaita meaning monism, qualified monism and dualism respectively. To get to the essence of the wisdom contained in it, one would be well advised to adhere to one of traditional systems rather than accept any and every interpretation.

AR

महाजनो येन गतः स पथः:

mahAjano yena gataH sa panthAH

Follow the path tread by the great, wise people.

Reference Shloka:

तर्कःश्लेष्टः श्रुतयो विभिन्ना
नैको ऋषियंश्च मतं प्रमाणम् ।
धर्मस्य तत्त्वं निहितं गुहायां
महाजनो येन गतः स पथः: ॥

shabdArtha:
tarka = logic, apratiShTTaH = not unbiased, shrutaya = revelations(vedic scriptures), vibhinnA = many, naiko = not one, RiShi = sage(wisemen), mataH = doctrine, pramANam= established fact, dharma = right conduct, tattvaM = essence, nihitaM = very subtle, guhAyAm = secret, mahAjana = great men, gataH = follow, panthAH = path

Meaning (भावार्थः):
Logical reasoning is not without bias(assumptions), vedic revelations are numerous, not one wisemen’s thesis
can be accepted as facts, truly the essence of right conduct is a very subtle secret. So the only recourse is walk in the footsteps of great men.

Description:
This is a response from yudhiShThira, the eldest of pandava brothers, to a query posed by yakSha, a celestial being. The original query is what is the way?

YudhiShThira is echoing the wisdom of experience. He is stating that we cannot rely totally on rational thinking as it is not without its bias. One has sieve through numerous revelations to gain information and it is not handy guide for us. The thesis of not one Rishi (scientist, researcher) has been established as canonical. With such difficulties facing us in all modes of enquiry, what is the way that can leads us out of ignorance to knowledge and to right conduct? Only, walking in the footsteps of great men ahead us who have experienced the truth can really give us the way.

Reference:
yakSha yudhiShThira saMvAda in Mahabharata vana parva

Related Story:
This incident occurs when Pandavas are in exile. Once during their stay in the forests, pandavas are very thirsty. Yudhishthira sends Nakula(youngest) to fetch some water for the rest. Nakula locates a pond after much searching. Just as he tries to quench his thirst, an invisible person’s voice asks him to first answer his questions before drinking the water. Nakula is very thirsty and he disregards the voice. As soon as he tries to sip the water, he instantly falls down dead. Meanwhile, yudhiShThira is concerned and sends sahadeva to find the whereabouts of Nakula and also get some water. On reaching the pond, Sahadeva also does exactly like his brother and
falls down unconscious. Arjuna goes next, finding his brothers lying dead, and hearing the heavenly voice, he becomes very furious and defiant. He also first tries to quench his thirst and meets with same consequence. Likewise Bhimasena too, who went next. Finally, Yudhishtihira arrives and accepts the condition put forth by the invisible person. He replies each question to the best of his reasoning abilities. We see a fascinating discussion between yakSha (lord yama dharmaraja in disguise) and Yudhishtihira. YakSha asks crptic questions and Yudhishtihira provides refreshingly innovative and wonderfully informative answers. Pleased with the responses, yakSha tells him that he can only free one of his brothers. He then asks yudhiShThira to choose one from the four. Faced with such preplexing choice, Yudhishtihira picks Sahadeva!! Surprised by the choice, yakSha asks him why he picked Sahadeva over Bhima and Arjuna? He calmly replies, Of the sons of Kunthi, I am still alive, but of sons of Madri(Makula and Sahadeva) none is alive. To be fair to my mothers, I picked Sahadeva. Again very impressed by the response, lord yama brings all the four paNDavas to life!!

From the example set by Yudhishtihira himself it is clear that he is great and noble person. The path set by him is worthy of emulation.

Further Reading:
Mahabharata

Comments:
There are many great wise individuals to follow. Where you might end up depends on whom you choose to or not to follow.

AR
vAkya examples

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Please send corrections to sanskrit@cheerful.com