

THE UPSIDE-DOWN  
TREE  
BHAGAVAD GITA  
CHAPTER 15  
SUMMARY



— CONNECT WITH OUR —  
SPIRITUAL ESSENCE —



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# 1. Introduction



Welcome to the secrets of Bhagavad Gita! In this article, we will dive deep in the **Bhagavad Gita Chapter 15 Summary** which is really important to understand. Here, you will find the summary in simple language which is easy to understand and its relevance to our modern life.

In the last chapter, we explored the *three gunas* – those fundamental qualities that influence our actions and desires. We learned how to transcend their limitations and embrace selfless action. But the journey continues! Today, we'll crack open Bhagavad Gita **Chapter 15**, titled "**The Yoga of the Supreme Divine Personality (Purushottam Yoga)**" and delve into the profound nature of reality itself. In this chapter, Lord Krishna reveals the power of liberation from this material world. So, let's start.

## 2. The Upside-Down Tree: Rooted in Illusion



Chapter 15 opens with a powerful metaphor. Krishna describes the material world as an eternal ashwattha tree (identified with the Divine Sacred Fig tree) with its roots reaching upwards and branches sprawling down. Confused? This seemingly illogical image symbolizes our attachment to the material world. We cling to fleeting pleasures and desires, unaware of the true source of happiness that lies beyond. Here's a famous verse that captures this essence:

*“Its roots grow upward, its branches hang down; the sacred fig tree is said to be the Brahman. Its leaves are the Vedas, and the knower of the Vedas is the one who knows this.” (Chapter 15, Verse 1)*

This verse might seem cryptic at first, but the meaning is profound. The Vedas, the ancient scriptures of Hinduism, represent the knowledge that can help us break free from the illusion of the material world. By understanding this, we can access the true source of happiness – **the Brahman, the ultimate reality.**



So, how does this connect to our modern lives? We often chase after external validation, possessions, and fleeting pleasures – the leaves of the tree. But true fulfillment comes from within, from connecting with our spiritual essence. Chapter 15 guides us towards that realization.

### 3. The Duality of Existence: Kshara and Akshara

The chapter goes on to explain the dual nature of reality – the Kshara (the perishable) and the Akshara (the imperishable). The Kshara represents the ever-changing world of our senses – our bodies, the environment, and even our emotions. It's impermanent and subject to decay. Here's a relevant verse that highlights this:

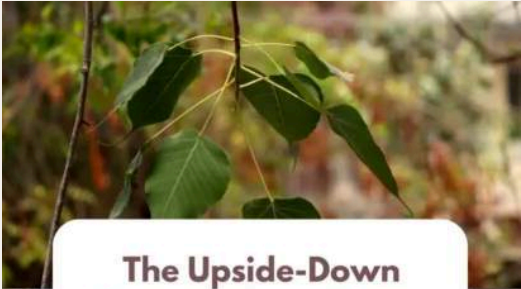
*"There are two kinds of beings in creation, the kshara (perishable) and the akshara (imperishable). The perishable are all beings in the material reality. The imperishable are the liberated beings." (Chapter 15, Verse 16)*

This impermanence can be a source of anxiety in our modern world. We cling to things that ultimately won't last. But the chapter offers solace by introducing the Akshara – the imperishable, unchanging reality. This represents our true Self, the soul that transcends the physical world. It is called the liberated being because when the soul recognizes the

Purushottam, the Divine through Detachment and Devotion, it will then be free from the cycle of birth and death. The soul will then go to the Abode of the Divine and remain there forever.



Lord Krishna then introduces Purushottam, the Ultimate Divine Personality. This Supreme Personality is the source, sustainer, and ruler of everything in the universe. Transcending both the temporary (kshara) and the permanent (akshara), Purushottam holds a power beyond anything else. Therefore, the chapter emphasizes the importance of worshipping or acknowledging this all-encompassing force.



## The Upside-Down Tree: Bhagavad Gita Chapter 15 Summary

### The Tree of Samsara

The material world is depicted as an upside-down tree, symbolizing our attachment to impermanent things.

### Kshara vs. Akshara

There are two realities - **Kshara** (the perishable) representing our bodies and the material world, and **Akshara** (the imperishable) representing our eternal soul.

### Detachment and Devotion

Liberation comes through detachment from worldly desires and cultivating devotion to the divine.

### The Supreme Abode

Achieving liberation leads to the Param Dham, the eternal abode of the divine, free from suffering and the cycle of rebirth.

### Purushottam

This chapter introduces Purushottam, the ultimate divine being, the source and ruler of everything, who transcends both the temporary and the permanent.

### Key Teaching

True happiness lies not in material possessions but in connecting with our true, eternal Self and recognizing the divine power that governs all creation.



## 4. Conclusion: Reaching the Supreme Abode by Detachment and Devotion

So, how do we break free from the illusion of the material world and connect with the Akshara? Chapter 15 emphasizes the importance of **detachment** (non-attachment to worldly outcomes) and **devotion** (focusing our love and energy on the divine). By letting go of our desires and surrendering to a higher power, we can find true liberation.

The Bhagavad Gita Chapter 15 Summary is describing the ultimate destination – the **Supreme Abode of the Divine**. Those who attain this state are freed from the cycle of rebirth and experience eternal peace.

The chapter describes this process as “cutting the tree” of Samsara (the cycle of rebirth) with the sword of knowledge. Detachment acts like the sharp edge, severing our attachment to impermanent things. Devotion provides the strength and direction to swing the sword. This allows us to transcend the limitations of the

material world and experience the true Self, the Akshara.

The ultimate destination for those who achieve this liberation is described as the **Param Dham** (the Supreme Abode). It's not a physical location, but rather a state of pure consciousness, oneness with the divine. Imagine a place free from suffering, impermanence, and the anxieties of everyday life. This is the promise offered by Chapter 15.

Reaching this state doesn't mean neglecting our responsibilities in the world. The Gita emphasizes performing our duties (karma) without clinging to the fruits of those actions. We can live a fulfilling life while keeping our focus on the ultimate goal of liberation.

Chapter 15 concludes with a powerful message: *true liberation is not about escaping the world, but about transforming our relationship with it. By letting go of attachment and cultivating devotion, we can find inner peace and experience the divine right here, right now.*



You can dive deep in the Bhagavad Gita Key Teachings for Modern Life by visiting [lifebygita.com](http://lifebygita.com)