

ॐ Understanding Bhakti Yoga: Key Sanskrit Terms & Divine Attributes

Bhagavad Gita Collection

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 **Description:** A comprehensive exploration of Bhakti Yoga terminology, the characteristics of Paramatma, and essential Sanskrit concepts from the Bhagavad Gita

 **Tags:** bhakti-yoga, bhagavad-gita, sanskrit, upasana, paramatma, vedanta, spirituality

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The Practitioner of Bhakti Yoga

The one who practices or performs Bhakti Yogam is called an **Upasaka**.

Sanskrit Term	Definition / Context	Grammatical Gender
Bhakti Yogam	Also known as Upasana or Sadhana in the Bhagavad Gita.	
Upasana	The practice of Bhakti Yogam itself.	Strilingam (Feminine)
Upasaka	The one who practices upasana (Bhakti Yogam).	Pullingam (Masculine)

Note: The sources state that the nine chapters of the Gita discuss the **Upasaka**, referring to the different classes of devotees who perform Bhakti Yoga.



Features of the Supreme Person (Paramatma)

The features of the Supreme Person, referred to as **Paramatma**, **Parabrahman**, or **Bhagavan**, are described across several traditional categories.

I. Six Essential Attributes (Shatguna Paripurnaha)

The definition of **Bhagavan** requires the possession of six primary attributes (**Shatguna**) and the **absence of bad qualities (dosham)**, as given in the *Vishnu Puranam*.

The six qualities are: 1. **Gnana** 2. **Bala** 3. **Aishwarya** 4. **Veerya (Virya)** 5. **Shakti** 6. **Tejas**

Definition of Bhagavan: One who possesses these good qualities (**Bhagava**) plus has no bad qualities (**un**), resulting in the name **Bhagavan**. This absence of bad qualities is termed **dosha rahat yam**.

II. Essential Nature (Swarupa Nirupaka Dharmam)

The Upanishads define the essential nature of Parabrahman with the *vakya* "Satyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma".

Essential Feature	Sanskrit Term	Explanation
Eternality/Truth	Satyatvam	Quality of not being controlled by karma . The Lord is born as a result of his own will (ichha).
Omniscience	Jnanatvam	Quality of having knowledge always . His knowledge is constant (sankocha vikasam).
Infinity	Anantatvam	Means Paramatma is infinite . He is not curtailed by space and time (desh kala rahityam).

III. Distinguishing and Accessible Features (Niroopita Swarupa Visheshanam)

- **Saushiliyam:** This quality ensures that Parabrahman is **very accessible to human beings**. An example is **Krishna's Avataram**.
- These qualities are called **Niroopita Swarupa Visheshanam**, "adjectives that make Parabrahman very closer."

In the Bhagavad Gita, **Gnanam** refers to knowledge about Paramatma (his qualities), and **Vignanam** refers to the **distinguishing features** of Paramatma.

IV. Nature of Paramatma (Brahmam)

Paramatma is called **Brahmam** because he is **big (Brihat)** and makes the one that approaches him also **big (Brihatvacha Brahmanatvacha)**.

V. Inaccessibility to Imperfection (Dosha Rahityam)

A defining feature is that Paramatma accommodates all existence (**Sarvatrasti Sadasti**), but no **dosham** (bad quality) sticks to him.

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3 4

Katapayadi Sankhya System

Kathabhayadi Sankhya is a Sanskrit system where every letter has a number assigned, used to explain numerical patterns in the *Mahabharatam*.

Term/Rule	Details/Example
Letter Correspondence	Ja is assigned the number 8 . Ya is assigned 1 .
Numerical Derivation	The word Jaya yields the number 81 .
Reversal Rule	The resulting number (81) must be reversed to become 18 .
Significance	18 corresponds to the 18 parvas of the Mahabharatam, 18 adhyayas of the Bhagavad Gita, and the total 18 Akshauhini s in the battle.



Derivation of Bhagavan

The name **Bhagavan** is based on the six primary attributes (Shatgunya Paripurnaha):

Attribute Pair	Sanskrit Letter Denotation
Gnana & Bala	Bha

Attribute Pair Sanskrit Letter Denotation

Aishwarya & Veerya **Ga**

Shakti & Tejas **Va**

- One possessing these qualities is **Bhagava**.
- The full derivation is **Bhagava** (good qualities) plus **un** (no bad qualities) which becomes **Bhagavan**.



Rupam vs. Swarupam

Term	Definition	Context
Rupam (रूपम्)	The external appearance or outward form.	What is seen through the <i>Pancha Bhautika Shariram</i> (physical body).
Swarupam (स्वरूपम्)	The innate feature or intrinsic nature.	The nature of the practice of Bhakti Yoga (<i>Bhakti roopasya upasanasya swaroopam</i>).

In essence, **Rupam** is the outward form, while **Swarupam** is the inner, intrinsic nature.



Understanding Prama, Pramanam, Pramata & Prameyam

These terms define the essential components for acquiring knowledge:

Term	Definition	Example (Ramayanam)
Prama	Knowledge itself; quintessential knowledge.	The knowledge itself.
Pramanam	The source or means that dispenses knowledge (the <i>grantham</i>).	The scripture, Ramayanam .
Pramata	The knower ; the one who understands the object.	The person reading it (us).
Prameyam		

Term	Definition	Example (Ramayanam)
	The object of your knowledge (understood through the <i>pramanam</i>).	The object understood, Sita Rama (or Paramapurusha in Upasana).



Meanings & Derivations: Balaka, Kaaha & Keshava

Balaka

- **Derivation:** *balaha kaha yasyasa balakaha.*
- **Explanation:** The Boy (**Balaha**) who gave rise to **Brahma (kaha)** from his navel, referring to Krishna's birth vision.

Kaaha

- **Definition:** **Kaaha** (कः) in Sanskrit is a name for the deity **Brahma**.

Keshava

- **Derivation:** Krishna is called Keshava because he accommodates two primary deities in his body:
 1. **Kaha:** Meaning **Brahma** (*kaha iti Brahmono nama*).
 2. **Isha:** Meaning **Mahadeva** or **Shiva** (*Isha means Mahadeva, Shiva*).



Reference

This blog post is based on notes taken from the following video :

Video Sources: - [Watch on YouTube](#) - [Watch on YouTube](#) - [Watch on YouTube](#)

For a more detailed explanation, I highly recommend watching the original videos.



Acknowledgment & Disclaimer

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