



The Concept of Pure Communication: A Study in Context to the *Shrimad Bhagwad Gita*

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Abstract

Communication passes information from one mind to another. Both types of communication linguistic and non-linguistic play a vital role in our lives. But there is an extraordinary form of communication beyond the perfect communication which may be termed as the pure communication. This model of communication is found in the Indian scripture the *Bhagwad Gita* which is the part of the epic *Mahabharata*. This article explores the concept of pure communication to proceed on the divine path of dharma following the philosophy presented in the *Bhagwad Gita*. The attempt is to prove the importance of devotion, dedication, understanding, meditation and various other aspects for a skilful life. The aim of this article is to demonstrate how pure communication takes place between the sender and the receiver at the highest level.

Keywords: The *Bhagwad Gita*, the *Upanishad*, Pure Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Dedication, Meditation, Intention.

Introduction

The *Shrimad Bhagwad Gita*, a 700-verse Hindu scripture embedded in the epic *Mahabharata*, is a dialogue between Lord Krishna and the warrior Arjuna. This sacred text offers profound insights into various aspects of life, including communication. The concept of “pure communication” in the *Gita* emphasizes clarity, truthfulness, selflessness, and alignment with dharma. Pure communication transcends mere verbal exchange, aiming to foster understanding, harmony, and spiritual growth.

In mechanical terms, communication is generally understood as a smooth flow of messages from one person to another. Allen Louis defines “Communication the sum of all the things one person does when he wants to create understanding in the mind of another. It is a bridge of meaning. It involves a systematic process of telling, listening, understanding and responding.”

But when I think about the model of communication in The *Bhagwad Gita* I found it very different from the traditional method of communication. I would like to term this model as the model of pure communication rather than perfect communication. Pure communication exists at higher level in comparison to the perfect communication. This unique sacred spiritual text The *Bhagwad Gita* explains the purest level of communication that is reflected in the whole work.

Arjuna has come in the battle field of Kurushhetra, located in a city about 155 kms away from Delhi called Indraprastha (capital of the Kauravas dynasty), as a warrior to fight against Duryodhana’s army. But when he saw his own relatives as his opponent he immediately denies to fight hence the challenge

before Shri Krishna was to make him ready to fight without losing a single minute. To fulfill the task, an interpersonal communication happens where Shri Krishna is the source and Arjuna is the receiver.

Communication beyond Perfection

The *Bhagwad Gita* consists of eighteen chapters with 701 shlokas, of which 574 were recited by Krishna and 85 by Arjuna. Krishna is determined to convince Arjuna so he starts imparting knowledge. He persuades Arjuna to take the right path of dharma. In the process Arjuna raises some questions having immense respect for Krishna. The advisor and charioteer Krishna replies to Arjuna not in the same sequence in which the questions were asked but weave a story with his messages in such a way that they answer all of Arjuna’s questions.

When Krishna tries to convince Arjuna to fight, sometimes even Arjuna does not understand Krishna’s intentions. He feels confused and in doubt.

ज्यायसी चेत्कर्मणस्ते मता बुद्धिर्जनार्दन ।
तत्किं कर्मणि घोरे मां नियोजयसि केषव ॥

(श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता, तीसरे अध्याय का पहला श्लोक)

(In this shloka No. 1 Arjuna asks Krishna, “If you think knowledge is better than action, then why do you force me to do such dreadful actions?”)

At this stage he raises questions to find the intended meaning in a perfect form from Krishna.

व्यामिश्रेणैव वाक्येन बुद्धिं मोहयसीव मे ।
तदेकं वद निश्चित्य येन श्रेयोऽहमाप्नुयाम् ॥

(श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता, तीसरे अध्याय का दूसरा श्लोक)

(Arjuna again says here in this shloka No. 2 that I am getting confused by your words, so please tell me clearly what to do and clear my confusion.)

Krishna again and again clarifies the matters, resolves the doubts and slowly the communication moves forward towards pure communication. Krishna's desired result is reflected to the reader as Arjuna gets ready to fight through the course of the conversation. This pure form of communication that can swing the soul is a rare occurrence.

कच्चिदेतच्छ्रुतं पार्थ त्वयैकाग्रेण चेतसा ।
कच्चिदज्ञानसम्मोहः प्रनष्टस्ते धनञ्जय ॥

(श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता, अठारहवें अध्याय का बहत्तरवां श्लोक)

(Krishna asks Arjuna, "Did you listen attentively to what I said? Have you been freed from your delusions?")

नष्टो मोहः स्मृतिर्लब्धा त्वत्प्रसादान्मयाच्युत ।
स्थितोऽस्मि गतसन्देहः करिष्ये वचनं तव ॥

(श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता, अठारहवें अध्याय का तीहत्तरवां श्लोक)

(Arjuna said to Krishna that by your grace my delusion has been destroyed and I have understood your message clearly and hence I will follow your orders.)

Again, to establish the model of pure communication, a situation may be analyzed that during the war in order to energize everyone different types of war instruments were played. All the sounds supplemented emotions of terrible anger, rage and excitement.

स घोषो धार्तराष्ट्राणां हृदयानि व्यदारयत् ।
नभश्च पृथिवीं चैव तुमुलोऽभ्यनुनादयन् ॥

(श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता, पहले अध्याय का उन्नीसवां श्लोक)

(And those horrific words echoed in the sky and the earth and pierced the hearts of Dhritarashtra i.e. those on your side)

Due to the sound of all these, there was so much noise that everyone was frightened and worried and despite all this, a conversation was going on between Krishna and Arjuna.

ततः शङ्खाश्च भेर्यश्च पणवानकगोमुखाः ।
सहसैवाभ्यहन्यन्त स शब्दस्तुमुलोऽभवत् ॥13॥

(श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता, पहले अध्याय का तेरहवां श्लोक)

(In the battlefield conches had been blown, drums were being played there was chaos all around.)

A tremendous contrast is visible here. Usually we get disturbed by the slightest sound and here communication is not being interrupted even in such a noise. This is a great example of a high level of concentration and involvement. That is to say the whole situation was against all seamless,

perfect communication, still communication was taking place. Even strong barriers cannot affect this type of communication. Such unique communication can definitely be called pure communication.

It was a great challenge for both the sender and the receiver. The one who is saying, is supreme, the one who is listening is dedicated towards the speaker only then this kind of communication takes place. It is the highest level of communication which is immediate, swift, well said and well understood - a situation that refers to that idea of communication which again gives strength and the jump from perfect to pure communication.

The distinguished things that make the *Bhagwad Gita* an example of pure communication are briefly explained here as follows:

- i). **Accepting the Communicator as the Guru:** The source was Shri Krishna who had been accepted as a perfect, most competent Guru who allows his disciple to question. He kept high levels of patience and tried hard to get the desired response. His only emphasis was on action for the establishment of righteousness.
- ii). **Surrendering Oneself before the Guru:** The receiver was Arjuna, one of the most powerful warrior, a surrendered devotee, who was extremely focused. (Arjuna declares himself as disciple of Krishna by these words-

यच्छ्रेयः स्यानिश्चितं ब्रूहि तन्मे
शिष्यस्तेऽहं शाधि मां त्वां प्रपन्नम् ॥7॥

(श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता, दूसरा अध्याय का सातवां श्लोक)

(Arjun tells Krishna, "I am your disciple, I am in your guidance, give me knowledge.")

"The teacher slowly guides his pupil to attain the status which he has, *mama sadharmeyam*."

- iii). **Using Perfect Words during Communication:** Arjuna further requests Krishna to tell what is good for him. The language used in this conversation meets the demand of the situation specially the words chosen for salutation.
- iv). **Understanding the Messages at Highest Level:** Arjuna was man of rocky mental strength. His wisdom helped him grasping the messages in completeness.
- v). **Meditating the Messages:** The transmitted messages were not only heard by the ears but each and every cell of the body absorbed it. The highest level of curiosity remains in him until he finds an explanation for his confusion. He is nowhere seen exhausted.

विस्तरेणात्मनो योगं विभूतिं च जनार्दन ।
भूयः कथय तृप्तिर्हि शृण्वतो नास्ति मेऽमृतम् ॥18॥

(श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता, दसवां अध्याय का अट्ठारहवां श्लोक)

(Arjun tells Krishna, "I am never satisfied by listening to your elixir-like words and the eagerness to listen to them remains ever present.)

The word Amrit (elixir) here makes it pure and takes it towards purity. Here we find supreme form of listening where messages were meditated and absorbed. This depth in the situation improves perfect form of communication to the pure form.

Here I would like to put before another situation which supports the viewpoint of pure communication. If the

Bhagwad Gita is read according to the Vedic tradition, it would take about two hours but it is not being read in the battlefield, here Arjuna is being explained. If this had been said somewhere else instead of on the battlefield, like Arjuna had posed this problem to Krishna in his palace before the war started, then it is possible that there Krishna would have explained it to him calmly, then we would have said that it would take two hours, four hours, but here there is no time, the time is fixed and the sermon has to be successful in that time. Since the teachings of the *Bhagwad Gita* were given on the battlefield, so it is believed and it also seems practical that this is a matter of just a few minutes that is why it can be called super-fast.

In mundane terms it seems impossible but quantum physics has proved this type of communication where no medium is required to transmit any form of communication from one place to another place which may be thousands of kilometers away.

All these type of things make this an extraordinary communication - purest form of communication. The most competent source encodes the messages and a high alert receiver decodes it in many dimensions with the intention of single main purpose of the communicator. Here we find in *Bhagwad Gita* the model of pure communication.

Conclusion

Pure communication is the supreme form of perfect communication which is projected in the *Bhagwad Gita*. Basically the *Bhagwad Gita* is an example of the *Upanishad* which is one of the oldest forms of interpersonal communication in our ancient Indian tradition. Here two persons sit nearby and discuss over issues. This was gradually refined and reached its peak in the *Bhagwad Gita*.

There is no such example either in India or in the world that can be compared with the communication in the *Bhagwad Gita*. Generally the communication that is available is for the exchange of information not for imparting knowledge. The *Upanishad* contains knowledge which is seen at its highest level in the *Bhagwad Gita*. Even the Greek literature which contains a collection of teachings of great philosophers is also a form of interpersonal communication but the situation which is found in The *Bhagwad Gita* is not found in them.

The *Bhagwad Gita* is amazing. The *Shrimad Bhagwad Gita* offers timeless wisdom on pure communication, emphasizing truth, compassion, selflessness, clarity, and discipline. There is chaos of war all around, time is short, the opponents are relatives and Arjuna has many questions within himself that need to be answered. Not only answers have to be given but Arjuna has to be convinced to get ready for the war. The communication situation is completely adverse and the challenges are huge. And finally Arjuna gets ready to fight. Krishna's dialogue with Arjuna serves as a model for communicating with purpose and purity, fostering spiritual and social harmony. The *Bhagwad Gita* fulfils all these destinies. That is why the perfect term for this form of communication is Pure Communication.

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