

COVID war or KARMA war: Who Deserves Homecoming?? Are We Taught Anonymously the Forgotten Lesson of Bhagavad Gita?

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Abstract

History repeats itself until you learn and correct the mistakes. We all tend to create the future with the same past experiences. Nothing new than the forgotten old. The great *Kurukshetra* war of Indian Hindu epic the *Mahabharata* and the Lord's unsung song *Bhagavad Gita* from it remind us the same. Although centuries had crossed, the lessons to be learned, and learning from the Gita are the same. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire world is battling against the unseen enemy. We are fighting physically, mentally, economically, and socially. Each and everyone is contributing to the maximum to win the battle. But, the invisible enemy, coronavirus is seemingly stronger than the advanced technologies and growth of humanity. This short write up is in search of the true etiology of COVID-19 that came up in the curious mind of a medical researcher who is amazed in the bizarre situation and uncontrolled fight against this unseen enemy.

Key words: Death, COVID-19, KARMA, SARS-CoV-2 virus

Introduction

Only one person had known the "truth", the truth of actual scenarios in the greatest *Kurukshetrawar* of Indian Hindu epic the *Mahabharata*. He was the only one who was given the chance to see the complete incidences of eighteen days war with unbiased eyes; was the one who told very clearly that who killed whom during the entire war; how *Pandavas* rose to the victory with a homecoming to the golden land (*Hastinapur*). It was none other but the *Barbarika*.^{1,2}

The battle was between the *dharma* and *adharma* i.e. righteous and iniquity. The war was getting ready between the loved ones-*Pandavas* and *Kauravas*. Even the incredible minds were oscillating to choose the side to fight against, as it was within the family and each one was equally important. *Barbarika* was not an exception, the grandson of *Bhima* (second of the *Pandava* brothers) choose to join the weaker side if need urges. He was famously known as "bearer of three arrows", as he was blessed with three infallible arrows in a boon.²

Krishna, the descendant of Lord *Vishnu* stood the side of *Pandavas* charioting for *Arjuna* (third of the *Pandava* brothers). Before the beginning of the war, *Krishna* asked the warriors that how long will take for them to complete the war individually and *Barbarika* told that he could finish the entire war in a minute. As he had three arrows, he would use the first arrow to fix whom to be destroyed, the second one to fix whom to be saved, and then third to destroy all the objects marked by

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the first arrow or destroy all the objects not marked by the second arrow. And at the end of this, all the arrows would return to the quiver.^{1,2}

The *Krishna* was astonished by the infallible power of three arrows. Hence, he asked the *Barbarika's* head as a charity, so that the strongest *Kshatriya* warrior's sacrifice would help in beginning the war. By doing so, *Krishna* did not allow the *Barbarika* to participate in the war; Accepted *Barbarika* asked *Krishna* that his last wish was to watch the great battle, so *Krishna* let his head to watch the whole battle from a mountain top nearby the battleground.²

At the end of the battle, *Pandavas* won and the time came to dedicate the victory to the responsible person. Each warrior was justifying their points and chaos started. When *Barbarika* was asked about his view regarding the victory of *Pandavas*, he explained that it was neither *Kaurava's* weakness nor *Pandava's* strength. All he could see in the whole war was that the divine invisible chakra of *Krishna*, which was spinning all around the battlefield and killed all those who were not on the side of *dharma*.^{1,2}

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire world is battling against a known enemy with an unknown trait. The initial days of COVID-19 were like a bio-war with the highest threat to humanity.³ In Italy, healthcare workers were considered as God who decides who would survive and who would not. Geriatric populations were thought to have a poor prognosis and were triaged under the least preference category for intensive treatment.⁴ As days moving on, the entire world was infected and different countries came up with different traits of coronavirus.⁵ The virulence of the virus was changing in terms of mortality rate, and more asymptomatic cases were increased.

In many countries, aged geriatric patients were started to survive by winning the coronavirus infection but many healthy young patients and health care workers have succumbed to the same despite intensive treatment. Aged men were suggested to have high risk but

adolescents have also lost their lives. Despite immunity, sex, age, co-morbidity, and many other factors as suggested, no peculiar factor was defined as a predictive factor for mortality, but, we all are losing precious lives. The so-called God, health care workers started failing to hold the lives back. Day by day, this bizarre scenario is moving towards the hype of uncertainty. Thus, the time calls to analyze what factor is responsible for this mortality in the COVID-19 pandemic. Though multifactorial, the uncertainty in the individual risk poses it very difficult for health care workers to predict the outcome.⁶ Thus; it was not the health care workers who are deciding the lives. It was not the pre-determined co-morbid, risk factors that are choosing the lives. If not them, then what is responsible to win or lose the COVID-19 battle???

Like in *Bhagavad Gita*, though the *Pandavas* won the battle, it was not them, who were responsible for the victory. They were mere instruments for the execution of Lord *Vishnu's* actions. *Pandavas* were thinking that they killed the *Kauravas*. Like we think that the coronavirus is killing the lives. But the *Barbarika* who had watched the war from outside only knew the truth that it was the divine chakra of *Krishna*, not those who were participating in the battle. Likewise, being health care workers, government sectors, society, and victims of coronavirus infection, all are battling against COVID-19 selflessly and staying detached from personal emotions and attachments⁷, we all have succumbed to the thought that the coronavirus is killing the lives and threatening humanity. But who knows, this myth could just be the unproven scientific phenomenon and the *karma* of individuals that are risking their own lives in the form of COVID-19 infection. The good and bad deeds of individuals are called *karma*. Like the divine chakra of God, the individual's *karma* might be spinning all around this COVID-19 battle choosing whom to survive and whom to leave this earth. The *SARS-CoV-2* virus may just be a mere invisible instrument, masking the deeply lying truth. The time will unfold the answers; like the eyes of *Barbarika*, the eyes of *researchers* could only tell the truth in the future.

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