

What is the Highest Level of Philanthropy?

By
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1. Bhagavad Gita

The Bhagavad Gita is a conversation between Arjuna, a supernaturally gifted warrior about to go into battle, and Krishna – the Supreme Personality of Godhead, his charioteer. In the course of giving Arjuna all manner of spiritual and material advice, Krishna explains karma, the self, the Supreme Self, the purpose of yoga, the difference between our self and our material body, how our environment affects our consciousness, and how to attain the perfection of life. The Gita appears as a central chapter in the Mahabharata, the history of greater India. It is the essence of Vedic knowledge and one of the most important books of Vedic literature. Lord Krishna spoke the Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna about 5000 years ago and through disciplic succession the Bhagavad Gita As It Is gives commentary on the verses by Lord Krishna by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Pradhupada. Essentially the Bhagavad Gita As It Is is the highest authoritative text to explain the universe and the commentary is “almost” 100% accurate. The Srimad Bhagavatam is an extended version of the Bhagavad Gita.

2. What defines a human

From the Bhagavad Gita As It Is our bodies are composed of both material and spiritual. The material body contains the gross body (earth, water, fire, air and space) and the subtle body (mind, intelligence and false ego). But above all these elements there is the spiritual soul. There's no life in the material elements, life is the spiritual soul which is eternal, full of knowledge and bliss. The soul contains two parts the individual soul and the Supersoul (a plenary expansion of God). The soul is one ten thousandth the size of the tip of a hair and is located in the heart, and cannot be measured under laboratory conditions. The material body is currently dead. The only thing keeping it alive is the soul or consciousness (energy emitted by the soul). At the end of this life we reincarnate into another body depending on our karma. Ideally you want to achieve a spiritual body and escape the re-birth and death process and hence travel the entire universe with Krishna in total bliss – that is our purpose in life. Three quarters of the universe is spiritual. There are 8.4 million species of life including 400,000 species of humans (based on our level of consciousness). Every form of life contains an individual soul and a Supersoul.

3. Karma

According to Vedic literature, karma is the law of cause and effect. For every action there is a cause as well as a reaction. Karma is produced by performing fruitive activities for bodily or mental development. One may perform pious activities that will produce good reactions or good karma for future enjoyment. Or one may perform selfish or what some call sinful activities that produce bad karma and future suffering. This follows a person wherever he or she goes in this life or future lives. Such karma, as well as the type of consciousness a person develops, establishes reactions that one must experience. So, when the living beings take birth again, they get a certain kind of body that is most suitable for the type of consciousness they have developed. There are 8.4 million species of life, each offering a particular class of body for whatever kind of desires and consciousness the living being may have in this world. In this way, the living entity is the son of his past and the father of his future. Thus, he is presently affected by his previous life's activities and creates his future existence by the actions he performs in this life. A person will reincarnate into various forms of bodies that are most suitable for the living entity's consciousness, desires, and for what he deserves. So, the living being inevitably continues in this cycle of birth and death and the consequences for his various good or bad activities as long as he is materially motivated. For example, if one chooses to eat meat, then they run the risk of being reincarnated into a tiger since tigers are used to eating meat. If a young girl walks around half naked attracting attention of the opposite sex, then they run the risk of being reincarnated into a tree since trees stand their naked all day.

4. Types of yoga

Yoga can be classified into four types: Hatha Yoga, Karma Yoga, Jnana Yoga and Bhakti Yoga. Yoga is typically known amongst Western society as Hatha Yoga and this is generally the way society is introduced to yoga by performing postures in a gym. Karma Yoga generally applies to our working lives; where carried out properly one should not become attached to the results of their work but rather all the work is done for the Supreme and owned by the Supreme, and thus the living entity has no reactions of lamentation or hankering. Jnana Yoga is about knowledge of the absolute and typically applies to knowledge that we obtain throughout our educational experiences. The problem with Western society is the knowledge taught at secondary and tertiary level is focused on 'material' knowledge rather than spiritual or true knowledge. The highest form of yoga is Bhakti Yoga (which also integrates elements of Hatha, Karma and Jnana Yoga); and this is a complete devotion to the Supreme. Religion could also be considered a form of Bhakti Yoga since religion generally involves worshipping a Supreme. However, the highest form of Bhakti Yoga is Krishna Consciousness (also known as the Hare Krishna movement). This involves regular chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra and abstaining from sense gratification of smoking, gambling, intoxication, meat-eating and illicit sex.

By following a yoga process one can progress in spiritual life and increase their level of consciousness.

5. Krishna Temple

<https://www.iskcon.com.au/home>

As documented in the Bhagavad Gita As It Is building a temple for Lord Krishna is the highest level of philanthropy that one can achieve. Bhakti Yoga monks run the operations of the temple.

The most important aspect is offering free spiritualized vegetarian food (three meals a day) to the entire community. Six times a day Arati sessions are undertaken to worship the Supreme Personality of Godhead Lord Krishna. In a full arati, incense, a flame (ghee lamp), a conch shell with water, a cloth, flowers, a chamara (yak-tail fan), and a peacock-feather fan are offered to the deity. While doing so, the devotee chants mantras appropriate for each article and rings a bell with the left hand. Aratis should be accompanied by the singing of the Hare Krishna mantra, the most important part of deity worship. Worshipers attending the arati may sing, or the devotee offering the arati may sing or play a recording. Morning Srimad Bhagavatam classes are taught based on the commentary by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada who is in disciplic succession from Lord Krishna. Free Krishna Consciousness books are available to the entire community written by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. Also, the Bhagavad Gita As It Is and the complete set of the Srimad Bhagavatam are available for free access to the entire community within the temple. The Bhagavad Gita As It Is can be purchased for \$10.

6. Macquarie University Village Krishna Temple

http://www.strategicgames.com.au/index.php?p=1_4

In March/April 2013 the author experienced several significant spiritual encounters whilst located at Macquarie University Village 22/122 Culloden Rd, Marsfield, Sydney. This involved an out-of-body experience where the author visualized a bird in the spiritual world as a direct result of making the connection 'Yoga is the most effective method to resolving conflicts'. A few days later a dead bird appeared on the front porch but with no body - only the feathers. The author's roommate at the time thought this was particularly unusual. Out-of-body experiences are common (occur in about 25% of the population). However, they usually involve a veridical out-of-body experience where the person is viewing the body from above. The author's out-of-body experience is particularly unique and been explained by The Australian Institute of Parapsychological Research as something mystical (in other words they had no explanation as the event is particularly unique). Refer to 'The Book of Tristan' ([pdf](#)) for more details on these spiritual encounters.

The author's proposal is for Macquarie University Village to turn the villa 22/122 Culloden Rd into a Hare Krishna Temple. This would involve Bhakti Yoga monks living in this villa and carrying out the following tasks:

1. offer free vegetarian food in the evening to all students at Macquarie University Village
2. conduct morning and evening Kirtan sessions to all Macquarie University students on the Green at Macquarie University Village

3. offer free spiritual knowledge to all Macquarie University students
4. maintain the gardens at the Macquarie University Village

Also within villa 22 there would be:

1. The Bhagavad Gita As It Is available to all Macquarie University students
2. The Srimad Bhagavatam available to all Macquarie University students
3. Complete set of spiritual books written by A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada available to all Macquarie University students
4. Books on mainstream religions available to all Macquarie University students
5. The Book of Tristan available to all Macquarie University students
6. Books on Australian First Nations People available to all Macquarie University students

For more information refer to the Strategic Games Constitution ([pdf](#)).

Given that Natural Law is superior to International and National law I feel the above is a strong proposal. The author is not suggesting that the students living at villa 22 should evacuate straight away but rather something that Macquarie University Village could consider in the future such as the start of 2020. Developing a temple for Lord Krishna (the Supreme Personality of Godhead) is the highest level of philanthropy that one can achieve and ultimately assist in establishing world peace.

7. The Herbert and Valmae Freilich Project

<https://freilich.anu.edu.au/>

The Herbert and Valmae Freilich Project for the Study of Bigotry established within the Australian National University, Canberra supports research into the causes, the histories and the effects of ethnic, cultural, religious and sexual bigotry and animosity. It also promotes public discussion of how such intolerance can be combatted - and co-existence promoted - through educational and social programs. 18 million dollars has been invested into this project. Humans are not defined by whether they are Asian, Aboriginal, Jewish or this or that but rather by the level of consciousness (400,000 species of humans in total). The material body is dead, the only thing keeping it alive is the soul or consciousness (energy emitted by the soul). Therefore, research into bigotry is a waste of time and money, and is in the mode of ignorance. In this mode, one descends to animal life. To obtain a spiritual body in the afterlife (by transcending past the modes of passion and goodness), the 18 million dollars needs to be used in building a temple for Lord Krishna.