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Recognition to Pedro Nonell for his translation into Spanish of the Bhagavad Gita
Reconocimiento a Pedro Nonell por su traducción del Bhagavad Gita



Text of Pedro Nonell's speech in recognition of his translation into Spanish of the Bhagavad Gita

ES: Texto del discurso de Pedro Nonell en reconocimiento por su traducción al español del Bhagavad Gita

“OM, Lead me from the unreal to the Real,
 Lead me from darkness unto Light
 And lead me from death to Immortality
 Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti!”

India lo Andhra Pradesh akkaka ki annala ki. Namashkarulu.

It is an honor for me to share with the Barcelona Telugu Association in Spain this very special day dedicated to Ganesha. I want to thank Senator Robert Masih Nahar for granting me this recognition, to Mr. Pavan and to my friend Raúl for their efforts, and also to Mss Nassem for the Telugu translation of the first sentence.

Sisters and Brothers of Andhra Pradesh and Bharat!

With similar words **Swami Vivekananda**, began his famous speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893. Since then the deep wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita, the Vedanta and Yoga began to form part of Western culture.

Swamiji travelled for years across India to uplift the masses, teach them the freedom of the Soul (Atma-Jnana) and seek funding for his travels to the United States and England. But he also perceived that the West needed the wisdom of the ancient Rishis.

Perhaps you are wondering: why this Spaniard, with white hair, **has translated the Gita?**

To answer this question, I would like to share my mission in relation to the Gita, but I need a few minutes of your time.

I will introduce to Mss **Mery Lakral**, she is a Yoga Teacher and Professor at the Gita Institute. She lives between Rishikesh and Spain. She will read some shlokas of the Gita, thanks Mery.

In 1995 I created **E E N I**-Global Business School. In these years I have travelled mainly through Europe, America and my beloved Africa. And I have been able to witness the **slow decline of the West**. I am convinced that **Western civilization has forgotten its Dharma** and many Westerners too. But:

What should be the Dharma of the West? The Gita teaches us that:

MERY: सहजं कर्म कौन्तेय सदोषमपि न त्यजेत् |

सर्वारम्भा हि दोषेण धूमेनाग्निरिवावृताः || 48||

saha-jaṁ Karma kaunteya sa-doṣham api na tyajet

sarvārambhā hi doṣheṇa dhūmenāgnir ivāvṛitāḥ

“O Arjun! One should not abandon the duty to which he is born, though it is attended with evil” Gita XVIII-48

In 1492, after a seven-century reconquest before Islam, the **Catholic Monarchs**, Isabella and Ferdinand, managed to create the first global empire; outlining the current **world map**. We were able to incorporate an entire continent, **America**, into the known world. The world and Christianity began to globalize.

Inspired by Christianity, the first declaration of human rights was promulgated; the **Law of the Indies**, equalling the rights of Americans and Spaniards. Of course, no one has the moral right to conquer anyone, but it is true that the “**Pax Hispanica**” lasted for almost 300 years.

Bharat never colonized any country...

In the second shloka of chapter IV, the Blessed Lord explained to Arjun as that ancient Yoga, “the supreme mystery”, which He taught at the beginning of times:

MERY «... by long lapse of time, this Yoga was lost to the world» Bhagavad Gita IV 2.

The “**sole fide**” of Protestantism led the West. The European wars of religion arrived, the black slave trade one of the worst scourge of humanity, “stealing the African blood” to take it to America, sustaining the Western industrial revolution.

The “**Goddess of Reason**” supplanted the Christ of the Sermon on the Mount.

Later, **France and England colonised** almost the entire world, including India. We saw two bloody world wars and also civil wars in many Southern countries promoted mainly by the West.

The following shlokas from the Gita define it perfectly:

Mery: “Men of demoniac nature know not what to do and what to refrain from doing. Purity is not in them, nor good conduct, nor truth. The world is devoid of truth, without a moral basis, and without a God... They rise as the enemies of the world for its destruction...” Gita XVI 7-10

It is true that the West has contributed great things to mankind, in areas such as science, technology, healthcare or music. Vivekananda explained it very well when he spoke of “**Western Science plus Hindu Spirituality**”.

But the West has lost the moral capacity to lead **the world** and also the political, financial and economic global leadership.

The Gita perfectly shows us this time of darkness where the **Dharma has been lost**:

Mery: यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत | अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम् || 7|| परित्राणाय साधूनां विनाशाय च दुष्कृताम् |

धर्मसंस्थापनार्थाय सम्भवामि युगे युगे || 8||

yadā yadā hi dharmasya glānir bhavati bhārata abhyutthānam adharmasya tadātmānaṁ sṛjāmyaham paritrāṇāya sādḥūnāṁ vināśhāya cha duṣhkṛitām dharmā-sansthāpanārthāya sambhavāmi yuge yuge

“O Arjun! Whenever there is a decline of righteousness and rise of evil, I manifest Myself

For the protection of the good, For the destruction of the wicked,

And for establishing the Dharma, I take birth in every age” Gita IV 7-8

And that is why when evil increases, in any time or place, the Lord incarnates as Jesus, Buddha, Sri Krishna or Muhammad to reestablish the path of good, the Dharma.

Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the monk who saw God; For many, like Gandhi or Sri Aurobindo, an Avatar, came to this time of darkness in 1836, in the midst of British domination, to “destroy ignorance with the sword of knowledge.” He basically taught us two things:

1. Religion is realisation, something forgotten in the West, and
2. The principle of Harmony between Religions: “Yato mat, tato path” (As many faiths, so many paths).

Without his **disciple, Swami Vivekananda**, maybe Ramakrishna’s light could have been lost.

Swamiji was agnostic when he was young, then he followed the Path of Jnana, Karma and finally the Bhakti Yoga. The West can learn from this **yogic evolution of Swamiji** and adapt it, as far as possible, to its own reality.

I Discovered the Gita when I was very young, through my grandfather, who at 80 years old was studying Sanskrit. About 20 years ago I began the **study of several sacred books...** but **I fell in love with the Gita.** I understood that Vedanta can contain all religions of the world. And through him, I understood Christianity better.

Later, in my Business School, I implemented a global ethics model and developed a Doctorate in “Global Ethics, Religions and International Business” where the Gita and the teachings of Ramakrishna are the cornerstone. Even the E E N I motto is a sentence of Ramakrishna: “Knowledge leads to Unity, but ignorance to Diversity”.

Islam and the British Empire ruled India pending seven centuries, the same time that Spain was Muslim.

But today, Bharat emerges as a political, economic, military, demographic and spiritual power. Vivekananda already predicted it when he stated that “India should be the spiritual power of the world.”

India has surpassed China in population and Russia in reaching the southern face of the Moon. Today Bharat is the largest democracy in the world and one of the founders of the B R I C S.

When Narendra Modi was young tries to enter the Ramakrishna order as a monk, but they did not accept him, claiming that his Dharma was something much higher. May be the next PM will be a Yogi.

Bharat will be, if it is not already, the spiritual lighthouse that illuminates humanity.

In this phase of my life, I want to dedicate my efforts, my love and my little knowledge, through the Gita-Ramakrishna Institute, to collaborating with the spreading of the teachings of the Gita, the Vedanta, Ramakrishna and Vivekananda in the West.

Quoting the Gita:

Mery: “He who with supreme devotion in Me will teach this profound philosophy to my devotees shall doubtless come to me alone. There is none among men who can do anything more pleasing to Me than he.” Gita XVIII 68-70

My commitment is absolute. I have already translated two versions of the Gita into Spanish:

- 1- The Gita According to Gandhi, with comments by Swami Sivananda
 - o ENTREGAR LIBROS
- 2- The Gita Makaranadam of Swami Vidyaprakashananda, written in Telugu; later translated into English or Hindi and now into Spanish by me.

In addition to much of Vivekananda's books and papers: Jnana Yoga, Vedanta, Karma Yoga, Sankhya Philosophy, Raja Yoga or Bhakti Yoga.

This time of darkness and ignorance, with the threat of totalitarian states, of a global digital monopoly on information, where Wikipedia, the fake news or artificial intelligence want to overthrow the wisdom of Swamis and Rishis, was already described by the poet TS Elliot:

“Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?

Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?” TS Elliot.

Sisters and brothers of Bharat, help me turn this vision into a reality thus the West can rediscover its Dharma and “remove the veil of ignorance”, restoring peace and harmony in the world. As the motto of the Ramakrishna Mission, formulated by Vivekananda, says:

Ātmāno mokṣārthaṃ jagata hitāya ca

PAT: “For one's own salvation and for the welfare of the world”

In this speech we have been able to see the practical application of the Vedanta of "All is One", where people of different beliefs, countries and races have collaborated.

I want to thank you for your attention and I would like to say goodbye with the last shloka of the Gita:

यत्र योगेश्वरः कृष्णो यत्र पार्थो धनुर्धरः |

तत्र श्रीर्विजयो भूतिध्रुवा नीतिर्मतिर्मम || 78||

yatra yogeshvaraḥ kṛṣṇo yatra pārtho dhanur-dharaḥ

tatra śhrīr vijayo bhūtir dhruvā nītir matir mama

Pavan: “Wherever is Krishna, the Lord of Yoga, wherever is Partha, the wielder of the bow, there are prosperity victory, happiness, and righteousness, such is my conviction”

Thanks Barat, Namaste!

Dhanyavadamulu India, Namaskaram!