



Bhagavad Gita: Chapter 15, Verse 8

shariram yad avapnoti yach chapy utkramatishvarah
grihitvaitani sanyati vayur gandhan ivashayat

◆ TRANSLATION

BG 15.8: As the air carries fragrance from place to place, so does the embodied soul carry the mind and senses with it, when it leaves an old body and enters a new one.

◆ COMMENTARY

Here, Shree Krishna has given the example of the breeze to explain the process of transmigration of a soul from one body into another. Similar to the breeze, which carries with it the fragrances of the flowers, upon the death of the gross body, the soul carries with it the subtle and the causal bodies, these include the senses and the mind. (The concept of three kinds of bodies has been explained in detail in Verse 2.28).

Even when the material body dies, the soul continues to carry the mind along with the experiences of its past lifetimes from its former body to the new one. That explicates why people who are born blind can still dream, probably based on their experiences from past lives. Dreams are considered to be a visual representation of what we see or think during waking hours. It might be in a distorted or rambled form, which gets connected in our mind when we sleep. For example, someone saw a bird flying and thought, "How wonderful will it be to fly like a bird!" Sometime later, he dreams that he is flying in his human body itself. Yet, a blind person who has not seen anything from birth dreams, this can only be due to all the impressions that are stored in the subconscious mind, which it carries with it from past lifetimes.

In the next verse, Shree Krishna explains what the soul does with the mind and senses it takes with it when it departs from its present body.



Is it your Birthday Today?

OCTOBER 23

Ruled by number 5 and the planet Mercury, you are practical, energetic, trustworthy and possess a strong intuition. You are highly popular in your group because you are witty and intelligent. You are helpful and sensible but you need to control your tendency to behave vindictive, stubborn and timid at times. Promising career opportunities ahead for fresh graduates and extremely good period for scholars, scientists, writers and sports-men as well. This year will be important for working women, as they will receive a major boost in their career. Financial gains are certain but expenses will also take an upward trend. For those involved in romantic entanglement, chances of a matrimonial alliance will be quite high. Travel will bring pleasure. The months of April, July, September and January will be significant.

A Single Gene Could Hold the Key to Taming One of the Deadliest Cancers

Blocking one gene’s activity shifted aggressive pancreatic cancer cells into a less aggressive form in experiments, pointing to a possible way to disrupt tumor evolution.

PANCREATIC ductal adenocarcinoma kills nearly 85 percent of people within five years of diagnosis. Part of the challenge is that its cancer cells can change, shifting between less aggressive and more aggressive forms in ways that earlier studies could not explain.

A study led by researchers at NYU Langone Health and its Perlmutter Cancer Center now shows how genetic reshaping within individual tumors enables those transitions. Published in Nature Genetics, the findings suggest that ongoing changes to cancer cells’ DNA help fuel both resistance to treatment and metastasis, the spread of cancer to other parts of the body.

Cancer clones follow different evolutionary paths

More than half a dozen genes have been implicated in this complex disease. Earlier research generally measured increases and decreases in gene activity across groups of cells analyzed together, separating pancreatic cancer cells into two broad subtypes: classical, which is less aggressive, and basal, which is more aggressive. Those bulk measurements could not explain how cells switched between the two. To examine the differences among individual cells, the researchers used transcriptomics, which measures gene activity. They analyzed 443,451 single cells from 62 tumors in 56 men and women with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. Six patients provided tumor samples both before and after chemotherapy, allowing the team to examine changes across treatment.

“Our study provides the most granular view to date of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, revealing how ongoing genetic reshaping drives tumor evolution over the course of disease,” said study lead investigator Despoina Kalfakakou, PhD, a postdoctoral research fellow at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and Perlmutter Cancer Center. Within the tumors, the team identified clones, groups of cells with similar genetic makeup. Individual tumors contained



between two and 11 clones on average, with mixtures of basal and classical cells. These groups behaved differently as they evolved, with some developing resistance to therapy and others acquiring the ability to spread rapidly.

“Our research also suggests that single-cell clonal analysis offers a better approach to understanding complex cancers, like pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, as it develops over time, by mapping how tumors evolve and adapt at each stage of disease progression,” said study co-senior investigator Aristotelis Tsigirigos, PhD, a professor in the Departments of Medicine and Pathology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and a member of Perlmutter Cancer Center.

Blocking MYC reverses an aggressive state

Using patterns of gene activity to trace the clones’ genetic origins, the researchers linked variations in DNA copy number to the mix of

cells making up each tumor.

This helped them identify which genes were most active at different stages of disease progression. Among the changes associated with tumor evolution was increased activity of a gene called MYC in aggressive tumor cell populations.

In further experiments with basal pancreatic tumor cells, blocking MYC activity returned the cells to the less aggressive classical form. It also exposed them to more immune cells, potentially making them more vulnerable to immune attack. “These findings suggest that targeting the mechanisms underlying tumor evolution, including MYC, may help restrain the cancer’s rapid progression,” Kalfakakou said.

Clues to pancreatic cancer’s immune escape

Other differences among clones offered clues to why this cancer resists immunotherapy. In some clones, the TIGIT gene was more

active, producing proteins that help cancer evade immune detection. In those same cells, activity of the PD1 gene was suppressed, which may help explain why some immunotherapies targeting PD1 are rarely effective against the disease.

“More broadly, our study results highlight the critical role of clonal diversity, genetic plasticity, and interactions with the tumor’s microenvironment in shaping human pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma biology,” said Dr. Tsigirigos, who also serves as co-director of the Division of Precision Medicine and director of NYU Langone’s Applied Bioinformatics Laboratories.

Clinical trials of MYC inhibitors or TIGIT inhibitors for pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma and other cancers are underway, Tsigirigos said. He added that the findings should encourage larger investigations into the different states cancer cells can occupy and how treatments might target them.

Word of the Day

vocation

noun | voh-KAY-shun

WHAT IT MEANS

Vocation can refer simply to an occupation, or it can refer to a strong calling to pursue a particular kind of work or course of action.

// Since he was a teenager, he knew that he would find his vocation in marine biology.

// She is headed to medical school to pursue her vocation as a doctor.

VOCATION IN CONTEXT

“Through her education and her father’s encouragement, she had nurtured a vocation for literature and was determined to make a career for herself in the bundan,

Japan’s literary elite ...” — Bryan Karetnyk, introduction to Troubled Waters by Higuchi Ichiyo, 2026

DID YOU KNOW?

When vocation was first used in English in the 15th century it referred specifically to a summons from God to perform a particular task or function in life, especially a religious one.

This meaning is no surprise

given the word’s source: it comes from the Latin vocation-, vocacio, meaning “summons,” which in turn comes from vocare, meaning “to call.”

Vocation also has a non-religious function in the English language as a word for the strong desire to do a certain kind of work, or as a word for the work itself, making vocation a synonym of the words calling and occupation.

SUDOKU PUZZLES

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6	2							
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SOLUTION OF PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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6	7	8	5	2	1	4	3	9
2	1	5	3	9	4	7	8	6
8	3	6	7	1	2	9	4	5
7	9	4	6	8	5	2	1	3

STARS & PLANETS

■ **ARIES:** Short journeys in your neighborhood, perhaps connected with a group you're associated with, could take up a lot of your time today, Aries. Fascinating and stimulating emails or calls could arrive. Books and magazine articles could provide information that sends you in a new direction in some way. Write down your ideas! You will want to remember them all.

■ **TAURUS:** Unexpected money developments could brighten your day today, Taurus. Perhaps you will get a raise or an increase in some other form of income. Technology could be involved in some way, or a long-term goal you've been striving for finally brings in some benefits. There might be uncertainty about when it's coming or exactly how much it will be, but the outcome will be gratifying all the same!

■ **GEMINI:** A surprising revelation, either from within or from sources like books, the Internet, or communications from others could set you in an entirely new direction. You will have an increased sense of freedom, as well as a clearer and more progressive outlook. You might consider some pretty heavy changes in your life, Gemini, but don't make any final decisions or arrangements today. Wait before putting your ideas into action.

■ **CANCER:** Discoveries made through occult sciences such as astrology or numerology could see you embrace some rather revolutionary ideas about yourself, the world, and life. You could become involved with a group associated with metaphysical studies or take an online class or workshop of some kind. This could mean a new direction for you in some way, Cancer. It might greatly enhance your life and thinking.

■ **LEO:** Sudden lucky breaks could come your way today, Leo, possibly through friends or groups with which you're involved. A long-term goal you've been working toward might bring unexpected but wonderful results. Group activities, particularly those involving social or political issues, could take up a lot of your time. This promises to be a busy, productive day. Expect the unexpected!

■ **VIRGO:** Today you might feel the desire to break free from your daily routine, Virgo, particularly regarding career matters. You might consider developing a business of your own, one that would give you a lot more freedom than you currently have. This is a good day to start looking into it. You might find that there are more possibilities out there than you expected.

■ **LIBRA:** A sudden and unexpected opportunity to take a journey by air could come your way today, Libra. This might be something you've wanted for a long time finally manifesting. Certainly, adventure is in the air, although it might be mental adventure as much as physical. Some information could come your way that catapults you into a new and exciting field of interest. This promises to be a thoroughly stimulating day.

■ **SCORPIO:** Technology could pave the way for you to greatly increase your income, possibly through new skills or investments. This is likely to be a very positive development, setting the stage for future financial success. Some unusual, interesting dreams could come your way, bringing unexpected revelations about you and your past - and possibly your future. Write them down! They could hold important messages for you from your higher self.

■ **SAGITTARIUS:** The unexpected need to take a journey by air or spend a lot of time working could bring about an inconvenient separation from your partner. While the reasons for this situation and the projected outcome are very positive, it can cause a temporary upset in your relationship. Don't worry about it. The upset will pass, particularly when the desired results are attained. Concentrate on the matter at hand.

■ **CAPRICORN:** Is your workplace upgrading its equipment? Are you in the process of increasing your technology skills? Today's planets show that success and advancement through technology are definitely in the offing for you, Capricorn. If you've been thinking about purchasing a computer, do it today if you can. Whatever your goals, you can harness current innovations to help them along. Give it some thought!

■ **AQUARIUS:** Some close friends could turn you on to a new interest or perhaps a group you might want to join. Intellectual stimulation through those closest to you could open the way to new plans and innovations. You might want to try combining artistic interests with technology, Aquarius, perhaps expanding your knowledge of photography, computer graphics, or filmmaking. Success and good fortune through such activities are strongly indicated.

■ **PISCES:** Sudden, unexpected news could arrive today, perhaps by mail or phone. You could host a group meeting or gathering of some kind. A lot of exciting information and stimulating conversation could take place, Pisces, bringing fresh ideas that spark new interests. Expect a very busy but productive day, looking ahead toward the future rather than back toward the past.

