

**Weekly Written Response #7:
*Bhagavad Gita***

TaiHsuan Lin

Prof. Stubbs

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Discussion Questions for “*Bhagavad Gita*”

Q1: What are the main themes in the Bhagavad Gita relevant to contemporary society?

The Bhagavad Gita is a rich source of wisdom that provides valuable insights into leading a meaningful and fulfilling life. Its themes are timeless and relevant to contemporary society, and people can benefit greatly from studying and applying its teachings in their daily lives. Here’s one main theme of the Bhagavad Gita I found that is relevant to contemporary society:

Yoga: Yoga is an essential theme in the Bhagavad Gita. It teaches the importance of physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. The message is relevant today, as people are increasingly recognizing the benefits of yoga for their overall health.

Q2: What role does the concept of dharma play in the Bhagavad Gita? How is this concept relevant to contemporary society?

The concept of dharma is central to the Bhagavad Gita. Dharma refers to the righteous path or duty that each individual has to fulfill in their life. The Bhagavad Gita emphasizes that fulfilling one's dharma is essential to achieving spiritual liberation or moksha. Lord Krishna urges Arjuna to fulfill his dharma as a warrior and fight the battle, even if it means fighting against his own family members. This highlights the importance of duty over personal attachments and desires.

In contemporary society, the concept of dharma is still relevant as individuals face moral dilemmas and ethical challenges in their personal and professional lives. Fulfilling one's duty with integrity and righteousness, even in difficult situations, is essential for personal growth and spiritual development. The concept of dharma also emphasizes the importance of respecting one's profession and carrying out their responsibilities to the best of their ability. This is especially important in the workplace, where employees must fulfill their roles with integrity and commitment. Moreover, dharma also stresses the importance of social responsibility and contributing to the well-being of society. This resonates with contemporary society, where people are increasingly recognizing the importance of community service and philanthropy. Overall, the concept of dharma in the Bhagavad Gita provides valuable insights into leading a meaningful and fulfilling life. It reminds individuals of their moral duties and responsibilities towards society, which can inspire them to lead a more purposeful life.



Original Art Response to “*The Girl Who Married the Bear*”

After reading the introduction and the whole story, I realized that the girl who married a bear is not just a sad love story, but also an inheritance of Indian culture and tradition.

The author told how he wanted to tell the readers the vivid tone and the most direct feelings when he heard it himself, which made me even more curious about how vivid the original story would be. From the beginning of the girl's rebellious behavior, we can assume that there will be a big twist later on, it seems that all fables have this kind of padding, and I also feel that the girl is finally struggling because she is in love with the bear, and this side I see the contrast between animal and human behavior towards the things they like.

The bear intuitively feels that he wants to own the girl he likes, taking her around to travel and hunt for her to eat, in addition to finding ways to keep the girl from returning to the family side, we see that the bear has no heart. But the girl has a great struggle after falling in love with the bear. When she finds out that she may never see her family again, she puts sand on herself and rolls the mud ball toward the way home, but she also has no way to let go of the bear. Although he could go home, he was not in a joyful mood.

The author also explains the delicate relationship between Native people and nature that this story brings out, which generally emphasizes the delicate and frightening balance between human and animal relationships that Indians believe has existed since the beginning of the world. We see bears in many myths, like "Brave" and "Brother Bear" in Disney movies, and it's as if we really see the half-human presence in the bears and the awe and fear that humans feel for them. I think this kind of story really makes me feel that storytelling is one of the most important ways for Indians to express their identity, and what we learn through stories are their cultural background and their values.

