Bhakti-Rasāmṛta-Sindhu

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The Southern Section

Defining the Components of Rasa



The Qualities of Kṛṣṇa as components of Viṣaya

23. Sthirah – Persevering

IV - Kṛṣṇa as the Viṣaya Ālambana23. Sthiraḥ - Persevering

s<u>thirah</u> – āphalodayakṛt sthiraḥ ||107||

He <u>is called sthira or persevering (sthirah)</u> who works steadily until realizing his goals (<u>aphalodayakrt</u>).

IV - Kṛṣṇa as the Viṣaya Ālambana23. Sthiraḥ - Persevering

yathā –

nirvedam āpa na vana-bhramaņe murārir nācintayad vyasanam rkṣa-vilapraveśe | āḥṛtya hanta maṇim eva puram prapede syād udyamaḥ kṛta-dhiyām hi phalodayāntaḥ ||108||

Krsna (murārih) did not loathe (na nirvedam āpa) wandering in the forest looking for the Syamantaka jewel (vanabhramaņe), and did not consider fear (nācintayad vyasanam) on entering the cave of Jāmbavān (rkṣa-vila praveśe). Taking the jewel (maṇim eva āhṛtya), He returned to Dvārakā (puram prapede). Those of steady intelligence (kṛta-dhiyāṃ) persevere in their work (udyamaḥ syād) until attaining the result (phala udaya antaḥ).

The Qualities of Kṛṣṇa as components of Viṣaya

IV – Kṛṣṇa as the Viṣaya Ālambana 24. Dāntaḥ – Patient

dāntaḥ –
sa dānto duḥsaham api
yogyam kleśaḥ saheta yaḥ ||109||

The person who endures (saheta yaḥ) difficult (duḥsaham) but necessary suffering (yogyam kleśaḥ) is called patient (sah dāntah).

IV - Kṛṣṇa as the Viṣaya Ālambana24. Dāntaḥ - Patient

yathā –

gurum api guru-vāsa-kleśam avyāja-bhaktyā harir ajagaṇad antaḥ komalāṅgo 'pi nāyam | prakṛtir ati-durūhā hanta lokottarāṇāṁ kim api manasi citraṁ cintyamānā tanoti ||110||

Though Kṛṣṇa's body was very soft (komalāngo 'pi), He (ayam harih) did not consider in His heart (na antaḥ ajagaṇad) the intolerable difficulties of living at the house of guru (gurum api (guru-vāsa-kleśam), because of His sincere devotion (avyāja-bhaktyā). One becomes amazed (kim api manasi citram tanoti) on contemplating (cintyamānā) the inscrutable character (ati-durūhā prakṛtih) of extraordinary people (lokottaraṇām).

The Qualities of Kṛṣṇa as components of Viṣaya

25. Kṣamāśīlaḥ – Tolerant

IV – Kṛṣṇa as the Viṣaya Alambana
25. Kṣamāśīlaḥ – Tolerant

yathā māgha-kāvye –
prativācam adatta keśavaḥ
śapamānāya na cedi-bhūbhrte |
anuhunkurute ghana-dhvaniḥ
na hi gomāyu-rutāni keśarī ||112||

An example from Śiṣupāla-vadha, Māgha-kāvya (16.25): Though Śiṣupāla criticized Kṛṣṇa hundreds of times (cedibhūbhṛte śapamānāya), Kṛṣṇa (keśavah) did not give any response (na prativācam adatta). Though the lion (keśarī) replies (anuhunkurute) to the thunder (ghana-dhvaniḥ), it does not pay attention (na hi) to the howl of the jackal (gomāyu-rutāni).

IV - Kṛṣṇa as the Viṣaya Ālambana25. Kṣamāśīlaḥ - Tolerant

yathā vā yāmunācārya-stotre —
raghuvara yad abhūs tvam tādṛśo vāyasasya
praṇata iti dayālur yac ca caidyasya kṛṣṇa |
pratibhavam aparāddhur mugdha sāyujyado 'bhūr
vada kim apadam āgatas tasya te 'sti kṣamāyāḥ ||113||

Another example from Stotra-ratna of Yāmunācārya (60) –

O Rāmacandra, best of the Raghu dynasty (raghuvara)! You were so merciful (yad dayāluh abhūh tvam) to the crow (vāyasasya) which pecked Sītā's breast (tādrśah), but which then offered respects to You (praṇata). O Kṛṣṇa, so forgetful of others sins (kṛṣṇa)! You gave attractive impersonal liberation (mugdha sāyujyadah abhūh) to Śiṣupāla (caidyasya) who offended You (aparāddhuh) for many life-times (pratibhavam). Tell me (vada) what offense exists (kim apadam āgatah) in him (tasya) that You would not tolerate (te kṣamāyāḥ asti)?

• Jayanta, son of Indra, took the form of a crow and pecked her breast, and Rāma sent His arrows after the crow. The crow finally surrendered to Rāma, and lost only his right eye.

IV - Kṛṣṇa as the Viṣaya Ālambana25. Kṣamāśīlaḥ - TolerantJiva Goswami

- This is a second example of tolerance.
- There should be a conclusion after all the insults of Śiṣupāla mentioned in the previous verse, not simply tolerance, since it is difficult to tolerate loud banging sounds (and thus this verse explains that Kṛṣṇa liberated him).
- The reference to committing offenses for many lives (pratibhavam) indicates that Kṛṣṇa is superior to Rāma because Kṛṣṇa liberated him.

The Qualities of Kṛṣṇa as components of Viṣaya

26. Gambhīrah – Inscrutable

gambhīraḥ – d<u>urvibodhāśayo yas tu</u> sa gambhīraḥ itīryate ||114||

A person (yah tu) whose intentions are difficult to comprehend (durvibodha aśayah) is called inscrutable (sah gambhīraḥ iti īryate).

yathā -

vṛndāvane varābhih stutibhir nitarām upāsyamāno 'pi | śakto na harir vidhinā ruṣṭas tuṣṭo'thavā jñātum ||115||

When Brahmā (vidhinā) worshipped Kṛṣṇa (nitarām upāsyamānah api) by offering the best praises (varābhih stutibhih) in Vrndāvana (vṛndāvane), Kṛṣṇa remained silent (implied). Brahmā could not understand (vidhinā na jñātum śaktah) if Kṛṣṇa (harih) was satisfied (tuṣṭah) or angry with him (athavā ruṣṭah).

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- The prayers of Brahmā had been clearly stated.
- Brahmā could not understand whether Kṛṣṇa was angry or satisfied with him for offering those prayers.

yathā vā – unmado 'pi harir navya-rādhā-praṇaya-sīdhunā | abhijñenāpi rāmeṇa lakṣito'yam avikriyaḥ ||116||

Another example:

Though Kṛṣṇa (harih), while lifting Govardhana Hill (implied), was intoxicated (unmadah) with the new liquor of Rādhā's love (navya-rādhā-praṇaya-sīdhunā), even omniscient Balarāma (abhijnenāpi rāmeṇa) could not notice any indications of change (lakṣito'yamavikriyaḥ).

The Qualities of Kṛṣṇa as components of Viṣaya

27. Dhṛtimān – Steadfast

dhṛtimān –
pūrṇa-spṛhaś ca dhṛtimān
śāntaś ca kṣobha-kāraṇe ||117||

The person who is fully satisfied in his desires (pūrṇa-spṛhāh), or who is peaceful (śāntah ca) when there is cause for agitation (kṣobha-kāraṇe) by control of his mind (implied), is called steadfast (dhṛtimān).

IV – Kṛṣṇa as the Viṣaya Ālambana27. Dhṛtimān – SteadfastJiva Goswami

- Dhṛti (steadiness) means control of the mind.
- One who is satis-fied (spṛha) because of attaining all desirable objects (pūrṇa) is called pūrna-spṛha.
- A person who is endowed with steadiness of mind caused by being fully satisfied in his desires is thus called dhrtimān.
- A person is also called dhṛtimān who is peace-ful (śānta), without agitation, by achieving control of the mind, even in the absence of achieving all desires.

svīkurvann api nitarām yaśaḥ-priyatvam kamsārir magadha-pater vadha-prasiddhām bhīmāya svayam atulām adatta kīrtim kim lokottara-guṇa-śālinām apekṣyam ||118||

The fully satisfied person is illustrated in the following:
Though Kṛṣṇa is fond of fame (kaṃsārih nitarām yaśaḥ-priyatvam api), He gave (svayam adatta) that incomparable fame (atulām kīrtim) to Bhīma (bhīmāya) in the killing of Jarāsandha (magadha-pater vadha-prasiddhām). What remains to be desired (kiṃ apekṣyam) by those of superior character (lokottara-guṇa-śālinām)?

- "Being satisfied in all desires" will be indicated in this verse by the words "those possessing superior character (lokottara-guṇa-śālinām)."
- Though he is satisfied in all His desires, it should be understood that Kṛṣṇa actually gave His fame to Bhīma because of His unconditional affection for Bhīma.
- Without this quality of affection, all other qualities become worthless.
- Since a person shows unconditional affection only for those who surrender, the Lord shows unconditional affection for the devotees who surrender unconditionally.

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- The Lord's fondness for fame arises only in order to give hap-piness to those devotees out of His affection.
- The devotees gain intense bliss by appreciating that fame of the Lord. Then the Lord transfers His own fame to the devotees.
- In this way, from His fondness for fame, full satisfaction is accomplished.

dvitīyo, yathā —
ninditasya dama-ghoṣa-sūnunā
sambhrameṇa munibhiḥ stutasya ca |
rājasūya-sadasi kṣitīśvaraiḥ
kāpi nāsya vikṛtir vitarkitā ||119||

An example of being peaceful, in spite of causes of agitation: In spite of being rebuked (ninditasya) by Śiśupāla (dama-ghoṣa-sūnunā) and being praised by the sages (sambhramena munibhiḥ stutasya ca) in the assembly of the rājasūya sacrifice (rājasūya-sadasi), Kṛṣṇa showed such steadiness (implied) that the kings present (kṣitīśvaraiḥ) could not detect (na vitarkitā) any change (kāpi vikṛtih) in Kṛṣṇa's appearance (asya).

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- The lack of response on being criticized by Śiṣupāla is an example of steadiness of mind through peacefulness.
- Kṛṣṇa's lack of response also applies to His hearing the praises by the sages.
- Thus it is not an example of inscrutability or concealment of feeling, which has already been discussed.
- The sages were devotees, and thus they would be pleased internally and externally with whatever the Lord did.
- The difference between inscrutability and steadiness is that in inscrutability there is concealment of feelings, and in steadiness there is absence of feelings.

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- The kings could not detect any change in Kṛṣṇa either of anger at the criticisms by Śiṣupāla or of satisfaction at the praises by the sages.
- Previously in describing inscrutability, Krsna had feelings of love in his heart, but Balarama could not understand that.
- In this case however neither anger for joy appeared in Kṛṣṇa.
- That is the difference between steadiness and inscrutability.