Bhakti Sandarbha

by

Srila Jiva Goswami

Theme: The root cause of the Jiva's suffering is his Krsna-Bahirmukhata. He can overcome it by becoming Krsna-unmukha by practice of

In the four previous Sandarbhas relationships (sambandha) were discussed.

In those Sandarbhas, that supreme principle endowed with the complete, eternal, supreme bliss was described by the designations Brahman, Paramātmā and Bhagavān which were factors in those relationships, and the highest manifestation was said to be Bhagavān.

In relation to that, forms like Viṣṇu and the Kumāras were discussed. And the highest form of Bhagavān was concluded to be Krsna.

In enumerating the powers of Paramātmā, the jīvas--forms of the taṭastha śakti, whose unchanging nature is consciousness--were described.

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ones pasiton.

The jīva's essential knowledge is covered by māyā, by the misfortune of being opposed to the Lord, which means that the jīva has, without beginning (samsargābhāva), possessed no knowledge of the beginningless supreme entity.

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The jīva consequently believes he is made of dull matter composed of sattva, rajas and tamas.

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Samsargābhāva has three categories.

There is atyantābhāva which means absolute nonexistence--not ever existing in past, present or future.

There is <u>pradhvamśābhāv</u>a (absence by destruction), which describes something which existed but was then destroyed.

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And there is prag-abhava (previous non-existence),

which describes something which did not exist appears at a later time.

Of these, jīva's non-existence of knowledge of the Lord is not atyantābhāva, since the jīva can obtain knowledge at Onitya Siblies /nitye mures some point in time.

not prad<u>hvam</u>śābhāva knowledge of the Lord it could not be destroyed.

nitya-siddha (cannot have his knowledge of the Lord destroyed

sadhana-siddha <u>Cannot have</u> his knowledge destroyed.

It is stated in Prīti Sandarbha that knowledge of the Lord, if established in the jīva, should be eternal.

"The destruction of ignorance concerning ātmā is eternal because that knowledge which destroys the ignorance is a manifestation of the supreme entity's nature of self-revelation. The absolute destruction of suffering is eternal because that ignorance existed but was destroyed (is it pradhvamsābhāva—the ignorance)" Prīti Sandarbha l

If it is argued that the knowledge is simply unmanifested but still present in the jiva, then it is not classed as abhāva at all.

The jīva's lack of knowledge is thus prāg-abhāva among the forms of samsargābhāva-- not having previously existed in the jīva.

This does not exclude the possibility of obtaining knowledge of the Lord in the future, which, on attainment, becomes the eternal possession of the jīva.

Thus it is said in the Eleventh Canto:

ātmāparijñāna-mayo vivādo hy astīti nāstīti bhidārtha-niṣṭhaḥ vyartho 'pi naivoparameta puṃsāṃ mattaḥ parāvṛtta-dhiyāṁ sva-lokāt

Those who do not know Paramātmā (ātmā aparijñāna-mayo), who are fixed in goals other than me (bhildartha-msthah), engage in arguments concerning the reality or unreality of the world (astīti nāstīti vivādo), and do not cease to argue (na eva uparameta), though they achieve no results (vyartho api). They have turned their thoughts from me (mattah parāvrtta-dhiyām), the Lord, who gives regard only to the devotees (sva-lokāt). (SB 11.22.34)

For the benefit of the jīvas, the Lord teaches scripture, which is filled with the highest mercy. 305 Roto Bukyti 305 Roto Bukyti Søme jīvas, accumulating impressions ((samskāra) iderstanding the Lord (anubhava) over many births who have attained only great mercy, (favorable to the Lord and gain understanding of the Lord instant of hearing teachings about the supreme Lord.

It is said kim vā parair īśvarah sadyo hṛdy avarudhyate 'tra kṛtibhiḥ śuśrūṣubhis tat-kṣaṇāt: the Supreme Lord becomes immediately captured in the heart of the accomplished devotees by hearing Bhāgavatam and even by those who have suddenly developed a desire to hear it. (SB 1.1.2)

These persons then give no regard to other teachings.

If by chance they hear other teachings, those teachings act as stimuli (uddīpapa) for their own rasa, as if they are hearing pastimes of the Lord.

An example is Prahlāda.

On hearing teachings about materialism from his teachers, he preached the glories of Viṣṇu.

However, disguising themselves like ordinary people out of humility, they speak as if they are overcome by illusion or overcome by kāma:

naitan manas tava kathāsu vikuṇṭha-nātha samprīyate durita-duṣṭam asādhu tīvram kāmāturam harṣa-śoka-bhayaiṣaṇārtam tasmin katham tava gatim vimṛśāmi dīnaḥ

O Lord of Vaikuṇṭha (vikuṇṭha-nātha)! This mind (etad manah), contaminated with sin (durita-duṣṭam), wicked and uncontrollable (asādhu tīvram), is not pleased (na samprīyate) with topics about you (tava kathāsu). It is afflicted by lust (kāmāturam) and disturbed by joy, sorrow, fear and desire for wealth (harṣa-śoka-bhaya-eṣaṇa-ārtam). How can this wretch (katham dīnaḥ) think of the truth (tava gatim vimrṣāmi) about you in his mind (tasmin)? (SB 7.9.39)

The attainment from hearing scriptures is described:

yāvat pāpais tu malinam hṛdayam tāvad eva hi |
na śāstre satya-buddhiḥ syāt sad-buddhiḥ sad-gurau tathā ||
aneka-janma-janita-puṇya-rāśi phalam mahat |
sat-saṅga-śāstra-śravaṇād eva premādi jāyate ||

As long as the heart is contaminated with sins, the intelligence will not accept scripture as true and will not accept the guru as a spiritual teacher. The result of accumulated pious acts over many births is great. However prema arises only from hearing the scriptures in association of devotees. (Brahma-vaivarta Purāṇa)