Bhakti Sandarbha

by

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Theme: Proof for how by bhakti one actually overcomes samsara

Moreover it is said:

evam sva-citte svata eva siddha ātmā priyo 'rtho bhagavān anantah | tam nirvṛto niyatārtho bhajeta samsāra-hetūparamaś ca yatra |

Thus being situated (evam), the Lord (ātmā), who is filled with prema (priyah), who is most valued (arthah), who is full of all qualities (bhagavān) and who is everywhere (anantah), appears spontaneously in his heart (svatah sva-citte eva siddha). The yogī, filled with bliss (nirvṛtah) and aiming for prema (niyata arthah), should worship him (tam bhajeta). By this worship (yatra), ignorance, the cause of repeated births (samsāra-hetu), is destroyed (uparamah). (SB 2.2.6)

The commentary says, "What should the yogī do?

He should serve the Lord. That is described in this verse.

Becoming detached (evam), he should worship the Lord (bhajeta).

The reasons that the Lord should be worshipped are then given.

That Lord is present independently in the heart (svataḥ siddhaḥ) since he is ātmā (a spiritual entity).

He is a form of happiness which can be experienced by service to him (priyah).

He is actually existing (arthah), not false like objects which are not ātmā.

He is Bhagavān, full of all qualities and eternal (anantaḥ).

Because he has these qualities, one should worship the Lord.

Having determined his form (niyatārthaḥ), the person becomes joyful with bliss on realizing the Lord(nirvṛtaḥ).

The verse indicates that the Lord is joyful by his very nature.

When one worships the Lord (yatra), destruction of ignorance, the cause of samsāra, takes place."

The word ca indicates that (besides destruction of ignorance) one also achieves the Lord.

Śukadeva speaks.

Essence of Anuccheda – 2

Proof for how by bhakti one actually overcomes samsara

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First Canto Proofs

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Theme: Understanding the nature of Pure Bhakti

First Canto Proofs

Though hearing and contemplation are methods of nana, they also produce favorableness to the Lord.

Because they produce realization of the form of Brahman and are thus suitable for gradual development of realization of the Lord, even sāṅkhya, aṣṭāṅga-yoga and karma are classed as being favorable.

To some degree they produce bhakti.

Thus, karma is a cause of bhakti because it is a form of following the Lord's order and involves offering to the Lord.

Jñ<u>āna is an attendant to bhakti by causing detachment to</u> material objects.

However the previous verse quoted stated that one should worship the Lord with bhakti.

Karma and jñāna were not given any regard)

One should worship by direct bhakti, consisting of hearing and chanting about the Lord.

The reasons are shown in the introductory part of the teachings of Sūta.

ato vai kavayo nityam bhaktim paramayā mudā | vāsudeve bhagavati kurvanty ātma-prasādanīm ||

Thus the wise (ato) vai kavayah) constantly (nityaṃ), with great joy (paramayā mudā), perform bhakti (bhaktim kurvanty) to Lord Kṛṣṇa (vāsudeve bhagavati)--which gives joy to the mind) (ātma-prasādanīm). (SB 1.2.22)

sa vai pumsām paro dharmo yato bhaktir adhokṣaje | ahaituky apratihatā yayātmā suprasīdati ||

The supreme dharma for all human beings (sādhana bhakti) (puṃsām paro dharmo) is that (sa vai) by which (yato) prema-bhakti to the Lord arises (bhaktir adhokṣaje), which is not caused by anything other than itself (ahaituky), cannot be obstructed (apratihatā), and which (satisfies the mind completely (yayātmā suprasīdati). (SB 1.2.6)

At the beginning of the great Purāṇa the question was asked: please declare the final essence of all scriptures.

In answer to this Sūta spoke the above verse.

From this dharma, taste for hearing the topics of the Lord (adhokṣaje bhaktiḥ) arises.

That is the meaning, since later in verse 8 this will be shown by a negative statement:

dharmaḥ svanuṣṭhitaḥ pumsām viṣvaksena-kathāsu yaḥ | notpādayed yadi ratim śrama eva hi kevalam |

Varṇāśrama-dharma (svanuṣṭhitaḥ dharmaḥ) of the human being (puṃsāṃ), which does not produce (yaḥ na utpādayed) attraction for topics of the Lord (viṣvaksena-kathāsu ratiṃ), is only wasted effort (śrama eva hi kevalam). (1.2.8)

That dharma is undertaken in order to please the Lord (SB 1.2.13).

It is the best of all (paraḥ) since it not only concerned with renouncing.

It does not distinguish whether one is averse to matter.

Nārada says:

naiṣkarmyam apy acyuta-bhāva-varjitam na śobhate jñānam alam nirañjanam | kutaḥ punaḥ śaśvad abhadram īśvare na cārpitam karma yad apy akāraṇam |

Even the stage of jñāna without the bondage of karma (naiṣkarmyam jñānam apy) is not glorious (na śobhate) if it is devoid of bhakti to the Supreme Lord (acyuta-bhāva-varjitam). What is the use of having destroyed ignorance (alam nirañjanam)? What then to speak of sakāma-karma which causes suffering, both during practice and at the stage perfection (kutah punaḥ śaśvad abhadram), and niṣkāma-karma (yad apy akāraṇam karma), when not offered to the Lord (īśvare na ca arpitam)? (SB 1.5.12)

ataḥ pumbhir dvija śreṣṭhā
varṇāśrama vibhāgaśaḥ |
svanuṣṭhitasya dharmasya
saṁsiddhir hari toṣaṇam |

O <u>best of the brāhmaṇas</u> (dvija-śreṣṭhā)! The <u>complete</u> perfection (samsiddhih) of <u>dharma</u> (svanuṣṭhitasya dharmasya), according to divisions of varṇāśrama (varṇāśrama-vibhāgaśaḥ) by men (pumbhih), is pleasing the Lord (hari-toṣaṇam). (SB 1.2.13)

Saḥ means "this alone is the best".

Bhakti is distinct from dharma described in the text.

The svarūpa qualities of bhakti are described.

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It is causeless (ahaitukī), devoid of other goals or motives, since it is by its nature the very form of happiness (sought by other methods).

Anuccheda - 3 First Canto Proofs There remains an analystem.

It is impossible to obstruct this bhakti since no other object exists which gives higher bliss.

When a (taste for bhakti) develops, by that bhakti, bhakti-yoga characterized by hearing and chanting, begins.