Bhakti Sandarbha

by

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Anuccheda – 17

First Canto Proofs

Theme: Bhakti is blissful in Sadhana and in Perfection

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|| 1.2.22 ||

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

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

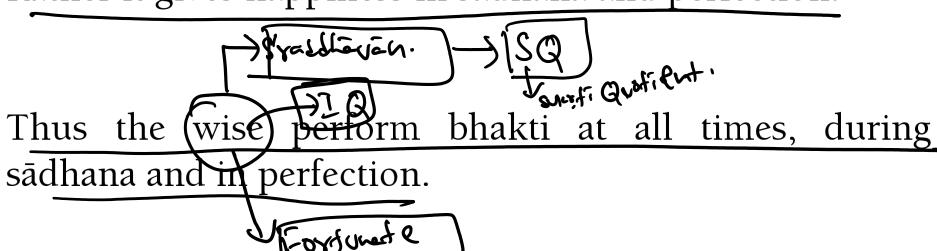
The wise perform bhakti which purifies the mind (ātma-prasādanīm).

That is not the only quality of bhakti.

It is performed with the greatest joy (paramayā mudā).

The performance of bhakti does not give suffering either during sādhana or perfection as in the case of performance karmas.

Rather it gives happiness in sādhana and perfection.



Sūta speaks the verses.

Anuccheda – 18

First Canto Proofs

Theme: One should not worship the Demigods

In this way, it is concluded that one should give up efforts in karma, jñāna and vairāgya and perform bhakti to the Lord.

One should also not worship devatās, which is part of karma, what to speak of worshipping other living entities.

This is explained in seven verses.

Brahmā and Śiva should not be worshipped by persons desiring the highest goal.

Though they are guṇāvatāras of the Lord, they are not directly Parabrahman like Viṣṇu.

They lack the advantage of pure sattva, and have a prominence of rajas and tamas.

The following is also quoted in Paramātmā Sandarbha:

sattvam rajas tama iti prakṛter guṇās tair yuktaḥ parama-puruṣa eka ihāsya dhatte | sthity-ādaye hari-virinci-hareti samjnāḥ śreyāmsi tatra khalu sattva-tanor nṛṇām syuḥ ||

The one supreme purușa (parama-purușa ekah), accepting the gunas of prakrti (dhatte prakrter gunāh) known as sattva, rajas and tamas (sattvam rajas tama iti), for creation, maintenance and destruction (sthityādaye), is called Viṣṇu, Brahmā and Śiva (hari-virinciha<u>reti</u> samjñāḥ). The best results for the devotees (tatra) nṛṇām śreyāmsi) will come from Viṣṇu with śuddhasattva-śakti (khalu sattva-tanor syuh).

|| 1.2.24 ||

pārthivād dāruņo dhūmas tasmād agnis trayīmayaḥ | tamasas tu rajas tasmāt sattvam yad brahma-darśanam ||

Smoke is superior to dull wood (pārthivād dāruņo dhūmah), and fire, sacred to the Vedas, is superior to smoke (tasmād agnis trayīmayah). Similarly rajas is superior to tamas (tamasas tu rajas), and sattva is superior to rajas (tasmāt sattvam), since sattva is favorable for realizing the Lord (yad brahma-darśanam).

Sattva-tanoh means "having sattva-śakti."

Fire is used in karma (trayīmayaḥ).

Wood represents tamas. Smoke represents rajas. Fire represents sattva.

The activities of karma (trayīmayaḥ) represent Brahman.

Smoke has a portion of fire in it, and consequently a portion of Vedic action, unlike wood, which has no portion of fire.

Rajas is next to sattva, and tamas is not, and rajas has a small portion of realization of the Lord.

Just as Vedic actions are directly performed with fire and not with smoke or wood, so the Lord appears in sattva.

Qne should perform bhakti properly by giving up devatā worship.

|| 1.2.25 ||

bhejire munayo 'thāgre bhagavantam adhokṣajam | sattvam viśuddham kṣemāya kalpante ye 'nu tān iha ||

Therefore (atha) the ancient sages (agre munayah) worshipped (bhejire) the Supreme Lord, beyond the material senses (bhagavantam adhokṣajam), composed of viśuddha-sattva (sattvam viśuddham). Those who follow the sages (ye anu tān) attain liberation (kṣemāya kalpante) in this world (iha).

Thus (ataḥ) in ancient times (agre) the sages worshipped the Lord who is composed of viśuddha-sattva.

Bhagavat Sandarbha explains how the Lord is beyond material sattva.

Those who follow the sages (tān) attain the highest benefit in this world (iha).

Anuccheda – 19

First Canto Proofs

Theme: One should even give up worship of Lord Siva

Some persons worship devatās such as Śiva.

This is because they have material desires.

But persons desiring liberation do not worship them.

What to speak of persons dedicated solely to the highest goal through bhakti.

|| 1.2.26 ||

mumukṣavo ghora-rūpān hitvā bhūta-patīn atha | nārāyaṇa-kalāḥ śāntā bhajanti hy anasūyavaḥ ||

Rejecting (hitvā) the frightful forms (ghora-rūpān) of Śiva or others devatās (atha bhūta-patīn), persons desirous of liberation (what to speak of the devotees) (mumukṣavah), without criticizing those devatās (anasūyavaḥ), worship (bhajanti hy) the avatāras of Nārāyaṇa (nārāyaṇa-kalāḥ śāntā).

As well as worship of Śiva, Pitṛs and Brahmā are also rejected.

However, worshippers of Vișnu do not criticize the devatās.

Anuccheda – 20

First Canto Proofs

Theme: Why do people worship the Demigods?

"A person with material desires can worship Visnu. Why does he worship the devatās?"

|| 1.2.27 ||

rajas-tamaḥ-prakṛtayaḥ

sama-śīlā bhajanti vai |

pitṛ-bhūta-prajeśādīn

Desirers of progeny and power along with wealth (śriya aiśvarya-prajā īpṣavaḥ), having natures of rajas and tamas (rajas-tamaḥ-prakrtayaḥ), corresponding to the natures of their deities (sama-śīlā), worship (bhajanti vai) the Pitrs, Śiva, Brahmā and others (pitṛ-bhūṭa-prajeśa ādīn). (SB

1.2.27

śriyaiśvarya-prajepsavah ||

They have natures similar to the Pitrs etc, since they have natures of rajas and tamas.

Be<u>cause of similar natures they are inclined to worship</u> those devatās.

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Anuccheda – 21

First Canto Proofs

Theme: The Conclusion of all the Vedas is Vasudeva

<u>It was already stated that Vāsudeva should be</u> worshipped.

The conclusion of all scriptures is this alone. That is expressed in two verses.

vāsudeva-parā vedā vāsudeva-parā makhāḥ |
vāsudeva-parā yoga vāsudeva-parāḥ kriyāḥ |
vāsudeva-param jñānam vāsudeva-param tapaḥ |
vāsudeva-paro dharmo vāsudeva-parā gatiḥ |

Vāsudeva is the purport of the Vedas (vāsudeva-parā vedā). Vāsudeva is the object of all sacrifices (vāsudevaparā makhāḥ). Yoga, varnāśrama, knowledge and austerities are all dependent on Vāsudeva (vāsudeva-parā yoga vāsudeva-parāḥ kriyāḥ vāsudeva-param jñānam vāsudeva-param tapaḥ). Bhakti is dependent Vāsudeva (vāsudeva-paro dharmo). Prema and liberation are dependent on Vāsudeva (vāsudeva-parā gatiḥ).

The commentary of Śrīdhara Svāmī says, "The conclusion of the Vedas is Vāsudeva.

Though it is seen that the Vedas indicate sacrifices, sacrifices themselves indicate worship of Vāsudeva.

Yoga scriptures indicate Vāsudeva.

Though those scriptures describe asana and prāṇāyāma, they are methods of attaining Vāsudeva.

Scriptures of jñāna also indicate Vāsudeva.

Though the subject of those scriptures is jñāna, the object of that jñāna is Vāsudeva (vāsudeva-param tapah).

Tapaḥ means jñāna in the verse.

The scriptures concerning dharma, involving charity and vows is Vāsudeva.

Though those scriptures speak of Svarga, the final result of Svarga (gatiḥ) indicates Vāsudeva since Svarga is a portion of his bliss.

Or all the Vedas indicate Vāsudeva since he is the root of the scriptures.

A person may object that the scriptures indicate sacrifices, yoga, āsanas etc, not only Vāsudeva, but even sacrifices, yoga and āsanas indicate Vāsudeva."

Since yoga and other processes are to some degree assistants of bhakti, they mainly indicate bhakti.

Anuccheda – 22

First Canto Proofs

Theme: All Scriptures are Consistent in establishing Bhagavan as the Supreme

<u>It is understood that the Vedas deal with karma-kāṇḍa</u>. But some parts are dedicated directly to bhakti.

yasya deve parā bhaktiḥ yathā deve tathā gurau | tasyaite kathitā hyarthāḥ prakāśante mahātmanaḥ ||

For the person who has bhakti for the Lord and bhakti for guru as much as the Lord, the meaning of scripture is revealed. (Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad 6.23)

Having shown that bhakti is the means, Sūta establishes the consistency of all scriptures which were previously explained (Bhagavān is supreme):

| 1.2.30 ||
sa evedam sasarjāgre
bhagavān ātma-māyayā |
sad-asad-rūpayā cāsau
guṇamayāguṇo vibhuḥ ||

The powerful Lord alone (sah vibhuḥ bhagavān eva), devoid of material guṇas (aguṇah), previously created this universe (idam sasarja agre) by his material energy (ātma-māyayā) composed of material guṇas (guṇamaya) and endowed with cause and effect (sad-asad-rūpayā).

Śrīdhara Svāmī's commentary says, "It is seen in all scriptures that the supreme principle is engaged in creating the material world, entering it and regulating it. How can all scriptures indicate Vāsudeva? Four verses explain."

This creation means processes starting from the manifestation of mahat-tattva up to Brahmā

The Lord's entrance into the world is described in later-verses. Sūta speaks to Saunaka.