Śrī Bṛhad-bhāgavatāmṛta

by Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī

Volume-2

Śrī-goloka-māhātmya

The Glories of Goloka

Chapter-2

Jñāna: Knowledge

the representations

2.2.55

maharşīṇām ekatamo bhūtvā tvam api pūjaya jagad-īśam imam yajñaiś ciram ātma-didṛkṣitam

Become one of the exalted sages (ekatamo maharṣīṇām bhūtvā), so that you too may worship (tvam api pūjaya) with sacrifice (yajñaih) this Lord of the universe (imam jagad-īśam), who for so long has been the desired goal of your heart (ciram ātma-didṛkṣitam).

Srī Gopa-kumāra said: Hearing this (tat śrutvā), O brāhmaṇa (brahman), I thought (acintayam) I would be much happier staying a vaiśya (vaiśyatve mahat sukham syāt), for then I could keep worshiping (upāsanāt) both the Supreme Lord (prabhor) and those brāhmaṇas (eṣām ca viprāṇām), His devotees (tad-bhaktānām).

Gopa-kumāra thought, "If I become a brāhmaṇa I will lose the fortune of being a simple servant.

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Then I will be unable to humbly assist the brāhmaṇa sages.

But if I stay a vaiśya, to my heart's content I can keep serving these Vaiṣṇavas and their worshipable Lord Yajñeśvara."

2.2.57

eşām yajñaika-niṣṭhānām
aikyenāvaśyake nije
jape ca sad-gurūddiṣṭe
māndyam syād dṛṣṭa-sat-phale

"For these brāhmaṇas (eṣām)," I thought, "performing sacrifice is the only interest in life (yajña eka-niṣṭhānām). If I were to become one of them (aikyena), surely (avaśyake) I would become lax (māndyam syād) in the chanting I am duty-bound to continue (nije jape). My divine guru taught me to worship this mantra (sad-guru uddisṭe), and besides, I have already seen its good results (dṛṣṭa-sat-phale)."

The ten-syllable Gopāla mantra had already proven its efficacy by elevating Gopa-kumāra to the positions of a king on earth, Indra on Svargaloka, and a resident of Maharloka.

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2.2.58

tatas tān anumānyāham anaṅgī-kṛtya vipratām tatrāvasaṁ svato jāta-prājāpatya-mahā-sukhaiḥ

Therefore (tatas), while showing respect to the sages (tān anumānya), I declined the status of a brāhmaṇa (aham vipratām anaṅgī-kṛṭya). But I stayed on Maharloka (tatra āvasaṁ), enjoying the exalted pleasures that automatically appear in the world of the Prajāpatis (svato jāta-prājāpatya-mahā-sukhaiḥ).

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2.2.59

na doṣās tatra śoko vā śaṅkā vā kāpi vidyate nānyac ca kiñcid yajñeśaprītyai yajñotsavān ṛte

On Maharloka (tatra) there were no (na kāpi vidyate) faults (doṣāh), nor was there sorrow (śoko vā), nor apprehensiveness (śaṅkā vā). There was nothing (na anyat ca kiñcid) but festivals of sacrifice (yajñotsavān rte) for the pleasure of the Lord of sacrifice (yajñeśa-prītyai).

On Svargaloka Gopa-kumāra detected subtle signs of lust, envy, anger, rivalry, and false pride.

But on Maharloka these faults were nonexistent.

There was no sorrow from defeat by opponents or from any other cause.

There was no fear of the destruction of the world or fear of individual degradation.

Without these distractions, the residents of Maharloka gave themselves fully to worshiping the Supreme Lord with festive Vedic sacrifices.

The residents were completely uninterested in mundane sense gratification.

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2.2.60

kintu yajña-samāptau syād duḥkham antarhite prabhau vṛtte yajñāntare cāsya prādurbhāvāt punaḥ sukham

But (kintu) at the end of each sacrifice (yajña-samāptau), unhappiness would arise (duḥkham syād) when the Lord disappeared (prabhau antarhite); and when the Lord reappeared (asya punah prādurbhāvāt) at the start of another sacrifice (yajñāntare vṛtte), happiness would begin again (punaḥ sukham).