

Laghu - Bhāgavatāmṛta

Part-1

The Sweetness of Kṛṣṇa

Chapter-2

Description of the Puruṣāvatāras and
Guṇāvatāras

The Gunavataras

The Gunavataras - Visnu

The Gunavataras - Visnu

Proof for the existence
of Svetadvīpa from
the Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa

Text-43

brahmāṇḍe ca –
śveto nāma mahān asti
dvīpaḥ kṣīrābdhi-veṣṭitaḥ |
lakṣa-yojana-vistārah
suramyah sarva-kāñcanaḥ

Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa says:

There is a place called Śvetadvīpa (śveto nāma mahān dvīpaḥ
asti) surrounded by the milk ocean (kṣīrābdhi-veṣṭitaḥ). It is a
hundred thousand yojanas in breadth (lakṣa-yojana-vistārah),
very pleasant, and completely golden (suramyah sarva-
kāñcanaḥ).

The Gunavataras - Visnu

Text-44

Further description
of s'vetadvīta

kundendu-kumuda-prakhyair
lola-kallola-rāśibhiḥ |
dhautāmala-śilopetaḥ
samantāt kṣīra-vāridheḥ

Surrounded by the milk ocean (samantāt kṣīra-vāridheḥ), piled with spotless stones (dhauta-amala-śila-upetaḥ), the island is washed by the restless waves (lola-kallola-rāśibhiḥ) which shine like the jasmine flower, the moon or the lotus (kunda-indu-kumuda-prakhyair).

The Gunavataras - Visnu

Text-45

Other opinions about
the geography of
Śvetadvīpa.
↓
kalpa-blech

kim ca viṣṇu-purāṇādau
mokṣa-dharme ca kīrtitam |
kṣīrābdher uttare tīre
śveta-dvīpo bhaved iti

Moreover in the Visnu Purāṇa and Mokṣa-dharma it is said (kim ca viṣṇu-purāṇādau):

Śvetadvīpa lies on the northern shore of the milk ocean
(kṣīrābdher uttare tīre śveta-dvīpo bhaved iti).

- Other opinions on the location of Śvetadvīpa are now given. It should be understood the location will differ in different kalpas.

The Gunavataras - Visnu

Text-46

śuddhodād uttare śveta
dvīpaṃ syāt pādma-sammatam

According to Padma Purāṇa (pādma-sammatam), Śvetadvīpa is north of the ocean of sweet water (śuddhodād uttare śveta dvīpaṃ syāt).

The Gunavataras - Visnu

Text-47

Why is Visnu called
as Sattva-tanu?

- Sattvam tanoti
- He resides in the
bodies of those
who have
Sattva-guna

viṣṇuḥ sattvaṁ tanotīti
śāstre sattva-tanuṁ smṛtaḥ |
avatāra-gaṇaś cāsyā
bhavet sattva-tanus tathā |
bahiraṅgam adhiṣṭhānam
iti vā tasya tat tanuḥ

Because Visnu distributes (tanoti) sattva (visnuḥ sattvaṁ tanotīti) he is known as sattva-tanu (śāstre sattva-tanuṁ smṛtaḥ). His avatāras are also known as sattva-tanu for this reason (asya avatāra-gaṇaś ca). Or sattva-tanu can mean (sattva-tanus tathā) that the Lord resides in those who have sattva-guna bodies in the material world (tat tanuḥ tasya bahiraṅgam adhiṣṭhānam bhavet iti vā).

Srila Baladeva Vidyabhusana

- “It has been said that Viṣṇu is sattva-tanu (having a body of sattva).
- Does that mean he has a body made of material sattva-guṇa?
- If that were so, worshipping him would not give liberation.
- It is said **ātmeti tūpagacchanti grāhayanti ca**: the ācāryas acknowledge and teach that God is the object of meditation.
(**Brahma-sūtra 4.1.3**)
- This means that worship of the Supreme should yield liberation.”

Srila Baladeva Vidyabhusana

- The present verse explains the meaning of sattva-tanu.
- Viṣṇu is called sattva-tanu because he distributes sattva-guṇa.
- The avatāras of Kṣīrodakaśāyī Viṣṇu are also called sattva-tanu because they also distribute sattva-guṇa.
- Or it can mean that a ~~sattva-guṇa~~ body is the Lord's place of appearance in the material world.
- sattvaṁ yad brahma-darśanam: through sattva one can realize brahman. (SB 1.2.24)
- When the heart becomes pure and peaceful (in sattva), the Lord reveals himself there through knowledge arising from such purity.
- Thus that sattva body is his abode. His spiritual abode however is Vaikuṇṭha.