Laghu - Bhāgavatāmṛta

Part-1
The Sweetness of Kṛṣṇa

Chapter-4
Manvantarāvatāras

The Yugāvatāras

avatārāś caturdhā syur āveśāh prābhavā api | athaiva vaibhavāvasthāḥ parāvasthāś ca tatra te

The avatāras may be divided into four (avatārāś caturdhā syur): āvēśa, prabhāva (āveśāḥ prābhavā api), vaibhāva and parāvastha (athaiva vaibhavāvasthāḥ parāvasthāś ca tatra te).

Now another way of classifying the avatāras is described.

tatrāveśāvatārās tu jñeyāh pūrvokta-rītitah | yathā kumāra-devarṣi-veṇāṅga-prabhāvādayaḥ

Among them (tatra) the āveśa (āveśa) are the same as the āveśāvatāras (avatārās tu jñeyāḥ) previously described (pūrva ukta-rītitaḥ), such as the Kumāras, Nārada, and Pṛthu (yathā kumāra-devarṣi-veṇāṅga-prabhāvādayaḥ).

The Lord empowers the Kumāras with a portion of jñāna, Nārada with a portion of bhakti and Prthu, Parāśurāma and Kalki with a portion of his power.

yathā pādme — āviṣṭo 'bhūt kumāreṣu nārade ca harir vibhuḥ

Padma Purāna says:

The Supreme Lord (harir vibhuḥ) enters (āviṣṭo 'bhūt) into the Kumāras and Nārada by his portion (kumāresu nārade ca).

yathā tatraiva -āviveśa pṛthuṁ devaḥ śaṅkhī cakrī caturbhujaḥ

There also it is said:

The Lord with four hands (caturbhujaḥ devaḥ) holding the conch and cakra (śaṅkhī cakrī) entered into Pṛthu (āviveśa pṛthuṁ).

This is also from the Padma Purāṇa.

Text:38-39

āviṣṭo bhārgave cābhūd iti tatraiva kīrtitam || 38|| tathā hi – etat te kathitam devi jāmadagner mahātmanaḥ | śaktyāveśāvatārasya caritam śārngiṇaḥ prabhoḥ || 39||

The Lord also entered into Parāśurāma (āviṣṭo bhārgave cābhūd). This is also described in the Padma Purāṇa (iti tatraiva kīrtitam) as follows (tathā hi):

O goddess (devi)! The activities (caritam) of the great soul Parāśurāma (jāmadagner mahātmanaḥ), a śaktyāveśāvatāra of the Supreme Lord (prabhoḥ śaktyāveśāvatārasya), holder of the bow (śārngiṇaḥ), has been described (etat te kathitam).

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Bhārgava means Paraśurāma.

• The verse is then quoted.

• The activities are such things as killing Kārtavīrya.

āveśatvam kalkino 'pi viṣṇudharme vilokyate

It is observed in the Viṣṇu-dharmottara (viṣṇudharme vilokyate) that Kalki is also an āveśāvatāra (āveśatvam kalkino 'pi).

yathā –

pratyakṣa-rūpa-dhṛg-devo dṛṣyate na kalau hariḥ | kṛtādisv iva tenaiva tri-yugaḥ paripaṭhyate || 41|| kaler ante ca samprāpte kalkinam brahma-vādinam | anupraviṣya kurute vāsudevo jagatsthitim || 42|| pūrvotpanneṣu bhūteṣu teṣu kalau prabhuḥ | kṛtvā praveṣam kurute yad abhipretam ātmanaḥ

The Lord (hariḥ) does not appear (na dṛśyate) in Kali-yuga (kalau) directly in visible form (pratyakṣa-rūpa-dhṛg-devo) as in the other yugas (kṛtādiṣv iva). Thus he is described as appearing in three yugas (tenaiva tri-yugaḥ paripathyate). At the end of Kali-yuga (kaler ante ca samprāpte) Vāsudeva (vāsudevah) enters into (anupraviśya kurute) Kalki (kalkinam), a teacher of spiritual matters (brahma-vādinam), and protects the world (jagatsthitim). Entering in Kali-yuga (kalua kṛtvā praveśam) into those jīvas who have previously appeared (pūrvotpanneṣu bhūteṣu), the Lord carries out (prabhuh kurute) his desired activities (yaḍ abhipretam ātmanaḥ teṣu tesu).

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• But one should not say that Caitanya Mahāprabhu (who also appears in Kali-yuga) is not a directly visible form of the Lord.

• He is not actually the yugāvatāra of Kali.

• The regular kali-yugāvatāra is black and is a jīva.

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• According to the words of Garga in a special Kaliyuga the Lord himself, not a jīva, appears in a yellow form.

• The black form enters into the golden form of Lord Caitanya when Lord Caitanya appears. This resolves the problem.

• Foot Note: On these grounds Buddha would also be an āveśāvatāra.