Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam

Canto One

With the Sārārtha-darśinī commentary

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Canto One – Chapter Fifteen

The Pāṇḍavas Ascend to the Spiritual World

The Pāṇḍavas Retire Timely

Section – V

Mahārāja Yudhiṣṭhira plans retirement & follows the path of forefathers (32-44)

|| 1.15.36 ||

yadā mukundo bhagavān imām mahīm jahau sva-tanvā śravaṇīya-sat-kathaḥ tadāhar evāpratibuddha-cetasām abhadra-hetuh kalir anvavartata

When Lord Mukunda (yadā bhagavān mukundah), whose topics are worthy of hearing (śravaṇīya-sat-kathaḥ), left this earth (imāṃ mahīm jahau) by means of his spiritual body (sva-tanvā), from that day onwards(tadā ahah eva) Kali (kalih), the cause of inauspiciousness (abhadra-hetuḥ), entered (anvavartata) those whose intelligence was sleeping (apratibuddha-cetasām).

This verse clarifies the condition of his giving up his body.

"When he left with his body (sva-tanvā)" means according to Śrīdhara Svāmī "leaving to Vaikuntha with his body."

He gave up the earth by means of his body.

It does not mean "He gave the earth along with his body."

That is a wrong interpretation, because of the rule upapada-vibhakteh kāraka-vibhaktir balīyasī: instrumental meaning of inflection is stronger than the meaning "accompanying."

pradarśyātapta-tapasām avitṛpta-dṛśām nṛṇām ādāyāntar adhād yas tu sva-bimbam loka-locanam

The Lord, having shown his form (vah sya-bimbar) (pradarśya), the center of attraction for all eyes (loka-locanam), then took that form (ādāya) and disappeared (antaradhād) from person who had not performed austerities but had attained the Lord's mercy (ataptatapasām nṛṇām), and were continually craving a vision of his form (avitṛpta-dṛśām). SB 3.2.11

In this verse after showing his form (sva-bimbam) to the eyes of the world, he again withdrew it and disappeared.

The verse does not say he gave up a body.

The Kṛṣṇa-sandarbha makes this point.

From that moment onwards (tadāhaḥ), Kali entered those with sleeping intelligence.

Kali did not affect those who had discrimination.

The thief steals wealth from a sleeping person, but is afraid to steal from someone awake.

|| 1.15.37 ||

yudhiṣṭhiras tat parisarpaṇam budhaḥ pure ca rāṣṭre ca gṛhe tathātmani vibhāvya lobhānṛta-jihma-himsanādyadharma-cakram gamanāya paryadhāt

Wise Yudhisthira (budhah yudhisthirah), seeing (vibhāvya) the wheel of irreligion (tat adharma-cakram) with greed, lying, dishonesty, and violence (lobha-anṛta-jihma-himsana ādy) spreading everywhere (parisarpanam) in towns, road, houses and body (pure ca rāṣṭre ca gṛhe tathā ātmani), dressed himself (paryadhāt) suitably to leave (gamanāya).

Paryadhāt means he put on the appropriate clothing for traveling.

|| 1.15.38 ||

sva-rāṭ pautram vinayinam ātmanaḥ susamam guṇaiḥ toya-nīvyāh patim bhūmer abhyaṣiñcad gajāhvaye

The King (sva-rāṭ) enthroned in Hastināpura (abhyasiñcad gajāhvaye) his grandson Parīkṣit (pautraṃ) who had observed the rules suitable for kings (vinayinam) and had qualities equal (susamam guṇaiḥ) to his own as master (ātmanah patim) of the lands surrounded by the ocean (toya-nīvyāḥ-bhūmeh).

He enthroned as king Parīkṣit who had observed rules proper for a king (viniyatam), and was equal in qualities to himself.

Toya-nīvyāḥ means "of the land belted by the oceans."

|| 1.15.39 ||
mathurāyām tathā vajram
śūrasena-patim tataḥ
prājāpatyām nirūpyeṣṭim
agnīn apibad īśvaraḥ

He enthroned Vajra (tathā vajram) as the king of Śūrasena (śūrasena patim) in Mathurā (mathurāyām) and then (tataḥ) being capable (īśvaraḥ), performing (nirūpya) pṛajāpatya sacrifice (prājāpatyām iṣṭim), placed within himself the fires (agnīn apibad).

Vajra was the son of Aniruddha.

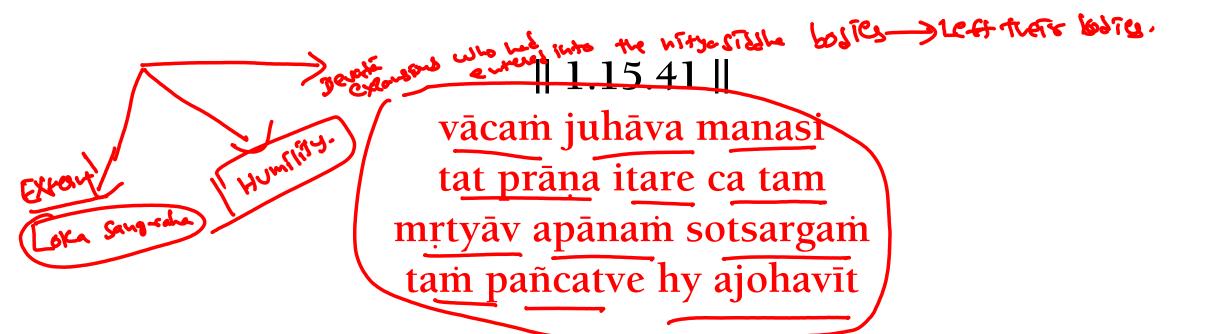
Nirūpya means "performing."

Apibat means "he fixed within himself."

Īśvaraḥ means "capable."

|| 1.15.40 ||
visṛjya tatra tat sarvam
dukūla-valayādikam
nirmamo nirahankāraḥ
sanchinnāśesa-bandhanah

Giving up (viṣrjya) all clothing and bracelets (tatra tat sarvam dukūla-valayādikam), he was free of thoughts of "I" and "mine" (nirmamo nirahankāraḥ) and the unlimited bonds of attraction (sañchinna aśeṣa-bandhanah).



He offered (ajohavīt) the voice and other senses into the mind (vācam juhāva manasi), the mind into the prāṇa (tat prāṇa), the prāṇa into apāna (itare ca tam), apāna along with excretion (apānam sa utsargam) into death (mṛtyāv), and death into the body (tam pañcatve).

Like Arjuna, Yudhiṣṭhira attempts to stop the senses from acting externally.

Vācam (speaking) represents all the senses.

He offered all the senses into the mind, because the senses are dependent on the mind.

He offered the mind into the prāṇa because the mind is dependent on prāṇa.

He gave the mind to the prāṇa.

"O mind! I have given the senses to you. They are yours. I have no use for them now."

This is the contemplation.

This is the method because it is actually impossible to offer them since the senses are independent.

Thus the dative case is not used.

All other steps in the procedure are similar.

"To whom do I belong?"

He offered the mind into prāṇa.

He offered the prāṇa into the apāna (itare).

This is understood from the context.

Apāna is in charge of excretion.

He offered the apāna and excretion into death, the presiding deity of excretion.

In offering voice and other senses and mind and prāṇa, it should be understood that he also offered the actions, speaking, thinking etc.

He offered death into the combination of the five gross elements, the body.

His meditation was "O death! You belong to the body."

|| 1.15.42 ||

tritve hutvā ca pañcatvam tac caikatve 'juhon muniḥ sarvam ātmany ajuhavīd brahmaņy ātmānam avyaye

He offered (hutvā) the body (pañcatvam) into the three guṇas (tritve) and the three guṇas into prakṛti (tat ca ekatve ajuhot). He offered everything (sarvam ajuhavīd) into the jīva (ātmany) and offered the jīva (ātmānam) into indestructible Kṛṣṇa (avyaye brahmany).

Where will the five elements be situated?

He offered the body of five elements into the three gunas (tritve).

He offered the three into one aggregate, a portion of māyā.

He offered all that into the jīva.

Ajuhavīt is poetic license for ajohavīt.

"Jīva! This portion of māyā, with the three guṇas is yours. Remain separate from that and do not come under its control."

He offered the jīva into the brahman.

Offering the kingdom to Parīkṣit, Mathurā to Vraja, distancing himself from all those relationships, he became oblivious to the external world.

Offering the senses and the rest to their respective controllers, he became oblivious to internal functions.

The jīva belongs to Kṛṣṇa or brahman.

The aggregate of māyā belongs to the jīva.

The gunas belong to the aggregate.

The five elements belong to the gunas.

Death belongs to the five elements of the body.



Prāṇa belongs to apāna.

The mind belongs to prāṇa.

The senses belong to the mind.

The sense objects belong to the senses.

The enjoyer of the sense objects is Parīkṣit, not me.

W. K. K.

It should be understood however that because Yudhisthira is an eternal associate of the Lord, this meditation where he considers his eternal form to be a temporary body is of no significance at all.

|| 1.15.43 ||
cīra-vāsā nirāhāro
baddha-vāṅ mukta-mūrdhajaḥ
darśayann ātmano rūpaṁ
jaḍonmatta-piśācavat

He wore torn cloth (cīra-vāsā), did not eat (nirāhāro), stopped speaking (baddha-vāk), shaved his head (mukta-mūrdhajaḥ), and showed himself as a dumb (jaḍa) or insane person (unmatta) or a ghost (piśācavat).

Two verses describe his total disregard for the external world.

Baddha-vāk means not speaking.

| 1.15.44 ||
anavekṣamāṇo niragād
aśṛṇvan badhiro yathā
udīcīm praviveśāśām
gata-pūrvām mahātmabhiḥ
hṛdi brahma param dhyāyan
nāvarteta yato gataḥ

Not waiting for his brothers (anavekṣamāṇah), not hearing anything (aśṛṇvan) as if deaf (badhiro yathā), he left the house (niragād). Meditating (dhyāyan) on Kṛṣṇa in the heart (hṛdi brahma param), he went in the northern direction (udīcīm praviveśa āśāṃ) where great souls (mahātmabhiḥ) had previously gone (gata-pūrvām), from which one does not return (nāvarteta yato gataḥ).

He did not wait for his brothers (anavekṣamāṇaḥ).

He decided to carry out the method taught by the Lord in man-manā bhava mad-bhaktah to attain Kṛṣṇa in some solitary place, without disturbance, since he had now given up all responsibilities.

This verse describes his action to achieve that.

Param brahman means Kṛṣṇa.

Section – VI

Other Pāṇḍavas, Draupadī and Vidura make their way to final destination (45-51)

| 1.15.45 ||
sarve tam anunirjagmur
bhrātaraḥ kṛta-niścayāḥ
kalinādharma-mitreṇa
dṛṣṭvā spṛṣṭāḥ prajā bhuvi

Seeing (dṛṣṭvā) that Kali, the friend of irreligion (kalinā adharmamitreṇa), had influenced (spṛṣṭāḥ) the citizens on earth (prajā bhuvi), all his brothers (sarve bhrātaraḥ) decided to follow him (tam anunirjagmuh kṛta-niścayāḥ).

They decided, "Let us also take up his mentality to attain Kṛṣṇa."

| 1.15.46 ||
te sādhu-kṛta-sarvārthā
jñātvātyantikam ātmanaḥ
manasā dhārayām āsur
vaikuṇṭha-caraṇāmbujam

They (te) who had performed (sādhu-kṛṭa) all duties such as dharma and artha as it should be done (ātmanaḥ sarvārthā), understanding (jñātvā) the endless nature of those duties (ātyantikam), meditated (dhārayām āsuh) on the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa (vaikuṇṭha-caraṇāmbujam) with their minds (manasā).

They performed everything such as dharma and artha as it should be done (sādhu-kṛta-sarvārthā), and understanding that these duties were endless for them, they concentrated on the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa with their minds.

Śrīdhara Svāmī takes ātyantikam to modify Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet.

"Having executed artha, dharma, kāma and mokṣa perfectly, understanding the infinite nature of Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet, they meditated on those feet."

|| 1.15.47-48 ||
tad-dhyānodriktayā bhaktyā
viśuddha-dhiṣaṇāḥ pare
tasmin nārāyaṇa-pade
ekānta-matayo gatim

avāpur duravāpām te asadbhir viṣayātmabhiḥ vidhūta-kalmaṣā sthānam virajenātmanaiva hi

Having pure intelligence (viśuddha-dhiṣaṇāḥ), with minds solely on the Lord (ekānta-matayah tasmin pare), whose portion is Nārāyaṇa (nārāyaṇa-pade), by profuse bhakti (udriktayā bhaktyā) with meditation on Kṛṣṇa (tad-dhyāna), they attained the goal (te gatim avāpuh), unattainable (duravāpām) by the materialists, (aṣadbhir viṣayātmabhiḥ) the pure abode of the Lord (vidhūta-kalmaṣā sthānam), with their pure bodies (virajena ātmanā eva h).

They had intelligence unmixed with jñāna, yoga or other things.

Thus they were fixed in intelligence (ekānta-matayaḥ).

What was the goal?

They attained the dwelling place free of all faults (vidhūta-kalmaṣāsthānam).

Or this can refer to Kṛṣṇa's abode where there was the Sudharmā hall.

How did they attain it?

They attained it in their same spotless bodies (virajenātmanā) devoid of their devata expansions such as Yamarāja (for Yudhiṣṭhira).

They did not give up their bodies.

| 1.15.49 ||
viduro 'pi parityajya
prabhāse deham ātmanaḥ
kṛṣṇāveśena tac-cittaḥ
pitṛbhiḥ sva-kṣayaṁ yayau

Vidura also (vidurah api), by absorbing his mind in Kṛṣṇa (kṛṣṇa āveśena tac-cittah), gave up (parityajya) his body (ātmanah deham) at Prabhāsa (prabhāse) and went to his abode (sva-kṣayam yayau) escorted by Pitṛs (pitṛbhiḥ).

Vidura was an incarnation of a devatā, not an eternal associate.

Therefore he gave up his body.

The Pitrs had come to lead him to his abode.

Svakṣayam means his place of jurisdiction.

|| 1.15.50 ||
draupadī ca tadājñāya
patīnām anapekṣatām
vāsudeve bhagavati
hy ekānta-matir āpa tam

Draupadī (draupadī), understanding (tadā ājñāya) that her husbands had become indifferent to her (patīnām anapekṣatām), concentrated her mind (hy ekānta-matih) on Vāsudeva (vāsudeve bhagavati) and attained him (āpa tam).

Subhadrā and others did the same.

Since it is not mentioned that she gave up her body, in that body she attained the Lord (since she was an eternal associate).

|| 1.15.51 ||

yaḥ śraddhayaitad bhagavat-priyāṇām pāṇḍoḥ sutānām iti samprayāṇam śṛṇoty alaṁ svastyayanaṁ pavitraṁ labdhvā harau bhaktim upaiti siddhim

He who (yaḥ) hears with faith (śraddhayā śṛṇoty) about the departure (etad samprayāṇam) of the Pāṇḍavas (pāṇḍoḥ sutānām), dear to the Lord (bhagavat-priyāṇām), as described herein (iti), after attaining (labdhvā) pure blessings (svastyayanam pavitram), will attain (upaiti) the perfect stage (siddhim) of devotion to the Lord (harau bhaktim).

Iti samprayāṇam means the departure as herein described and not otherwise.

Siddhim means the state of perfection.