Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam

Canto Two

With the Sārārtha-darśinī commentary

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Canto Two – Chapter Nine

Manifestation of the Bhāgavatam

Answers by Citing the Lord's Version

Section – VI

Lord speaks Catuh Sloki Bhagavatam (33-38)

| 2.9.36 | etāvad eva jijñāsyam tattva-jijñāsunātmanah anvaya-vyatirekābhyām yat syāt sarvatra sarvadā |

The person desiring to know the best sādhana and the goal of that sādhana (tattva-jijñāsunā ātmanaḥ) must learn by surrender to guru (jijñāsyam) about this truth (etāvad eva) which is determined as the best by obtaining positive results through performance (anvaya) and by lack of results through non-performance (vyatirekābhyām), and by performance at all times and all places (yat syāt sarvatra sarvadā).

The person desiring the highest truth (tattva-jijñāsunā ātmanaḥ) must experience rasa (jijñāsyam), which produces bliss (etāvad eva) through meeting and separation (anvaya-vyatirekābhyām) and continues in all places eternally (yat syāt sarvatra sarvadā).

Thus bhakti is fixed as the best among all sādhanas by showing what is achieved by it positively and what is not achieved by its absence (anvayavyatirekābhyām).

The positive aspect is shown in the following statement:

akāmaḥ sarva-kāmo vā moksa-kāma udāra-dhīḥ | tīvreṇa bhakti-yogena yajeta puruṣaṁ param ||

The person desiring destruction of all desires (akāmah), the person with all desires (sarva-kāmo ya), and even the person with an intense desire for liberation (mokṣa-kāma), if he has good intelligence (udāra-dhīh), will worship the Supreme Lord (yajeta puruṣam param) with pure bhakti (tīvrena bhakti-vogena). SB 2.3.10

The sharpness (tīvreṇa) of pure bhakti is service which is like the sun unobstructed by clouds.

The verse quoted above -- SB 11.20.32 -- also illustrates the positive aspect.

The negative aspect, in the absence of bhakti, is illustrated in the following:

mukha-bāhūru-pādebhyah puruṣasyāśramaih saha catvāro jajñire varṇā guṇair viprādayah pṛthak

ya eṣām puruṣam sākṣād ātma-prabhavam īśvaram na bhajanty avajānanti sthānād bhraṣṭāḥ patanty adhah

Each of the four social orders (catvāro varṇā), headed by the brāhmaṇas (viprādayaḥ), was born (jajñire) through different combinations of the modes of nature (pṛthak guṇair), from the face, arms, thighs and feet of the Supreme Lord in his universal form (puruṣasya mukha-bāhu-ūru-pādebhyaḥ), along with the āśramas (āśramaiḥ saha).

If any of the members of the four varṇas and four āśramas (yah eṣām) fail to worship the Lord (īśvaram na bhajanty) and thus disrespect the Lord (avajānanti), who is the source of their own creation (ātma-prabhavam), they will fall down from their āśrama (sthānād bhraṣṭāḥ patanty adhaḥ). SB 11.5.2-3

kṣemam na vindanti vinā yad-arpaṇam tasmai subhadra-śrayase namo namaḥ

I offer continual respects to the Lord full of auspicious qualities (tasmai subhadra-śravase namo namaḥ). Without worshipping him (vinā yad-arpaṇam), the jñānīs (tapasvinah), karmīs (dāna-parā), specialized karmīs (yaśasvinah), yogīs (manasvinah), scholars of the Vedas (mantra-vidaḥ) and followers of proper conduct (sumangalāḥ) cannot attain any benefit (kṣemam na vindanti). SB 2.4.17

Yet SyEt Source Source ?

There are no restrictions of place and time concerning this sādhana.

In all places, with all candidates, and at all times this should be performed with steadiness.

However, one must perform karma with purity in a pure place and one can attain jñāna only with a pure mind.

<u>Karma and jñāna cannot be performed in all places and at all times.</u>

śucau deśe pratiṣṭhāpya sthiram āsanam ātmanaḥ yuñjyād yogam ātma-viśuddhaye: the yogī should perform yoga after establishing himself comfortably on a seat in a pure place (BG 6.11)

In terms of time, karma is practiced only until one attains detachment from enjoyment.

Yoga is practiced only until one has attained siddhis.

Sānkhya is performed only until one has attained knowledge.

Jñāna is performed only until liberation.

These methods are not practiced at all times.

Bhakti however is well known for being practiced at all times and at all places.

na deśa-niyamas tatra na kāla-nirṇayas tathā | nocchiṣṭādau niṣedho'sti śrī-harer nāmni lubdhake ||

In chanting the name of the Lord, there are no restrictions concerning place or time, or restrictions on performance because of impurity.

tasmāt sarvātmanā rājan hariḥ sarvatra sarvadā | śrotavyaḥ kīrtitavyaś ca smartavyo bhagavān nṛṇām ||

O King (rājan)! Therefore (tasmāt), at all times (sarvadā) and all places without restriction (sarvatra) men (nṛṇām) should hear about, glorify and remember (śrotavyaḥ kīrtitavyaś ca smartavyah) the Supreme Lord (bhagavān hariḥ) with full concentration of mind (sarvātmanā). SB 2.2.36

The practice of bhakti is also applicable to all types of people including the practitioners of karma and jñāna.

It is even to be performed by the most fallen by birth or activities:

kirāta-hūṇāndhra-pulinda-pulkaśā ābhīra-śumbhā yavanāḥ khasādayaḥ ye'nye ca pāpā yad-upāśrayāśrayāḥ śudhyanti tasmai prabhaviṣṇave namaḥ

I offer respects to the Lord of inconceivable power (tasmai prabhaviṣṇave namaḥ). The Kirātas, Hūṇas, Andhras, Pulindas, Pulkaśas (kirāta hūṇa āndhra pulinda pulkaśā), Abhīras, Śumbhas, Yavanas, Khasas (ābhīra śumbhā yavanāḥ khasa ādayaḥ) and others of low birth, and those sinful by actions (ye anye ca pāpā), by taking shelter of the devotees who take shelter of the powerful Lord (yad-apāśraya āśrayāḥ), become purified of their prārabdha-karmas (śudhyanti). SB 2.4.18

Bhakti can be practiced in all stages of life.

Prahlāda practiced in the womb.

Dhruva practiced when he was a child.

Ambarīṣa practiced as a youth.

It can be practiced even in hell.

Mucyeta yan nāmny udite nārako 'pi: even a person in hell will be liberated by chanting the name of the Lord.

yathā yathā harer nāma kīrtayanti ca nārakāh | tathā tathā harau bhaktim udvahanto divam yayuḥ ||

When those in hell chant the name of the Lord they develop bhakti to the Lord and go to the spiritual world. Nṛṣiṁha Purāna

In this way bhakti has been distinguished as the proper sādhana.

Bhakti in the form of prema is also indicated by reading an extra meaning in the verse.

Prema is indicated by the word etāvad (so much).