

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam

Canto Two

**With the
Sārārtha-darśinī commentary**

by

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Canto Two – Chapter Ten

Ten Characteristics of a Purāṇa and
Third Description of Universal Form

**Bhāgavatam Is the Answer to All
Questions**

Section – I

Ten characteristics of a Purana (1-9)

|| 2.10.1 ||

śrī-śuka uvāca—

atra sargo visargaś ca
sthānam poṣanam ūtayaḥ †
manvantareśānukathā
nirodho muktir āśrayaḥ ||

Śukadeva said: In this Purāṇa there are ten topics (**atra**): creation, secondary creation (**sargo visargaś ca**), protection, mercy of the Lord, material activities (**sthānam poṣanam ūtayaḥ**), the conduct of the Manus, stories of the Lord (**manvantara īśānukathā**), destruction of the universe, liberation and the ultimate shelter (**nirodho muktir āśrayaḥ**).

In this chapter the ten subject matters of the Bhāgavatam are described, starting with creation and sub-creation.

↓
Sarga

↓
ViSarga

↑ Universal form.

The divisions of adhyātmā, adhibhūta and adhidaiva are also described.

At the end of the last chapter the Bhāgavatam was described as having ten characteristics.

These are shown in this verse.

Manvantareśānukathā is a dvandva compound indicating two
items.

|| 2.10.2 ||

daśamasya viśuddhy-artham
navānām iha lakṣaṇam |
varṇayanti mahātmānaḥ
śrutenārthena cāñjasā ||

The great devotees such as Vidura and Maitreya describe properly (mahātmānaḥ varṇayanti añjasā) the nine topics (navānām iha lakṣaṇam) in order to impart the highest knowledge of the tenth topic (daśamasya viśuddhy-artham), through the words of the scripture and stories to illustrate their meaning (śrutenā cā arthena).

Will there be different meanings to this in different scriptures?

The devotees describe the nature of the nine topics in order to impart knowledge of the truth, unmixed with anything else, of the tenth topic-- the shelter.

Other things which are excluded as the shelter include Svarga and hell, which are only the jivās' destinations, caused by the Supreme Lord.

These places indicate that only the jīvas' bodies are subject to creation maintenance and destruction.

That there is only one shelter is not a fault, since that is the conclusion of scriptures.

The devotees describe these topics with meaning coming from the śrutis and by stories illustrating the meaning of the śrutis.

The devotees such as Vidura and Maitreya describe these topics.