Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam

Canto Three

With the Sārārtha-darśinī commentary

by Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura

CANTO 3: SARGA & VISARGA

In 2.8, Parikshit asked some questions; Śukadeva, considering that these questions were previously asked by Vidura to Maitreya, decided to answer them through Vidura–Maitreya samvada.

[Also Saunaka & Parikshit desired to hear about Vidura–Maitreya samvada.]

Part A: Meeting of Uddhava & Vidura (3.1-4) [Q1. Where & when Vidura-Maitreya samvada happened? (3.1.3-4)]

A1 (3.1-4): 3.1:
Duryodana
insulted Vidura &
Vidura gave up
family, went to
pilgrimage & met
Uddhava. Vidura
inquired from
Uddhava about
Krsna, Yadus,
Kurus.

3.2-4: Uddhava remembers pastimes of Krsna in & outside Vrindavana & informs about Yadus' disappearance

Vidura requested for spiritual knowledge from Uddhava, but Uddhava told him to meet Maitreya (also instructed by Krsna along with Uddhava.) Vidura met Maitreya at Haridwar. Part B: Sarga (3.5-11) & Visarga (3.12)

Vidura to Maitreya: Q2. Explain about Purusa avataras, Virat rupa, lila avataras, different planets & jivas? (3.5.1-9)

A2 (3.5-6): 3.5:
Pastimes of purusa
avataras (creation of
material elements &
sense devatas prayers)
3.6: Development of
Virat rupa,
manifestation of
demigods, planets,
living entities, varnas
from Virat rupa.

After hearing
3.5.25-26, Vidura
asked Q3: How can
Lord be connected
with gunas? How
pure soul is engaged
in nescience? Why jiva
suffers, though Lord
is situated in his
heart? (3.7.2-7)

A3: Maya & gunas are powers of Lord & belong to Him. But He is without these gunas. Distress of jiva is due to misidentification & that distress is unreal Vidura asked more questions about Vibhutis, visarga, Manus, planets, varnasrama, etc. These questions are similar to the questions asked by Parikshit in 2.8.

Maitrya explained, 3.8: Appearance of Brahma, 3.9-10: Brahma's prayers & Lord's reply to him. Brahma created 14 planetary systems.

Vidura heard 'Time' mentioned in 3.8 & asked Q4: What are the characteristics of time.? (3.10.10)

A4 (3.10-11): Time in general explained in 3.10, and in detail like calculation of time, life span of people who are beyond kalpa, are described in 3.11. In 3.9 ten types of creation are explained (6 primary, 3 secondary & one Visarga (3.12): Brahma creates 5 features of ignoranc e, Kumaras , Rudra, 10 sons, Vak, Svayamb huva Manu &

Satarupa

Varaha (3.13-19)

Part C: Pastimes of Lord

Appearance of Manu was described in 3.12, Vidura: Q1. What did Svayambhuva Manu do after getting his wife? (3.13.2)

A1: Brahma asked Manu to beget children & rule earth. Manu asked him to retrieve earth. While Brahma was thinking how to lift earth Varahadeva appeared & retrieved earth. Sages offered prayers. This Varahadeva appeared in 1st Manyantara, but Maitreva also narrated about the killing of Hiranyaksa by Varaha of 6th manyantara.

Q2. What was the reason for a battle between Hiranyaksha & Varāha? (3.14.2-4)

A2 (3.14-19): 3.14-16: Events leading to the birth of Hiranyaksha & Hiranyakasipu, 3.17: Birth & victory of the 2 demons, 3.18-19: The battle & killing of Hiranyaksha.

3.14: Diti
approached
Kasyapa for union,
Kasyapa unable to
convince her,
fulfilled her desire.
Diti repented &
offered prayers to
Siva.

3.15-16: Due to
Diti's pregnancy
darkness spread all
over universe,
Devatas approached
Brahma, Brahma
narrated how Jaya
& Vijaya were
cursed by 4
Kumaras & entered
Diti's womb.

3.17: Birth of
Hiranyaksa &
Hiranyaksaipu,
inauspicious
omens,
Hiranyaksha
conquers all
directions &
challenges
Varuna who asks
him to approach
Lord

3.18-19:
Learning from
Narada about
Lord's place,
Hiranyaksha
entered
Garbhodaka
Ocean,
conversed &
fought with
Varaha (Brahma
offered prayers).
Lord killed him.

CANTO 3 Part D: Appearance & teachings of Lord Kapila (3.21-33)
[After hearing the pastime of Varhadeva, Vidura again inquired about visarga.

Q1. What Brahmā did after creating the Prajāpatis? How did Prajapatis create jivas? (3.20.9-11)]

A1: 3.20: Visarga in summary – Creation of Yaksas, Raksasas, Devatas, Gandharvas, Apsaras, Manus, sages etc

Q2. Please describe about the glorious dynasty of Svayambhuva Manu? (3.21.1-5)

A2 (3.21-5.15): Svayambhuva Manu had 3 daughters & 2 sons. Their descendants & related stories are explained in 3.21-4.1: Devahuti, 4.1: Akuti, 4.1-7: Prasuti, 4.8-31: Uttanapada, 4.31-5.15: Priyavrata

3.21-22: Kardama performed penances & got Lord's darshan, Lord informed him about his marriage with Devahuti & Lord's appearance as his son. Svayambhuva Manu went to Kardama's hermitage & offered his daughter, Devahuti to Kardama.

3.23: Kardama was pleased with Devahuti's service & offered her benediction. On her request Kardama revived Devahuti's emaciated body & created a mystic airplane, & they enjoyed for 100 yrs. After Devahuti gave birth to 9 daughters, Kardama decided to leave, then Devahuti lamented for not taking the spiritual association of Kardama.

3.24: Lord Kapila appeared in Devahuti's womb, Brahma glorified Kardama & Devahuti. Marriage of 9 daughters, Kardama offered prayers to Kapila & renounced the world with Lord's permission. (3.25-33) Teachings of Lord Kapila to Devahuti. After Kardama left, Kapila stayed with mother. She inquired from Him.

Q3. I am bewildered by Your maya, please dispel my illusion? (3.25.7-11)

A3(3.25.12-27): Offers Adhvatmika voga (consisting of Sankhya, Yoga, Bhakti) as solution. Establishes the superiority of Bhakti over other 2 paths. Describes characteristics of a devotee.

Having heard that best process to attach mind to the Lord is Bhakti in 3.25.19, Q4. What kind of bhakti should I perform to attain You easily? (3.25.28)

A4
(3.25.31-44):
Recommends
uttama bhakti
for those who
are at the stage
of bhava, and
Vaidhi
Sadhana
Bhakti for
others.

I should known & perform bhakti approved by You, but intelligent people know others' ideas as well, Q5. Explain the processes of Jnana & yoga, how many limbs do they have? (3.25.29)

A5 (3.26-28): 3.26: Path of Inana: Kapila describes the subject matter of Sankhva by describing characteristics of prakrti, purusha & 28 elements. Karva Srsti and development of Virat Rupa. 3.27-28: Method of liberation. difference b/w jiva & Prakrti, limbs of Astanga Yoga, description of Lord's form for performing dharana.

Devahūti again desires to hear about bhakti, since she should perform that process. Q6. Please tell me about the path of Bhakti? (3.29.1)

A6 (3.29):

Various classes

of bhakti.

characterstics

of pure bhakti,

angas of bhakti, dangers of offences.

Q7. Please tell me about the nature of time? (3.29.3)

A7(3.29.38-45) Characterstics of time

Q8. Pl describe samsara of jivas? (3.29.2)

A8(3.30-32): 3.30: The pains in youth, old age, death and hell of materially attached persons. 3.31: The pains in the womb, at birth, as an infant, and as a child, also prayers of jiva within womb. 3.32: Criticizes sakama karma, Superiority of Bhakti voga

3.33:
Devahuti's
prayers,
Lord
Kapila's
final
instruction
s, Devahuti
follows
those
instruction
s and
perfects
her life.