

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam

Canto Three

With the

Sārārtha-darśinī commentary

by

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Canto Three – Chapter Five

Maitreya Describes Creation

Vidura's Talks with Maitreya

Section – V

Elemental demigods offered
prayers to the Lord (39-51)

|| 3.5.48 ||

tat te vayan̄ loka-sisṛkṣayādya
tvayānusṛṣṭās tribhir ātmabhiḥ sma
sarve viyuktāḥ sva-vihāra-tantram
na śaknumas tat pratihartave te

we are
disunited → ∴ we
cannot offer U the
universe which U desire

O original person (ādya)! You (tvayā), desiring to carry out creation of the universe (loka-sisṛkṣayā), have created us with three natures (anusṛṣṭāḥ tribhiḥ ātmabhiḥ sma). Because we are disunited (sarve viyuktāḥ) we cannot offer to you (te pratihartave na śaknumah) the universe (tat), your plaything (sva-vihāra-tantram).

Therefore (tat) we, your (te) servants, not attaining service, are suffering.

They describe this situation of no service.

We have been systematically created by you who desire to create the worlds, and have natures of sattva, rajas and tamas.

Because of having contrasting natures, we are disunited (viyuktāḥ).

Because of that, we cannot offer you the created universe which is your plaything.

Our service
to you will not
be denied. If we remain
disabled.

|| 3.5.49 ||

yāvad balim te 'ja harāma kāle
yathā vayam cānam adāma yatra
yathobhayesām ta ime hi lokā
balim haranto 'nnam adanty anūhāḥ

O birthless Lord (aja)! We should profusely offer you objects (yāvad balim te harāma) at the appropriate time (kāle). We should eat food (vayam annam adāma yatra). All the living beings (ta ime lokāḥ) should offer (harantah) to you and us (ubhayesām) worthy objects (balim) and should eat food without conjecture (annam adanti anūhāḥ).

“Please tell me how I can fulfill your desires.”

O birthless Lord! At the appropriate time we should offer you complete (yāvat) articles of worship.

Constructing a host of playthings in the form of the material world composed of men, devatās and various houses, we should offer it to you.

Being functions of your māyā-śakti, we should eat food.

“Please tell me how I can fulfill your desires.”

This means that, ordered by the king, the householders, mothers and elders eat food to full satisfaction for subsistence.

All these beings (**ime lokā**) such as devatās and animals, functions of your jīva-śakti, should offer objects to you and us (**ubhayeṣām**) since they are dependent on us and on your māyā-śakti.

They should perform worship in the form of various sacrifices, yoga and jñāna, and eat food.

They should enjoy the results of their respective karmas.

Without conjecture such as “Will the Lord give results of karma or not?” they should receive their results.

Give this to us. This is what we desire.

The śruti says tā enam abruvan āyatanam naḥ prajñānihi yasmin
pratiṣṭhitā annam adāma: they said to the Lord, “provide us an
abode where we can eat food.” (Aitareya Upaniṣad 2.1)

|| 3.5.50 ||

tvam̐ nah̐ surāṇām̐ asi sānvayānām̐
kūṭa-stha ādyaḥ puruṣaḥ purāṇaḥ
tvam̐ deva śaktyām̐ guṇa-karma-yonau
retas tv ajāyām̐ kavim ādadhe 'jaḥ

O Lord (deva)! For us devatās (nah̐ surāṇām̐), who have some power of creation (asi sa-anvayānām̐), you are without change (tvam̐ kūṭa-stha), the original cause (ādyaḥ), the controller (puruṣaḥ), without beginning (purāṇaḥ). You alone bestow (tvam̐ ādadhe) the mass of jīvas (retas tu ajāyām̐), full of consciousness (kavim), to unborn māyā (ajaḥ śaktyām̐), who is the womb of guṇas and karma (guṇa karma yonau).

They explain the relationship of the Lord and the servant.

Anvaya means cause.

For us who are endowed with causal power (sānvayānām), you are
without change (kuṭasthaḥ).

You are the first person.

Like cintāmaṇi stone you are the cause.

You are the controller (**puruṣaḥ**).

You are the ancient one (**purāṇaḥ**), without beginning.

O Lord! You give your semen in the form of the mass of jīvas which are knowledge (**kavim**) to māyā (**śaktyā**), to the womb composed of guṇas like sattva, karma and mahat-tattva.

You are to be served like a father by us and all the jīvas.

|| 3.5.51 ||

tato vayan̄ mat-pramukhā yad-arthe
babhūvimātman karavāma kim te
tvam̄ naḥ sva-cakṣuḥ paridehi śaktyā
deva kriyārthe yad-anugrahāṇām

PIS empower
us with knowledge
& mercy to carry out
your order.

O supreme soul (ātman)! Give us (naḥ paridehi), headed by mahat-tattva (mat-pramukhā), who have arisen for action (babhūvima yat-arthe) the order of what to do (karavāma kim te). O Lord (deva)! Give to us (naḥ paridehi), who need your mercy to act (kriyā arthe yat-anugrahāṇām), your knowledge and power for carrying out your desired action (sva-cakṣuḥ śaktyā)!

O Lord (**atman**)! How are we, the elements headed by mahat-tattva
(**mat-pramukhā**), to carry out your creation?

Please tell us.

Give us your eyes along with power: give us your knowledge for
creating the universe, and give us the power to do it.

Only with your knowledge and power can we create.

O lord (deva)! We, who need your mercy in order to create, desire that we should happily do service as instructed by you and nothing else.



The presiding deities of the elements, because of their devotion, had bodies spontaneously constructed by the Lord.

This prayer is for construction of other bodies.

This is explained in the Krama-sandarbha.

Thus ends the commentary on Fifth Chapter of the Third Canto of the Bhāgavatam for the pleasure of the devotees, in accordance with the previous ācāryas.

