Canto 3 Chapter Thirty

Description by Lord Kapila of Adverse Fruitive Activities

Kapila Describes the Person in Ignorance

Text-l
kapila uvāca
tasyaitasya jano nūnam
nāyam vedoru-vikramam
kālyamāno 'pi balino
vāyor iva ghanāvaliḥ

Kapila said: Indeed (nūnam), men (janah) do not know the powerful influence of this time (tasya etasya na ayam veda uruvikramam). They are like clouds (ghanāvaliḥ iva) pushed (kālyamānah) by a strong wind (balinā vāyoh).

Verse Summary: Foolish men do not recognize the characteristics of time, as explained in the previous chapter, though they are pushed by it.

|| 2.3.17 ||

āyur harati vai pumsām udyann astam ca yann asau | tasyarte yat-kṣaṇo nīta uttama-śloka-vārtayā ||

Both by rising and by setting (yad udyann astam ca), the sun (asau) decreases the duration of life of everyone (āyur harati vai pumsām), except one (tasya rte) who utilizes the time (yat-kṣaṇo nīta) by discussing topics of the Supreme Lord (uttama-śloka-vārtayā).

Text 2 yam yam artham upādatte

duḥkhena sukha-hetave tam tam dhunoti bhagavān pumāñ chocati yat-kṛte

Whatever a person attains (yam yam artham upādatte) with trouble (duḥkhena), for his pleasure (sukha-hetave), is destroyed by time (tam tam dhunoti bhagavān), which causes the person to lament (yat-kṛte pumāñ śocati).

Verse Summary: Whatever he has painstakingly accumulated for enjoyment, time finishes it off. He then laments for those lost things.

Text 3

yad adhruvasya dehasya sānubandhasya durmatiḥ dhruvāṇi manyate mohād gṛha-kṣetra-vasūni ca

The fool laments (durmatiḥ) because he thinks, out of illusion (yad manyate mohād), that house, land and articles (gṛha-kṣetra-vasūni ca) related to the temporary body (adhruvasya dehasya) and to his temporary family (sa anubandhasya) are permanent (dhruvāṇi).

Verse Summary: But why does he lament? He laments because, under the potency of maya, he has accepted temporary things related to this body as permanent.

Mukunda Mala Stotra

tyajantu bāndhavāḥ sarve nindantu guravo janāḥ tathāpi paramānando govindo mama jīvanam

Let my relatives all abandon me (tyajantu bāndhavāḥ sarve) and my superiors condemn me (nindantu guravo janāḥ). Still, the supremely blissful Govinda (tathāpi paramānando govindo) remains my life and soul (mama jīvanam).

Mukunda Mala Stotra

cittam naiva nivartate kṣaṇam api śrī-kṛṣṇa-pādāmbujān nindantu priya-bāndhavā guru-janā gṛhṇantu muñcantu vā durvādam parighoṣayantu manujā vamśe kalaṅko 'stu vā tādṛk-prema-dharānurāga-madhunā mattāya mānam tu me

My mind cannot turn (cittam na eva nivartate) from Śrī Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet (śrī-kṛṣṇa-pādāmbujān), even for a moment (kṣaṇam api). So let my dear ones and other relatives criticize me (nindantu priya-bāndhavā), my superiors accept or reject me as they like (guru-janā grhņantu muñcantu vā), the common people spread evil gossip about me (durvādam parighosayantu manujā), and my family's reputation be sullied (vamse kalankah astu vā). For a madman like me (me mattāya), it is honor enough (mānam) to feel this flood of love of Godhead (tādṛk-prema-dharā), which brings such sweet emotions of attraction for my Lord (anuraga-madhuna).

Text 4
jantur vai bhava etasmin
yām yām yonim anuvrajet
tasyām tasyām sa labhate
nirvṛtim na virajyate

In this material world (etasmin bhava), in whatever species he takes birth and roams (yām yām jantuh yonim anuvrajet), he attains happiness (tasyām tasyām sah labhate nirvṛtim), and does not become detached from it (na virajyate).

Verse Summary: He experiences some kind of happiness in whatever species he takes birth and roams. Therefore he does not get detached from that body.

Text 5
naraka-stho 'pi deham vai
na pumāms tyaktum icchati
nārakyām nirvṛtau satyām
deva-māyā-vimohitaḥ

Even placed in hell (naraka-sthah api) he does not desire to give up that body (pumān deham na tyaktum icchati), since, bewildered by Lord's Maya (deva-māyā-vimohitaḥ), he enjoys hellish existence (nārakyām nirvṛtau satyām).

Verse Summary: Maya bewilders him so much that he doesn't want to give up even a hellish body

Text 6

ātma-jāyā-sutāgārapaśu-draviņa-bandhuṣu nirūḍha-mūla-hṛdaya ātmānaṁ bahu manyate

With his heart deeply rooted (nirūḍha-mūla-hṛdaya) in his body, wife, sons, house, animals, wealth and friends (ātma-jāyā-suta-āgāra-paśu-draviṇa-bandhuṣu), he feels fully successful (ātmānaṁ bahu manyate).

Verse Summary: Why he doesn't want to give up? In the presence of his family members and wealth he feels fully successful.

Text 7
sandahyamāna-sarvāṅga
eṣām udvahanādhinā
karoty avirataṁ mūḍho
duritāni durāśayaḥ

Burning in all his limbs (sandahyamāna-sarvānga), the fool (mūḍhah), with sinful mind (durāśayaḥ), performs sinful acts (karoty duritāni) because of constant anxiety (aviratam ādhinā) to maintain his family (eṣām udvahana).

Verse Summary: But, he is under constant anxiety to maintain them. Therefore he resorts to sinful means to maintain them.

Text 8
ākṣiptātmendriyaḥ strīṇām
asatīnām ca māyayā
raho racitayālāpaiḥ
śiśūnām kala-bhāṣinām

His mind and senses are overcome (ākṣipta ātmā indriyaḥ) with illusion (māyayā) by words of unchaste women (asatīnām strīṇām racitayā ālāpaiḥ) in solitary places (rahah), and by sweet words of his small children (śiśūnām kala-bhāṣiṇām).

Verse Summary: What gives him the impetus in family life? Loving illicit dealings with women and the sweet words of the child.

Text 9
grheşu kūṭa-dharmeşu
duḥkha-tantreşv atandritaḥ
kurvan duḥkha-pratīkāram
sukhavan manyate grhī

Attentive to family life (gṛheṣu atandritaḥ) predominated by suffering (duḥkha-tantreṣu), with practices of cheating for gaining wealth (kurvan kūṭa-dharmeṣu), he thinks (gṛhī manyate) happiness is counteracting the suffering (duḥkha-pratīkāram sukhavad).

Verse Summary: Being thus engaged, he is firmly convinced that the happiness he is getting is counteracting the miseries of his life

Text 10
arthair āpāditair gurvyā
himsayetas-tataś ca tān
puṣṇāti yeṣām poṣeṇa
śeṣa-bhug yāty adhaḥ svayam

He supports his family members (tān puṣṇāti) with wealth obtained (arthair āpāditair) from here and there (itah-tatah) by great violence (gurvyā himsayā), while he eats only their remnants (yeṣām poṣeṇa śeṣa-bhug). By this process he goes to hell (yāty adhaḥ svayam).

Verse Summary: For that so called happiness, he tries to maintain his family by committing lot of violence. Because of this, while living he only gets to eat their remnants, and after death goes to hell.

Text 11
vārtāyām lupyamānāyām
ārabdhāyām punaḥ punaḥ lobhābhibhūto niḥsattvaḥ parārthe kurute spṛhām

After trying again and again (ārabdhāyām punaḥ punaḥ) to maintain himself (vārtāyām) while failing each time (lupyamānāyām), overcome by greed (lobha abhibhūto) and feeling miserable (niḥsattvaḥ), he desires others wealth (para arthe kurute spṛhām).

Verse Summary: Is he at least successful in maintaining them? NO. He again and again fails to maintain them and hence feels miserable. So he starts desiring other's wealth.

Text 12

kuṭumba-bharaṇākalpo manda-bhāgyo vṛthodyamaḥ śriyā vihīnaḥ kṛpaṇo dhyāyañ chvasiti mūḍha-dhīḥ

Unable to maintain his family (kuṭumba-bharaṇa akalpo), misfortunate (manda-bhāgyo), with useless efforts (vṛtha udyamaḥ), bereft of wealth (śriyā vihīnaḥ), in misery (kṛpaṇo), thinking of how to maintain his sons (dhyāyañ), the fool (mūḍha-dhīḥ) sighs (śvasiti).

Verse Summary: He is thus constantly overcome by this anxiety to maintain his family.

Text 13
evam sva-bharaṇākalpam
tat-kalatrādayas tathā
nādriyante yathā pūrvam
kīnāśā iva go-jaram

Just as a farmer (kīnāśā iva) does not respect an old bull (na adriyante go-jaram), his wife and other members (tat kalatra ādayas tathā) do not respect him as before (na adriyante yathā pūrvam), since he is unable to maintain them (evam sva-bharaṇa akalpam).

Verse Summary: Reaction of family members: Because he is not able to maintain them, family members stop showing any respect to him.

Text 14

tatrāpy ajāta-nirvedo bhriyamāṇaḥ svayam bhṛtaiḥ jarayopātta-vairūpyo maraṇābhimukho gṛhe

In spite of this (tatrāpy), without disgust for his existence (ajātanirvedo), maintained by his dependents (bhriyamāṇaḥ svayam bhṛtaiḥ), deformed by old age (jarayā upātta-vairūpyo), he approaches death in his house (maraṇa abhimukho gṛhe).

Verse Summary: Reaction of family members: Because he is not able to maintain them, family members stop showing any respect to him.

Text 15
āste 'vamatyopanyastam gṛha-pāla ivāharan āmayāvy apradīptāgnir alpāhāro 'lpa-ceṣṭitaḥ

He remains like a dog (āste gṛha-pāla iva), eating (āharan) what is placed disrespectfully before him (avamatya upanyastam), diseased (āmayāvy), without proper digestion (apradīptāgnir), without appetite (alpāhāro) and weak (alpa-ceṣṭitaḥ).

Verse Summary: Reaction of family members: They treat him like a dog. He eats whatever is disrespectfully given to him His physical state: 1. He has become old and diseased 2. His digestive fire is not working 3. He has lost appetite

Text 16
vāyunotkramatottāraḥ
kapha-samruddha-nāḍikaḥ
kāsa-śvāsa-kṛtāyāsaḥ
kaṇṭhe ghura-ghurāyate

The pupils of his eyes (uttāraḥ) bulge (utkramatā) because of air (vāyunā). His throat (nāḍikaḥ) becomes blocked with phlegm (kapha-samruddha). He coughs and breathes with difficulty (kāsa-śvāsa-kṛta āyāsaḥ) and his throat begins to rattle (kaṇṭhe ghura-ghurāyate).

Verse Summary: His physical state: 4. His pupils bulge out because of air 5. His throat has become blocked due to kapha 6. He coughs and breaths with difficulty 7. His throat begins to rattle

Text 17

śayānaḥ pariśocadbhiḥ parivītaḥ sva-bandhubhiḥ vācyamāno 'pi na brūte kāla-pāśa-vaśaṁ gataḥ

Lying down (śayānaḥ), surrounded by (parivītaḥ) lamenting relatives (pariśocadbhiḥ sva-bandhubhiḥ), under the control of the noose of time (kāla-pāśa-vaśam gataḥ), though he wants to speak (vācyamānah api), he cannot (na brūte).

Verse Summary: Does he change because of this? NO. In spite of this treatment and health he doesn't become detached.

His last stage: a. He is lying down surrounded by the relatives. **b.** Though he wants to speak he cannot.

Text 18
evam kuṭumba-bharaṇe
vyāpṛtātmājitendriyaḥ
mriyate rudatām svānām
uru-vedanayāsta-dhīḥ

His mind (ātmā) engrossed (vyāpṛta) in family maintenance (kuṭumba-bharaṇe), with uncontrolled senses (ajitendriyaḥ), and with the great pain (uru-vedanaya) from his lamenting relatives (rudatām svānām), he dies (mriyate), losing his senses (asta-dhīḥ).

Verse Summary: His last stage: c. His mind is engrossed in the family members e. His senses are uncontrolled f. He faces great pain due to the lamenting relatives g. He finally dies

Text 19

yama-dūtau tadā prāptau bhīmau sarabhasekṣaṇau sa dṛṣṭvā trasta-hṛdayaḥ śakṛn-mūtram vimuñcati

When two terrifying servants of death (bhīmau yama-dūtau), with angry eyes (sa rabhasa īkṣaṇau), arrive at that time (tadā prāptau), seeing them (sa dṛṣṭvā), he passes stool and urine (śakṛt-mūtraṁ vimuñcati) in great fright (trasta-hṛdayaḥ).

Verse Summary: The Yamadutas arrive at his death. He is so scared seeing them that he passes urine and stool

Text 20

yātanā-deha āvṛtya pāśair baddhvā gale balāt nayato dīrgham adhvānam daṇḍyam rāja-bhaṭā yathā

Putting him in a body suitable for punishment (yātanā-deha āvṛtya), binding him with ropes by the neck (pāśair baddhvā gale), like the king's servants (rāja-bhaṭā yathā), they forcibly (balāt) take the prisoner to be punished (nayato daṇḍyaṁ) on a long road (dīrgham adhvānaṁ).

Verse Summary: His experience on the way to Hell: 1. They put him in a body suitable for punishment, and drag him to hell by putting a noose around his neck

Text 21
tayor nirbhinna-hṛdayas
tarjanair jāta-vepathuḥ
pathi śvabhir bhakṣyamāṇa
ārto 'ghaṁ svam anusmaran

His heart is pierced (nirbhinna-hṛdayah) by their scolding (tayoh tarjanair). Trembling (jāta-vepathuḥ), bitten by dogs on the path (pathi śvabhir bhakṣyamāṇa), in great pain (ārtah), he remembers that he is receiving the results of his sins (aghaṁ svam anusmaran).

Verse Summary: His experience on the way to Hell: 2. They chastise him with piercing words 3. He is bitten by dogs on the path 4. At that time he remembers that he is receiving the results of his sin

Text 22

kṣut-tṛṭ-parīto 'rka-davānalānilaiḥ santapyamānaḥ pathi tapta-vāluke kṛcchreṇa pṛṣṭhe kaśayā ca tāḍitaś calaty aśakto 'pi nirāśramodake

Afflicted by hunger and thirst (kṣut-tṛṭ-parītah), burned (santapyamānaḥ) by the winds (anilaiḥ) made hot as a forest fire by the sun (arka-davānala), beaten on his back by a whip (pṛṣṭhe kaśayā ca tāḍitaś), with difficulty (kṛcchreṇa), and though not capable (aśaktah api), he moves (calaty) on a path covered with hot sand (pathi tapta-vāluke), without a resting place with water (nirāśrama udake).

Verse Summary: His experience on the way to Hell: 5. He is afflicted by hunger and thirst 6. He is burnt by winds as hot as forest fire 7. He is whipped on his back 8. His path is filled with hot sand 9. The path has no resting place with water

Text 23
tatra tatra patañ chrānto
mūrcchitaḥ punar utthitaḥ
pathā pāpīyasā nītas
tarasā yama-sādanam

Falling down here and there (tatra tatra patañ) with fatigue (śrāntah), fainting (mūrcchitaḥ) and being pulled up repeatedly (punar utthitaḥ), he is quickly brought (tarasā nītah) along the path of sinners (pathā pāpīyasā) to the abode of Yama (yama-sādanam).

Verse Summary: His experience on the way to Hell: 10. He falls down here and there with fatigue and also faints many times on the way

Text 24

yojanānām sahasrāṇi navatim nava cādhvanaḥ tribhir muhūrtair dvābhyām vā nītaḥ prāpnoti yātanāḥ

Brought along the path (adhvanah nītaḥ) measuring ninety-nine thousand *yojanas* (yojanānām navatim nava sahasrāṇi) in two or three moments (dvābhyām vā tribhir muhūrtair), he then receives punishment (prāpnoti yātanāḥ).

Verse Summary: His experience at Hell: 1. They cross this path of 99,000 yojanas in 2 or 3 moments and reach hell

Text 25

ādīpanam sva-gātrāṇām veṣṭayitvolmukādibhiḥ ātma-māmsādanam kvāpi sva-kṛttam parato 'pi vā

Surrounded by flaming wood (veṣṭayitvā ulmukādibhiḥ), his limbs burst into flames (ādīpanam sva-gātrāṇām). He is made to eat his own flesh (ātma-māmsa sva-kṛttam adanam), or others eat his flesh sometimes (kvāpi parato api vā).

Verse Summary: His experience at Hell: 2. Surrounded by burning wood, his limbs burst into flames 3. He is made to eat his own flesh, or others eat his flesh

Text 26

jīvataś cāntrābhyuddhāraḥ śva-gṛdhrair yama-sādane sarpa-vṛścika-daṁśādyair daśadbhiś cātma-vaiśasam

In Yama's abode (yama-sādane), his entrails are pulled out (antrā abhyuddhāraḥ) while he is alive (jīvatah) by dogs and vultures (śva-gṛdhrair), and his body is pained (ātma-vaiśasam) by the biting (daśadbhih) of snakes, scorpions and gad-flies (sarpa-vṛścika-damśādyair).

Verse Summary: His experience at Hell: 4. His entrails are pulled out while he is eaten alive by dogs and vultures 5. Snakes, scorpions and gad-flies sting his body

Text 27

kṛntanam cāvayavaśo gajādibhyo bhidāpanam pātanam giri-śṛṅgebhyo rodhanam cāmbu-gartayoḥ

One by one his limbs are cut off (kṛntanaṁ avayavaśo), or torn off by elephants and other creatures (gajādibhyo bhidāpanaṁ). He is hurled from mountain peaks (pātanaṁ giri-śṛṅgebhyo) and pushed under water and locked in holes (rodhanaṁ ca ambu-gartayoḥ).

Verse Summary: His experience at Hell: 6. One by one his limbs are being cut off or torn off by elephants and other creatures 7. He is hurled from mountain peaks 8. He is pushed under water and locked in holes

Text 28

yās tāmisrāndha-tāmisrā rauravādyāś ca yātanāḥ bhuṅkte naro vā nārī vā mithaḥ saṅgena nirmitāḥ

Because by sinful association (mithaḥ saṅgena nirmitāḥ), a man or woman experiences (bhuṅkte naro vā nārī vā) the punishments of tāmisra, andha-tāmisra, and raurava (tāmisra andha-tāmisrā rauravādyāh ca yātanāḥ).

Verse Summary: His experience at Hell: 9. Because of their sinful association men and women experience various types of hell like Tamisra, Andha-Tamisra and Raurava

Text 29 atraiva narakaḥ svarga iti mātaḥ pracakṣate yā yātanā vai nārakyas tā ihāpy upalakṣitāḥ

O mother (mātaḥ)! They say that (iti pracakṣate) in this world (atra eva) hell and heaven are also experienced (narakaḥ svarga). Hellish punishments (yā yātanā vai nārakyah) are seen in this world also (tā iha apy upalakṣitāḥ).

Verse Summary: Even in this world hell and heaven are experienced. Hellish punishments are seen in this world also.

Text 30
evam kuṭumbam bibhrāṇa
udaram bhara eva vā
visṛjyehobhayam pretya

bhunkte tat-phalam īdṛśam

He who maintains his family (kuṭumbaṁ bibhrāṇa) or his own stomach (udaram bhara eva vā) in this way (evaṁ), after giving up his stomach and his family (visṛjya iha ubhayaṁ) on dying (pretya), will experience such results (bhuṅkte tat-phalam īdṛśaṃ).

Verse Summary (30-31): One, who maintains his own body and family by sinful means, and by giving violence to others, goes to hell after his death.

Text 31

ekaḥ prapadyate dhvāntam hitvedam sva-kalevaram kuśaletara-pātheyo bhūta-droheṇa yad bhṛtam

Having to experience a path of death for the sinful (kuśala itara-pātheyah), he enters darkness alone (prapadyate dhvāntaṁ ekaḥ), after giving up his present body (hitvā idaṁ sva-kalevaraṃ) maintained by violence towards other living entities (bhūta-droheṇa yad bhṛtaṃ).

Verse Summary (30-31): One, who maintains his own body and family by sinful means, and by giving violence to others, goes to hell after his death.

Text 32
daivenāsāditam tasya
śamalam niraye pumān
bhunkte kuṭumba-poṣasya
hṛta-vitta ivāturaḥ

By the arrangement of *karma* (daivena āsāditam), the man, without his family members (pumān), afflicted like a man who has lost his wealth (hṛta-vitta iva āturaḥ), experiences (bhunkte) the fault (śamalam) of maintaining his family sinfully (tasya kuṭumba-poṣasya) in hell (niraye).

Verse Summary: One, who maintains his own body and family by sinful means, and by giving violence to others, goes to hell after his death.

Text 33

kevalena hy adharmeṇa kuṭumba-bharaṇotsukaḥ yāti jīvo 'ndha-tāmisraṁ caramaṁ tamasaḥ padam

Eager to maintain his family (kuṭumba-bharaṇa utsukaḥ) by sinful actions alone (kevalena hy adharmeṇa), the person goes to the final destination (yāti jīvo caramam) of andha-tāmisram (andha-tāmisram), a region of hell (tamasaḥ padam).

Verse Summary: Such a person goes to a region of hell called Andha-Tamisra

Text 34
adhastān nara-lokasya
yāvatīr yātanādayaḥ
kramaśaḥ samanukramya
punar atrāvrajec chuciḥ

After successively going through (kramaśaḥ samanukramya) many births below the human form (yāvatīh adhastān nara-lokasya) and becoming purified (yātanādayaḥ śuciḥ), he returns to this earth as a human again (punar atra āvrajet).

Verse Summary: After going through many births below the human form and becoming purified, he returns to this earth as a human being