# Canto 3 Chapter Thirty Two

# Entanglement in Fruitive Activities

The Path of Karma

Text-1

kapila uvāca atha yo gṛha-medhīyān dharmān evāvasan gṛhe kāmam artham ca dharmān svān dogdhi bhūyaḥ piparti tān

Kapila said: He who enjoys (yah dogdhi) artha, kāma and dharma (kāmam artham ca dharmān svān) as a householder (gṛha-medhīyān dharmān) while living in his house (gṛhe eva avasan) again performs those actions (bhūyaḥ piparti tān).

#### Text 2

sa cāpi bhagavad-dharmāt kāma-mūḍhaḥ parāṅ-mukhaḥ yajate kratubhir devān pitṛṁś ca śraddhayānvitaḥ

Bewildered by desire (kāma-mūḍhaḥ), he rejects (sah parāṅ-mukhaḥ) worship of the Lord (bhagavad-dharmāt) and instead very faithfully (śraddhayānvitaḥ) worships (yajate) devatās and pitrs (devān pitṛmś ca) by sacrifice (kratubhir).

Text 3 tac-chraddhayākrānta-matiḥ pitṛ-deva-vrataḥ pumān

gatvā cāndramasam lokam soma-pāḥ punar eṣyati

Overtaken with such faith (tat-śraddhayā ākrānta-matiḥ), dedicated to Pitṛs and devatās (pitṛ-deva-vrataḥ), a person (pumān) goes to the moon planet (gatvā cāndramasam lokam), drinks soma beverage (soma-pāḥ) and then falls back to earth (punar eṣyati).

Text 4
yadā cāhīndra-śayyāyām
śete 'nantāsano hariḥ
tadā lokā layam yānti
ta ete gṛha-medhinām

When (yadā) the Supreme Lord (hariḥ) lies down (śete) on Ananta to sleep (ahīndra-śayyāyām anantāsano) at the end of Brahmā'ṣ day (implied), all these planets attained by the *dharmic* householder (tadā ta ete lokā gṛha-medhinām) are destroyed (layam yānti).

### Theme II – Niskama Karma Yoga can bestow Sayujya Mukti (3.32.5-7)

Text 5

ye sva-dharmān na duhyanti dhīrāḥ kāmārtha-hetave niḥsaṅgā nyasta-karmāṇaḥ praśāntāḥ śuddha-cetasaḥ

Intelligent people (dhīrāḥ) who do not desire the results of their prescribed actions (ye sva-dharmān na duhyanti) for artha and kāma (kāmārtha-hetave), having offered all results to the Lord (nyasta-karmāṇaḥ), being free from attachment (niḥsaṅgā), are peaceful (praśāntāḥ) and pure in consciousness (śuddha-cetasaḥ).

#### Theme II – Niskama Karma Yoga can bestow Sayujya Mukti (3.32.5-7)

Text 6-7
nivṛtti-dharma-niratā
nirmamā nirahaṅkṛtāḥ
sva-dharmāptena sattvena
pariśuddhena cetasā

sūrya-dvāreṇa te yānti puruṣam viśvato-mukham parāvareśam prakṛtim asyotpatty-anta-bhāvanam

Engrossed in actions of detachment (nivṛtti-dharma-niratā), with no sense of possessiveness or ego (nirmamā nirahaṅkṛtāḥ), with consciousness purified completely (pariśuddhena cetasā), having attained sattva by performance of prescribed duties (sva-dharma āptena sattvena), going by the path of the sun they attain the perfect Lord (sūrya-dvāreṇa te yānti puruṣaṁ viśvato-mukham), the controller of higher and lower beings (parāvareśaṁ), who is the material cause (prakṛtim) and efficient cause (utpatty-anta-bhāvanam) of the universe (asya).

|| BG 8.24 ||
agnir jyotir ahaḥ śuklaḥ
ṣaṇmāsā uttarāyaṇam |
tatra prayātā gacchanti
brahma brahma-vido janāḥ ||

The knowers of brahman (brahma-vido janāḥ) who depart (prayātā) on the path of fire and light (agnir jyotir), the waxing fortnight (ahaḥ śuklaḥ), and the northern progress of the sun (ṣaṇmāsā uttarāyaṇam) attain brahman (brahma gacchanti).

- •The two words *agni* and *jyoti* indicate the presiding devatā of light, which is mentioned in the śrutis.
- •Ahaḥ means the deity of the day. Śukla means the deity of the waxing fortnight. Ṣaṇ-māsā uttarāyaṇam means the presiding deity of the six months leading up to the summer solstice.

Text 8
dvi-parārdhāvasāne yaḥ
pralayo brahmaṇas tu te
tāvad adhyāsate lokaṁ
parasya para-cintakāḥ

They remain on Satyaloka (adhyāsate lokam) meditating on Brahmā (parasya para-cintakāḥ) until the end of Brahmā's life of two parārdhas (tāvad brahmaṇah dviparārdha avasāne).

#### Text 9

kṣmāmbho-'nalānila-viyan-mana-indriyārthabhūtādibhiḥ parivṛtam pratisañjihīrṣuḥ avyākṛtam viśati yarhi guṇa-trayātmā kālam parākhyam anubhūya paraḥ svayambhūḥ

Desiring to give up his body (pratisañjihīrṣuḥ) covered by (parivṛtaṁ) earth, water, fire, air, ether, mind, senses, sense objects and ahaṅkāra (kṣmā-ambhah-anala-anila-viyad-mana-indriya-artha-bhūta-ādibhiḥ), knowing the length of his life of 2 parardhas (anubhūya paraḥ kālaṁ parākhyam), Brahmā (svayambhūḥ), composed of three guṇas (guṇa-trayātmā), enters into Mahāviṣṇu (viśati avyākrtaṁ).

#### Text 10

evam paretya bhagavantam anupraviṣṭā
ye yogino jita-marun-manaso virāgāḥ
tenaiva sākam amṛtam puruṣam purāṇam
brahma pradhānam upayānty agatābhimānāḥ

The detached *yog*īs (**ye virāgāḥ yoginah**), conquering the life airs and mind (**jita-marut-manasah**), after attaining Brahmaloka (**evam paretya**), merge with Brahmā (**bhagavantam anupraviṣṭā**), and then merge into the Supreme Lord (**upayānty amṛtam puruṣam purāṇam**), the excellent Brahman (**brahma pradhānam**), along with Brahmā (**tena eva sākam**), taking their identity as worshippers of Brahmā with them (**agatā abhimānāḥ**).

Text 11
atha tam sarva-bhūtānām
hṛt-padmeṣu kṛtālayam
śrutānubhāvam śaraṇam
vraja bhāvena bhāmini

O affectionate mother (bhāmini)! Therefore (atha), surrender (śaraṇaṁ vraja) with love (bhāvena) to the Lord of all beings (taṁ sarva-bhūtānāṁ), who resides in the lotus of the heart (hṛt-padmeṣu kṛta ālayam), and is realized by hearing (śruta anubhāvaṁ).

#### Text 12-15

ādyaḥ sthira-carāṇām yo veda-garbhaḥ saharṣibhiḥ yogeśvaraiḥ kumārādyaiḥ siddhair yoga-pravartakaiḥ

bheda-dṛṣṭyābhimānena niḥsaṅgenāpi karmaṇā kartṛtvāt saguṇaṁ brahma puruṣaṁ puruṣarṣabham

sa samsṛtya punaḥ kāle kāleneśvara-mūrtinā jāte guṇa-vyatikare yathā-pūrvam prajāyate

aiśvaryam pārameṣṭhyam ca te 'pi dharma-vinirmitam niṣevya punar āyānti guṇa-vyatikare sati

Sometimes, Brahmā (ādyaḥ), creator of the moving and non-moving beings (sthira-carāṇām), the knower of the Vedas (veda-garbhaḥ), along with the sages (saha rṣibhiḥ), the lords of yoga, the Kumāras (yogeśvaraih kumārādyaih) and other perfected beings, and practitioners of yoga (siddhair yoga-pravartakaih), because of seeing difference (bheda-dṛṣṭyā) and false identity (abhimānena) by conceptions of being a doer (kartṛtvāt) enters into the Supreme Lord (samsrtya sagunam brahma purusam purusarsabham) by execution of activities with detachment (niḥsangenāpi karmaṇā), but is born again after some time (sah kāle punaḥ yathā-pūrvam prajāyate) by the force of the Lord in the form of time (kālena īśvara-mūrtinā), with the disturbance of the gunas (jāte guna-vyatikare). The sages also (te api), endowed with powers (nișevya aiśvaryam pāramesthyam ca) by their pious acts (dharma-vinirmitam), come back (punar āyānti) when the guṇas become disturbed (guṇavyatikare sati).

Text 16

ye tv ihāsakta-manasaḥ karmasu śraddhayānvitāḥ kurvanty apratiṣiddhāni nityāny api ca kṛtsnaśaḥ

With minds attached to this world (ye tv iha āsaktamanasaḥ), with faith in prescribed duties (karmasu śraddhayānvitāḥ), they perform kāmya-karmas and nitya-karmas (kurvanty apratiṣiddhāni nityāny api) to the fullest extent (krtsnaśah).

Text 17
rajasā kuṇṭha-manasaḥ
kāmātmāno 'jitendriyāḥ
pitṛn yajanty anudinam
gṛheṣv abhiratāśayāḥ

With minds fatigued by passion (rajasā kuṇṭha-manasaḥ), full of desire (kāmātmāno), with uncontrolled senses (ajitendriyāḥ), and minds absorbed in their household affairs (gṛheṣu abhirata āśayāḥ), they daily worship the Pitṛs (pitṛn yajanty anudinam).

Text 18

trai-vargikās te puruṣā vimukhā hari-medhasaḥ kathāyām kathanīyoruvikramasya madhudviṣaḥ

These persons are interested in *artha*, *dharma* and *kāma* (te puruṣāh trai-vargikāh), and are averse (vimukhā) to topics of the Supreme Lord who knows how to destroy *saṃsāra* (kathāyām hari-medhasaḥ), who is the killer of Madhu (madhudviṣaḥ), and who is the most heroic lord (uru-vikramasya) worthy of praise (kathanīya).

Text 19
nūnam daivena vihatā
ye cācyuta-kathā-sudhām
hitvā śṛṇvanty asad-gāthāḥ
purīṣam iva viḍ-bhujaḥ

Struck by fate (daivena vihatā), rejecting the nectar of topics of the Lord (acyuta-kathā-sudhām hitvā), they hear material topics (śṛṇvanty asad-gāthāḥ), like pigs eating rubbish (purīṣam iva viḍ-bhujaḥ).

Text 20 dakşinena pathāryamnah pitṛ-lokam vrajanti te prajām anu prajāyante śmaśānānta-kriyā-kṛtaḥ

Performing scriptural duties from impregnation till death (śmaśāna anta kriyā kṛtaḥ), they go to Pitṛloka (pitṛlokam vrajanti te), by the southern course of the sun (aryamṇaḥ dakṣiṇena patha), and are then reborn among family members (prajām anu prajāyante).

| BG 8.25 ||
dhūmo rātris tathā kṛṣṇaḥ
ṣaṇ-māsā dakṣiṇāyanam
tatra cāndramasam jyotir
yogī prāpya nivartate|

Departing on the path of smoke, the night, the waning fortnight (dhūmah rātrih tathā kṛṣṇaḥ), the southern course of the sun (ṣaṇ-māsā dakṣiṇāyanam), and attaining Svargaloka (tatra cāndramasam jyotir prāpya), the karma-yogī returns (yogī nivartate).

Text 21
tatas te kṣīṇa-sukṛtāḥ
punar lokam imam sati
patanti vivaśā devaiḥ

sadyo vibhramśitodayāh

Having exhausted their pious results (tatah te kṣīṇa-sukṛtāḥ), they helplessly fall to earth again (punah imam lokam vivaśā patanti), their enjoyment destroyed (sadyah vibhramśita udayāḥ) by fate (devaiḥ).

#### Text 22

tasmāt tvam sarva-bhāvena bhajasva parameṣṭhinam tad-guṇāśrayayā bhaktyā bhajanīya-padāmbujam

Therefore (tasmāt), with full attention (sarva-bhāvena) you should worship (tvam bhajasva) the Supreme Lord (parameṣṭhinam), whose attractive lotus feet are meant for worship (bhajanīya-padāmbujam) by bhakti caused by his attractive qualities (tad-guṇa āśrayayā bhaktyā).

Text 23
vāsudeve bhagavati
bhakti-yogaḥ prayojitaḥ
janayaty āśu vairāgyam
jñānam yad brahma-darśanam

Bhakti directed to the Supreme Lord Vāsudeva (vāsudeve bhagavati bhakti-yogaḥ prayojitaḥ) quickly produces (āśu janayaty) detachment and knowledge (vairāgyam jñānam) from which one realizes Brahman (yad brahmadarśanam).

Text 24-25

yadāsya cittam artheşu sameşv indriya-vṛttibhiḥ na vigṛhṇāti vaiṣamyaṁ priyam apriyam ity uta

sa tadaivātmanātmānam niḥsaṅgaṁ sama-darśanam heyopādeya-rahitam ārūḍhaṁ padam īkṣate

When the mind of a person with some *bhakti* (yadā asya cittam) does not perceive differences (na vigṛhṇāti vaiṣamyam) such as good or bad (priyam apriyam) in material objects (artheṣu) which are equally accepted by the senses (sameṣu indriya-vṛttibhiḥ), by intelligence (ātmanā) he then (sah tadā) experiences himself as jīva (īkṣate ātmānam) endowed with detachment (niḥsaṅgam), with equal vision (sama-darśanam), devoid of conceptions of good or bad (heya upādeya-rahitam), and then realizes Vaikuṇtha or Brahman, which is almost achieved (ārūḍham padam).

Text 26
jñāna-mātram param brahma
paramātmeśvaraḥ pumān
dṛśy-ādibhiḥ pṛthag bhāvair
bhagavān eka īyate

The one form of Bhagavān (ekah bhagavān) also perceived as Brahman (param brahma īyate), consciousness alone (jñāna-mātram), and as Paramātmā (paramātmā pumān), the puruṣa (īśvaraḥ), by differing practices (dṛśy-ādibhiḥ) performed by different practitioners (pṛthag bhāvaih).

Text 27
etāvān eva yogena
samagreņeha yoginaḥ
yujyate 'bhimato hy artho
yad asaṅgas tu kṛtsnaśaḥ

Complete detachment from sense objects (kṛtsnaśaḥ asaṅgah) is recognized as a necessary factor (abhimatah) for achieving the goals (arthah) of the devotees, jñānīs and yogīs (samagreṇa iha yoginaḥ) through the practice of bhakti, jñāna and yoga (etāvān eva yogena yujyate).

Text 28
jñānam ekam parācīnair
indriyair brahma nirguņam
avabhāty artha-rūpeņa
bhrāntyā śabdādi-dharmiņā

The one Brahman (ekam brahma) composed of consciousness alone (jñānam), without qualities (nirguṇam), appears by error (bhrāntyā avabhāty) through materially directed senses (parācīnair indriyair) to take the form of various objects (artha-rūpeṇa) with qualities such as sound (śabdādi-dharmiṇā).

Text 29
yathā mahān aham-rūpas
tri-vṛt pañca-vidhaḥ svarāṭ
ekādaśa-vidhas tasya
vapur aṇḍam jagad yataḥ

From mahat-tattva (yathā mahān), ahaṅkāra of three guṇas (tri-vṛt ahaṁ-rūpah), the five elements and sense objects (pañca-vidhaḥ), the eleven senses (ekādaśa-vidhah), the totality of jīvas, the individual jīva (svarāṭ), whole universe and the body of the jīva (tasya vapuh), the world of matter appears (jagad).

Text 30
etad vai śraddhayā bhaktyā
yogābhyāsena nityaśaḥ
samāhitātmā niḥsaṅgo
viraktyā paripaśyati

By faith, by *bhakti* (**śraddhayā bhaktyā**), by practice of *yoga* and by detachment (**yogābhyāsena viraktyā**), with constantly controlled mind (**nityaśaḥ samāhita ātmā**), giving up material association (**niḥsaṅgo**), a person sees this Brahman (**etad paripaśyati**).

Text 31
ity etat kathitam gurvi
jñānam tad brahma-darśanam
yenānubuddhyate tattvam
prakṛteḥ puruṣasya ca

O mother (gurvi)! In this way I have explained jñāna (ity etat kathitam jñānam), realization of Brahman (tad brahma-darśanam), by which one understands (yena anubuddhyate) the truth concerning prakṛti and puruṣa (prakṛteḥ puruṣasya tattvam).

#### Theme VI – Various Paths to realize God (3.32.32-36)

#### Text 32

jñāna-yogaś ca man-niṣṭho nairguṇyo bhakti-lakṣaṇaḥ dvayor apy eka evārtho bhagavac-chabda-lakṣaṇaḥ

The goal of *jñāna* (**jñāna-yogah arthah**), fixed on my expansion as Brahman (**man-niṣṭhah**), beyond the *guṇas* (**nairguṇyah**), and the goal of *bhakti* (**bhakti-lakṣaṇaḥ**) are actually only one goal (**eka eva arthah**), which is known by the word Bhagavān (**bhagavac-chabda-lakṣaṇaḥ**).

#### Theme VI – Various Paths to realize God (3.32.32-36)

#### Text 33

yathendriyaiḥ pṛthag-dvārair artho bahu-guṇāśrayaḥ eko nāneyate tadvad bhagavān śāstra-vartmabhiḥ

Just as one object (yathā eko arthah), the substrate of many qualities (bahu-guṇa āśrayaḥ), is perceived (īyate) by the various senses (nānā indriyaiḥ) in various ways (pṛthag-dvāraih), so Bhagavān is perceived variously (tadvad bhagavān) by the various scriptural practices (śāstra-vartmabhiḥ).

#### Theme VI – Various Paths to realize God (3.32.32-36)

Text 34-36

kriyayā kratubhir dānais tapaḥ-svādhyāya-marśanaiḥ ātmendriya-jayenāpi sannyāsena ca karmaṇām

yogena vividhāṅgena bhakti-yogena caiva hi dharmeṇobhaya-cihnena yaḥ pravṛtti-nivṛttimān

ātma-tattvāvabodhena vairāgyeņa dṛḍhena ca īyate bhagavān ebhiḥ saguņo nirguṇaḥ sva-dṛk

By pious actions (kriyayā), sacrifices (kratubhih), charities (dānaih), by austerity, by study and discussion of the Vedas (tapaḥ-svādhyāya-marśanaiḥ), by control of the senses and mind (ātma indriya-jayena), by renunciation of all duties (sannyāsena ca karmaṇām), by practice of the various aṅgas of yoga (yogena vividhā aṅgena), by the addition of bhakti to all these processes (bhakti-yogena caiva hi), by sakāma and niṣkāma varṇāśrama duties (dharmeṇa ubhaya-cihnena) which are for enjoyment and liberation (yaḥ pravṛtti-nivṛttimān), by understanding the nature of ātmā (ātma-tattva avabodhena), and by firm detachment (vairāgyeṇa dṛḍhena ca), the Lord is perceived as Svarga, Brahman, Paramātmā and Bhagavān (īyate bhagavān saguṇo nirguṇaḥ sva-dṛk).

Text 37
prāvocam bhakti-yogasya
svarūpam te catur-vidham
kālasya cāvyakta-gater
yo 'ntardhāvati jantuṣu

I have explained to you (prāvocam te) the four types of bhakti: tamasic, rajasic, sattvic and nirguṇa bhakti (bhakti-yogasya catur-vidham) and the form of time (kālasya svarūpam) whose progress is invisible (avyakta-gateh) and which pursues all living beings (yah antardhāvati jantuṣu).

Text 38
jīvasya samsṛtīr bahvīr
avidyā-karma-nirmitāḥ
yāsv aṅga praviśann ātmā

na veda gatim ātmanah

O mother (anga)! There are numerous transmigrations of the *jīva* (**jīvasya samsṛtīr bahvīh**) caused by action in ignorance (avidyā-karma-nirmitāḥ), entering into which (yāsu praviśann) the *jīva* (ātmā) does not understand his own destination (na veda ātmanaḥ gatim).

Text 39
naitat khalāyopadiśen
nāvinītāya karhicit
na stabdhāya na bhinnāya
naiva dharma-dhvajāya ca

One should not give these teaching (na etat upadiśet) to those with evil motives (khalāya), to those without behaviour as students (avinītāya), to those who are proud (stabdhāya), to those with different ideas (bhinnāya), and those who make a show of religion for profit and position (dharma-dhvajāya).

Text 40
na lolupāyopadiśen
na gṛhārūḍha-cetase
nābhaktāya ca me jātu
na mad-bhakta-dviṣām api

One should not teach this knowledge (na upadiśet) to those who are extremely attached to material enjoyment (lolupāya), to those attached to family affairs (gṛhārūḍhacetase), to those without devotion (abhaktāya), and never to those who hate the devotees (na jātu mad-bhaktadviṣām api).

Text 41-42 śraddadhānāya bhaktāya vinītāyānasūyave bhūteṣu kṛta-maitrāya śuśrūṣābhiratāya ca

bahir-jāta-virāgāya śānta-cittāya dīyatām nirmatsarāya śucaye yasyāham preyasām priyaḥ

One should teach this (dīyatām) to devotees having faith (śraddadhānāya bhaktāya), to those with proper conduct (vinītāya), to those without hatred for any living being (anasūyave), who are friendly to all beings (bhūteṣu kṛtamaitrāya), who are eager to serve (śuśrūṣa abhiratāya), to those who are detached from external objects (bahir-jāta-virāgāya), to those with peaceful minds (śāntacittāya), to those who are unselfish (nirmatsarāya), to those who are pure (śucaye), and to those for whom I am the most dear among all dear things (yasya aham preyasām priyaḥ).

Text 43
ya idam śṛṇuyād amba
śraddhayā puruṣaḥ sakṛt
yo vābhidhatte mac-cittaḥ
sa hy eti padavīm ca me

O mother (amba)! That person who hears this topic (yah puruṣaḥ idam śṛṇuyād) once with faith (śraddhayā sakṛt), or who utters this topic (yah vā abhidhatte), concentrating his mind on me (mac-cittaḥ), certainly attains the place where my feet rest (sah hy eti padavīm ca me).