# Canto 3 Chapter Thirty Three

Activities of Kapila

Departure of Kapila

#### Text-1

maitreya uvāca
evam niśamya kapilasya vaco janitrī
sā kardamasya dayitā kila devahūtiḥ
visrasta-moha-paṭalā tam abhipraṇamya
tuṣṭāva tattva-viṣayāṅkita-siddhi-bhūmim

Maitreya said: Devahūti (janitrī devahūtiḥ), the wife of Kardama (kardamasya dayitā), hearing the words of Kapila (evam niśamya kapilasya vacah), became free of ignorance concerning bhakti, jñāna and yoga (visrasta-moha-paṭalā). She offered respects to and satisfied Kapila (tam abhipraṇamya tuṣṭāva), the compiler of knowledge concerning bhakti, jñāna and yoga (tattva-viṣayāṅkita), and the giver or perfection to men on this earth (siddhi-bhūmim).

#### Text 2

devahūtir uvāca athāpy ajo 'ntaḥ-salile śayānam bhūtendriyārthātma-mayam vapus te guṇa-pravāham sad-aśeṣa-bījam dadhyau svayam yaj-jaṭharābja-jātaḥ

Devahūti said: Even Brahmā (ajah api) born from the lotus in your navel (yaj-jaṭharābja-jātaḥ) could only meditate (dadhyau svayaṁ) upon your form (te vapuh) lying in the ocean (antaḥ-salile śayānaṁ), which is composed of spiritual elements, spiritual sense objects and spiritual senses (bhūta-indriya-artha-ātma-mayaṁ), which is endowed with all good qualities (guṇa-pravāhaṁ) and which is the source of unlimited real universes (sad-aśeṣa-bījaṁ).

#### Text 3

sa eva viśvasya bhavān vidhatte guṇa-pravāheṇa vibhakta-vīryaḥ sargādy anīho 'vitathābhisandhir ātmeśvaro 'tarkya-sahasra-śaktiḥ

You distribute (bhavān vidhatte) your powers of creation, maintenance and destruction (viśvasya sargādy vīryaḥ) by dividing them up according to the guṇas (guṇa-pravāheṇa vibhakta). You are without material activities (anīhah). Your desires are never unfulfilled (avitatha abhisandhih). You are the lord of all the jīvas (ātmeśvarah). You are the possessor of unlimited, inconceivable energies (atarkya-sahasra-śaktiḥ). In this way you carry out your activities (implied).

#### Text 4

sa tvam bhṛto me jaṭhareṇa nātha katham nu yasyodara etad āsīt viśvam yugānte vaṭa-patra ekaḥ śete sma māyā-śiśur aṅghri-pānaḥ

O Lord (nātha)! How were you (katham nu tvam), in whose belly the universe rests (yasya udare etad viśvam āsīt), held in my womb (me jaṭhareṇa bhṛtah)? As a merciful baby (māyā-śiśuh) you lie alone (ekaḥ śete sma) on a banyan leaf (vaṭa-patra), sucking your toe (aṅghri-pānaḥ), at the end of the yuga (yugānte).

#### Text 5

tvam deha-tantraḥ praśamāya pāpmanām nideśa-bhājām ca vibho vibhūtaye yathāvatārās tava sūkarādayas tathāyam apy ātma-pathopalabdhaye

O Lord (vibho)! You become dependent on my body as a baby (tvam deha-tantraḥ). Just as you appear in this world in forms like the boar (yathā tava sūkarādayah avatārāh) to destroy sin (pāpmanām praśamāya) and to make those who follow your instructions prosperous (nideśa-bhājām vibhūtaye), you have appeared to teach the path of jñāna and bhakti directed to yourself (tathāyam apy ātma-patha upalabdhaye).

#### Text 6

yan-nāma-dheya-śravaṇānukīrtanād yat-prahvaṇad yat-smaraṇād api kvacit | śvādo 'pi sadyaḥ savanāya kalpate kutaḥ punas te bhagavan nu darśanāt

To say nothing of the spiritual advancement of persons who see the Supreme Person face to face (kutaḥ punas te bhagavan nu darśanāt), even a person born in a family of dog-eaters (śvādah api) immediately (sadyah) becomes eligible (kalpate) to perform Vedic sacrifices (savanaya) if he once (kvacit) utters the holy name of the Supreme Personality of Godhead or chants about Him (yan-nāma-dheya-śravaṇa anukīrtanād), hears about His pastimes, offers Him obeisances (yat-prahvaṇad) or even remembers Him (Smaranad).

• Svadah doesn't refer to a person who accidentally ate dog flesh once. Sva + adan (eating) – present tense. Therefore svadah refers to a dog cooker or a low born person.

• Such a person, by performing any one of the devotional limbs as mentioned above, destroys these prarabdha karmas which have produced this low birth which prevents him from performing sacrifices.

• Also, performance of bhakti also creates the pious credits and qualities needed for performing sacrifices.

- But, just like a brahmana, a dog eater also has to undergo proper vedic training and 2<sup>nd</sup> initiation in order to perform sacrifice. The purpose of this verse is not to advocate his immediate performance of sacrifices.
- But, in order to undergo 2<sup>nd</sup> initiation one should have taken the vedic initiation and learnt the Vedas from a very young age. But the dog eater has missed it.
- Therefore, if he wants to perform vedic sacrifices, he has to wait for one more birth because of his lack of proper conduct or sistacara at the young age, while he was still a dog eater.
- But BSST says that even such a person, when he undergoes vaisnava diksa, he surpasses second birth.

- Savanaya kalpate also means that he should be given the respect due to a qualified person.
- But one might ask: "How can you say that the prarabdha karma is destroyed? He still has the same body."
- Sinful reactions due to bad birth in the form of acquisition of bad qualities and suffering are removed immediately. But the birth itself cannot be changed from one parents to another. But bad qualities are definitely destroyed by bhakti.
- VCT adds that such a low born practitioner of bhakti does not perform sacrifices, not because of his lack of qualification, but because he has no faith in them as he is endowed with pure bhakti.
- But a brahmana devotee might continue doing the sacrifices to set the right example. (karmanaiva hy samsiddhim)

- One might ask: "If practice of bhakti removes suffering, why then do I see devotees suffering?"
- Devotee's happiness is due to his practice of bhakti (not punya karma) and his suffering is given personally by the Lord's mercy (not due to bad karma).

yasyāham anugṛhṇāmi hariṣye tad-dhanam śanaiḥ tato 'dhanam tyajanty asya svajanā duḥkha-duḥkhitam

If I especially favor someone (yasya aham anugṛḥṇāmi), I gradually deprive him of his wealth (hariṣye tad-dhanam śanaiḥ). Then (tato) the relatives and friends (svajanā) of such a poverty-stricken man (adhanam asya) abandon him (tyajanty). In this way he suffers one distress after another (duḥkha-duḥkhitam). SB 10.88.8

- Baladev Vidyabhusana Silk analogy
- Sometimes however, the suffering is a result of offense to the Vaiṣṇavas.

#### Text 7

aho bata śva-paco 'to garīyān yaj-jihvāgre vartate nāma tubhyam tepus tapas te juhuvuḥ sasnur āryā brahmānūcur nāma gṛṇanti ye te

How astonishing (aho bata)! The outcaste (śva-pacah) on the tip of whose tongue (yaj-jihvā agre) your name appears (vartate nāma tubhyam) becomes the guru (atah garīyān)! All those who chant your name (te nāma gṛṇanti ye), becoming most respectable (āryā), have completed all austerities (tapas tepuh), all sacrifices, all bathing (juhuvuḥ sasnuh) and all study of the Vedas (brahmānūcur).

#### Text 8

tam tvām aham brahma param pumāmsam pratyak-srotasy ātmani samvibhāvyam sva-tejasā dhvasta-guṇa-pravāham vande viṣṇum kapilam veda-garbham

I offer respects to you (tvām aham vande) Kapila, who are Viṣṇu (viṣṇum kapilam), Brahman, the supreme person (brahma param pumāmsam), the destroyer of material existence (dhvasta-guṇa-pravāham) by your appearance in this world (sva-tejasā), the shelter of the Vedas (veda-garbham), who should be the object of meditation for the mind (ātmani samvibhāvyam) which has withdrawn from material objects (pratyak-srotasy).

# Theme II – Kapila's Final Instructions to Devahuti (3.33.9-11)

Text 9
maitreya uvāca
īḍito bhagavān evam
kapilākhyaḥ paraḥ pumān
vācāviklavayety āha
mātaram mātr-vatsalaḥ

Maitreya said: The Lord called Kapila (bhagavān kapilākhyaḥ), the supreme person (paraḥ pumān), praised thus (evam īḍitah), spoke to his mother (mātaram āha) out of affection for her (mātṛ-vatsalaḥ), with choked voice (aviklavayā vācā).

# Theme II – Kapila's Final Instructions to Devahuti (3.33.9-11)

Text 10
kapila uvāca
mārgeṇānena mātas te
susevyenoditena me
āsthitena parām kāṣṭhām
acirād avarotsyasi

Kapila said: My dear Mother (mātah)! By this path of bhakti (anena mārgeṇa āsthitena) explained by me (me uditena), which is easy to perform (su-sevyena), you will quickly attain (acirād avarotsyasi) the supreme goal of prema (parām kāṣṭhām).

# Theme II – Kapila's Final Instructions to Devahuti (3.33.9-11)

#### Text 11

śraddhatsvaitan matam mahyam juṣṭam yad brahma-vādibhiḥ yena mām abhayam yāyā mṛtyum ṛcchanty atad-vidaḥ

Have faith in my instructions (etad matam mahyam śraddhatsva) which are practiced by those who know the truth (juṣṭam yad brahma-vādibhiḥ), and which will give you fearlessness (yena mām abhayam yāyā). Those who do not know this attain death (mṛtyum ṛcchanty atad-vidah).

Text 12
maitreya uvāca
iti pradaršya bhagavān
satīm tām ātmano gatim
sva-mātrā brahma-vādinyā
kapilo 'numato yayau

Maitreya said: Having shown his mother (iti satīm pradarśya) the path of the soul (ātmano gatim), Kapila (bhagavān kapilah), taking permission (anumatah) from his mother who knew the truth about her son (brahmavādinyā sva-mātrā), departed (yayau).

Text 13
sā cāpi tanayoktena
yogādeśena yoga-yuk
tasminn āśrama āpīḍe
sarasvatyāḥ samāhitā

By following the instructions on *bhakti* (yogādeśena) spoken by her son (tanaya uktena), absorbed in *bhakti* (yoga-yuk), she became engaged in *samādhi* (sā samāhitā) in that hermitage (tasminn āśrama), which was like a flower crown on the Sarasvatī River (sarasvatyāḥ āpīḍe).

Text 14
abhīkṣṇāvagāha-kapiśān
jaṭilān kuṭilālakān
ātmānaṁ cogra-tapasā
bibhratī cīriṇaṁ kṛśam

Her locks of hair (kuṭilālakān) became matted (jaṭilān) and grey (kapiśān) from repeated bathing (abhīkṣṇa avagāha). Her body (ātmānaṁ), clothed in rags (cīriṇaṁ), became thin (kṛśam bibhratī) because of severe austerities (ugra-tapasā).

Text 15
prajāpateḥ kardamasya
tapo-yoga-vijṛmbhitam
sva-gārhasthyam anaupamyam
prārthyam vaimānikair api

The house (sva-gārhasthyam) Kardama produced through the austerities of *yoga* (prajāpateḥ kardamasya tapo-yoga-vijṛmbhitam) was unequalled (anaupamyam) and desired by the *devatās* (vaimānikair api prārthyam).

Text 16
payaḥ-phena-nibhāḥ śayyā
dāntā rukma-paricchadāḥ
āsanāni ca haimāni
susparśāstaraṇāni ca

The ivory beds (dāntā śayyā) resembling the foam of milk (payaḥ-phena-nibhāḥ) had gold coverings (rukma-paricchadāḥ). The chairs were made of gold (āsanāni ca haimāni) with soft cushions (susparśa āstaraṇāni ca).

Text 17
svaccha-sphațika-kudyeșu
mahā-mārakateșu ca
ratna-pradīpā ābhānti
lalanā ratna-samyutāḥ

Jewel lamps (ratna-pradīpā) shone (ābhānti) on clear crystal walls (svaccha-sphaṭika-kuḍyeṣu) decorated with large emeralds (mahā-mārakateṣu ca). The women were decorated with jewels (lalanā ratna-saṃyutāḥ).

Text 18
grhodyānam kusumitai
ramyam bahv-amara-drumaiḥ
kūjad-vihanga-mithunam
gāyan-matta-madhuvratam

The garden (gṛha udyānaṁ) was made beautiful (ramyaṁ) with many flowering celestial trees (kusumitai bahvamara-drumaiḥ) with pairs of singing birds (kūjadvihaṅga-mithunaṁ) and intoxicated, humming bees (gāyan-matta-madhuvratam).

Text 19

yatra praviṣṭam ātmānam vibudhānucarā jaguḥ vāpyām utpala-gandhinyām kardamenopalālitam

When Devahūti, under the care of Kardama (yatra kardamena upalālitam), would enter the pond (vāpyām praviṣṭam), fragrant with lotuses (utpala-gandhinyām), the devatās' assistants (vibudha anucarā) glorified her (ātmānam jaguḥ).

Text 20
hitvā tad īpsitatamam
apy ākhaṇḍala-yoṣitām
kiñcic cakāra vadanam
putra-viśleṣaṇāturā

Giving up that house (tad hitvā), most desirable even to the wives of Indra (ākhaṇḍala-yoṣitām apy īpsitatamam), Devahūti became silent, overcome with grief (kiñcic cakāra vadanam), pained by the absence of her son (putra-viśleṣana āturā).

Text 21
vanam pravrajite patyāv
apatya-virahāturā
jñāta-tattvāpy abhūn naṣṭe
vatse gaur iva vatsalā

Since her husband had also left home (patyāv vanam pravrajite), she became aggrieved with separation from her son (apatya-viraha āturā), even though she knew the truth (jñāta-tattvāpy). She was like a cow aggrieved when losing a calf (naṣṭe vatse vatsalā gaur iva abhūt).

Text 22
tam eva dhyāyatī devam
apatyam kapilam harim
babhūvācirato vatsa
niḥspṛhā tādṛśe gṛhe

O Vidura (vatsa)! Meditating on her son Kapila (tam apatyam kapilam eva dhyāyatī), the Supreme Lord (devam harim), she quickly became detached (acirato niḥspṛhā babhūva) from that opulent house (tādṛśe gṛhe).

Text 23
dhyāyatī bhagavad-rūpam
yad āha dhyāna-gocaram
sutaḥ prasanna-vadanam
samasta-vyasta-cintayā

She meditated on the form of the Supreme Lord (dhyāyatī bhagavad-rūpam), the worthy object of meditation (dhyāna-gocaram), with smiling face (prasanna-vadanam), whom her son had described (yad āha sutaḥ), thinking of his whole form and its parts (samasta-vyasta-cintayā).

Text 24-26

bhakti-pravāha-yogena vairāgyeņa balīyasā yuktānuṣṭhāna-jātena jñānena brahma-hetunā

viśuddhena tadātmānam ātmanā viśvato-mukham svānubhūtyā tirobhūtamāyā-guṇa-viśeṣaṇam

brahmaņy avasthita-matir bhagavaty ātma-samśraye nivṛtta-jīvāpattitvāt kṣīṇa-kleśāpta-nirvṛtiḥ

By bhakti-yoga which flows like a current (bhakti-pravāha-yogena), by strong renunciation (vairāgyeṇa balīyasā) produced from proper practice of bhakti (yukta anuṣṭhāna-jātena), by knowledge causing realization of the Lord (jñānena brahma-hetunā), by purity of mind (ātmānam viśuddhena), she saw the Supreme Lord (tadā ātmānam), who pervades all direction (viśvato-mukham) and is devoid of material qualities (tirobhūta-māyā-guṇa-viśeṣaṇam) through personal realization (svānubhūtyā). Her mind became fixed (avasthita-matir) in Brahman, Bhagavān and Paramātmā (brahmaṇy bhagavaty ātma-saṃśraye), and she attained bliss (āpta-nirvṛtiḥ) and destruction of suffering (kṣīṇa-kleśā) because of destroying saṃsāra (nivṛtta-jīva āpattitvāt).

Text 27
nityārūḍha-samādhitvāt
parāvṛtta-guṇa-bhramā
na sasmāra tadātmānaṁ
svapne dṛṣṭam ivotthitaḥ

Because of attaining continuous Samadhi (nityārūḍha-samādhitvāt), and being free of wandering towards sense objects (parāvṛtta-guṇa-bhramā), she did not remember her body (na sasmāra tadātmānam), just as a person on waking does not remember what happened in a dream (svapne dṛṣṭam iva utthitaḥ)

Text 28
tad-dehaḥ parataḥ poṣo
'py akṛśaś cādhy-asambhavāt
babhau malair avacchannaḥ
sadhūma iva pāvakaḥ

Her body was cared for the maidens created by Kardama (tad-dehaḥ parataḥ poṣah) and because of no anxieties (ādhy-asambhavāt), she was not thin (akṛśah). Though covered by dirt (malair avacchannaḥ apy), her body shone like a fire covered by smoke (sadhūma pāvakaḥ iva babhau).

Text 29

svāṅgaṁ tapo-yogamayaṁ mukta-keśaṁ gatāmbaram daiva-guptaṁ na bubudhe vāsudeva-praviṣṭa-dhīḥ

Completely absorbed in Vāsudeva (vāsudeva-praviṣṭa-dhīḥ), she was not aware (na bubudhe) that her body (sva aṅgaṁ), engaged in austerity and yoga (tapo-yogamayaṁ), with unbound hair and absence of clothing (mukta-keśaṁ gatāmbaram), was protected by the Lord (daiva-guptaṁ).

Text 30
evam sā kapiloktena
mārgeṇācirataḥ param
ātmānam brahma-nirvāṇam
bhagavantam avāpa ha

By the method taught by Kapila (evam kapila uktena mārgeṇa), she quickly attained (sā acirataḥ avāpa ha) the Supreme Lord, Bhagavān, the supreme soul (bhagavantam param ātmānam). This attainment included liberation (brahma-nirvāṇam).

Text 31

tad vīrāsīt puṇyatamam kṣetram trailokya-viśrutam nāmnā siddha-padam yatra sā samsiddhim upeyuṣī

O Vidura (vīra)! That place (tad kṣetraṁ), called Siddhapada (siddha-padaṁ nāmnā), where she attained perfection (yatra sā saṁsiddhim upeyuṣī), is most pure (puṇyatamaṁ āsīt) and famous in the three worlds (trailokya-viśrutam).

Text 32

tasyās tad yoga-vidhutamārtyam martyam abhūt sarit srotasām pravarā saumya siddhidā siddha-sevitā

Devahūti's body (tasyās tad martyam), purified of material *dhātus* by *bhakti-yoga* (yoga-vidhuta-mārtyam), became a river (abhūt sarit). That river is the best of rivers (srotasām pravarā), bestowing perfection and worshipped by perfected souls (siddhidā siddha-sevitā).

Text 33
kapilo 'pi mahā-yogī
bhagavān pitur āśramāt
mātaraṁ samanujñāpya
prāg-udīcīṁ diśaṁ yayau

The great *yogī* Kapila (**kapilo mahā-yogī**), the Supreme Lord (**bhagavān**), taking permission from his mother (**mātaram samanujñāpya**), departed from his father's hermitage (**pitur āśramāt yayau**) and went first north and then east (**prāg-udīcīm diśam**).

Text 34

siddha-cāraṇa-gandharvair munibhiś cāpsaro-gaṇaiḥ stūyamānaḥ samudreṇa dattārhaṇa-niketanaḥ

Praised (stūyamānaḥ) by the Siddhas, Cāraṇas, Gandharvas (siddha-cāraṇa-gandharvair), sages and Apsarās (munibhiś cāpsaro-gaṇaiḥ), he was given a place as an offering (data arhaṇa-niketanaḥ) by the ocean personified (samudreṇa).

#### Text 35

āste yogam samāsthāya sānkhyācāryair abhiṣṭutaḥ trayāṇām api lokānām upaśāntyai samāhitaḥ

Taking shelter of *bhakti-yoga* (yogam samāsthāya) and worshiped by the teachers of Sānkhya (sānkhyācāryair abhiṣṭutaḥ), he still remains there (āste), fixed in samādhi (samāhitaḥ), for the peace of the three worlds (trayāṇām api lokānām upaśāntyai).

Text 36
etan nigaditam tāta
yat pṛṣṭo 'ham tavānagha
kapilasya ca samvādo
devahūtyāś ca pāvanaḥ

O sinless Vidura (anagha)! As requested by you (yat tava pṛṣṭo), I have spoken (aham nigaditam) about the pure conversation between Kapila and Devahūti (etad kapilasya devahūtyāś ca pāvanaḥ samvādah).

#### Text 37

ya idam anuśṛṇoti yo 'bhidhatte kapila-muner matam ātma-yoga-guhyam bhagavati kṛta-dhīḥ suparṇa-ketāv upalabhate bhagavat-padāravindam

He who hears the teaching of Kapila (ya idam kapilamuner matam anuśṛṇoti) containing the secret of meditation on the Lord (ātma-yoga-guhyam), or he who teaches it (yah abhidhatte), concentrating his mind on the Lord (bhagavati kṛta-dhīḥ) whose emblem is Garuḍa (suparṇa-ketāv), attains the Lord's lotus feet (upalabhate bhagavat-padāravindam).