## **Srimad Bhagavatam**

Canto – 5

Chapter – 10

Maharaj Rahugana meets Jada Bharata

(King Rahugana chastises Jada Bharata)

### śrī-śuka uvāca

atha sindhu-sauvīra-pate rahūgaņasya vrajata ikṣumatyās taṭe tat-kula-patinā śibikā-vāha-puruṣānveṣaṇa-samaye daivenopasāditaḥ sa dvija-vara upalabdha eṣa pīvā yuvā samhananāṅgo go-kharavad dhuram voḍhum alam iti pūrva-viṣṭi-gṛhītaiḥ saha gṛhītaḥ prasabham atad-arha uvāha śibikām sa mahānubhāvaḥ.

While the King of Sindhu and Suvīra, Rahūgana (atha sindhu-sauvīra-pate rahūgaņasya), was traveling on the bank of the Ikṣūmatī River (vrajata ikṣumatyās taṭe) and the leader of his palanquin bearers (tat-kula-patinā) was searching for extra bearer (śibikā-vāha-puruṣa anveṣaṇa-samaye), by chance they came upon Bharata, best of the brāhmaņas (daivena upasāditaḥ sa dvijavara), who had arrived there (upalabdha). He was well nourished, young (eşa pīvā yuvā), and strong like a bull or donkey (samhanana ango go-kharavad). Thinking that he was suitable to carry the load (dhuram vodhum alam iti), they forcibly engaged (prasabham grhītaḥ) that great devotee (mahānubhāvaḥ) along with the other carriers who were also engaged by force (saha pūrva-viṣṭigṛhītaiḥ). The great devotee (sah), though not proper for such a job (atad-arha), carried the palanquin of the King (sibikām uvāha).

### Text 2

yadā hi dvija-varasyeşu-mātrāvalokānugater na samāhitā puruṣagatis tadā viṣama-gatām sva-śibikām rahūgaṇa upadhārya puruṣān adhivahata āha he voḍhāraḥ sādhv atikramata kim iti viṣamam uhyate yānam iti.

When the movements of the bearers became disarrayed (yadā puruṣa-gatih na samāhitā) because Bharata moved (dvija-varasya anugateh) only after looking three feet ahead (iṣu-mātra avaloka), the King realized (tadā rahūgaṇa upadhārya) that the palanquin was moving irregularly (sva-śibikām viṣama-gatām). He spoke to the men carrying the palanquin (adhivahata puruṣān āha). "O carriers (he voḍhāraḥ)! Walk correctly (sādhv atikramata). Why is the palanquin moving unevenly (kim viṣamam uhyate yānam iti)?"

### Text 3

atha ta īśvara-vacaḥ sopālambham upākarṇyopāya-turīyāc chaṅkita-manasas tam vijñāpayām babhūvuḥ.

Hearing the censuring words of their master (atha īśvara sa upālambham vacaḥ upākarṇya), the carriers (te) became afraid of punishment (turīyāt śaṅkita-manasah) and informed him as follows (taṁ vijñāpayāṁ babhūvuḥ).

### Text 4

na vayam nara-deva pramattā bhavan-niyamānupathāḥ sādhv eva vahāmaḥ. ayam adhunaiva niyukto 'pi na drutam vrajati nānena saha voḍhum u ha vayam pārayāma iti.

O King (nara-deva)! We have not been inattentive (na vayam pramattā) and, following your orders (bhavan-niyama anupathāḥ), have been carrying properly (sādhv eva vahāmaḥ). But the man who has now been engaged (ayam adhunā eva niyukto api) does not walk quickly (na drutam vrajati). We are not (na vayam) able to carry the palanquin (voḍhum u ha pārayāma) with him (anena saha).

### Text 5

sāmsargiko doṣa eva nūnam ekasyāpi sarveṣām sāmsargikāṇām bhavitum arhatīti niścitya niśamya kṛpaṇa-vaco rājā rahūgaṇa upāsita-vṛddho 'pi nisargeṇa balāt kṛta īṣad-utthita-manyur avispaṣṭa-brahma-tejasam jāta-vedasam iva rajasāvṛta-matir āha.

Hearing the words of his poor servants (niśamya kṛpaṇa-vacah) and understanding that (iti niścitya) the fault of one person (ekasyāpi eva doṣah) will lead to a fault in all persons in a group (sarveṣām sāmsargikāṇām bhavitum arhati), due to intimate association (sāmsargiko), the king became a little angry (rājā rahūgaṇa īṣad-utthita-manyuh) because of his nature (nisargeṇa), and fell under its control (balāt kṛta), even though he had received knowledge from sages (upāsita-vṛddhah api). His mind covered by passion (rajasā āvṛta-matih), he spoke to Bharata (āha), whose spiritual power was covered (avispaṣṭa-brahma-tejasam), like a fire covered by ashes (jāta-vedasām iva).

### Text 6

aho kaṣṭaṁ bhrātar vyaktam uru-pariśrānto dīrgham adhvānam eka eva ūhivān suciraṁ nāti-pīvā na saṁhananāṅgo jarasā copadruto bhavān sakhe no evāpara ete saṅghaṭṭina iti bahu-vipralabdho 'py avidyayā racita-dravya-guuṇa-karmāśaya-sva-carama-kalevare 'vastuni saṁsthāna-viśeṣe 'haṁ mamety anadhyāropita-mithyā-pratyayo brahma-bhūtas tūṣṇīṁ śibikāṁ pūrvavad uvāha.

O brother (bhrātar)! It is clearly difficult (aho vyaktam kaṣṭaṁ). You are very tired (uru-pariśrāntah). You have traveled a long path (dīrgham adhvānam). For a long time you are carrying this load alone (suciram eka eva ūhivān). You are not healthy (na ati-pīvā) and do not have strong limbs (na samhanana ango). You are afflicted by old age (jarasā ca upadruto bhavān). O friend (sakhe)! The other workers do not cooperate with you (no eva apara ete sanghattina). In this way, though abused badly (iti bahu-vipralabdhah apy), Bharata continued to carry the palanquin silently, as before (tūṣṇīm śibikām pūrvavad uvāha), since he was situated in brahma-bhūta (brahma-bhūtah), and was not covered (anadhyāropita) by the false conception (mithyā-pratyayah) of I and mine (aham mama ity) in his final body (su-acaramakalevare) not made of the gross elements, senses, karma, and antahkarana (dravyaguuṇa-karma-āśaya), not produced by māyā (avidyayā aracita)—a body which was real (vastuni), belonging to Vaikuntha (samsthāna-viśeșe).

atha punaḥ sva-śibikāyām viṣama-gatāyām prakupita uvāca rahūgaṇaḥ kim idam are tvam jīvan-mṛto mām kadarthī-kṛtya bhartṛ-śāsanam aticarasi pramattasya ca te karomi cikitsām daṇḍa-pāṇir iva janatāyā yathā prakṛtim svām bhajiṣyasa iti.

Thereafter (atha), when the King saw that his palanquin was still being shaken by the carriers (rahūgaņah sva-śibikāyām viṣamagatāyām), he became very angry and said (prakupita uvāca), "You fool (are tvam), what are you doing (kim idam)? Are you dead despite the life within your body (jīvan-mṛtah)? You are disregarding me (mām kadarthī-kṛtya) and are not carrying out my order (bhartṛ-śāsanam aticarasi). I have a remedy for your inattention (pramattasya ca te karomi cikitsām), just as Yamarāja punishes the people in general (yathā danda-pānir janatāyā iva), so that you will come to your senses (prakṛtim svām bhajiṣyasa iti)."

### Sukadev Goswami to Pariksit Maharaj:

- 1. Rahugana was travelling on the banks of the iksumati river, and the leader of the palanquin was searching for an extra bearer
  - By the will of providence, well-built and exalted Jada Bharata appeared there
  - The leader, thinking that Jada Bharata was appropriate for the job, forcibly engaged him to carry the palanquin.
- 2. Jada Bharata, being compassionate to the ants, moved erratically.
  - Rahugana, slightly angered, spoke to the carriers "Hey! Walk correctly. Why is the palanquin moving erratically?"
- **3-4.** Carriers became afraid of punishment and spoke as follows. "We are carrying properly, but the problem is with the new man".
- 5. Rahugana, understanding that all are suffering because of one person's problem, spoke with anger and sarcasm to Jada Bharata.
- 6. "Oh! You are very tired. You have travelled a long path, and have been carrying for a long time alone. You are not healthy, strong, and you are old. The other workers do not cooperate with you."
  - In spite of being taunted, Jada Bharata, the pure devotee, continued to carry the palanquin as before.
- 7. When the palanquin shook again, Rahugana became extremely angry and spoke thus. "Are you dead? How could you disregard my order? I am going to punish you.

#### Text 8

evam bahv abaddham api bhāṣamāṇam nara-devābhimānam rajasā tamasānuviddhena madena tiraskṛtāśeṣa-bhagavat-priya-niketam paṇḍita-māninam sa bhagavān brāhmaṇo brahma-bhūta-sarva-bhūta-suhṛd-ātmā yogeśvara-caryāyām nāti-vyutpanna-matim smayamāna iva vigata-smaya idam āha.

In this manner (evam), the King spoke incoherently (bahv abaddham api bhāṣamāṇam), thinking himself a king (nara-deva abhimānam) and thinking himself learned (paṇḍita-māninam), while abusing the perfect devotee (tiraskṛta aśeṣa-bhagavat-priya-niketam), out of pride combined with passion and ignorance (rajasā tamasā - anuviddhena madena). The powerful brāhmaṇa Bharata (sa bhagavān brāhmaṇah), with a slight smile (smayamāna iva) and with no pride (vigata-smaya), then spoke to the King (idam āha) who did not know much about the conduct of a great yogī (yogeśvara-caryāyām na ati-vyutpanna-matim) who was the friend of all beings (sarva-bhūta-suhṛd-ātmā) and who was situated in Brahman (brahma-bhūta).

brāhmaṇa uvāca tvayoditam vyaktam avipralabdham bhartuḥ sa me syād yadi vīra bhāraḥ gantur yadi syād adhigamyam adhvā pīveti rāśau na vidām pravādaḥ

Bharata said: O King (vīra)! What you have spoken is clearly without deceit (tvayā uditam vyaktam avipralabdham). Only if the burden of the carrier belonged to me (yadi bhartuḥ bhāraḥ sa me syād), if the destination (yadi adhvā) and path of the traveler (adhigamyam) belonged to me (sa me syād), would your statements be sarcasm (implied). To say I am well nourished (pīvā iti rāśau) is not the talk of a person in knowledge (na vidām pravādaḥ).

### Text 10

sthaulyam kārśyam vyādhaya ādhayaś ca kṣut tṛḍ bhayam kalir icchā jarā ca nidrā ratir manyur aham madaḥ śuco dehena jātasya hi me na santi

Strength, thinness, sickness, anxiety (sthaulyam kārśyam vyādhaya ādhayah), hunger, thirst, fear, dissension, desire, old age (kṣut tṛḍ bhayam kalir icchā jarā ca), sleep, attachment, anger, false identity, illusion and lamentation (nidrā ratir manyur aham madaḥ śuco) belong to a person born with a body (dehena jātasya hi). They do not exist for me (me na santi).

### Text 11

jīvan-mṛtatvam niyamena rājan ādyantavad yad vikṛtasya dṛṣṭam sva-svāmya-bhāvo dhruva īḍya yatra tarhy ucyate 'sau vidhikṛtya-yogaḥ

O King (rājan)! You have said I am living but dead (jīvan-mṛtatvaṁ), but this is true for every one according to the laws of nature (niyamena). One sees change everywhere (vikṛtasya dṛṣṭam), since there is a beginning and end of all things (yad ādy antavad). You have said that I disregard your order (implied). O King, worthy of worship (īḍya)! When the conditions of servant and master are fixed (yatra sva-svāmya-bhāvo dhruva), then one may say (tarhy ucyate) a person is suitable to be engaged in service (asau vidhikṛtya-yogaḥ).

### Text 12

viśeṣa-buddher vivaram manāk ca paśyāma yan na vyavahārato 'nyat ka īśvaras tatra kim īśitavyam tathāpi rājan karavāma kim te

Other than convention (vyavahārato anyat), I do not at all see (yat na paśyāma manāk ca) any distinction of master and servant (viśeṣa-buddher vivaram). Who is the master and who is the servant (ka īśvarah tatra kim īśitavyam)? O King (rājan)! If you think you are a king, what can I do for you (karavāma kim te)?

### Text 13

unmatta-matta-jaḍavat sva-saṁsthāṁ gatasya me vīra cikitsitena arthaḥ kiyān bhavatā śikṣitena stabdha-pramattasya ca piṣṭapeṣaḥ

O King (vīra)! What purpose is served (kiyān arthaḥ) by punishing (cikitsitena) a person who has attained Brahman (sva-saṃsthām gatasya me), but who acts like a madman or a dull person (unmattamatta-jaḍavat)? Punishing a mad person (stabdha-pramattasya śikṣitena) is like pounding powder (piṣṭa peṣaḥ).

### Sukadev Goswami to Pariksit Maharaj:

8. In spite of being addressed in this manner by proud Rahugana, Jada Bharata, who was a friend of all beings, and who was situated in Brahma Bhuta stage, smiled and responded without pride

### Jada Bharata to King Rahugana:

- 9. Your statements can be considered as sarcasm only if I am this body, which is not true.
  - Intelligent people do not speak in terms of material body
- 10. Fatness, thinness, hunger, thirst, tiredness, etc. belong to a person born with a body. They do not exist for me
- 11. You have called me living dead, but this is true for everyone, as everyone's body changes (Change is a characteristic of dead matter and not the soul)
  - You have said that I have disregarded your order. But the conditions of master and servant are not fixed. Today you are my master, and tomorrow, if I get your kingdom, I will become your master.
- 12. Therefore, other than convention, I do not see any reason for the distinction between master and servant.
  - If you still think that you are the king, please tell me what I can do for you.
- 13. You told me that you were going to punish me. Tell me what you will accomplish by punishing me, who am Brahman realized, but is acting like a mad man
  - Even if you don't accept that I am Brahman realized, still punishing a mad person is like pounding the powder again

## Text 14 śrī-śuka uvāca

etāvad anuvāda-paribhāṣayā pratyudīrya muni-vara upaśama-śīla uparatānātmya-nimitta upabhogena karmārabdham vyapanayan rāja-yānam api tathovāha.

Śukadeva said: Thus answering the King (etāvad pratyudīrya) through repeating the King's questions with explanations (anuvādaparibhāṣayā), the best of sages, Bharata (muni-vara), finishing his prārabdha-karmas (karma ārabdham vyapanayan) by experiencing them in this way (upabhogena) and having destroyed all causes of material bodies (uparata anātmya-nimitta), with peaceful mind (upaśama-śīla) resumed carrying the King's palanquin (rāja-yānamapi tathā uvāha).

### Text 15

sa cāpi pāṇḍaveya sindhu-sauvīra-patis tattva-jijñāsāyām samyakśraddhayādhikṛtādhikāras tad dhṛdaya-granthi-mocanam dvija-vaca āśrutya bahu-yoga-grantha-sammatam tvarayāvaruhya śirasā pāda-mūlam upasṛtaḥ kṣamāpayan vigata-nṛpa-deva-smaya uvāca.

O Parīkṣit (pāṇḍaveya)! The King of Sindhu and Sauvīra (sa sindhu-sauvīra-patih), having attained qualification (adhikṛta adhikārah) by complete faith in topics concerning the absolute truth (tattva-jijñāsāyām samyak-śraddhayā), on hearing the words of the brāhmaṇa (dvija-vaca āśrutya), which untie the knot of the heart (hṛdaya-granthi-mocanam) and which were approved by all yoga scriptures (bahu-yoga-grantha-sammatam), quickly got down from the palanquin (tvarayā avaruhya) and approached Bharata's feet with his head (śirasā pāda-mūlam upasṛtaḥ). Having given up pride as a king (vigata-nṛpa-deva-smaya) and begging forgiveness (kṣamāpayan), he spoke (uvāca).

### Text 16

kas tvam nigūḍhaś carasi dvijānām bibharṣi sūtram katamo 'vadhūtaḥ kasyāsi kutratya ihāpi kasmāt kṣemāya naś ced asi nota śuklaḥ

Who are you, among the *brāhmaṇas* (kas tvaṁ dvijānāṁ)? Hidden, you move about (nigūḍhah carasi). You wear the sacred thread (bibharṣi sūtraṁ). Which renounced sage are you (katamo avadhūtaḥ)? Whose son are you (kasya asi)? Where were you born (kutratya)? Why did you come to this place (iha api)? If you have come to benefit us, are you not Nārāyaṇa? Or are you not Kapila (kasmāt kṣemāya nah ced asi na uta śuklaḥ)?

### Text 17

nāham viśanke sura-rāja-vajrān na tryakṣa-śūlān na yamasya daṇḍāt nāgny-arka-somānila-vittapāstrāc chanke bhṛśam brahma-kulāvamānāt

I am not at all afraid of the thunderbolt of King Indra (na aham viśanke sura-rāja-vajrāt), nor am I afraid of the trident of Lord Śiva (na tryakṣa-śūlāt). I do not fear the staff of Yamarāja, the superintendent of death (na yamasya daṇḍāt), nor am I afraid of fire, the sun, moon, wind (na agny-arka-soma anila), nor the weapons of Kuvera (vittapa astrāt). Yet I am afraid of offending a brāhmaṇa (śanke bhṛśam brahma-kula avamānāt).

### Text 18

tad brūhy asaṅgo jaḍavan nigūḍhavijñāna-vīryo vicarasy apāraḥ vacāṁsi yoga-grathitāni sādho na naḥ kṣamante manasāpi bhettum

Please speak (tad brūhy). Not associating with the material world (asaṅgo), appearing dull-witted (jaḍavat), but having the power of realized knowledge (nigūḍha-vijñāna-vīryo), you wander about with no superior (vicarasy apāraḥ). O saint (sādho)! I am not able to understand (na naḥ kṣamante) your words about yoga (vacāṁsi yoga-grathitāni), though I am trying with my attentive mind (manasā api bhettum).

### Text 19

aham ca yogeśvaram ātma-tattvavidām munīnām paramam gurum vai praṣṭum pravṛttaḥ kim ihāraṇam tat sākṣād dharim jñāna-kalāvatīrṇam

I now inquire from you (aham praṣṭuṁ pravṛttaḥ), the master of yoga (yogeśvaram), the best guru of sages knowing about ātmā (ātma-tattva- vidāṁ munīnāṁ paramaṁ guruṁ), about the shelter in this world (iha araṇaṁ), the Lord himself (sākṣād hariṁ) who appeared as a portion of knowledge (jñāna-kalā avatīrṇaṁ).

### Text 20

sa vai bhavāl loka-nirīkṣaṇārtham avyakta-liṅgo vicaraty api svit yogeśvarāṇām gatim andha-buddhiḥ katham vicakṣīta gṛhānubandhaḥ

Are you Kapiladeva (api svit sa vai bhavān), but hiding your identity (avyakta-lingo), wandering about to examine the world (loka-nirīkṣaṇ artham vicaraty)? How can a person bound to family life (katham gṛhānubandhaḥ), blind to spiritual knowledge (andhabuddhiḥ), know the movements (vicakṣīta gatim) of the masters of yoga (yogeśvarāṇām)?

### Text 21

dṛṣṭaḥ śramaḥ karmata ātmano vai bhartur gantur bhavataś cānumanye yathāsatodānayanādy-abhāvāt samūla iṣṭo vyavahāra-mārgaḥ

It is observed (dṛṣṭaḥ) that I become fatigued (ātmano vai śramaḥ) from performing actions (karmata). When you carry the palanquin (bhavatah bhartuh) or move (gantuh), then you experience fatigue (implied). This is my inference (anumanye). One cannot reject the conventional world (implied). Since one cannot carry water (yathā uda abhāvāt) with a false pot (asata ānayana ādy), one must accept (iṣṭo) the conventional, practical world (vyavahāra-mārgaḥ), based on the evidence (samūla).

### Text 22

sthāly-agni-tāpāt payaso 'bhitāpas tat-tāpatas taṇḍula-garbha-randhiḥ dehendriyāsvāśaya-sannikarṣāt tat-saṃsṛtiḥ puruṣasyānurodhāt

By applying heat to the pot (sthāly-agni-tāpāt), milk in the pot becomes hot (payaso abhitāpah). Because of the hot milk (tat-tāpatas), the rice in the milk gets cooked (taṇḍula-garbha-randhiḥ). Similarly because of connection with the body, senses, life airs and mind (deha-indriya-āsu-āśaya-sannikarṣāt), saṁsāra of the ātmā takes place (tat-saṃsṛtiḥ), because of successive influence of the coverings on the ātmā (puruṣasya anurodhāt).

### Text 23

śāstābhigoptā nṛpatiḥ prajānām yaḥ kiṅkaro vai na pinaṣṭi piṣṭam sva-dharmam ārādhanam acyutasya yad īhamāno vijahāty aghaugham

Even if his position is impermanent (implied), when a person is a king (nṛpatiḥ), he becomes the punisher and protector of the citizens (śāstā abhigoptā). Though you say punishing a dull person is useless (implied), one who is servant of the Lord (yaḥ kiṅkaro) does not act uselessly (na vai pinaṣṭi piṣṭam). The king, in performing his *dharma* of punishing the citizens (yad sva-dharmam īhamānah), which is worship of the Lord (ārādhanam acyutasya), destroys all his sins (vijahāty agha ogham).

### Text 24

tan me bhavān nara-devābhimānamadena tucchīkṛta-sattamasya kṛṣīṣṭa maitrī-dṛśam ārta-bandho yathā tare sad-avadhyānam aṁhaḥ

O friend of the distressed (ārta-bandho)! Please show your friendly glance (kṛṣīṣṭa maitrī-dṛśam) on this person who has insulted the greatest devotee (bhavān tucchīkṛta-sattamasya) out of false identity as a king (nara-devābhimāna- madena), so that I can overcome the sin of neglecting the devotee (tat me yathā tare sad-avadhyānam amhaḥ).

### Text 25

na vikriyā viśva-suhṛt-sakhasya sāmyena vītābhimates tavāpi mahad-vimānāt sva-kṛtād dhi mādṛṅ naṅkṣyaty adūrād api śūlapāṇiḥ

Because of the great offense I have committed to you (sva-kṛtād mahad-vimānāt) who are the friend of the Lord who is the friend of all (viśva-suhṛt-sakhasya), to you who are free of false identity (vīta abhimateh) and see all beings as your own self (sāmyena), persons like me (mādṛk) and even Śiva (api śūlapāṇiḥ) are quickly destroyed (naṅkṣyaty adūrād), even if you are not disturbed by the offense (na tava vikriyā api ).

### Sukadev Goswami to Pariksit Maharaj:

- 14. After answering the king's questions, Jada Bharata, considering that he was destroying his own prarabdha karmas by this experience, continued to carry the palanquin
- 15. Rahugana, having attained complete faith in topics concerning the Absolute truth by hearing Jada Bharata, quickly got down from the palanquin, paid obeisances and begged for forgiveness

### Rahugana to Jada Bharata:

### 16-20. Rahugana's Humble submission:

- 16. Who are you? Whose son are you? Where are you from? Are you the Supreme Lord?
- 17. I am not afraid of anything in this world including the trident of Siva, or the Yama danda. But I am certainly afraid of offending a Brahmana
- 18. Though I am trying my best, I am not able to understand your words about yoga.
- 19. I want to inquire from you about atma, about the shelter in this world, and about the Lord Himself
- 20. How can a person like me, bound by family life and blind to spiritual knowledge, know the movements of the masters of yoga?

### 21-25. Rahugana's further inquiry:

- 21. You said that things like tiredness do not apply to you. But, it is observed that I become tired from performing actions. I am sure you also experience the same. Therefore, tell me how you can reject the conventional world.
- 22. I understand that it is the body which is undergoing the fatigue and not the soul. But the body is connected to the senses, senses to the life air, life air to the mind and mind to the soul. Therefore, I conclude that, due to this intimate connection, soul must also be undergoing fatigue and tiredness.
  - Let me give you an analogy to explain this. When you want to cook sweet rice, you do not directly heat the rice. You heat the pot, and because of the connection with the hot pot the milk gets hot, and because of the connection with hot milk the rice gets cooked. Similarly, the soul, because of its intimate connection with the body must also be undergoing fatigue and tiredness. How can you neglect this fact?
- 23. You said that the position of master and servant is impermanent. I agree. But, while in that impermanent position, you cannot say that the king is performing a useless act by punishing the unscrupulous people.
  - Isn't the king's performance of his dharma of punishing the people worship of Acyuta? Don't the scriptures say that one destroys his sins by performing his svadharma?
- 24. Please show your mercy to me so that I can overcome this sin of Vaisnava aparadha.
- 25. Such an aparadha is capable of destroying even great personalities like Lord Siva.