### Canto Six - Chapter Seven

## Indra Offends His Spiritual Master, Bṛhaspati

# Theme-1: Indra fails to respect Bṛhaspati (1-10)

#### Theme-1: Indra fails to respect Bṛhaspati (1-10)

| 6.7.1 ||
śrī-rājovāca
kasya hetoḥ parityaktā
ācāryeṇātmanaḥ surāḥ
etad ācakṣva bhagavañ
chiṣyāṇām akramaṁ gurau

The King said: O great sage (bhagavañ)! Why did Bṛhaspati (kasya hetoḥ ācāryeṇa) reject the devatās (ātmanaḥ surāḥ parityaktā)? Please describe (ācakṣva) the offense the devatās committed to their guru (etad śiṣyāṇām akramam gurau).

The Seventh Chapter describes how the devatās, abandoned by their guru Bṛhaspati and defeated by the Daityas, accepted Viśvarūpa as their guru on the advice of Brahmā.

Why did Bṛhaspati reject the devatās who were his (ātmanaḥ) disciples?

#### || 6.7.2-8 ||

śrī-bādarāyaṇir uvāca indras tribhuvanaiśvaryamadollaṅghita-satpathaḥ marudbhir vasubhī rudrair ādityair ṛbhubhir nṛpa

viśvedevaiś ca sādhyaiś ca nāsatyābhyām pariśritaḥ siddha-cāraṇa-gandharvair munibhir brahmavādibhih

vidyādharāpsarobhiś ca kinnaraiḥ patagoragaiḥ niṣevyamāṇo maghavān stūyamānaś ca bhārata

upagīyamāno lalitam āsthānādhyāsanāśritaḥ pāṇḍureṇātapatreṇa candra-maṇḍala-cāruṇā

yuktaś cānyaiḥ pārameṣṭhyaiś cāmara-vyajanādibhiḥ virājamānaḥ paulamyā sahārdhāsanayā bhṛśam

sa yadā paramācāryam devānām ātmanas ca ha nābhyanandata samprāptam pratyutthānāsanādibhiḥ

vācaspatim muni-varam surāsura-namaskṛtam noccacālāsanād indraḥ paśyann api sabhāgatam

Śukadeva Gosvāmī said: O King (bhārata)! Once, Indra (indrah), being extremely proud because of his great wealth in the three worlds (tribhuvana aiśvarya-mada), transgressed the law of Vedic conduct (ullanghita-satpathah). Seated on his throne (āsthāna adhyāsana āśritaḥ), he (maghavān) was surrounded (pariśritaḥ) by the Maruts, Vasus, Rudras (marudbhir vasubhī rudrair), Ādityas, Ŗbhus (ādityair rbhubhir), Viśvadevas, Sādhyas (viśvedevaiś ca sādhyaiś ca), Aśvinī-kumāras (nāsatyābhyām), while being praised and worshipped (niṣevyamāṇah stūyamānah ca) by Siddhas, Cāraṇas and Gandharvas (siddha-cāraṇa-gandharvair), sages who were knowers of Brahman (munibhir brahmavādibhiḥ), Vidyādharas, Apsarās (vidyādhara apsarobhih ca), Kinnaras, Patagas [birds] and Uragas [snakes] (kinnaraiḥ pataga uragaih) with sweet singing (upagīyamāno lalitam). Over Indra's head was a white umbrella (pāṇḍureṇa ātapatreṇa) as effulgent as the full moon (candra-maṇḍalacāruṇā). Fanned by yak-tail whisks (cāmara-vyajanādibhiḥ) and served with all the paraphernalia of a great king (yuktah ca anyaih pārameṣṭhyaih), Indra was sitting with his wife, Śacīdevī (virājamānaḥ paulamyā), who occupied half the throne (saha ardhāsanayā). He did not welcome the great sage Bṛhaspati (na abhyanandata samprāptam), the best of the sages (vācaspatim muni-varam), the guru of Indra and the devatās (paramācāryam devānām ātmanaś ca), though he was respected by the other devatās and by the demons (surāsura-namaskṛtam) when he arrived by their rising and offering a seat (pratyutthāna āsanādibhiḥ). He (indraḥ) did not rise from his seat (na uccacāla āsanād) on seeing Bṛhaspati enter the assembly (paśyann api sabhā āgatam).

These verses are connected with the next verse.

When Indra did not welcome Bṛhaspati, Bṛhaspati left and went to his house.

Āsthānādhyāsanāśritaḥ means "he was sitting on his throne in the assembly."

Sitting with Śacī who shared half his seat, he was served by the insignia of royalty (pārameṣṭhyaiḥ).

The ācārya was Bṛhaspati.

"He did not rise" is mentioned twice to make clear his offense.

He did not move at all though seated on his throne.

#### Theme-1: Indra fails to respect Bṛhaspati (1-10)

| 6.7.9 ||
tato nirgatya sahasā
kavir āṅgirasaḥ prabhuḥ
āyayau sva-gṛhaṁ tūṣṇīṁ
vidvān śrī-mada-vikriyām

Understanding that Indra's bad conduct had arisen from pride in his wealth (vidvān śrī-mada-vikriyām), the great sage Bṛhaspati (āṅgirasaḥ), who knew the future (kavih) and could quickly allot punishment (prabhuḥ), left the assembly (tatah nirgatya) silently (tūṣṇīṁ) and went home (āyayau sva-gṛhaṁ).

Tatah means "from the assembly."

Kavih means that he knew the future.

Prabhuḥ means that he was capable of giving punishment.

Vidvān means he knew the cause of Indra's disrespect.

#### Theme-1: Indra fails to respect Bṛhaspati (1-10)

| 6.7.10 | tarhy eva pratibudhyendro guru-helanam ātmanaḥ garhayām āsa sadasi svayam ātmānam ātmanā

Indra (indrah), realizing (tarhy eva pratibudhya) that he had disrespected his guru (guru-helanam ātmanaḥ), condemned himself (svayam ātmānam ātmanā garhayām āsa) in the presence of all the members of the assembly (sadasi).

Pratibudhya means that, recovering from his intoxication with wealth, he perceived that he had committed offense to guru.

| | 6.7.11 | aho bata mayāsādhu kṛtaṁ vai dabhra-buddhinā yan mayaiśvarya-mattena guruḥ sadasi kātkṛtaḥ

What an improper deed I have committed (aho bata mayā asādhu kṛtaṁ) because of my lack of intelligence (dabhra-buddhinā). I have insulted my guru (guruḥ kāt-kṛtaḥ) when he entered this assembly (sadasi) because of my pride in my wealth (yad mayā aiśvarya-mattena).

| 6.7.12 | ko gṛdhyet paṇḍito lakṣmīm tripiṣṭapa-pater api yayāham āsuram bhāvam nīto 'dya vibudheśvaraḥ

What learned person (kah paṇḍitah) would desire (gṛdhyet) the wealth of the king of heaven (tripiṣṭapa-pateh lakṣmīm) by which (yayā) I, master of the devatās (āham vibudheśvaraḥ), have become a demon (adyaāsuram bhāvam nītah)?

Knowing that his wealth is the cause of his disrespect to guru, he criticizes it.

Who would desire (grdhyet) it?

| 6.7.13 ||
yaḥ pārameṣṭhyaṁ dhiṣaṇam
adhitiṣṭhan na kañcana
pratyuttiṣṭhed iti brūyur
dharmaṁ te na paraṁ viduḥ

Those who say (yaḥ brūyuh) that the person sitting on the throne of Brahmā (pārameṣṭhyaṁ dhiṣaṇam adhitiṣṭhan) should not rise for anyone (na kañcana pratyuttiṣṭhed) do not know the highest dharma (te na viduḥ paraṁ dharmaṁ).

"But do not the knowers of Nīti-śāstra say that the king on the throne should not rise for anyone?"

They are mistaken.

A person sitting on Brahmā's throne should also rise.

| 6.7.14 | teṣām kupatha-deṣṭṛṇām patatām tamasi hy adhaḥ ye śraddadhyur vacas te vai majjanty aśma-plavā iva

Those who put faith (ye śraddadhyuh) in the words (vacah) of fallen souls (tamasi hy adhaḥ patatām) who point out the wrong path (kupatha-deṣṭṛṇām) sink drown (majjanty) like persons riding in a boat made of stone (aśma-plavā iva).

Just as persons in a stone boat sink with the stone boat, so the followers sink with the bad instructors.

He shows anger towards those who gave instructions to him in his assembly.

| 6.7.15 || athāham amarācāryam agādha-dhiṣaṇam dvijam prasādayiṣye niśaṭhaḥ śīrṣṇā tac-caraṇam spṛśan

Therefore I (atha aham) shall please (prasādayiṣye) the guru of the devatās (amara ācāryam dvijam) who possesses deep knowledge (agādha-dhiṣaṇam) by touching my head to his feet (śīrṣṇā tac-caraṇam spṛśan) with sincerity (niśaṭhaḥ).

Considering what to do in this dangerous situation, he then speaks.

Niśathah means without duplicity.

| 6.7.16 ||
evam cintayatas tasya
maghono bhagavān gṛhāt
bṛhaspatir gato 'dṛṣṭām
gatim adhyātma-māyayā

While Indra was thinking in this way (evam cintayatah maghonah), Bṛhaspati (bhagavān bṛhaspatih), disregarding this, left his house (tasya gṛhāt gatah) and disappeared (adṛṣṭām gatim) by his great power (adhyātma-māyayā).

Not caring of Indra who was thinking in this way, Bṛhaspati became invisible by his great power (adhyātma-māyayā).

| 6.7.17 ||
guror nādhigataḥ samjñām
parīkṣan bhagavān svarāṭ
dhyāyan dhiyā surair yuktaḥ
śarma nālabhatātmanaḥ

Searching for a method of finding him (guroh samjñām parīkṣan) by using his intelligence (dhyāyan dhiyā), Indra (bhagavān svarāṭ), surrounded by the devatās (surair yuktaḥ), was unsuccessful (na adhigataḥ), and could not find peace of mind (śarma na alabhata ātmanah).

| 6.7.18 | tac chrutvaivāsurāḥ sarva āśrityauśanasaṁ matam devān pratyudyamaṁ cakrur durmadā ātatāyinaḥ

Hearing of Indra's condition (tat śrutva), all the demons (asurāḥ sarve), following the instructions of their guru Śukrācārya (āśritya auśanasam matam), equipped themselves with weapons (ātatāyinaḥ) and declared war against the devatās (durmadā devān pratyudyamam cakruh).

| 6.7.19 || tair visṛṣṭeṣubhis tīkṣṇair nirbhinnāṅgoru-bāhavaḥ brahmāṇaṁ śaraṇaṁ jagmuḥ sahendrā nata-kandharāḥ

The devatās' heads, thighs and arms and the other parts of their bodies (aṅga ūru-bāhavaḥ) were injured (nirbhinna) by the sharp arrows (tīkṣṇaih iṣubhih) released by the demons (taih visṛṣṭa). The devatās, headed by Indra (saha indrā), approached Lord Brahmā (brahmāṇaṁ śaraṇaṁ jagmuḥ) with bowed heads (nata-kandharāh).

| 6.7.20 ||
tāms tathābhyarditān vīkṣya
bhagavān ātmabhūr ajaḥ
kṛpayā parayā deva
uvāca parisāntvayan

Seeing the suffering devatās (tān tathā abhyarditān vīkṣya), the most powerful Lord Brahmā (bhagavān ātmabhūh ajaḥ devah), pacifying them by his great mercy (kṛpayā parayā parisāntvayan), spoke to them as follows (uvāca).

| 6.7.21 | śrī-brahmovāca aho bata sura-śreṣṭhā hy abhadram vaḥ kṛtam mahat brahmiṣṭham brāhmaṇam dāntam aiśvaryān nābhyanandata

Brahma said: O best of the devatās (aho bata sura-śreṣṭhā)! You have committed a great wrong (vaḥ mahat abhadram kṛtam). You did not welcome (na abhyanandata) the brāhmaṇa fixed in Brahman (brahmiṣṭham brāhmaṇam) and having a controlled mind (dāntam) because of your wealth and power (aiśvaryān).

| 6.7.22 | tasyāyam anayasyāsīt parebhyo vaḥ parābhavaḥ prakṣīṇebhyaḥ sva-vairibhyaḥ samrddhānām ca yat surāh

O devatās (surāḥ)! For this evil deed (ayam anayasya), you who are strong (vaḥ samṛddhānāṁ) have been defeated (parābhavaḥ) by enemies who are weak (parebhyah prakṣīṇebhyaḥ sva-vairibhyaḥ).

maghavan dviṣataḥ paśya prakṣīṇān gurv-atikramāt sampraty upacitān bhūyaḥ kāvyam ārādhya bhaktitaḥ ādadīran nilayanam mamāpi bhṛgu-devatāḥ

O Indra (maghavan)! Look (paśya)! These enemies who were weak (prakṣīṇān dviṣataḥ) because of offense to guru (gurvatikramāt) have now become strong (sampraty upacitān bhūyaḥ). Worshiping Śukrācārya with devotion (kāvyam ārādhya bhaktitaḥ), being devotees to guru (bhṛgu-devatāḥ), they may take away my abode also (mama api nilayanam ādadīran).

Disrespect to guru is a cause of disaster and respect to guru is a cause of good fortune.

An example of the demons is given.

They have so much strength that they can take away my abode also, because they have devotion to guru (bhṛgu-devatāh).

|| 6.7.24 ||

tripiṣṭapam kim gaṇayanty abhedyamantrā bhṛgūṇām anuśikṣitārthāḥ na vipra-govinda-gav-īśvarāṇām bhavanty abhadrāṇi nareśvarāṇām

Intent on following the instructions of Śukrācārya (bhṛgūṇām anuśikṣita arthāḥ) and having unbreakable counsel (abhedya-mantrā), they do not care at all for the devatās (tripiṣṭapam kim gaṇayanty). There are no misfortunes (na abhadrāṇi bhavanty) for kings (nareśvarāṇām) who respect the brāhmaṇas, cows and Govinda (vipra-govinda-gav-īśvarāṇām).

Pacification, offering gifts and punishment are obviously not possible.

Causing dissension among them also is not possible.

That is explained in this verse.

They have indivisible counsel (abhedya-mantrāḥ).

The cause of everything is that they have taken the teachings of Śukrācārya as their only goal (anuśikṣitārthāḥ).

"Then we will die."

Brahmā comforts them.

Those who are merciful to brāhmaṇas, cows and Govinda have no misfortunes.

Theme-4: Brahma's chastisement & instruction to DG's (Power of spiritual master) (21-25)

| 6.7.25 ||
tad viśvarūpam bhajatāśu vipram
tapasvinam tvāṣṭram athātmavantam
sabhājito 'rthān sa vidhāsyate vo
yadi kṣamiṣyadhvam utāsya karma

Therefore (tad) immediately worship Viśvarūpa (viśvarūpam bhajata āśu), the son of Tvaṣṭā (tvāṣṭram), a prudent brāhmaṇa (ātmavantam vipram) of great austerity as your guru (tapasvinam). Pleased by your worship (sah sabhājitah), he will fulfill your desires (vah arthān vidhāsyate), provided that you tolerate (yadi kṣamiṣyadhvam uta) his being partial to the demons (asya karma).

Therefore this is the immediate solution.

Worship Viśvarūpa as your guru, if you can tolerate his being partial to the demons.

| 6.7.26 | śrī-śuka uvāca ta evam uditā rājan brahmaṇā vigata-jvarāḥ ṛṣim tvāṣṭram upavrajya pariṣvajyedam abruvan

Śukadeva said: O King (rājan)! Thus advised by Lord Brahmā (evam brahmaṇā uditā) and relieved of their anxiety (vigata-jvarāḥ), all the devatās (te) went to the sage Viśvarūpa, the son of Tvaṣṭā (ṛṣiṁ tvāṣṭram upavrajya). They embraced him and spoke as follows (pariṣvajya idam abruvan).

| 6.7.27 | śrī-devā ūcuḥ vayam te 'tithayaḥ prāptā āśramam bhadram astu te kāmaḥ sampādyatām tāta pitṛṇām samayocitaḥ

The devatās said: O Viśvarūpa (tāta)! May there be all good fortune for you (bhadram astu te). We, the devatās (vayam), have come to your hermitage (te āśramam prāptā) as your guests (atithayaḥ). Please try to fulfill our desires (kāmaḥ sampādyatām) according to the time (samayocitaḥ), since we are on the level of your parents (pitṛṇām).

| 6.7.28 | putrāṇām hi paro dharmaḥ pitṛ-śuśrūṣaṇam satām api putravatām brahman kim uta brahmacāriṇām

O brāhmaṇa (brahman)! The highest duty of a son (putrāṇām hi paro dharmaḥ), even though he has sons of his own (putravatām api), is to serve his parents (pitṛ-śuśrūṣaṇam), and what to speak of a son who is a brahmacārī (kim uta brahmacāriṇām)?

Theme-5: Conversation between DGs & Viśvarūpa (26-40)

| 6.7.29-30 | ācāryo brahmaņo mūrtiḥ pitā mūrtiḥ prajāpateḥ bhrātā marutpater mūrtir mātā sākṣāt kṣites tanuḥ

dayāyā bhaginī mūrtir dharmasyātmātithiḥ svayam agner abhyāgato mūrtiḥ sarva-bhūtāni cātmanah

The ācārya is the personification of all the Vedas (ācāryo brahmaṇo mūrtiḥ). Similarly, a father personifies Lord Brahmā (pitā mūrtiḥ prajāpateḥ); a brother personifies Indra (bhrātā marutpater mūrtir); a mother personifies the planet earth (mātā sākṣāt kṣiteh tanuḥ); and a sister personifies mercy (dayāyā bhaginī mūrtir). An unexpected guest personifies religious principles (dharmasya ātmā atithiḥ svayam), an invited guest personifies Agni (agneh abhyāgato mūrtiḥ), and all living entities personify Viṣṇu, the Supreme Lord (sarva-bhūtāni ca ātmanaḥ).

The ācārya, one who teaches the Vedas, personifies the Vedas (brahmaṇaḥ).

The brother personified Indra (marut-pateh).

The uninvited guest personified (ātmā) dharma.

Then what to speak of us?

All beings personify the Supreme Lord (ātmanaḥ).

| 6.7.31 ||
tasmāt pitṛṇām ārtānām
ārtim para-parābhavam
tapasāpanayams tāta
sandeśam kartum arhasi

O son (tāta)! You should follow our order (tasmāt sandeśaṁ kartum arhasi) and take away the distress of your parents (ārtānām pitṛṇām ārtiṁ tapasā apanayan) who have been painfully defeated (para-parābhavam).

"Enough of praise and instructions on dharma!

Please say what you want."

| 6.7.32 ||
vṛṇīmahe tvopādhyāyaṁ
brahmiṣṭhaṁ brāhmaṇaṁ gurum
yathāñjasā vijeṣyāmaḥ
sapatnāṁs tava tejasā

We select you (tvām vṛṇīmahe), a brāhmaṇa fixed in Brahman (brahmiṣṭhaṁ brāhmaṇaṁ) and a teacher (upādhyāyaṁ) as our guru (gurum) so that we will be able to easily defeat (yathā añjasā vijeṣyāmaḥ) our enemies (sapatnān) by your power (tava tejasā).

We choose you (tva) as guru.

They state the reason.

| | 6.7.33 ||
na garhayanti hy artheșu
yaviṣṭhāṅghry-abhivādanam
chandobhyo 'nyatra na brahman
vayo jyaiṣṭhyasya kāraṇam

O brāhmaṇa (brahman)! The wise do not criticize (na garhayanti) paying respects to a junior in age (yaviṣṭha aṅghry-abhivādanam) for fulfilling one's purposes (artheṣu). The cause of seniority is age (vayah jyaiṣṭhyasya kāraṇam) except in the case of Vedic knowledge (chandobhyo anyatra).

"You want to make you your guru, but how will you worship me, who am younger, being a son of your brother?"

The wise do not criticize worshipping the feet of a younger person.

The cause of being senior and junior is greater age and younger age for activities other than Vedic knowledge.

But in activities relating to the Vedas, that is not so.

The cause of seniority is knowledge of the Vedas.

Therefore because you have greater knowledge of the Vedas, you should be out priest, and be the guru who gives mantra to us.

| 6.7.34 | śrī-ṛṣir uvāca abhyarthitaḥ sura-gaṇaiḥ paurahitye mahā-tapāḥ sa viśvarūpas tān āha prasannaḥ ślakṣṇayā girā

Śukadeva said: When all the devatās requested the great Viśvarūpa (sura-gaṇaiḥ abhyarthitaḥ) to be their priest (paurahitye), Viśvarūpa (viśvarūpah), who was advanced in austerities (mahā-tapāḥ) and was pleased with them (sah prasannaḥ), spoke to them with sweet words (tān āha ślakṣṇayā girā).

srī-viśvarūpa uvāca
vigarhitam dharma-śīlair
brahmavarca-upavyayam
katham nu mad-vidho nāthā
lokeśair abhiyācitam
pratyākhyāsyati tac-chiṣyaḥ
sa eva svārtha ucyate

Viśvarūpa said: O masters (nāthā)! Those cultivating dharma (dharma-śīlaih) will say (ucyate vigarhitam) that I will lose by powers as a brāhmaṇa by being a priest (brahma varca-upavyayam), but how can a person like me (katham nu mad-vidhah), your disciple (tad-śiṣyaḥ), refuse (pratyākhyāsyati) the request made by the rulers of the planets (lokeśair abhiyācitam)! It is in my interest as a disciple (sa eva svārtha).

The sages who cultivate dharma criticize being a priest because one loses a great amount of brahma-tejas.

But I must do this.

O masters (nāthāḥ)! I have been requested by you the rulers of the planets.

I am your disciple. A disciple cannot refuse.

It is in the interest of the disciple to accept.

|| 6.7.36 ||

akiñcanām hi dhanam śiloñchanam teneha nirvartita-sādhu-satkriyaḥ katham vigarhyam nu karomy adhīśvarāḥ paurodhasam hṛṣyati yena durmatiḥ

The wealth of the detached brāhmaṇa (akiñcanānām hi dhanam) is collecting grains from the harvested field or grains left in the market (śila uñchanam). By this the detached maintain themselves honestly (tena iha nirvartita-sādhu-satkriyaḥ). O rulers (adhīśvarāḥ)! How can I take up (katham nu karomy) the condemned profession of a priest (vigarhyam paurodhasam) which gives joy only to the foolish (hṛṣyati yena durmatiḥ)?

"One can accomplish dharma by accepting wealth from being a priest.

How can one practice if one has no money?"

The wealth of the detached brāhmaṇa is collecting grains from the harvested field or grains left in the market (śīloñchanam).

Śīla refers to corn left by the owner of a field.

Uñchanam means taking grains which have fallen down in the market place.

A foolish person becomes joyful by being a priest, but not an intelligent person.

Or a sinful person becomes joyful because it is suitable to his mentality.

| 6.7.37 | tathāpi na pratibrūyām gurubhiḥ prārthitam kiyat bhavatām prārthitam sarvam prāṇair arthaiś ca sādhaye

However (tathāpi), I shall not refuse (na pratibrūyām) a small request (prārthitam kiyat) made by my elders (gurubhiḥ). I shall accomplish (sādhaye) all that you desire (bhayatām prārthitam sarvam) by my life and possessions (prāṇaih arthaih ca).

I will not refuse such a small request.

But even a large request I shall grant.

| 6.7.38 | śrī-bādarāyaṇir uvāca tebhya evam pratiśrutya viśvarūpo mahā-tapāḥ paurahityam vṛtaś cakre parameṇa samādhinā

Śukadeva said: After thus hearing them (tebhya evam pratiśrutya), austere Viśvarūpa (viśvarūpo mahā-tapāḥ), accepting the request (vṛtah), performed the priestly activities (paurahityam cakre) with great attention (parameṇa samādhinā).

| 6.7.39 | sura-dviṣām śriyam guptām auśanasyāpi vidyayā ācchidyādān mahendrāya vaiṣṇavyā vidyayā vibhuḥ

By his knowledge of the Nārāyaṇa-kavaca (vaiṣṇavyā vidyayā), Viśvarūpa collected the wealth of the demons (sura-dviṣām śriyam ācchidya) which had been protected by the knowledge of Śukrācārya (auśanasyāpi vidyayā guptām) and gave it to Indra (mahendrāya adāt).

| | 6.7.40 | yayā guptaḥ sahasrākṣo jigye 'sura-camūr vibhuḥ tām prāha sa mahendrāya viśvarūpa udāra-dhīḥ

Generous Viśvarūpa (viśvarūpa udāra-dhīḥ) taught Indra (mahendrāya prāha) the Nārāyaṇa-kavaca (tāṁ) by which (yayā), Indra (sahasrākṣah vibhuḥ), protected (guptaḥ), conquered (jigye) the demons' army (asura-camūh).