Canto Seven - Chapter Three

Hiranyakaśipu's Plan to Become Immortal

Nārada said: O King Yudhiṣṭhira (rājann)! Hiraṇyakaśipu (hiraṇyakaśipū) wanted to be the sole king (ātmānam eka-rājaṃ vyadhitsata), without a rival (apratidvandvam), unconquerable (ajeyam), free from old age (ajarā), and deathless (amaram).

Verse Summary: Hiraṇyakaśipu wanted to be the sole king of the whole universe and also deathless.

| 7.3.2 ||
sa tepe mandara-droṇyām
tapaḥ parama-dāruṇam
ūrdhva-bāhur nabho-dṛṣṭiḥ
padanguṣṭhāśritāvaniḥ

Therefore, in a valley of Mandara mountain (mandara-droṇyām), Hiraṇyakaśipu began performing extreme austerities (sah tepe parama-dāruṇam tapaḥ) by standing with his toes on the ground (avaniḥ aśrita pāda aṅguṣṭhah), keeping his arms upward (ūrdhva-bāhuh) and looking toward the sky (nabho-dṛṣṭiḥ).

Verse Summary: So he performed intense austerities by standing on toes and raising his arms upwards.

| 7.3.3 ||
jaṭā-dīdhitibhī reje
saṃvartārka ivāmśubhiḥ
tasmims tapas tapyamāne
devāḥ sthānāni bhejire

He shone like the sun at the time of devastation (samvarta arka iva reje) by the rays from his brilliant locks of hair (jaṭā-dīdhitibhīh aṃśubhiḥ). When he was performing austerities (tasmin tapah tapyamāṇe), the devatās returned to their abodes (devāḥ sthānāni bhejire).

Verse Summary: When he was performing austerities, the devatās returned to their abodes.

| 7.3.4 ||
tasya mūrdhnaḥ samudbhūtaḥ
sadhūmo 'gnis tapomayaḥ
tīryag ūrdhvam adho lokān
prātapad viṣvag īritaḥ

Because of Hiraṇyakaśipu's severe austerities (tapomayaḥ tasya), fire and smoke (agnih sa dhūmah) emanated from his head (mūrdhnaḥ samudbhūtaḥ), and, spreading (īritaḥ) up, down (ūrdhyam adhah), sideways (tīryak), and all around (viṣvak), heated up all the planets (lokān prātapad).

Verse Summary: Due to his austerities, fire and smoke emanated from his head and spread in all directions

| 7.3.5 ||
cukṣubhur nady-udanvantaḥ
sadvīpādriś cacāla bhūḥ
nipetuh sagrahās tārā
jajvaluś ca diśo daśa

All the rivers and oceans were agitated (nady-udanvantaḥ cukṣubhuh). The surface of the globe (bhūḥ), with its mountains and islands (sa dvīpa adrih), began trembling (cacāla), and the stars and planets fell (nipetuḥ sagrahāh tārā). All directions were ablaze (jajvaluh ca diśah daśa).

Verse Summary: Rivers and oceans were agitated, mountains and islands began to tremble, and stars and planets fell.

| 7.3.6 ||
tena taptā divam tyaktvā
brahmalokam yayuḥ surāḥ
dhātre vijnāpayām āsur
deva-deva jagat-pate
daityendra-tapasā taptā
divi sthātum na śaknumaḥ

Scorched because of Hiranyakaśipu's penances (tena taptā), the devatās (surāḥ) left their planets (divam tyaktvā) and went to Brahmaloka (brahmalokam yayuḥ). They informed the creator as follows (dhātre vijñāpayām āsuh): O lord of the devatās (deva-deva)! O master of the universe (jagat-pate)! Because of the penance of Hiraṇyakaśipu (daityendratapasā), we have become scorched (taptā) and cannot stay on our planets (divi sthātum na śaknumaḥ).

Verse Summary: Devatas, disturbed because of Hiraṇyakaśipu's penances, went to Brahma and reported. "We cannot stay in our planets".

| 7.3.7 ||
tasya copaśamam bhūman
vidhehi yadi manyase
lokā na yāvan naṅkṣyanti
bali-hārās tavābhibhūḥ

O great person (bhūman), ruling everywhere (abhibhūḥ)! If you think it proper (yadi manyase), stop his austerity (tasya upaśamam vidhehi) so that (yāvat) those who offer worship (tava bali-hārāh lokāh) will not be destroyed (na naṅkṣyanti).

Verse Summary: Please stop this austerity so that those who offer worship will not be destroyed.

| 7.3.8 ||
tasyāyam kila saṅkalpaś
carato duścaram tapaḥ
śrūyatām kim na viditas
tavāthāpi niveditam

He has made a vow (tasya ayam sankalpah) to perform extreme austerity (duścaram tapah caratah). Please hear (śrūyatām) what we reveal (kim niveditam) if it is not already known to you (athāpi tava na viditah).

Verse Summary: Please hear what we reveal to you about his austerity.

|| 7.3.9-10 ||
sṛṣṭvā carācaram idam
tapo-yoga-samādhinā
adhyāste sarva-dhiṣṇyebhyaḥ
parameṣṭhī nijāsanam

tad aham vardhamānena tapo-yoga-samadhina kālātmanoś ca nityatvāt sādhayiṣye tathātmanaḥ

Brahmā sits on his throne (parameṣṭhī nija āsanam adhyāste) after creating the universe of moving and non-moving beings (idam cara acaram sṛṣṭvā) by concentration, yoga and austerity (tapo-yoga-samādhinā). By greater austerity, yoga and concentration of mind (tapo-yoga-samādhinā) I will achieve (aham sādhayiṣye) power greater than that of Brahmā (sarva-dhiṣṇyebhyaḥ vardhamānena), and achieve his post for myself (tad ātmanaḥ sādhayiṣye), since the ātmā and time are eternal (kāla ātmanoh ca nityatvāt).

Verse Summary: He has vowed: "I will perform greater austerities than Brahma and achieve greater power than him. Since atma and time are eternal, I can achieve this goal in a future lifetime also".

SVCT Commentary – Verse 9-10

- "I will achieve power greater than Brahmā."
- "But, Brahmā has a very long life, and thus performed great austerity a long time. How can you perform such long austerity?"
- Though my gross body with a short life will be repeatedly destroyed, because time and the ātmā are eternal, after performing austerities for many births, I will achieve the post of Brahmā for myself.

|| 7.3.11 ||
anyathedam vidhāsye 'ham
ayathā pūrvam ojasā
kim anyaiḥ kāla-nirdhūtaiḥ
kalpānte vaiṣṇavādibhiḥ

By dint of my severe austerities (ojasā), I shall reverse the results of pious and impious activities (aham vidhāsye anyatha idam). By my power, what was previously the rule will be opposite (ayathā pūrvam). What is the use of other places like Dhruvaloka (kim anyaih vaiṣṇavādibhih), which will be destroyed by time (kāla-nirdhūtaih) at the end of the millennium (kalpa ante)?

Verse Summary: By my austerities, I will reverse the results of pious and impious activities. What is the use of temporary Dhruvaloka?

SVCT Commentary – Verse 11

- I will make the world opposite.
- Those who suffer by vows like celibacy and austerity will attain hell in the next life and will have to suffer.
- Those who are only absorbed in material enjoyment in this life will attain the enjoyment of Svarga in the next life.
- Material enjoyment will be the recommended piety and sādhana.
- Restricting enjoyment will be a sin and not recommended. This will be instituted.

SVCT Commentary – Verse 11

- "But this has not happened in any previous lifetimes of Brahmās."
- I will make previous rules just the opposite by my power.
- "Why do you consider Brahmā's post that you cherish to be better than all others?"
- What is the use of other places like Dhruvaloka which are temporary?
- The demons will consider Dhruvaloka temporary.

| 7.3.12 ||
iti śuśruma nirbandham
tapaḥ paramam āsthitaḥ
vidhatsvānantaram yuktam
svayam tri-bhuvaneśvara

O lord of the three worlds (tri-bhuvana īśvara)! We have heard (iti śuśruma) that Hiranyakaśipu is now engaged in severe austerity (paramam tapah āsthitah) with insistence on taking your post (nirbandham). Please, without delay (anantaram), take suitable action (vidhatsva yuktam svayam).

Verse Summary: He is engaged in these austerities to take your post. Please take suitable action.

| 7.3.13 ||
tavāsanam dvija-gavām
pārameṣṭhyam jagat-pate
bhavāya śreyase bhūtyai
kṣemāya vijayāya ca

O lord of the universe (jagat-pate)! Your position within this universe (tava asanam pārameṣṭhyam) is certainly the best (śreyase) for the worlds (bhavāya), for the cows and brāhmaṇas (dvija-gavām), for the flourishing of dharma (bhūtyai), for auspiciousness and for improvement (kṣemāya ca vijayāya).

Verse Summary: Your position in this world is best for the three worlds. If he takes over, he will create the opposite.

SVCT Commentary – Verse 13

• Your position is for producing the best for the world (bhavāya śreyase). If he takes the pose he will create the opposite.

• Your post is for the flourishing of dharma for the created people and planets (bhūtyai). If he gains control, there will be destruction of dharma.

• Your post is for auspiciousness and improvement. If he reigns there will be inauspiciousness and ruination.

|| 7.3.14 ||
iti vijñāpito devair
bhagavān ātmabhūr nrpa
parito bhrgu-dakṣādyair
yayau daityeśvarāśramam

O King (nrpa)! Thus informed by the devatās (iti devaih vijnāpitah), powerful Brahmā (bhagavān ātmabhūh), accompanied by Bhṛgu, Dakṣa and other great sages (bhṛgu-dakṣa adyaih paritah), immediately went to the hermitage of Hiraṇyakaśipu (yayau daityeśvara āśramam).

Verse Summary: Hearing this, Brahma approached the hermitage of Hiraṇyakaśipu

• Brahmā went with the intention of stopping his austerities by offering benedictions.

|| 7.3.15-16 ||
na dadarśa praticchannam
valmīka-tṛṇa-kicakaiḥ
pipīlikābhir ācīrṇam
medas-tvan-māmsa-śoṇitam

tapantam tapasā lokān yathābhrāpihitam ravim vilakṣya vismitaḥ prāha hasams tam hamsa-vāhanaḥ

Lord Brahmā, carried by a swan (haṃsa-vāhanaḥ), at first could not see Hiraṇyakaśipu (taṃ na dadarśa), whose body was covered by an anthill, grass and bamboo (praticchannam valmīka-tṛṇa-kīcakaiḥ). Then Lord Brahmā saw him (vilakṣya), with skin, fat, flesh and blood (medah tvak māṃsa śoṇitam) devoured by ants (pipīlikābhih ācīrnaṃ). Like a cloud-covered sun (yathā abhra apīhītaṃ ravim), he was burning the worlds by his austerity (tapantaṃ tapasā lokān). Struck with wonder (vismitaḥ), Lord Brahmā smiled (hasan) and spoke to him (taṃ prāha).

Verse Summary: Brahmā at first could not see Hiraṇyakaśipu as his body was covered by an anthill, grass and bamboo. Then he saw him completely devoured by ants. Struck with wonder, he smiled and spoke.

| 7.3.17 ||
śrī-brahmovāca
uttiṣṭhottiṣṭha bhadraṁ te
tapaḥ-siddho 'si kāśyapa
varado 'ham anuprāpto
vriyatām īpsito varaḥ

Lord Brahmā said: O son of Kaśyapa (laśyapa)! Please get up (uttiṣṭha uttiṣṭha)! All good fortune unto you (bhadraṁ te)! Your austerity will bear fruit now (tapah-siddho asi). I, who will give you benedictions (aham varadah), have arrived (anuprāptah). Ask your desired boon (vriyatām īpsito varaḥ).

Verse Summary: Get up and ask your desired boon. Your austerity will bear fruit now.

| 7.3.18 ||
adrākṣam aham etam te
hṛt-sāram mahad-adbhutam
damśa-bhakṣita-dehasya
prāṇā hy asthiṣu śerate

I have seen (aham adrākṣam) your most astonishing fortitude (te mahad-adbhutam hṛt-sāram). Since your body has been eaten by insects (damśa-bhakṣita-dehasya), your life air has taken shelter of your bones (prāṇāh hi asthiṣu śerate).

Verse Summary: Since your body has been eaten by insects, your life air has taken shelter of your bones

| 7.3.19 ||
naitat pūrvarṣayaś cakrur
na kariṣyanti cāpare
nirambur dhārayet prāṇān
ko vai divya-samāḥ śatam

Even previous sages like Bhṛgu (pūrva rṣayah) have not performed such austerities (etat na cakruh), and no one will do so in the future (na kariṣyanti ca apare). Who can sustain his life (kah vai dhārayet prāṇān) without even drinking water (nirambuh) for one hundred celestial years (divya-samāḥ śatam)?

Verse Summary: Such intense austerities have never be performed before and no one will do so in the future.

| 7.3.20 | vyavasāyena te 'nena duṣkareṇa manasvinām tapo-niṣṭhena bhavatā jito 'haṁ diti-nandana

O son of Diti (diti-nandana)! Because of your determination (te anena vyavasāyena) and steadiness in austerity (tapo-nisthena) which is difficult for sages (duṣkareṇa maṇasvinām), I have been conquered by you (bhavatā aham jitah).

Verse Summary: I have been conquered by your determination and steadiness in austerity

| 7.3.21 ||
tatas ta āśiṣaḥ sarvā
dadāmy asura-puṅgava
martasya te hy amartasya
darśanaṁ nāphalaṁ mama

O best of the demons (asura-puṅgava)! For this reason (tatah) I will give you all benedictions (dadāmy te āśiṣaḥ sarvā). The audience (darśanaṁ) of you, a mortal (te martasya), with me, an immortal (mama amartasya), will not go in vain (na aphalaṁ).

Verse Summary: For this reason I will give you all benedictions.

• Because Hiraṇyakaśipu was born from demons, he is bound to die. Therefore he is called martasya.

| 7.3.22 ||
śrī-nārada uvāca
ity uktvādi-bhavo devo
bhakṣitāṅgaṁ pipīlikaiḥ
kamaṇḍalu-jalenaukṣad
divyenāmogha-rādhasā

Nārada said: After speaking (ity uktva), Lord Brahmā, the original entity of this universe (ādi-bhavah devah), sprinkled (aukṣad) divine, potent water (divyena amogha-rādhasā jalena) from his pot (kamaṇḍalu) upon Hiraṇyakaśipu's body (aṅgaṁ), which had been eaten away by ants (pipīlikaiḥ bhakṣitah).

Verse Summary: After speaking, Brahma sprinkled divine, potent water on Hiraṇyakaśipu's body.

| 7.3.23 ||
sa tat kīcaka-valmīkāt
saha-ojo-balānvitaḥ
sarvāvayava-sampanno
vajra-samhanano yuvā
utthitas tapta-hemābho
vibhāvasur ivaidhasaḥ

Becoming endowed with strength of mind, senses and body (sahah ojah balah anvitaḥ), Hiraṇyakaśipu (sah), firm as a thunderbolt (vajra samhananah yuvā) and shining like molten gold (tapta hema ābhah), then arose from the anthill and the bamboo grove (tat kīcaka-valmīkāt utthitah), with his limbs fully restored (sarva avayava sampannah), like fire arising from wood (edhasaḥ vibhāvasuh iva).

Verse Summary: Then all of Hiraṇyakaśipu's limbs were restored and he became endowed with strength of mind, senses and body.

|| 7.3.24 || sa nirīkṣyāmbare devam hamsa-vāham upasthitam nanāma śirasā bhūmau tad-darśana-mahotsavah

Seeing Lord Brahmā (nirīkṣya devam) present before him in the sky (ambare upasthitam), carried by his swan airplane (hamsa-vāham), Hiraṇyakaśipu (sah), pleased on seeing him (tad-darśana-mahotsavaḥ), offered respects on the ground with his head (nanāma śirasā bhūmau).

Verse Summary: Then seeing Brahma, Hiraṇyakaśipu offered respects.

| 7.3.25 | utthāya prāñjaliḥ prahva īkṣamāṇo dṛśā vibhum harṣāśru-pulakodbhedo girā gadgadayāgṛṇāt

Then, rising (utthāya) and seeing Lord Brahmā before him (īkṣamāṇah dṛśā vibhum), with tears in his eyes and hairs standing on end (āśru-pulakah) out of joy (harṣa udbhedah), with folded hands (prāñjaliḥ prahvah) and a faltering voice (gadgadaya girā), he uttered prayers to Lord Brahmā (agṛṇāt).

Verse Summary: He then offered prayers to Brahma in great joy.

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| 7.3.26-27 ||
śrī-hiranyakaśipur uvāca
kalpānte kāla-sṛṣṭena
yo 'ndhena tamasāvṛtam
abhivyanag jagad idam
svayañjyotiḥ sva-rociṣā

ātmanā tri-vṛtā cedam sṛjaty avati lumpati rajaḥ-sattva-tamo-dhāmne parāya mahate namaḥ

Hiraṇyakaśipu said: I offer respects (namaḥ) to the great, supreme (mahate parāya), self-effulgent lord (svayam jyotiḥ), the shelter of rajas, sattva and tamas (rajah sattva tamah dhāmne), who manifests (yah abhivyanak) by his effulgence (sva-rociṣā) the universe (idam jagat) covered with darkness (andhena tamasā āvṛtam) at the end of his day (kalpa ante) through the influence of time (kāla-sṛṣṭena), and who creates, maintains and destroys (sṛjaty avati lumpati) this universe (idam) by accepting the three guṇas (ātmanā tri-vṛtā).

Verse Summary: I offer respects to you who is the shelter of the 3 modes, and who creates, maintains and destroys this universe by accepting the 3 modes.

|| 7.3.28 ||
nama ādyāya bījāya
jñāna-vijñāna-mūrtaye
prāṇendriya-mano-buddhivikārair vyaktim īyuse

I offer my obeisances to the original person within this universe (nama ādyāya), the seed (bījāya), the form of knowledge and realization (jñāna-vijñāna-mūrtaye), who has taken a form (vyaktim īyuse) by transformations (vikāraih) of the life air, senses, mind and intelligence (prāṇa indriya manah buddhi).

Verse Summary: I offer respects to you who is the original person, the seed, the form of knowledge and realization, and who has taken a form by transformations of life airs, senses etc.

| 7.3.29 ||
| tvam īśiṣe jagatas tasthuṣaś ca
| prāṇena mukhyena patiḥ prajānām
| cittasya cittair mana-indriyāṇām
| patir mahan bhūta-guṇāśayeśaḥ

You control (tvam īśiṣe) the moving and non-moving beings (jagatah tasthuṣah ta) by the chief prāṇa (nukhyena prāṇena). You are the lord of the progeny (prajānām patiḥ), lord of the citta of the progeny by being their consciousness (citaih). You are the lord of the mind and senses (mana-indriyāṇām patih), the lord of the gross elements (mahān bhūta patih), and the lord of the tan-mātras and their impressions (guṇa āśaya iṣah).

Verse Summary: You control the moving and non-moving things. You are the Lord of progeny, citta, mind, senses, elements, tan-matras and their impressions

| 7.3.30 ||
tvam sapta-tantūn vitanoṣi tanvā
trayyā catur-hotraka-vidyayā ca
tvam eka ātmātmavatām anādir
ananta-pāraḥ kavir antarātmā

You propagate (tvam vitanoși) the seven forms of sacrifice (saptatantun) by knowledge known to the four priests (catur-hotrakavidyayā) and by the three Vedas (trayyā ca). You are the one ātmā (tvam eka ātmā) of all beings (ātmavatām), without beginning (anādih) or end (ananta-pāraḥ), omniscient (kavih), and the soul within all beings (antah ātmā).

Verse Summary: You propagate the sacrifices. You are the omniscient soul within all beings.

| 7.3.31 ||
tvam eva kālo 'nimiṣo janānām
āyur lavādy-avayavaiḥ kṣiṇoṣi
kūṭa-stha ātmā parameṣṭhy ajo mahāms
tvam jīva-lokasya ca jīva ātmā

You are unblinking time (tvam animiso kālah) and you reduce the life span of all beings (janānām āyur kṣinoṣi) by divisions of time (lava ādy avayavaih). You are the unchanging antaryāmī (kūṭa-stha ātmā). You are unborn, great (parameṣṭhy ajah mahān). You are the jīva (tvam jīva ātmā) of all jīvas (jīva-lokasya).

Verse Summary: You, as time, reduce the life of all jivas. You are also the great Supersoul.

SVCT Commentary – Verse 31

• You are the antaryāmī (ātmā). You are the ātmā of all the bodies of the jīvas.

• The previous verse mentioned ātmātmavatām, which has the same meaning.

• However in the previous verse, it specifically refers to the Lord of the performers of sacrifice, as the instigator of actions of sacrifice and performer of the actions.

• This verse refers to the Lord in all other persons.

|| 7.3.32 ||

tvattaḥ param nāparam apy anejad ejac ca kiñcid vyatiriktam asti vidyāḥ kalās te tanavaś ca sarvā hiraṇyagarbho 'si bṛhat tri-pṛṣṭhaḥ

No cause or effect (na param aparam), no non-moving or moving being (na ejat ca anejat), is separate from you (tvattaḥ vyatīrīktam asti). The Vedas and its angas (vidyaḥ kalah ca) are all your bodies (sarvā te tanavah). You are the person containing the universe in your belly (hiraṇyagarbho asi). You are Brahman (bṛhat). You are separate from the three guṇas (tri-pṛṣṭhaḥ).

Verse Summary: Nothing is separate from you. The Vedas are your body. The universe is within your belly. You are the Brahman separate from the modes.

| 7.3.33 ||
vyaktam vibho sthūlam idam śarīram
yenendriya-prāṇa-mano-guṇāms tvam
bhuṅkṣe sthito dhāmani pārameṣthye
avyakta ātmā puruṣaḥ purāṇaḥ

O lord (vibho)! The universe (idam vyaktam) is your gross body (sthūlam śarīram) by which you enjoy (yena tvam bhunkṣe) the senses, life airs, mind and sense objects (indriya-prāṇa-mano-guṇān), but you are still situated (sthitah) in your svarūpa of great power (dhāmani pārameṣṭhye). Thus you are Brahman (avyakta), Paramātmā (ātmā) and Bhagavān (puruṣaḥ purāṇaḥ).

Verse Summary: The universe is your gross body by which you enjoy, but still you are situated in your svarupa. Thus you are Brahman, Paramatma and Bhagavan.

|| 7.3.34 ||
anantāvyakta-rūpena
yenedam akhilam tatam
cid-acic-chakti-yuktāya
tasmai bhagavate namaḥ

I offer respect to you (namaḥ tasmai), the powerful lord (bhagavate), endowed with spiritual and material potencies (cit acit shakti yuktāya) by which you pervade the whole world (yena idam akhilam tatam) with an unlimited (ananta) and unmanifest form (avyakta rūpeṇa).

Verse Summary: You are endowed with material and spiritual potencies by which you pervade the whole world with an unlimited form.

|| 7.3.35 ||
yadi dāsyasy abhimatān
varān me varadottama
bhūtebhyas tvad-visṛṣṭebhyo
mṛtyur mā bhūn mama prabho

O my lord (prabho)! O best of the givers of benediction (varada uttama)! If you will kindly grant me (yadi me dāsyaṣy) the benediction that I desire (abhimatān varān), then please let me not die (mama mṛtyuh mā bhūt) from any of the living entities (bhūtebhyah) created by you (tvat visṛṣṭebhyah).

Verse Summary: Let me not die from any jiva created by you.

SVCT Commentary – Verse 35

- "Enough of glorification! Please accept a boon."
- Hiraṇyakaśipu thought, "If I ask to be immortal, it will be impossible to fulfill, since, he will say that he also will die at the end of the mahākalpa. Thus he will refuse my request.
- Therefore, by intelligence, I will ask for boon that will result in me being immortal.
- Let me not die from all beings created by Brahmā.
- Who else is there?"

nāntar bahir divā naktam anyasmād api cāyudhaiḥ na bhūmau nāmbare mṛtyur na narair na mṛgair api

Grant me that I not die (na mṛtyuh) within any residence (antar) or outside any residence (bahir), during the daytime or at night (divā naktam), not by any weapon (āyudhaih) or something other than a weapon (anyasmāt ca api), nor on the ground or in the sky (na bhūmau na ambare), nor by man (na narair) or animal (na mṛgair api).

Verse Summary: Let me not die inside or outside, during day or night, by any weapon, on the ground or in the sky, by a man or animal.

SVCT Commentary – Verse 36

• Death should happen naturally.

• If all places and times are excluded for death, the natural death will also be excluded.

• The forms of Viṣnu such as Varāha are all created by Brahmā, but Viṣṇu is without form.

• If he, without form, throws his cakra or other weapons, my boon will be useless. This is my worry. Thus let me not be destroyed by any weapon or anything else!

SVCT Commentary – Verse 36

- Though the words inside and outside covers all places, Viṣṇu could think of some particular loophole related to the meaning of the two words.
- Thus particular places must also be excluded.
- "Not on earth" refers to all the seven lower planets down to Pātala.
- "Not in the sky" refers to all the upper planets.
- All these are excluded.
- Fearing other beings like Dakṣa, he then says that all men should be excluded as well.

|| 7.3.37-38 ||
vyasubhir vāsumadbhir vā
surāsura-mahoragaiḥ
apratidvandvatām yuddhe
aika-patyam ca dehinām

sarveṣām loka-pālānām mahimānam yathātmanaḥ tapo-yoga-prabhāvāṇām yan na riṣyati karhicit

Let me not die by non-living things (vyasubhir vā) or living beings (asumadbhih), devatās, demons or snakes (sura asura maha uragaiḥ). Let me not be defeated in battle (apratidvandvatām yuddhe) and have great lordship over all beings (eka-patyam ca dehinām) and all protectors of planets (sarveṣām loka-pālānām). Let me have powers of austerity and yoga (tapo-yoga-prabhāvāṇām) just as you have (yathā mahimānam atmanaḥ), whose potency will never be destroyed (yad na riṣyati karhicit)!

Verse Summary: Let me not die by non-living things or living beings, devatās, demons or snakes. Let me not be defeated in battle. Let me have lordship over all and have powers of austerity and yoga just as you have!

SVCT Commentary – Verse 37-38

- Because it is impossible to mention all species of living entity he recites these verses.
- Thus I cannot be killed by objects of any sort.
- Thinking that he could not die, he then asked for another boon.
- Let me have no rival in battle and supremacy over all beings.
- Just as you have (yathā ātmanaḥ) power, give me power by austerity and yoga that cannot be destroyed.