

Mandukya Upanishad, Class 27

Karika # 24:

kāla

iti kālavido diśa iti ca tadvidah |
vādā iti vādavido bhuvanānīti tadvidah || 24 ||

24. *The*

*Knowers¹ of time call It time²; the
Knowers of space (ether) call It space (ether). Those versed
in disputation
call It the problem in dispute and the Knowers of the worlds
call It the worlds.³*

Continuing his teaching

Swamiji said, Gaudapada pointed out that universe experienced
in any manner (as
Swapna, Jagrat, or any other higher state), still remains an
object of
experience and thus a mithya.

Mithya means relative

reality, meaning it has meaning only in a particular state.
Once the state
changes, the object is no more real.

The

truth of Turiya Atma is that as Observer, I am the projector
and sustainer and experiencer
of whatever I projected with the help of a relevant body; the
dream world
through the dream body and the waking world through the waking
body. The bodies
themselves are projections.

Using the projected bodies I experience the projected

universe. When this truth is missed, so many anatmas are mistaken as atma, the reality. Until now, various misconceptions with regard to the external world were pointed out.

Thus Swapna Prapancha is real in swapna but not in Jagrat; jagrat prapancha is real in jagrat but not in swapna. Therefore Gaudapada says Observer alone is Satyam while observed is Mithya.

Advantage of this knowledge is that mithya, relative reality, cannot affect Satyam, the absolute reality.

The advantage of this knowledge is that whatever happens in Drshya Prapancha, it does not affect Me. This includes the world, the body and mind; all are

drsihyam and thus mithya; whatever happens to them, I, Turiyam, am unaffected.

Once I lose sight of the fact that I, The Observer, am reality, then Mithya becomes Satyam.

Once waker is lost sight of, dream becomes reality; instead of seeing dream as my creative glory, it becomes a nightmare.

To convey this idea Gaudapada talked of errors of philosophers in Karikas # 20-28. Each philosopher has mistakenly taken one object or other as the truth; they don't realize I the observer am the truth.

Karika # 25:

mana iti manovido buddhiriti
ca tadvidah |
cittamiti cittavido dharmādharmau ca tadvidah ||
25 ||

25. The Cognizers¹ of
the mind call It the mind;² of³ the Buddhi
(intellect) the Buddhi⁴; of the Chitta (mind-
stuff), the Chitta⁵; and the Knowers⁶ of Dharma (righteousness)
and Adharma (unrighteousness) call It the one⁷ or the other.

There are astrologers who
attribute everything to time such that I look at myself as a
slave of time; I
give reality to time; I think every moment of life is
determined by stars; thus
this greatest Brahman has become a victim of time, a mithya.
Every event seems
to confirm my confusion that I am victim of Kala; thus I
become an extrovert
controlling various planets via Pariharas.

I am not criticizing
astrology; it is a relative reality; it does not take me to
absolute reality;
any apara Vidhya should take me to para vidhya. Therefore,
till death they are
obsessed with Jyotisham.

Another set of people is
obsessed with quarters. They don't do namaskara facing south.
We should grow
out of all this and realize that all directions are relative
reality. Our aim
is to grow out of them; that is why Dakshina murthy is facing
south.

It takes time to grow out of these conditions. They even consider seeing a Sanyasi to be a bad omen.

“A Gyani swallows Yama”, per Katho Upanishad; for him, the entire world is food; even Yama is frightened of a gyani.

Similarly, a variety of systems like mantra vada, tantra vada; each considers that they can influence life. Each Vada claims it can influence you becoming greater than “you”.

Gaudapada asks why transform your life when you are complete and wonderful. Other systems say 14 Lokas are the true. Each loka is governed by its own conditions. Common feature of these philosophies is that, “I” am slave of these factors. Vedanta says, I am not dependent on anything; rather they all depend on me.

Karika # 26:

pañcaviṃśaka

ityeke ṣaḍviśa iti cāpare |

ekatriṃśaka ityāhurananta iti cāpare || 26 ||

Some¹ say that the Reality consists of twenty-five categories, others² twenty-six, while there are others³ who conceive It as consisting of thirty-one categories and lastly people are not wanting who think such categories to be infinite.

Then, there are ones,

obsessed with psychology and believe everything is determined by the mind. They divide mind into two parts. One part of mind, the lower layer, is the unconscious mind, determined by childhood experiences. Every human life has this unconscious mind.

I am a victim of my own mind as my mind is a victim of my own past. They don't accept freewill. They also say, anger is part of unconscious mind, as is one's low self-image. Thus I am made slave of psychologists.

Another philosophy is Buddhism also known as Kshanik Vada. It says that the knowledge we have is reality. They believe in budhi; they don't believe in Atma; they believe in stream of thoughts; they believe every thought exists for a moment. This system is also known as Yogachara.

Some others consider memory to be the ultimate truth. Even the way one judges situations and people, depends on memory. Citing an example: A man falls into a river and is rescued; but, thereafter, he is scared of the river.

Purvamimasa: This group says punya and papam are only reality. All Lokas are due to punya and papa. God is also punya and papam alone. They believe in Vedas but don't believe in God. They believe Vedas are eternal without a creator. Dharma and adharma revealed in

Vedas is the ultimate truth.

All these philosophies have the common factor that they believe in external factors as controlling me.

Karika # 27:

lokāmġlokavidah
prāhurāśramā iti tadvidah |
strīpuṃnapuṃsakaṃ laiṅgāḥ parāparamathāpare || 27 ||

27. Those¹ who know only to please others call It (Reality) such² pleasure; those³ who are cognizant of the Āśramas call It the Āśramas; the grammarians call It the male, female or the neuter, and others know It as the Parā⁴ and Aparā.

Another group believes world as absolute reality. For convenience they divide world into a few principles and call it Tatvani. Sankhya philosophers believe world is made of 25 Tatvas.

Gaudapada, however, says, this is again another misconception.

Sankhyas are materialists who don't believe in God. They believe in Vedas but don't accept God. Their philosophy is known as Atheistic Theism.

Yoga philosophers believe in 25 Tatvams plus Ishwara and it is known as Theistic Theism.

Thus:

Kapila Muni wrote Sankhya.

Jaimini wrote Mimamsa

Patanjali wrote on Yoga.

All these people are listed
in Karikas 20-28. Gaudapada says, all these philosophers
including: Jaimini,
Kapila and Patanjali are all confused; they consider “I” am a
slave of external
factors. Reality is that they are all slaves of Me, the
Turiyam.

Pashupatha shaivism is yet
another group; they have four sub groups such as: Kapalika,
Pashupathas. They
believe in 31 Tatvams as making up the world.

When we say Shiva or Vishnu,
what does it mean to you? If they are an object located
somewhere different
from you, then Shiva and Vishnu are an objectified personal
God. Advaita does
not accept either; we are Brahnavadis. Shiva or Krishna is not
different from
Me. For sake of Chitta shudhi you can accept them as Objective
gods. Ultimately
Shiva and Vishnu are non-different from Me; I am Smartha or a
Brahnavadi.

There are others who say
there are infinite principles that make up reality.

Karika # 28:

**sṛṣṭirīti
sṛṣṭivido laya iti ca tadvidāḥ |
sthitirīti sthitividaḥ sarve ceha tu sarvadā || 28 ||**

**28. The Knowers¹ of creation call It creation; the Knowers of
dissolution describe It as
dissolution and the believers in subsistence believe It to be**

subsistence.

Really speaking, all² these ideas are always imagined³ in Ātman.

Another group believes
happiness is ultimate truth. They say objects of happiness and
pleasures are
ultimate truth.

There are others obsessed
with Varna ashrama dharma. It is acceptable to follow this for
some time to
gain spiritual growth but soon after one has to get out of it.
It is only a
means and not an end in itself. Treating means, as an end is
un-wise; so one
has to grow out of Varna ashrama. Don't let anything bind you.

Grammarians obsessed with
words and language believe language is only truth. They are
known as Sphotavadis.
They forget language is only a means of communication.

Paramapapas: They believe
ultimate truth is in form of papa. They believe Karya, Karana
Brahma is ultimate
truth. Gaudapada says, Karya Karana Vilakshanam is ultimate
truth or Turiyam;
it is neither karyam nor karanam.

In chapter # 3 we will
analyze Karya Karana Vilakshanam in greater detail.

Take Away:

With Best Wishes

Ram Ramaswamy