

Mandukya Upanishad Class 66

After negating all the other systems of philosophy, Gowdapadha is summarizing vedantic teachings of Mandukaya

Upanishad, from 29 to 46th verses. He summarized with the help of dream

example. From 47th verse to 56th verse, he is summarizing the same

teaching by changing the example.

Alantham means torch – a flaming

fire with a handle. For our study, we will take incense stick as

alantham, instead of the fire with a handle. The glowing fire tip is

compared to Brahma Chaithanyam. We are taking this incense stick with a

glowing tip in a dark room. You are moving in the dark room, creating

many patterns. These patterns are generated by the motion of the fire

tip. These patterns can be straight, circular – you can get any number of

patterns with the motion of fire tip. These pluralistic patterns are

compared to dwaيدا prabanja – objects of the world. So alandham is

compared to Brahman and the patterns are compared to dwaيدا prabanja.

1. Ekam and anekam: This incense stick has one glowing stick whereas the patterns are anekam or dwaيدam. Similarly, Brahman is ekam and the dwaيدا prabanja is anekam.
2. Swayamparakasam and paratha prakasam: The glowing fire tip is self-effulgent or self-revealing or self-

evident; similarly

Brahman is also self-effulgent or self-evident or self-revealing..

Dwaيدا prabanja is paratha prakasm.

3. Karanam and kariyam: When this glowing tip is in motion because of its motion, varieties of pattern are generated. Therefore, the moving fire tip becomes the karanam or cause. The patterns are kariyam.
4. Sudandaram and parathantharam: This alantham or fire tip can exist independently in the dark room; whereas the patterns can't exist independently.

We can extend this that one fire tip in motion appears as many patterns; similarly, chaithanyam is responsible for the appearance of the prabanja. In jagrath and swapna, the chaithanyam is in motion because of thought and therefore there is the appearance of jagrath prabanja and swapna prabajna; in shusukthi, chaithanyam is not in motion, because thoughts are not in motion and we do not experience jagrath prabajanja or swapna prabanja. There is no dwaيدا prabanja other than chaithanyam.

1. In the case of fire tip, the motion is a real phenomenon; in the case of chaithanyam the motion is an apparent motion caused by thoughts or maya. When the maya ends, when there are no thoughts in sushukthi, there is no objects. Chaithanyam sathyam and jagath mithya. Chaithanyam doesn't have real motion

only seeming
motion.

2. We do say that the fire tip is the karanam and the patterns are kariyam. We initially accept this karana kariya sambandha. But later we reject this karana kariya sambandha because sambandha requires two things; but alandham and abasa can't be counted as two because the patterns do not exist separate from the incense stick. They are together as one substance. We initially accept clay as the karanam and pot as the kariyam. Later we do not accept this because there is no substance called pot. They are two names for the same substance. Similarly, we do not accept karana kariya sambandha between Brahman and Jagath; they are both one and the same. Motionless consciousness is Brahman, moving consciousness is world; there is not kariya karana sambandha. Brahman is beyond kariyam and karanam

At micro level, this is caused by thought and at macro level is caused by maya. There is no world separate from consciousness in motion.

In the next sloka, the vethireka logic is discussed. When there is no fire tip, there is no pattern.

When consciousness is absent, the world doesn't exist. Therefore, there

is no world separate from the consciousness. Anvaya is co-present and
vethireka is co-absent.

Verse 48

Patterns are no more created or
generated when there is no fire tip. Only the motion of fire
tip causes
the pattern. If the patterns are not there, this fire tip can
no longer
be called the cause or akaranam. When there are no patterns,
kariyams are
not there and therefore there is no kariyam. In the same way,
when the consciousness
is without motion – when maya is not there in cosmic lever
(pralayam) or when
thoughts are not there (sushukthi) – there is no objective
world. When it
is without dwaيدا prabanja, consciousness is not even a
karanam. Only
when there is a prabanja then alone you can say it is a
kariyam. Therefore,
there is no jagat separate from chaithanyam.

Verse 49

When you try to analyze the nature
of the appearance of those patterns, when the alantham is in
motion, the
patterns appear. Do the patterns come from outside and they
are sticking
to the alantham. Can you say the patterns come from inside
out of the
fire tip? Patterns do not come from inside or outside of the
fire
tip. Similarly, when the alantham comes to rest, then all the
patterns

disappear. Where did they go? Do the patterns go outside the alantham or did they go inside the alantham? You can't say they come from outside; or inside; you can't say they go inside or outside. Similarly, when the world appears and disappears, you can't say the world come from inside or outside of Brahman. When the pralayam happens, you can't say it went inside or outside of Brahman. Because there is no substance called pattern; since there is no substance called pattern, you can't discuss its arrival or departure. Similarly, you can't discuss the arrival or departure of the world, because there is no substance called world.

Verse 50

1. Patterns do not come from inside the fire tip.
The patterns do not emerge from the fire tip.
2. Patterns do not come from outside the fire tip.
When the fire tip is in motion, you do see the pattern, but they do not come outside.
3. Patterns do not go outside the fire tip. When the fire tip is not in motion, the patterns disappear, but they do not go outside.
4. Patterns do not go inside the fire tip.

Why is it we are not able to logically explain the pattern? Because we assumed that the pattern is a substance similar to assuming bangle is a substance. We have made a similar assumption regarding the world also. All these problems are

because
patterns are not substantial; it is a mere nama and roopa.
When substance
is not there, how can you talk about arrival or departure.
World never
comes, never goes because world never is. Pattern never
comes; pattern
never goes; because pattern never is. The patterns do not
have an isness
of their own and that isness belongs to fire tip. This is
mithya.
If you practice this method of thinking, you will understand
that bangle, table
etc. are nama roppa. Later you have to extend this to the
whole universe.

With regards to Brahma chaithanyam,
you have to extend the same argument also. Dwaida parbanja is
also an
appearance like the pattern. Consciousness in motion appear
as akasa,
vayu, agni, jalam, earth, sthula sareeram, sukshma sareeram,
sthula parabanja,
shukshma parabanja. This is difficult but the ultimate truth

Verse 51

Gowdapatha gives the same four statements
for consciousness also. Verse 51 and 52 are similar to verse
49 and 50.

When consciousness is in motion, the
dwaida parabanja appears but you can't say it is real.

Because there is no substance called
world. It is nothing but nama and roopa; consciousness itself
in motion
is mistaken is world.

1. Dwaidā prabāṇja does not come from consciousness
2. Dwaidā prabāṇja does not from outside consciousness
3. dwaidā prabja does not go inside the consciousness
4. Dwaidā prabnja does not go outside the conscious.

| Incense tip/Brahman | Patterns/Dwaidā Prabāṇja |
|--|--|
| Ekam | Anekam |
| Swayamparakasam – Self Effulgent | paratha prakasam; effulgent is dependent. |
| Karanam; cause | Kariyam; effect |
| Superficially looking, firebrand seems to be karanam and patterns seems to be kariyam. On inquiry, you can't talk about kariya karana sambandha. To talk about any relationship, we require two things. Patterns do not have substantiality of its own. The substantiality of the patterns belongs to the firebrand alone. Similarly, the world does not have its own substantiality; it is only non substantial nama roopa; the seeming substantiality of the world belongs to one chaitanyam. | |
| Sudandaram – Independent existence | Parathantharam – Dependent existence |
| The patterns do not exist separate from the incense stick. We initially accept this karana kariya sambandha. But later we reject this karana kariya sambandha because sambandha requires two things. We do not accept karana kariya sambandha between Brahman and Jagath; they are both one and the same. Motionless consciousness is Brahman, moving consciousness is world; there is not kariya karana sambandha. | |
| In jagrath and swapna, the chaitanyam is in motion because of thought and therefore there is the appearance of jagrath prabāṇja and swapna prabāṇja; in shushukthi, chaitanyam is not in motion, because thoughts are not in motion and we do not experience jagrath prabāṇja or swapna prabāṇja. | |
| Incense Tip | Brahman |
| Real phenomenon | Motion is an apparent caused by thoughts or maya. When the maya ends, when there is no thoughts in shushukthi, there are no objects. Chaitanyam doesn't have real motion only seeming motion. |
| Patterns are no more created or generated when there is no fire tip. Only the motion of fire tip cause the pattern. If the patterns are not there, this fire tip can no longer be called the cause or akaranam. When there are no patterns, kariyams are not there and therefore there is no kariyam. | when the consciousness is without motion - when maya is not there in cosmic layer (pralaya) or when thoughts are not there (shushukthi) - there is no objective world. When it is without dwaidā prabāṇja, consciousness is not even a karanam. Only when there is a prabāṇja then alone you can say it is a kariyam. Therefore there is no jagat separate from chaitanyam. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patterns do not come from inside the fire tip. The patterns do not emerge from the fire tip. 2. Patterns do not come from outside the fire tip. When the fire tip is in motion, you do see the pattern, but they do not come outside. 3. Patterns do not go outside the fire tip. When the fire tip is not in motion, the patterns disappear, but they do not go outside. 4. Patterns do not go inside the fire tip. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dwaidā prabāṇja does not come from consciousness; Pluralistic world does not from consciousness 2. Dwaidā prabāṇja does not from outside consciousness. Pluralistic world does not from outside consciousness 3. Dwaidā prabja does not go inside the consciousness. Pluralistic world does not go inside consciousness 4. Dwaidā prabnja does not go outside the conscious. Pluralistic world does not go outside consciousness |