

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 50

Greetings All,

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 10, Shloka # 5:

The Reality in the core of man and the Reality that is in the sun are one. He knows this, on leaving this world, first attains this Atman made of food, next attains this Atman made of Prana, next this Atman made of mind, next this Atman made of buddhi and lastly, this Atman made of bliss. And, thereafter, eating what he likes and assuming any form according to his wishes, he roams upon the face of this globe and sits singing the following Sama song of joy.

Swamiji said, in anuvakaha # 10, the Upanishad taught Vrthams and three groups of Upsasanas. The three groups of Upasanas included:

Adhyatmika Upasanani, Adhidaivika Upasanani and Akasha Upasanani. Now, however, the Upanishad wants to come to its main topic, that is knowledge.

Upasanas are only preparatory disciplines. They help prepare a one pointed mind. After preparation one still has to come Gyana Yoga for knowledge. This was discussed in Brahmanandavalli as well. Brahma vidya sangraha and Brahma vidya phalam are being discussed in the last portion. The essence of Brahavidya was discussed in the Mahavakya of CH 2. It says that

the Bimbananda that is in the individual body and Bimbananda, original ananda, in Samashti are all Saha Eka. If there are differences, they are not of Bimbananda but of Pratibimbananda. Pratibimbananda is formed in the individual mind hence it is a reflected ananda or experiential ananda that will vary. There will be gradations in this ananda in the form of moda, pramoda etc, in the form of manushyananda,

gandharvananda etc. The original ananda, which is not an objectifiable ananda, is Chaitanyam and it is the same in everyone.

One who has gained the knowledge that I am myself the Bimbananda and not Pratibimbananda, he will dis-identify from the external world, or from mamakara; his identification with external world stops. **Mamakara is ownership of external world and this stops. Thus our external object identification is in form of Mama Griham, Mama Putram, etc are a result of Mamakara.** He gives up this mamakara abhimana as all relationships are only for sthula sharira; atma does not have relationships. Dependence on external world is given up. For such a person the world becomes anatma.

Upasankramya means he does not identify with his body. **Identification with body is Ahamkara.** Here, the aham abhimana is transcended.

This withdrawal from body and external world is a gradual process after identification from annamaya, pranayama etc. Now he dis-identifies himself from Annamaya, Pranayama, Manomaya, and Vignanamaya as well. With dis-identification they all become anatmas. Suffix of maya indicates it is subject to change. I am the changeless atma and not the changing samsara.

All experiential ananda is anatma, as it is experienced. All such experiential pleasures have arrival and departure; as such they are not atmananda. Experiential means it is in the past, that it is no more in the present, hence not in atmananda. Any experience, however great, including mystical ones, is all, anatma alone. In Mandukya Upanishad, Gaudapada says, this identification with experiential bliss is called Rasa Vada obstacle.

Now we need to complete the sentence with Atma Nishta Bhavati.

Now the Gyana Phalam of jivan mukti is discussed. This Jivan mukta enjoys Purnatvam. It is not a temporary experience and

it is in the form of knowledge and the knowledge is that I am purnam. He owns up to Atmananda. His sense of fulfillment is expressed in a song. So the Gyani also sings. It is expressed as Sama Ganam, a Vedic song.

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 10, Shloka # 6:

Oh!Oh!Oh! I am the food. I am the food. I am the food. I am the eater of food. I am the eater of food. I am the eater of food. I am the author of the shloka. I am the author of the shloka. I am the author of the shloka. I am the first born (hiranyagarbha) of the True (of the eternal and Immortal). I am the centre of immortality, prior to the Gods. Whoever gives me, he surely does save thus. I am the food that eats him who eats food. I have conquered all, in this world. I am luminous like the sun. He who knows thus (also attains aforesaid results). This is the Upanishad.

The word Haavu occurs in sama danam. So, for a jivan mukta it is enjoyment of being free from samasara. This Gyani moves about freely without any ties. Shankaracharya says he is a sanyasi gyani. Grihasta Gyani will still have duties to perform. Such a Sanyasi moves all over. For him any place is my place. Wherever he gets Bhiksha he takes it.

The word Kamarupi in shloka means he is ready to play any role according to requirements of society. He may speak of karma kanda at one time; in another context he may become a Vedanta guru; with children he becomes a child and with a grammarian he becomes one of them. Hence he is considered a Kamarupi. Shankaracharya has written a text named Jivanmuktananda Lahiri, describing roles of Jivan mukta. In all roles he has no regrets. He may become a family counselor too. He recognizes all these roles are mithya alone.

He sings the following song. The word Sama in shloka has to two meanings: 1) Song and 2) Brahman. Why is Brahman Sama? Because Brahman is everywhere he is Sama.

What is the song?

From Haavu upto SuvarnaJyotihi in shloka # 6 is the song of the Gyani. For a Gyani, Brahman is himself. He is singing his own glory. He says my glory is wonderful. Brahman glorification is self-glorification. The question can rise, is this not arrogance; remember that the Gita says, handover all your glories to God. Which position is correct? Is this not a contradiction?

If you identify with anatma, you are in microcosm, that is, identification with the body. Glory belongs to macrocosm alone. Identification with microcosm is identification with Ahamkara. If not identified with body and mind then one can claim identification with atma; as such I am infinite; here he can claim the glory. This glory is from atmadrsti.

Haavu Haavu is Sama Veda version of Aho. Aho becomes Haavu. Narada Muni is considered originator of music. By chanting the name Narada continuously, the word becomes Tarana. In a similar manner Aho became Haavu. Aho means ascharya or astonishment. The Upanishad is astonished: How did I become samsara? How did infinite become finite? How did Nirvikara become Savikara? How is paramatma appearing as Jivatma? This astonishment is repeated three times indicating a superlative degree of astonishment.

Aham annam, Aham annam Aham annam chanting three times , here Annam in shloka means object of experience. I alone appear as object of experience. I am bhojya Prapancha or the object of experience; I am the bhokta, the annadaha, the subject as well. I am playing both the roles, of experiencer and experienced, as in a dream. In dream I become experiencer as well as the experience.

ShlokaKrit in shloka means the instrument that links Bhokta and Bhojyam. Thus, seer and seen are linked by the eye; hearer and the heard are linked by the hearing instrument; Pramata

and Prameya are linked by Pramanam. Karta and Karma are linked by Karanam. In all these, I am, all the three factors of subject, object and the experience. Thus, I am the Triputi. I am Nirvikapla Aham appearing as Savikalpla Prapancha.

That which is beyond time and space cannot be divided. I am the creator Brahma, the first-born. Who is this Brahmaji? I am that Brahmaji. I am Hiranyagarbha, the Prathamaja. I am oldest product in entire universe.

In universe I am first born, even before the Devas came into being. I appear as Saguna as well as Nirguna Swarupam.

The word Nabhayi is Nabhi. I am the center of immortality. I appear as mortal universe as well. Originally, I am immortal.

Gyani now wants to remind people of Anna Danam. Gyani says normally people consider the best way of saving is by not giving. **Vedas, however, say the best way of saving is to give to the world. When you give, you will be fed by the world, when you need it. Save by giving, say the Vedas.**

Ma means annam. One who gives annam to others is really saving annam for his own future use.

Now Upanishad brings in Vedanta as well. One who gives Me the annam, he will get annam back.

If you don't share the food with others the unshared food will not nourish the eater; rather the food will destroy eater. The food eats the non-sharing eater and destroys him.

I, annam, will enter into non-sharing eater. I, in the form of annam, as a Toxin, will destroy him. Therefore, utilize annam properly. So anna danam is important.

Abhyabhavam, I pervade the Vishwam, universe. This I is not a body specific I, rather I as Atma am all pervading; just as in a wave, I am the water.

I, the Pancha Kosha Vilakshanam, aham, I pervade.

Suvarna Jyoti means self-effulgent or eternally effulgent. I am self-effulgent like Surya Prakasha. With this quotation, the shloka is complete. I am Brahman.

The phalam is over. Enjoy Brahmanhood. Upanishad now says whoever gains this knowledge he will enjoy jivan mukti. Thus ends Chapter 3 as well as the Taitrtirya Upanishad.

Take away:

1. Identification with body is Ahamkara.
2. Mamakara is ownership of external world. Thus our external object identification is in form of Mama Griham, Mama Putram, etc are a result of Mamakara.
3. Danam is emphasized.

Vedas say the best way of saving is to give to the world.

Thus, when you give, you will be fed by the world when you need it. Save by giving, say the Vedas.

Not sharing food is considered bad.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 49

Ch 3, Anuvaka 10, shloka # 3:

Now follows the meditation upon the adhidaivika; as satisfaction in the rains, as power of lightning; as fame in the cattle, as light in the stars, as off-spring, immortality and joy in the organs of procreation and as all in the akasha.

Swamiji said we are in anuvakaha # 10, the final one of Brghuvalli. After talking about Athiti Puja and Anna Danam the Upanishad is now discussing some more upasanas. They are: Adhyatmika Upasana, Adhidaivika Upasana and Akasha Upasana. They are three types of meditations.

We have complete Adhyatmika Upasana. Now we are in adhidavika upasana. In this there is one odd Upasana that really belongs to adhyatmika upasana. It is a meditation on one of the organs of the body. It is meditation on the organ of procreation. This organ is also looked upon as a sacred one. Everything given to us by God is sacred. No organ in itself is good or bad. An organ is only an instrument. Good or bad depends on how it is used by the Karta. Thus, a surgeon for healing uses a knife, while same knife maybe used by a criminal to hurt somebody. Gyana-indriyas are neither good nor bad; it same with Karma indriyas; it so for the organ of procreation as well. May you meditate on Upastha. Meditate on power of propagation or the generative power or Prajathihi.

The other power is amrithum or immortalizing power of oneself. Through propagation every species immortalizes itself. The material cause of a child is the parent; flesh and blood of parent is now in child. So it is an indirect form of perpetuation or immortalizing. Thus we have the saying that when one dies he is survived by so and so. Immortality is always ananda. That is why we crave for it. So, we take pictures. That is one of the reasons we name a child. Hence

the reason we start an endowment in a name. Mortality is Dukham. Immortality is ananda. One's child is ananda. Brihadaranyaka Upanishad says one's son is ananda. Parents consider their child special and unique. He sees child as himself or an extension of himself. So it leads to prajathihi, then to amrutam and through it to ananda. Through these three glories, prajathihi, amritum and ananda we should meditate on organ of procreation. It is an Adhyatmika upasana.

Chapter 3, Anuvakaha # 10, Shloka # 3 continued:

The adhidavika Upasanas are now discussed. Here natural forces are seen as Ishwara.

Vrishti: Rain is one of the natural forces. Drought is a problem in some parts of India. It has many affects. It is crucial for human beings. It brings food and many other benefits. When rain comes don't take it for granted. Hence the idea of storing rain water and harvesting it. Meditate on it as fulfillment. Eating well and drinking water requires rain. Several Upanishads talk of rain. Even Tirukural talks of the glory of rain.

Lightning and Thunder: It is also known as Vidhyut Brahma Upasana. Keno Upanishad also talks about it. Meditate on lightning. Meditate on its power and energy. We unfortunately cannot tap this energy yet.

Pashu: Cattle or wealth was worshipped. Cattle are worshipped through fame. Cows, in those days, represented wealth. So, a wealthy person is well known in society. Whether a scholar is well known or not, a wealthy person is. A wealthy man can perform a lot of dharma for society; hence he is well known. So, see Brahman as fame in Pashu.

Nakshatreshu: See the glory of Brahman in stars. The lights of the stars are their original light not a borrowed one. Gayathri mantra refers to Savithaha, which is about stars. Meditate on Brahman in the light of the star and the sun.

The whole creation is seen as God's Vibhuti or Vishwarupa Upasana. Sarvatra Ishwara darshanam is goal of Upanishad. See God in your body as well as around you.

Akasha Upasana:

This is the subtlest of all upasanas. In akasha alone everything exists. So everything is akasha. In Brahmanandavalli, akasha is one that creates; it is karanam of Vayu, the karyam. Agni is also creation as is jalam; all finally come from Akasha. Nothing exists separate from akasha. Akasha is closest to Brahman. So it is the best Alambanam or symbol for Brahman. Both Akasha and Brahman are invisible; both are non-tangible; both are non-pollutable; both are non-divisible; both are ekam; both are all pervading; both are sarva-adharam. There are many features that are common to both. Both are sukshmam. If one trains one's mind to meditate on akasha our intellect will get refined enough to understand Brahman. Hence it is an important Upasana. So, Upanishad gives us a group of Akasha Upasanas next.

Ch 3, Anuvaka 10, shloka # 4:

Let him meditate the Supreme as the support; he becomes well supported. Let one worship Brahman as great, one becomes great. Let one worship IT as mind; he becomes thoughtful. Let him worship That as namah (obeisance); to him all desires shall come to pay homage. Let him meditate upon That Supreme; he becomes supremacy in life. Let him contemplate upon That as the "destructive aspect" of Brahman; all those enemies who hate him and those rivals whom he does not like "die around him".

This is the last group of Upasanas of the Upanishad.

All upasanas here are related to akasha. Different glories of akasha are meditated upon. The benefit of this meditation is that intellect becomes subtle, as it has to conceive the inconceivable.

Prathishta: Or support.

Shankaracharya says don't take akasha as inert; rather take it as Devata. It is the support of everything. May you meditate on this Support. The phalam depends on the type of meditation performed. Nishkama Upasana will refine the intellect. Sakama Upasana will get the person enough support during his life. It is the Phalam. Upto middle age we don't worry about support. As one grows older our sense of insecurity grows. So, practice this upasana. One's with insecurity should practice this upasana.

Shankaracharya says same phalams are applicable to other adhidaivika upasanas as well. As the upsana, so is the benefit. Thus, with upasana on rains one gets fulfillment. It is the same with Pashu and Nakshatra as well. If one is not interested in the benefits he will certainly obtain spiritual gains.

Mahaha: Here he sees Brahman as the glorious one. It appears as if it is infinite; in reality it is not. However, it is subtlest. Here meditator becomes mahan. This is the benefit of this upasana.

Manaha: It is the thinking faculty or intelligence. So, meditate on akasha as intelligence. He will have benefit of intelligence.

Namaha: May you meditate on Akasha as Namaha. All his desires will perform namaskara to him. They will come to him without asking. Meditation on service gets the service of objects and people. This is the phalam he gets.

Brahma: The infinite. May you meditate on Akasha as the limitless one. He will also become limitless in terms of glory, family extension, fame etc.

Tataha: means the Akasha Tatvam. Parimara means destructive agent; Nashakaranam means Akasha tatvam is the destructive

agent of Ishwara. At time of pralaya everything resolves into akasha finally, in the reverse order of creation. Thus during dissolution, the process reverses as follows:

Prithvi>Jalam>Agni>Vayu>Akasha.

Therefore, Akasha is considered an agent of destruction. If you meditate on this destructive power of akasha, all your enemies will be destroyed. Enemies are of two types:

- Disliking enemies are ones who do not like you.
- Disliked enemies are the ones who I don't like.

Both types of enemies will perish. A question can come up as to why the Upanishad is talking about destruction of people one likes or dislikes? What the Upanishad is communicating to us that it is enmities that are destroyed. That person is no more an enemy. They will not dislike me anymore. Their attitude towards me will change. I too will stop disliking my enemies; my attitude too will change. So, an all round attitudinal change comes about due to this Upasana. With this akasha related upasanas are all over.

Suppose the Taittiriya Upanishad ends in an upasana, we will tend to remember the last upasana; this is a human tendency. Therefore, Taittiriya Upanishad wants to remind us that Brahma Gyanam is still its final goal. So it concludes by reminding us of Brahma Gyanam and of jivatma paramatma aikya gyanam. This topic was also discussed in Chapter 2, Brahmanandavalli, via a mahavakya. The Upanishad now talks about Brahma Gyanam and its phalam.

Ch 2, Anuvakaha 10, Shloka # 5:

The Reality in the core of man and the Reality that is in the sun are one. He knows this, on leaving this world, first attains this Atman made of food, next attains this Atman made of Prana, next this Atman made of mind, next this Atman made of buddhi and lastly, this Atman made of bliss. And,

thereafter, eating what he likes and assuming any form according to his wishes, he roams upon the face of this globe and sits singing the following Sama song of joy.

The earlier part of this mantra has already been quoted in Brahmananda Valli, section Vi.

Meaning wise we can say this portion is same and has been lifted from chapter 2. It says anandatma is jivatma. Aditya is Ishwara. Atmananda is same in everyone. The difference is only in reflected ananda. Bimba ananda is same in all. Prati-bimba ananda varies from person to person. Experiential pleasure varies from person to person while original ananda is my own nature. Original ananda, my nature, does not vary.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 48

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 10, Shloka # 1:

Do not turn away anybody who seeks shelter and lodging. This is the vow. Let one, therefore, acquire much food by any means whatsoever. They should say: "Food is ready". If the food is prepared in the best manner, the food is given to him (the guest) also in the best manner. If the food is prepared in a medium manner, food is also given to him in a medium manner. If food is prepared in the lowest manner, the same food is also given to him in a lower manner. He who knows thus, will obtain all the rewards as mentioned above.

Continuing his teaching Swamiji said, we are in the tenth and final anuvaka of Brghuvalli. Here

Upanishad prescribes some more disciplines and upasanas. Two Vrtham's were introduced in the last class. They were: 1) Athiti Puja and 2) Anna danam.

Anna danam has been glorified in our tradition. **Scriptures say: no danam is equal to anna danam and Jala danam; No vrtham is greater than Ekadasi vrtham; No mantra is greater than gayathri mantra; and no Devi is greater than mother.**

May you procure enough annam. It is not enough to have food but we should also have the heart to share it with others. Generosity is a faculty that requires a lot of punyam. They say that among 100 people you will only find one with courage; one with wisdom is found only one in a thousand; a scholar who can communicate what he knows is rarer still and found only one in a hundred thousand; **but the rarest of all is one who wants to give, such a person is rarely found.**

Internal bankruptcy is weakness in a human being. The ability to give is a big internal strength. May you experience a willingness to share. We saw until this in last class.

Even in anna danam there is a gradation. Quality of danam varies as per his attitude at time of giving. Following three grades are seen:

- Superior one where both in verbal and body language indicate that one is giving from his heart.
- Inferior one known as adhama danam.
- Intermediate one is where one has a neutral attitude towards giving. This is also known as Madhyam danam.

According to one's danam; and according to one's attitude at time of giving; one gets dana phalam.

In what form will I get the result of danam? Phalam is

received as annam from others. As I give, so I receive. You will be treated exactly as you treat others. The world is like a mirror; smile begets smile while frown begets frown.

If annam is prepared and served in best manner the anna data will also get his phalam in same manner. One who does so in a medium manner gets a result that is an also medium in effect.

One who has understood this basic principle that the world is like a bank where whatever good you do is a deposit in this bank that you can withdraw later on; be it sukham or dukham. Benefit of this knowledge is that he performs the best anna danam and accordingly receives the best from the world.

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 10, Shloka # 2:

The supreme resides in speech as well as “well-being”; in prana and apana as acquirer and preserver; in the hands as action, in the legs as movement, in the anus as the activity of excretion. Thus, is the meditation of Brahman in respect of man.

Now, the Upanishad wants to prescribe two groups of meditations.

- Adhyatmika Brahma Upanani: here one meditates on his own inner world.
- Adhidaivika Brahma Upanani: here one meditates upon an unmanifest ideal.

Adhyatmika Brahma Upanani:

Here each one is a meditation on Brahman or Brahma upsana. Different organs of body are used as a locus of invocation. Normally we take an external symbol such as lingam or shaligramam as a pratikam (alambanam). God is invoked on the symbol. On the symbol, upsana body organs are invoked. They are internal and subjective hence called adhyatmika. Brahman is meditated upon as various faculties or powers in respective

organs.

I take an organ, see its power and take that power as manifestation of god. It is similar to vibhuti yoga of gita. It is not my glory but as God's glory manifest in that organ. Adhyatmika is replaced by the word Manushi in shloka. Also Upasanani is replaced by the word Samaagya.

What are the organs meditated upon?

1. Vachi:

First organ meditated upon is vachi. In organ of speech may you meditate on wellbeing or Kshema. We have to add the words Brahma Upasati meaning meditates upon.

In speech one sees God as wellbeing. Vak indriya has only the faculty of speech. Why does the Upanishad say it has wellbeing? If speech is auspicious, then it will bring all round wellbeing. Inappropriate speech will bring discord. In the tip of tongue Lakshmi Devi will come. Where inferior words are used amangalam will come. Friends and relatives are retained by good speech. Nobody can withstand a rude mouthed person. Even bondage is at tip of tongue. A speech on a negative topic also has its own results. If you blaspheme, many countries prescribe capital punishment.

The best ornament of a person is his speech; here absence of other ornaments will not be noticed. With bad speech, one's all other good qualities are also negated.

Pray to Saraswati Devi that I speak only good words. Good words don't cost anything.

▪ Yoga Kshema:

This resides in the exhalation and inhalation breath. Both Prana represents accumulation of money wealth health etc and is also known as Yoga.

Apana represents Kshema meaning preservation of accumulation.

Thus, both, Yoga and Kshema reside in breathing. Only so long as you breathe there is possibility of yoga and kshema. In this context a story by Tolstoy was cited. A man offered his huge land to anyone who would run from sunrise to sunset. Whatever distance he covered would be given to him as his land. One person ran and ran until he was about to fall. He wanted to run a little more but then he fell down and died. Who will enjoy the land now? So, a Bhokta has to survive to enjoy. All yoga kshema is relevant only when breath is there. So, meditate on this breath.

▪ **Karmeti Hastha yoho:**

Meditate on power of activity residing in hand. Karma affects everything including moksha. Karma does not directly affect moksha but it does so indirectly as it contributes to chitta shudhi. With Chitta shudhi one gets Gyanam and then Moksha. Karma also gets all four purusharthas as well. At end of Rudram mantra, man thanks his own hands. We recognize our hand only when becomes powerless due to a disease. Rudram says, look at both hands. Left hand is good, as it performs noble karma such as shiva puja. Right hand is even more divine as it is used for abhishekha. May you meditate on God in your hand.

▪ **Padayoho:**

Don't forget importance of legs. You have to walk to temple. Legs are the power of locomotion that transports hands.

- **Vimuktiriti payayoho:** Meditate on organs of excretion. Vimukti means emptying, cleansing, liberation from impurities.

From this we learn every organ of body is sacred.

Don't look down upon any organ. Even though the organ of excretion appears impure, it is keeping the body healthy and fit. When one gets diarrhea or constipation one understands

the importance of this organ.

In Shikshavalli it said that I have to look upon myself as sacred only then, can I claim, I am Brahmasmi. Don't have an inferiority complex. If I don't respect myself how will I get respect from others. When somebody says, you are wonderful, you wonder! Learn to respect yourself.

In Vedanta body is presented as anatma. We are asked to give up deha abhimana. This can lead to Deha dvesha. Don't have attachment or hatred but look at body as an instrument of liberation.

With this the first group of Upasanas are over.

A small point made by shankaracharya is worth noting. Whenever Vedas talk of karma or upsana they also talk of phalam. Usually at the end there is a phala shruti. Here, however, the Upanishad has not mentioned any phalam. Shankaracharya says we have to supply them. Two fold phalams are mentioned.

- Sakama upsana phalam
- Nishkama upsana phalam.

Nishkama upsana gives spiritual growth. Sakama Upasana benefits will depend upon the type of meditation performed.

The saying goes, as one thinks, so one becomes. If one performs Kshema Brahma Upasana, one gets Kshema. For Karma Upsana, karma itself is the phalam. Vimukti upsana, however, does not mean one will be going to a toilet constantly.

Ch 3, Anuvaka 10, shloka # 3:

Now follows the meditation upon the adhidaivika; as satisfaction in the rains, as power of lightning; as fame in the cattle, as light in the stars, as off-spring, immortality and joy in the organs of procreation and as all in the akasha.

Here, before going to next group of upsanis we have to address

an odd part of the shloka. The portion of shloka that states “Prajatirmrutmananda itiupasthate” is an odd fit here. In this shloka all upsanas are adhidaivika. This part, however, is an adhyatmika upsana and as such belongs to previous shloka. It means meditation on the organ of procreation or reproduction. These organs are also auspicious.

Take away:

1. Among human beings, one who wants to give is difficult to find. Such a person, a Dani, is rarely found.
2. The best ornament of a person is his speech; here absence of other ornaments will not be noticed. With bad speech, one's all other good qualities are also negated.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad Class 47

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 8, Shloka # 1:

Do not reject food. That is duty. Water is food. Fire is the food eater. Fire is fixed in water, water is fixed in fire. So food is fixed in food. He who knows that food is fixed in food, gets established in Brahman. He becomes possessor of food and eater of food. He becomes great in progeny, in cattle and in his spiritual lustre. He becomes great in fame.

In first six anuvakas of Brghuvalli the Upanishad summarized pancha kosha viveka as a means of Brahmailidya. Now in anuvaka # 7 it gives some secondary preparatory disciplines as well.

These disciplines are in the form of Upasanas and Vrthams and are described in anuvaka's 7, 8 and 9 respectively. Three Vrthams were given along with disciplines including Vishwarupam upasana. In these upasanas three pairs of things were taken and their inter dependence meditated upon. We see everything as one cosmic organism or as Vishwarupam.

The first pair was Sharira and Prana.

The second pair was Agni and Jalam.

Interdependence of these pairs was revealed as annam and annada Sambandham. It can also be termed as consumer and consumed relationship. Furthermore, for these pairs, the prathishta and prathishtita relationship or the supporter supported relationship was also revealed.

Thus we saw the relationship of agni and jalam in this context. From an individual perspective agni is consumer and jalam is consumed. From external perspective, when fire is quenched by water, the role is reversed. In an individual's body, Agni is in the form of Vaishwanara agni or digestive fire. Hence, when one is thirsty, it is known as Daham or burning of inner system; hence we give water. Our inner fire consumes this water. Here water in annam and agni is annada.

In the instance when fire is extinguished by water, water is consumer and fire is consumed. So, here we see the mutual annam annada sambandam.

In case of agni and water how is prathishta and prathishtita relationship established? Agni is supporter of Jalam based upon shastric description of universe. Thus we have:

Akasha> Vayu> Agni> Jalam. Here, Agni is the karanam of Jalam, the karyam. A Karanam is always a support of Karyam. Thus, gold supports ornament; wood supports furniture etc. This is prathishta and prathishtita

sambandham. Another angle is agni is supporter and jalam the supported. When rain-bearing clouds are there, they are the cause of lightning. The clouds are the jalatatvam while lightning is the agnitatvam.

Our body too has agnitatvam in form of body temperature that is maintained at an even 98.4 DF. However, while the outside atmospheric temperature can change continuously yet our body's agni tatvam is maintained. Jalatatvam maintains it. Sweating reduces the high temperature of body.

Citing a story, a boy's sweat glands were not functioning properly. They had to invent a mechanism to maintain his sweat.

For consumption of water and exit of water from body god has created this thermostat. Agni tatvam (prathistha) is maintained by Jala tatvam (pratitishita). They are interdependent. May you meditate on this interdependence or ecological harmony. When we meditate on this sambandham then the phalam is Prathishta. The benefit is, whatever you meditate upon, so you will become. Citing another phrase, whatever you think about, you become. Other phalams include: Whoever benefits from this mutual dependence of agni and jalam will be well supported in his life. Not only will he have good support, he will also get other worldly benefits, namely name, fame, food and health.

The second Vrattham and upasana are now complete.

CH 3, Anuvaka # 9, Shloka # 1:

Accumulate plenty of food. That is duty. The earth is food. Akasha is the food eater. In earth is fixed akasha. In Akasha is fixed earth. So food is fixed in food. He who knows that food is fixed in food, thus rests in food; and is established well for ever. He becomes rich in food and becomes the eater of food. He becomes great in progeny, in cattle and in spiritual lustre. He becomes great in fame.

This is the third Vrattham that says May you produce plenty of annam. Let there be prosperity. May extra produce be shared with all people; it can be in the form of grains as well. May you cook a little more food for annadanam. This is your vrtham. You should learn to think of others as well. One benefit of Ekadashi upavasam is to know what hunger means, then alone we come to know of others hunger. I should learn to identify with others.

The third upsana identifies another pair. The pair is Prithvi and Akasha. They have annam annada sambandham as well as Prathista and prathishtita sambandham.

At individual level every object is a different form of earth alone. These objects also consume space. In a small flat people are very conscious of space. In one house plastic chairs are hung from the wall. Tables are folded for the same reason. So, all objects consume space. Therefore, earth is a consumer of space.

From another angle space is a consumer. We can show the creation principle as follows:

Akasha>Vayu> Agni> Jalam> Prithvi.

During dissolution the process reverses:

Prithvi>Jalam>Agni>Vayu>Akasha.

Here Prithvi is consumed by Akasha, finally. So here akasha is consumer and earth is consumed. This is the annam annada sambandham.

Prathishta and prathishtita relationship is seen where Akasha is karanam for all four elements including earth. They are all products of akasha. Space is subtlest form of matter. While akasha is karanam (prathishta), Earth is karyam (prathishtita). Karanam supports Karyam.

Another angle: Prithvi is supporter and akasha is supported.

Akasha can accommodate, but for space to be useful it has to be enclosed, such as in a hall. A Hall is not name of the walls; rather it is the name of enclosed space. Water is accommodated by space in a vessel. Vessel provides enclosed space. Space is useful only when enclosed. Space is supported by enclosure to be useful. Enclosure is made up of prithvi. So Prithvi supports Akasha to make Akasha useful for transactions.

Prithvi and Akasha have annam annada sambandham. They have Prathishta Prathishitita Sambandam as well. Everything is interdependent. One who meditates on this cosmic symbiotic relationship will be supported in his life as well. Remember society has to be supported and if you can make yourself indispensable to society, it will also support you. However, if you are a parasite on society you will be considered a burden. You give and you will be given. He will get worldly results as phalam.

So three pairs were reviewed to understand their interdependence. Modern science shows how the whole earth is interconnected. Universe is one cosmic organism.

Vishnu sahsranamam also says the same. It says cosmos is Perumal. Thus the three upsanas lead us to Vishwrupa Dhyanam.

Shankaracharya adds a corollary to this through his commentary. He says if everything in universe is interdependent; it means nothing in creation is independent. Everything is dependent on some factor(s). If anything has a dependent existence, it is a mithya. So, entire creation is a mithya. Creation has a borrowed existence because something else is the adishtanam. Adishtanam is one that lends existence to creation. This adishtanam is Brahman. Subject cannot enjoy subject-ness without an object. Object also cannot enjoy object-ness without a subject. They are all interdependent. Thus student cannot enjoy student-hood without a teacher. This is known as Turiyam. Shankaracharya says this upasana shows

the Mithyatvam of Universe. With this meditation the Vishwarupa dhyanam is over.

Ch 3, Anuvaka # 10, Shloka # 1:

Do not turn away anybody who seeks shelter and lodging. This is the vow. Let one, therefore, acquire much food by any means whatsoever. They should say: "Food is ready". If the food is prepared in the best manner, the food is given to him (the guest) also in the best manner. If the food is prepared in a medium manner, food is also given to him in a medium manner. If food is prepared in the lowest manner, the same food is also given to him in a lower manner. He who knows thus, will obtain all the rewards as mentioned above.

Now we are in the tenth and final anuvaka of Brghuvalli. Here two more Vrthams are introduced. In previous anuvaka's three Vrthams were given. Thus the fourth Vrtham is Athiti Puja. This topic was already discussed in shikshavalli. The fifth Vrtham is anna-danam.

Athitipuja: When a person comes to your place give him shelter. This advice should be taken in context of the Vedic times when it was written, when there were no hotels and eateries for a traveller. Nowadays hotels and restaurants are available so don't force yourself on others. Don't go unless invited. Don't entertain unknown people. Be very careful of Swamiji's. Act according to situation. In olden times, when a guest came without his planning for it, it was considered God's will. To such a guest one has to provide food. Scriptures say when a guest is standing outside and you continue to eat inside the house, it is like committing a big crime. So share food. So, always have extra food in the house. Dayanadaswamiji said a house is not a home if cooking does not take place. Whatever you eat, first offer it to God. So, food has to be cooked so that you may have plenty of annam. Somehow procure food although legitimately. Remember when an Athithi (guest) comes he feels he is imposing upon you; the

householder should remove any feeling of guilt on part of guest in this regard. Make him feel welcome.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Tatitreya Upanishad, Class 46

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 6, Shloka # 1:

He knew that Bliss was Brahman, for, from Bliss all these beings are produced, by Bliss do these things live. They go to Bliss on departing and become one with it—this is the knowledge learnt by Bhrgu and taught by Varuna. This is established in the supreme space—in the excellent cavity of the heart. He who knows thus becomes one with Brahman. He becomes the possessor (assimilator) of food and the eater (enjoyer) of it. He becomes great in progeny, cattle and gains the splendor of true brahmana-hood. Indeed, he becomes great through fame and renown.

Continuing his teaching Swamiji said, we have completed first six anuvakahas of Brghuvalli. In these anuvakahas the Upanishad gave a summary of Brahavidya. Let us remember that Brahavidya was already discussed as the main topic of Chapter two. Chapter 3 has provided us with a summary of Jivatma-paramatma aikyam, revealed through pancha kosha viveka. Jagat karanam Brahma is Pancha Kosha Vilakshanam atma. This Pancha kosha Vilakshana atma was identified as ananda atma. Here teaching reaches its culmination. This pancha Kosha vichara was named Tapas. Veda Purva Bhaga defines Tapas as

austerities. Vedanta, however, does not define Tapas as austerities but as one pointed enquiry into Self. Pancha Kosha viveka enquiry process was discussed in this context. Through the story of a father and son the necessity of a guru was indicated; even Brghu needed a guru. In this portion an important mantra was quoted as Brahma Lakshanam or definition of Brahman as Srishti, sthithi, laya karanam. With this the first part of Brghuvalli is over. Benefits of this Brahma vidya were next provided. Life remains settled. Psychologically one remains in a settled condition, relieved and in lightened condition. Worldly benefits were also mentioned. Now we are entering second part of Brghuvalli in Anuvakaha # 7.

Ch 3, Anuvakaha # 7, Shloka # 1:

Do not blaspheme food; that shall your vow. Prana is food. Body is the eater of food. The body is fixed in prana. The prana is fixed in the body. Thus food is fixed in food. He who knows that food is fixed in food, becomes one with Brahman. He becomes possessed of food and he becomes the eater of the food. He becomes great in progeny, in cattle wealth and in splendor of Brahmanhood. He becomes great in fame.

In the following anuvakahas, the Upanishad will prescribe certain meditations to prepare for self-knowledge; certain descriptions are mentioned such as Vrttam; four or five Vrttam's are suggested. Most of them are connected with annam. Why is so much importance given to annam? Annam is the first stage of Vedantic enquiry. It is the grossest stage and most of our worries and time are spent connected to annamaya in search of security. This is grossest form of "I". Through this we reach the subtlest "I". Annam is first rung of this ladder. So to express gratitude to annamyam and annam (essence of annamaya) several Vrthams are given.

A particular meditation group is also prescribed. Intention is to look at whole universe as body of God. This new perspective

is that universe is not fragmented, but is one cosmic organism or is Ishwara Shariram. This macro Ishwara is Virat Ishwara. It is a unique teaching by the Upanishad of what god is. In other religions, god is a separate entity who remains away from our world in an unseen place. This is known as Tatastha Ishwara, a god away from world, who is safely ensconced somewhere.

Vedanta says, Ishwara is not away from world; rather he is manifestation of the world. How to manifest this? How can I look at world as one whole principle? Citing example of our body, individual bodies have several parts, organs etc. Why do we look at a bunch of organs as one whole body? There is logic to it. Even though there are several parts to our body, they are all an interconnected whole. Each organ is connected and dependent on other organs, interconnected and interdependent. So, if one organ gets affected, others are also affected, although probably over a period of time. Thus, in diabetes, while pancreas is affected, over time it also affects the feet and the brain. This connection is not physically perceptible. Similarly, whole cosmos is one organic whole. Every part of creation is related to various parts of creation. Environmental balance is affected, related to rainfall especially, when deforestation occurs.

The more we study, the more we see interconnectedness between human beings, animals, plants, rivers etc. Similarly it is with the butterfly effect where the flutter of wings of a butterfly can affect a far away star as well.

Everything is interconnected and in a symbiotic relationship. Upanishad wants to reveal this interconnection. Three pairs of objects are taken and we are asked to meditate on the interdependency of each pair. This interdependency is presented as two types:

- 1) Annam Annadaha Sambandam;

Here it is consumer and consumed relationship. Thus when we are alive we (body) consume earth or products coming out of earth such as plants. This is the Consumer.

After death the earth consumes our body; so here it is consumed.

So our body is once a consumer and at another time it is consumed.

2) Pratishtha Prathishthita sambandam

Mutually supported relationship. Each pair supports each other. Thus, when we are children, our parents support us. When same parents grow old, in their second childhood, it is children's responsibility to support them. This is mutual support. The same situation plays out in gurukulam. Brahmachari is not charged a fee for his stay in gurukulam. But when Brahmachari leaves and takes up Grahastha ashrama he should support the gurukulam.

Gurukula initially provided support but later it becomes the one that is supported.

In Anuvakaha # 7, this relationship is illustrated via one's between three pairs respectively.

First pair is Annam and Shariram.

This pair is meditated upon to see relationship in two types mentioned.

In anuvakaha # 8 the pair is Agni and Jalam. In this upasana the two types of relationship are meditated upon.

In anuvakaha # 9 the pair is Prithvi and Akasha. Here again one meditates upon two types of relationship.

By meditating on these three pairs we can see interconnectedness of this universe. Thus, dharma is defined

as one that ensures this cosmic balance is not disturbed. We are destroying trees and creating a lung problem for the universe. If I am aware of the cosmic rhythm, I will not perform an apa-shruti. While chanting a mantra if one person chants in a different shruti, it jars. Similarly, adharma is disturbance of cosmic harmony. It's negative effect won't be felt immediately, but after decades the problems are felt. Some are even irreversible. Sri Krishna in the Gita talks of this effect as act of an immature and selfish person's who is not aware of this balance.

This is a beautiful meditation. Daily Sandhya vandanam

too has a portion addressing this. During sandhya vandanam, when we say Tarpayami, it means I am aware of this interconnectedness. These three upsanas together equal the Virat Upsana or Vishwarupa upasana. It is very important to know this before understanding Nirguna Brahman. This is the topic of anuvakaha's # 7, 8 and 9 respectively.

Explaining anuvakaha # 7 Swamiji said:

The first discipline: When food is given, do not complain about the food. Accept it with satisfaction. Keep in mind that you get what you deserve. This should be taken as a vow, as Annam is Brahman.

The First pair is Pranam and Shariram.

From one angle Shariram consumes Prana Shakti. From another angle this role is reversed where it is consumed, meaning Shariram is consumed. How to assimilate this concept? At time of breathing, the air is taken into body where it is consumed as prana vayu. Here prana is annam.

Another angle is, when you are physically active.

To reduce obesity, one exercises. At that time Prana is activated; then Prana eats body's own weight. Thus prana eats

up body. So, here body is annam and prana is annadam, the first relationship.

Second relationship: Pratishtha Prathishthita sambandam: Here body is supported by Prana and Prana is supported by Shariram. How to assimilate this?

Body can't be alive if not backed by Prana Shakti. Prana is the supporter that keeps body alive.

Another angle: Prana Shakti is capacity to act or it is also Kriya Shakti. Prana, however, can function only in an enclosed body. So, a body is required for Prana to function. After death, Prana is still there but it needs another body for it to act. So, body supports Prana to function.

Can Prana be active without a body? Prana cannot turn even a page without a body. It needs shariram to be alive. This is Pratishtha Prathishthita sambandam.

Therefore annam (prana) and anavan (shariram) of the pair are mutually supported. This meditation is to be practiced. What is benefit of this meditation? Whoever benefits on this mutual dependence of prana and shariram will be well supported in his life. Not only will he have good support, he will also get other worldly benefits, namely name, fame, food and health. One vrtham and upasana are now complete.

CH 3, anuvakaha # 8, shloka # 1:

Do not reject food. That is duty. Water is food. Fire is the food eater. Fire is fixed in water, water is fixed in fire. So food is fixed in food. He who knows that food is fixed in food, gets established in Brahman. He becomes possessor of food and an eater of food. He becomes great in progeny, in cattle and in his spiritual lustre. He becomes great in fame.

Second Vrtham: Don't waste food on plate. It is disrespect to Annam. Suppose I am full, should I keep eating? Don't let such

a situation develop. Take only what you need to begin with. Suppose server keeps serving despite my protestations? Here again one may cause waste of food; but here the papam belongs to the server. So be careful in eating and serving. **Do not waste food is the vratham.**

Upasana # 2: The pair is Agni and Jalam.

Water is annam, the consumed. Fire is annada, the consumer.

In role reversal, water is consumer and fire is consumed.

How to assimilate this idea? At internal level, when we drink water it is consumed by Vaishvanara Agni of body or digesting fire.

Another angle is that when we quench fire and a fire hazard occurs, we extinguish fire with water. Here water consumes fire.

Take away:

1. When food is given, do not complain about the food.
2. Do not waste food is a vratham.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 44

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 1, Shlokas 3:

To him (Bhrgu) he (Varuna) again said: that from which these beings are born; that by which, having been born, these beings live and continue to exist; and that into which, when departing, they all enter; that seekest thou to know. That is Brahman." He Bhrgu performed penance; and after having done penance....

Continuing his teaching, Swamiji said, we are in anuvakaha #1 of Brghuvalli (Ch 3) in which the student Bhrgu approached his father Varuna and asked him for Brahma Vidya. Varuna taught him Brahma Upalabdi dwarani that provide clues to recognize Brahman through Pancha Maha Koshas. He also provided him the definition of Brahman as Brahma lakshanam consisting of Jagat, Srishti, Sthithi, Laya Karanam. Such a definition is known as Tataksha Lakshanam. He said, Brahman is the cause of creation, sustenance, and destruction of the universe. In chapter 2, a different definition was given as: Satyam, Gyanam and Anantam. This definition is called swarupa lakshanam, a direct definition. The definition in chapter 2, the direct one, points to Brahman's nature while the second definition is revealed in relation to Universe. Karanam is a relative definition and can be understood only through Karya prapancha. This is called indirect definition or Tatkshaya definition.

Srishti Sthithi Laya karanam is upadana karanam. Nimitha karanam is intelligent cause while upadana karanam is the material cause. The difference between intelligent cause and material cause is that intelligent cause is only responsible for production of creation as such it is also known as Srishti karanam or Srishti matra karanam. Citing an example, while a carpenter produces furniture he is not responsible for maintenance and survival of furniture.

Material cause is required for production of product but even survival of product depends on this material cause. Thus, without wood as material cause, furniture can't survive and without gold, ornament can't survive. So, material cause is srishti and sthithi karanam. Not only is material cause responsible for sthithi karanam it also absorbs all destroyed products. Upon destruction all destroyed products are again absorbed in material cause alone. Thus, all melted gold goes back into gold, wave goes back into water etc. It is the swallowing, resolving cause or Laya Karanam as well.

Thus, material cause, Upadana karanam, is Srishti Sthithi Laya Karanam. Here Brahman is defined as Upadana karanam or Srishti Laya Karanam.

In chapter 2, Brahma has been defined as Gyanam (as in satyam, gyanam anantam,) the consciousness principle. **Consciousness Brahman is material cause of universe. Thus, the material cause is consciousness itself.** No other philosophy or religion has come to this unique conclusion. **Ultimate stuff or content of the universe is consciousness. Cause of the tangible world is this intangible Consciousness.**

Another important point here is, when we say Brahman is ultimate cause of universe, it means Brahman is it's karanam. Here Karanam does not mean in its literal sense. This is called Gauna (secondary) Pragya. Citing an illustrative example of this: When we say a person is a pillar of the organization it means, he is like a pillar in some aspects but not so, in some other aspects. This is known as Sadharmyam (common feature) Vaidharmyam (uncommon feature).

When we call him a pillar it means he supports the organization. It also means he supports like a pillar only in the supporting aspect alone. He, however is not an insentient matter, like a regular pillar. A normal pillar does not move from place to place, but this person does move. So, here too Brahman is the karanam, it is only a substance, while karyam

is always nama and rupa alone.

Therefore Brahman is the only substance available, all the rest, such as Akasha, Vayu, Lokas are all just nama and rupa alone. None of them have substantiality of their own.

In such cases which aspects to take and which aspects to reject? When something is called karanam, it means it can be modified. Thus, wood changes to furniture under a carpenter; gold changes to an ornament under a gold smith; a seed grows into a tree; food changes into flesh, bone, blood and thus into a body. Generally karanam conveys vikaraha or change. With reference to Brahman, we should not take the modifications part attributed to Brahman; thus inertness of pillar is not extended to man, only the supporting part is extended. Similarly any modification is not extended to Brahman.

Brahman is nirvikaram. So, Brahman is called the changeless cause of creation. Vivartha Upadana karanam is Brahman. Brahman is the ultimate substance of Creation, but it is not a changing substance.

Wood can change; hence it is called Parinami upadana karanam. Brahman however does not change. This is the difference.

(Note: Maya undergoes change to create the world hence it is called the **pariNAmi upAdAna kAraNam**; meaning a cause, which changes, to produce effects. Atma does not undergo any change to manifest the world and hence is called vivarta upAdAna kAraNam; meaning a cause that does not undergo change to produce effect.)

Therefore, knowing Brahman is the ultimate changeless material cause of the universe and having got the clues of pancha maha koshas, keeping all this in mind, Brghu had to do his home work. He had to meditate on this Brahman.

Brghu is going to go in the direction of Pancha Kosha Viveka.

This chapter will go through this viveka although in an abbreviated manner, as this topic has been elaborated upon in CH 2.

Chapter 3, Anuvakha 2, Shloka # 1:

Brghu learnt that food is Brahman because it is from food that all beings are born; by food, when born, do they live and having departed, into food they enter. Having known that, he approached his father Varuna, and said: Revered Sir, teach me Brahman. Varuna told him:" By deep thinking (tapas) seek thou to know Brahman. Tapas is Brahman."He performed tapas and having performed tapas...

Brghu took up annamaya kosha for study. He wanted to find Srishti, Sthithi, Laya Karanam of annmaya kosha. He found annam or gross matter as the cause of the kosha.

Thus, earth converts to food that converts to Purusha or annamaya kosha. Annam is material cause of body. Annam enters father's body via his seed and enters mother's body via her egg. Seed and egg come together and create a body or a being.

Body survives due to annam. At death body, buried or cremated, goes back to earth as fertilizer. We then become food for the next generation. Thus Srishti, Sthithi, Laya Karanam is for all beings. Brghu thus understood Annam Brahma.

Brahman also means all pervading. All annamaya koshas are born out of annam. They survive due to annam. Word Prayanti is a present participle or in Sanskrit known as Shatru pratyantah. Prayanti means "while dying"; it is not a verb. So all beings while dying merge into annam. So, annam is Laya karanam.

Having done the homework Brghu was happy. However, on rechecking he found he had not arrived at Brahman. The problem discovered by Brghu was:

While annam is srishti, sthithi, laya karanam it is not the

ultimate karanam. Brahman, by definition is the ultimate (mula) karanam while annam is only an intermediary karanam.

Upon enquiring, using different pramanams, we find annam itself is a product. Pramanas used were:

1. Shruti pramanam. It says annam is matter.
2. Yukti pramanam or Logic: Anything subject to change is a product. How do we know this? If anything changes, it should have six fold modifications. Thus, birth of furniture is a modification of wood. Anything with six fold changes means it has birth, which is a change. Gross food is Sa-vikaram, hence it is a product as such it can't be the ultimate cause as well.

(Note: Tatva bodha: Gross body undergoes *six modifications* like asthi (existence), Jayathe (birth), vardhathe (growth), viparinamathe (maturity), apaksheeyathe (decay) and vinashyathi (Death).

Ultimate cause, (mula karanam), does not have any cause.

So, Brghu was disappointed that he did not identify the ultimate cause. Citing a story in this context, Anjaneya searching for Sita in Ravana's palace saw Mandodari; thinking she was Sita, he jumped with joy. Seeing Mandodari sleeping; confusing her as Sita, he was disappointed that sita would sleep in Ravana's palace. Similarly Brghu was also disappointed.

Brghu does not know what to do? So he goes back to his father to clear his dissatisfaction. He tells Varuna, " Please teach me Brahma the mula Karanam". Then Varuna said, " I have explained Brahma Upalabdi Dwarani and Swarupa lakshanam. I have nothing more to add. But you are seeking in the right direction. May you seek to find Brahman through Tapas. Tapa here means Brahma Gyana Sadhana.

Explaining the word tapas; it is like saying, money is

everything; but you can't eat money; however, money can get you every thing you need. Similarly tapas too is a sadhana to obtain Brahman. So, Brghu went back to his tapas.

Commenting on Varuna's comment to Brghu, swamiji said, one should remember the phrase," When all doors to a solution are closed, remember all doors are not closed".

Chapter 3, Anuvakha 3, Shloka # 1:

Brghu understood that prana is Brahman; because it is from prana alone that all living beings are born; having been born from it, they live by it and (in the end) on departing, they go towards prana and become one with it.. Having known that, he again approached his father Varuna saying: "O Revered Sir, instruct me about Brahman". He, Varuna, told him: "Desire to know Brahman by tapas, tapas is Brahman." He performed tapas and having performed tapas....

His father gave him another clue. Keeping pranamaya kosha, he found samashti prana is cause of all beings or prana maya kosha. So, Prana Tatvam, subtler cause, is Brahman.

Thus from gross material one comes to its elements then to molecules; then to atoms; then to subatomic particles and lastly to energy; the subtlest of them all.

Prana is a nonphysical, intangible entity. So Brghu is happy. All individual prama maya koshas are born out of prana. They sustain due to prana; and at death, they go back to prana. At that point prana merges into samashti prana.

Having discovered this Brghu was happy at first but then he discovered this too was not the mula karanam. So, he goes back to his father with his doubts.

Take away:

Ultimate stuff or content of the universe is consciousness. Cause of the tangible world is this intangible Consciousness.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 43

Chapter 3 or Brghuvalli:

Chapter 3 preview:

Starting with his preview of Chapter 3, Swamiji said, Brahma Vidya teaching was completed in Brahmanandavalli or chapter 2. Now the Upanishad focuses on some allied topics. Brahma Vidya is not the focus anymore but it is discussed with other topics. The other topics are: Gyana Sadhanani or preparatory disciplines through which Gyana Vidhya occurs and remains in a person.

Two types of preparatory disciplines are indicated:

1. Remotely connected to knowledge.
2. Directly connected to knowledge or sakshat sadhanani or Vedanta vakya vichara. This is an important sadhana as it leads to knowledge and is also known as Pramana Vichara. Pancha Kosha vichara is highlighted here. The word Tapas is used again and again in this Upanishad in every section. Tapas, here means Vedanta vakya vichara or pancha kosha vichara. It is a direct means of self-knowledge. Although tapa also means penance and austerities, in this chapter it means Vichara.

Secondary disciplines, indirectly connected ones, are a few upsanas or meditations, for integrating the mind. Upasanas

can't give direct knowledge. Vedanta vichara alone can give knowledge. Thus, Anjaneya upasana cannot give this knowledge. Anjaneya will bless upsaka with proper guru or the devata himself may also become his guru, if a guru is not found. The upasana devata can be any god including Anjaneya.

Vrthas or vows are also discussed. Four vrthas or austerities are discussed. Vrthas, upsanas and vichara are all Gyana Sadhanani. Vichara is a direct source of knowledge while Vrtha and upsanas are indirect sources of knowledge.

Another topic in this chapter is Gyana Phalam. The benefit is that one will attain knowledge and its resulting benefits. This topic was also discussed in chapter 1 or shikshavalli. If so, why discuss it again? If a person studies Vedanta and still does not get knowledge, Upanishad wants to tell us that it is his own preparation that was not adequate.

To err is human but to put blame on another is even more human. If shastra's do not bless him with pramanam; Ishwara, Guru and shastra are not the problem. The problem is with the student who has not prepared enough for it. He probably does not know the sadhana chatushtaya sampathi. Shankaracharya asks students to check for their sadhana chatushtaya sampathi periodically during study of Vedanta vichara. Hence this chapter repeats importance of preparation.

Chapter 3, Shantipatha, Shloka #1:

Om, May he protect us both. May He help us both to enjoy the fruits of scriptural study. May we both exert together to find the true meaning of the sacred text. May our studies make us brilliant. May we never quarrel with each other.

The shanti patha is repeated as before. It is chanted by student and teacher in every class. It says:

1. It asks for an ideal relation with guru. Citing an example, without good relationship between husband and

wife a family can't be functional. Similarly shishya must have shraddha and bhakti for Guru. Guru too must have compassion for student.

2. It is necessary for enough effort to be placed by both the student and teacher.
3. The teaching must culminate in Gyana prapthi.
4. Gyana phalam prapthi. The gyanam must be internalized and transforming.

All four should happen to me. If there are any karmic obstacles, please remove them, is the prayer.

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 1, Shloka 2:

Bhrgu, the well known son of Varuna, approached his father, Varuna and requested, " O revered Sir, teach me Brahman." Varuna said, thus, to him (Bhrgu)," Food, Prana, the eyes, the ears, the mind and the speech are Brahman."

Starting chapter 3, swamiji said this Chapter is in prose. This is a Brahmano Upanishad; hence, it is in prose. Mantra Upanishads are in poetry. Chapter 3 is divided into paragraphs called anuvakahas. Chapter 3 has 10 anuvakahas. First word of shloka 2, anuvakaha 1, chapter 3, is Brighu, hence the chapter is named Brighuvalli.

It begins with introduction of guru and shishya. It is a guru shishya dialogue. Vedantic teaching is always in a guru shishya discussion format. This is to discourage learning Vedanta by self-study. In Taittiriya Upanishad, in the first two chapters, there was no guru or shishya, although later chapters did. In this chapter the Guru is the father and shishya, the son.

When son is interested in knowledge and father is a wise man this, a guru-shishya relationship can happen and it is seen happening here.

Once upon a time there was a great sage called Bhrgu. Even Sri

Krishna acknowledges him in chapter 10 of the Gita. Brghu was born twice. First as manas-putra, son of Brahma and a second time, as son of Varuna. Thus, Varuni Brghu is son of Varuna.

What did this Brghu do? He approached his father Varuna. Why the emphasis on how son approaches father in Upanishad? Other sons also approach their fathers for many other things; however here son approaches father for brahma vidya in a proper manner. He does so with shraddha and bhakti. He addresses his father not as father but as, O Lord, May you teach me Brahman. Swamiji says, in Upanayana ceremony too the father becomes a guru. The formal mode of address by student indicates an evolved student; one who has Vairagya, mumukshatvam and sadhana chatustaya sampathihi. He understands Brahma Gyanam can occur only through Guru upadesha. He is an advanced student.

Father certainly knows the condition of his son. He then taught the following to his son. He gives clues to pancha kosha viveka. The clues are:

Annam: Annamaya kosha.

Pranam: Pancha pranas

Vacham: Pancha Karmendriyani

All these together, Prana and vacha are pranamaya kosha.

Chakshu and stotram: Eye and ear are both gyanendriyas.

Manaha: the mind.

Mind with gyanendriyas is Manomaya kosha.

Vijnanamaya and anandamaya koshas, we have to supply.

First clue as per Shankaracharya is Brahma Upalabdi Dwarani to Brahma Gyanam.

Later he defines Brahman as shown in chapter 2 as Satyam,

gyanam and anantam. This Brahman is also called swarupa lakshanam or a short or direct definition.

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 1, Shlokas 3:

To him (Bhrgu) he (Varuna) again said: that from which these beings are born; that by which, having been born, these beings live and continue to exist; and that into which, when departing, they all enter; that seekest thou to know. That is Brahman.” He Bhrgu performed penance; and after having done penance....

Now an indirect definition is also given. This is one reason why Taittiriya Upanishad is so important. In this important mantra it says, Brahman is Jagat, srishti, sthithi and laya karanam. Vyasa in bhagavatham also gives the same definition.

Yataha in shloka means Brahman. Sthiti karanam means cause of preservation; Prayanti means destruction or all beings are resolved in Brahman; It also means Brahman is Laya karanam. Jatani means having been born. Jivanti means live.

Explaining further swamiji says:

Srishti: Brahma

Sthiti: Vishnu

Laya: Shiva

Brahma, Vishnu and shiva are all names for one Brahman alone. It does not mean that there are many Gods. They are three functional names of one Brahman. Furthermore, we have, in our confusion, even started comparing them by creating names of shaivism and vaishnavism. Vedanta does not consider any one of the trinity superior; they are all one Brahman. Vedantins are called smarthas, who are neither shaivas nor vaishnavas. Wearing Vibhuti on forehead does not mean one is a shaiva. Scriptures say if anyone compares gods and grades them they will get an upset stomach. So, all are one Brahman. Therefore

Brahman alone is srishti, sthiti and laya karanam. May you know him through tapas, keeping the clues in mind. Thus Brghu started his teaching.

When we talk of self-enquiry, it is enquiry into Guru vakya or shastra vakya or it's vichara. Many people miss this and start self-enquiry through a questioning approach of, who am I? This independent enquiry without a guru is not in Vedic tradition. Vedic enquiry is always inquiry with guru shastra vakya. Atma vichara is guru shatra vichara. It is also known as pramana vichara. Rejecting Guru and shastras; and practicing self-enquiry does not lead to Vedantic knowledge.

The word tapaha means enquiry based on Brahma Lakshanani and two of them were discussed: Brahma Upalabdi Dwarani and Swarupa lakshanam

The student, Brghu, having contemplated on the teaching now comes back with some of his doubts.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 42: Summary of Brahmanandavalli

1. Greetings All,

Swamiji said, today, I am giving you a summary of the Brahmanandavalli chapter. It is the main chapter of the Upanishad giving us the vedantic teaching. Chapters 1 and 3

are considered preparatory chapters dealing with preparatory disciplines only. Preparatory disciplines are also important in understanding Brahmanandavalli. In my summary, I am going to discuss it topic by topic.

Brahmanandavalli has nine sections or anuvakahas. It begins with Sutrabhaga, a capsule like aphorism, or capturing in a nutshell. A vrithi bhaga or a short note comments upon this sutra. The Vrithi bhaga is further elaborated upon in Vyakhyana bhaga. Thus, Sutra, Vrithi and Vyakhyana are three bhagas of Brahmanandavalli.

Sutra Vrithi: The sutra says the knower of Brahman attains the highest. The highest can be moksha or Brahman. This leads to three questions?

1. What is Brahman?
2. What is the method of knowing Brahman?
3. What is meant by, attaining the highest?

All three topics are dealt with in the Vrithi Bhaga.

1. Regarding what is Brahman the Upanishad says it is Satyam, Gyanam and Anantam. Satyam here means pure existence; a noun and as a substance. Gyanam here means pure consciousness as an entity in itself or as a substance. Anantam means infinite or limitless as an adjective. **So, this limitless existence consciousness, this substance, is called Brahman.**
2. Regarding method of knowing Brahman, the Upanishad says, it is to be recognized in one's own mind. **It is known as "I" the witness of presence and absence of thought in the mind and as non-different from myself or as Aham Brahma Asmi.**
3. Regarding, what is meant by attaining the highest, the Upanishad says, it is attainment of all pleasures simultaneously. It is simultaneous fulfillment of all pleasures. Swamiji says, enlightened means mind becomes

lightened.

With this Vrithi bhaga is over in anuvakaha # 1. Vyakhyana Bhaga was then discussed. It is an elaboration on the three topics already discussed. The elaboration is performed in following manner:

1. The method of elaboration on srishti prakranam is used to define Brahman.
2. Method of knowing Brahman is elaborated upon through pancha kosha viveka.
3. Method of attaining the highest is elaborated upon through ananda mimamsa.

Srishti prakaranam: From creation of akasha to the body is definition of Brahman. It is clarified in two ways.

1. Brahman is presented as Karanam.
2. World is presented as Karyam.

Karanam is that which exists before, during and after creation. Thus, clay exists before pot creation, after pot creation and after destruction of pot. Whatever remains in all three states of existence is Satyam. Karyam does not exist in all three states. It exists only in the present. Karyam, a product, does not exist separate from Karanam. World does not exist separate from Brahman. So, world is not a separate thing. Thus, one cannot say, water and wave are separate; similarly there is no duality between Brahman and the world. Thus, world cannot limit Brahman as there is no world other than Brahman. Therefore, Brahman is limitless anantham. Srishti prakaranam thus shows Satyam and Anantam. Gyanam comes later under pancha kosha viveka.

3. **Pancha Kosha viveka:** This topic is discussed from anuvakaha # 1 to anuvakaha # 5. Here the Upanishad takes the student to finer states of mind. Mind is brought to its subtlest principle from the gross. In anandamaya, subtlest form of mind, mind enjoys calmness and

fulfillment or priya, moda and pramoda. This is all ananda maya kosha.

So, now, how does one get to atma?

Once mind becomes calm will atma rise? Answering, the Upanishad says, never look for atma. It is the onlooker, the "I", the witness of priya, moda and pramoda; that "I", am the atma. Atmananda is the subject of experience. When is it available? It is available at all times say the shastras. Atma is ananda. This witness is called Brahman. It is a mahavakyam. With this pancha kosha viveka topic is over.

3.What is meant by the phalam or attaining the highest? This is discussed through ananda mimamsa topic in anuvakaha # 8. Anuvakaha 6 and 7 are discussed as side topics. Upanishad says there are two types of anandas: Atmananda and Koshananda.

The features differentiating these two anandas are:

1. Koshananda is a reflection while atmananda is the original.
2. Atmananda is a subject of experience. It is never an object. Whereas koshanada is always an object.
3. Atmananda is not subject to gradation. Koshananda is graded as priya, moda and pramoda, as such subject to gradation.
4. Koshananda can be attained through sense objects as well as through Vairagyam or contentment.

For getting atmananda there is only one method; that is by knowing that it is the very nature of the seeker. One who has all sense objects has koshananda. One who has vairagyam will also obtain koshananda. However, it is only the one who has gyanam that gets both atmananda and koshananda. One who has gyanam has koshananda and Vairgyam. Vairagyam is essential for gyanam. Gyani, thus, enjoys atmananda and koshananda. This is known as phala prapthihi.

Suppose this Gyani gets an opportunity for sense pleasures, does it make a difference to him? Swamiji says, it does not make any difference to him. With this anuvakaha # 8, on phalam is over.

All three topics have been elaborated upon. Now Upanishad concludes with an upasamhara. Conclusion is that Gyani is not afraid of losing ananda. Gyani also goes through empathy and other emotional feelings. At time of sharing grief with others he is still aware of his own ananda. So, he does not fear.

Incidentally, the Upanishad adds, Gyani does not dwell on his past, his pre-gyanam days, and grieve. He does not feel hurt and guilt. Karta feels guilt while bhokta feels hurt. He sees them as mithya; as such he does not have samsara. This is moksha prapthihi. With this Vrithi and Vyakhyanam, both are over.

Anuvakaha # 6 and 7:

They are an aside of Brahmanandavalli. A student raised three questions. The questions are known as anuprashnaha. One question was an implied one while other two were explicit.

The questions were:

1. Is there a Brahman at all? Upanishad says, Brahman is not available for any transaction such as physical, emotional etc. What is proof of its existence? Some philosophers such as Visishtadvaita don't accept idea of a nirguna Brahman. This implied question was answered elaborately. Seven answers were given. They are:
 1. Brahman is nimitha karanam
 2. Brahman is jivatma.
 3. Brahman is the material cause; Brahman is existent as universe.
 4. Brahman is Self Creator or Sukritam

5. Brahman is ananda.
6. Brahman is life principle.
7. Brahman is Bhaya Abhaya Cheta.

The final answer is that Brahman exists.

Now for the two other explicit questions, the answer is an implied one. The first answer is that the question is a wrong one to begin with. There is no question of attaining Brahman. Brahman is not an object to attain. Brahman is "I" myself (wise or ignorant person). **So there is no reaching Brahman. I am Brahman. So long as I am ignorant, I feel a notional distance. Thus, one feels one has not attained Brahman. In wise person this notional distance does not exist. He does not crave for Brahman. There is no reaching Brahman for him. Therefore, wise person has "as though" attained Brahman.**

Take away:

1. Brahman is not an object to attain. Brahman is "I" myself (one with wisdom or ignorant one). So there is no reaching Brahman. I am Brahman. So long as I am ignorant, I feel a notional distance. Thus, one feels "as though" one has not attained Brahman. In wise person this notional distance does not exist. There is no reaching Brahman for him. Therefore, wise person has "as though" attained Brahman.
2. So, this limitless existence consciousness, **this substance**, is called Brahman.
3. It (Brahman) is known as "I" the witness of presence and absence of thought in the mind and as non-different from myself or as Aham Brahma Asmi.
4. The Upanishad says, never look for atma. It is the onlooker, the "I", the witness of priya, moda and pramoda.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad Class 41

Greetings All,

Ch 2, Anuvakaha 8, Shloka # 12:

The Reality in the core of man and the Reality which is in the sun are one. He who knows this, on leaving from this world, first attains the Atman made of food, next the Atman made of Prana, next attains the Atman made of mind, next attains Atman made of Buddhi and lastly attains the Atman made of bliss.....regarding this there is the following Vaidika Verse.

Continuing his teaching of the Upanishad, Swamiji said, in Anuvakaha 8 of Chapter 2, we are now in ananda mimamsa topic culminating in the mahavakya. The mahavakya says, the atmananda in jiva and hiranyagrabha are one and the same; however, when it comes to koshananda it is diagonally opposite. Atmananda in a human being has a poor quality of reflection, while Hiranya -garbha has a good quality of reflection. It is like a weak light in a bathroom while another is a powerful light. The electricity in both bulbs is still one and the same. Thus Jivatma paramatma aikyam was revealed. We own up to our swarupananda. The cessation of search for ananda is atmananda. Now the phalam resulting from this mahavakyam is discussed.

One who knows this fact; he turns his attention away from the external world. The word Pratya in shloka does not mean after death rather it means turning away from external world. Before, I was seeking Vishayananda, while now I know the secret that all ananda is Myself. I no more depend on a

situation or object for happiness.

Upasamkramati in shloka means transcends. A wise person transcends anandamaya kosha. Shankaracharya says, transcends means giving up the abhimanam or ownership of annamaya. There is no more prarabdham; abhimana tyagam occurs. He does not identify with Pranamaya as well. Manomaya is also reduced to a kosha.

The atma notion is given up and anandamaya is seen as a kosha or anatma. He has no abhimana in ananda maya as well. Koshananda, he realizes, is just a reflection of my true self. I am not attached to Koshananda anymore, when I have the original.

After transcending all five koshas he falls back on to his own lap. He abides in atmananda. This is not meant in a literal sense. Abide here means, he knows I am atmananda or it is abidance in the “ non-forgetting knowledge” that I am Atmananda. The wise person does not forget the Aikyam knowledge. This is not action or meditation; it is a gradual grasping of knowledge that I am atma. With respect to this teaching there is this Rig mantra.

Chapter 2, Anuvakaha 9, Shloka # 1:

He who knows the Bliss of Brahman, from which all words return without reaching It, together with the mind, is no more afraid of anything.

This is the Rg mantra. It says a wise person is no more afraid of anything in creation as he has recognized that ananda or fullness is his very nature. He knows he will never lose it. External ananda can be lost but not atmananda. External ananda is conditional, meaning one's finite goals of obtaining promotions, acquisition of objects etc., can be lost. This in turn creates anxiety. First, I look for status, then I look for status quo or one looks for yoga kshema. Thus, a Wiseman's source of ananda is not dependent on external conditions at

all. He has knowledge of Brahmananda or atmananda. He knows it is his very nature as such it cannot be lost.

What type of Brahman is it; that Brahman, from which words retreat or return, without objectifying. **Brahman is an unobjectifiable Being, which is the Subject, or one who knows Brahman to be one's Self.** Nothing can take away swarupananda. With this Rig mantra's ananda mimamsa topic is over.

Now, Swamiji provided some additional information as corollaries to this topic.

Through ananda mimamsa we know that atmananda can be obtained through Gyana Prapthi and koshananda can be obtained through the two methods of Vairagya prapthi and Vishay prapthi, respectively.

A Gyani has gyanam, so he has atmananda. A Gyani is supposed to have all necessary qualifications for Gyanam. The four qualifications required are, the Sadhana Chatushtaya Samapthi consisting of Viveka, Vairagya, Mumukshatvam and Shatka sampathi. Thus the Gyani also has Vairgyam. Viragyam is a means of obtaining Koshananda.

Thus, he has both atmananda and koshananda. So, a Gyani has both anandas. All joys of the world will fall into koshananda or atmananda. Therefore Gyani has all possible pleasures of the world even though he does not possess anything. Therefore it is said that, " Gyani enjoys all the pleasures of this world even though he does not have anything."

The next corollary is that the student had asked three questions:

1. Brahman exists or not? An implied question.
2. Whether a wise person attains Brahman ?
3. Whether an ignorant person attains Brahman?

The first question was answered with seven reasons for

existence of Brahman.

Second question, the teacher never answered but went into ananda mimasa topic. It appears as though the teacher forgot. Shankaracharya says the answers are in the phala shruti.

The wise person transcends all five koshas and gets established in knowledge. We say, the question itself is wrong. It is like asking how many kilograms is the distance from here to Adayar. If Brahman is a destination away from me, only then there is a question about reaching it. Here the question is moot as Brahman is the very nature of the traveller or reaching Myself. Hence question is wrong.

One answer provided is: Until I know “ I” am Brahman, I will imagine Brahman as being away from me through ignorance. This notional distance will remain in me until ignorance exists. With wisdom, notion goes away in the wise; without wisdom it continues to exist in the ignorant. **So ignorant person has not reached (Brahman), as though. While in wise person notional distance is not there and he has reached Brahman, as though.**

Thus both questions are answered. All three questions have now been answered. Everything has been explained. Now the Upanishad concludes by glorifying the Gyani.

Chapter 2, Anuvakaha # 9, Shloka # 2:

Such thoughts, “why have I not done what is good? Why have I committed a sin? Certainly do not come to distress a man of experience of the Truth. He who knows thus, regards both these as the Atman. Verily both these are regarded by him who knows thus, as only Atman. Thus ends the Upanishad.

An ignorant person suffers from samsara while a gyani becomes free from samasara. He enjoys jivan mukti. Samasara expresses itself in different types of psychological problems. **Ignorance is an intellectual problem but it is felt as an emotional problem. Our experience of emotional problems is usually as**

regrets over past. My duration of future is short while duration of past is longer. When I am young I dream of future. At 40 – 50 years of age, future recedes.

“ When dreams of future are replaced by regrets of past”, is a definition of old age. Omissions and commissions occupy mind. I can never escape samsara. In old age, activity cannot be used to escape. I planned for meditation but now am re-tired.

Regret # 1: Why did I not perform these good actions? This is an act of omission.

Regret # 2: Why did I perform such regrettable actions? This is an act of commission.

This is guilt. This guilt does not disturb a Gyani, although he has also committed his share of blunders in life. Why don't they hurt a Gyani? Wise person sees all commissions and omissions as a part of mithya samsara. Punyam, papam don't exist separate from Atma.

Dream punyam and papam are a part of Waker.

Essence of shloka is that he looks at punyam and papam from a higher order of reality and as such they appear insignificant; they appear like candlelight in the sunshine.

So for a wise person Shariram, Prarabhdam etc., are pinpricks in life; one who sees both punyam and papam as mithya or as a dream upon waking. So, both do not bother him.

Vidhwan in shloka means Knower, The knower is free from regrets and guilt. This is the Phalam. Guilt is the worst form of suffering. Wise person is free from this. With this the Upanishad concludes.

Chapter 2, Anuvakaha 9, Shloka # 3:

This is a Shantipatha chanted by teacher and taught.

Om may He protect both. May he help us both to enjoy the fruits of the scriptural study. May we both exert together to find the true meaning of the sacred text. May our studies make us brilliant. May we never quarrel with each other.

Take away:

1. Brahman is an unobjectifiable Being, which is the Subject, or one who knows Brahman to be one's Self.
2. Ignorance is an intellectual problem but it is felt as an emotional problem. Our experience of emotional problems is usually as regrets over past.
3. When dreams of future are replaced by regrets of past", is a definition of old age.
4. For a wise person Shariram, Prarabhdam etc., are pinpricks in life; one who sees both punyam and papam as mithya or as a dream upon waking. So, both do not bother him.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 40

Greetings All,

Ch 2, Anuvakaha 8, Shloka # 5:

This joy of the manas, whose worlds are relatively immortal multiplied a hundred fold is one unit of joy of the ajanaja gods born in deva loka and it is also the joy of a srotriya free from desire.

Continuing his teaching of the Upanishad, Swamiji said, in Anuvakaha 8 of chapter 2, we are now in ananda mimamsa, an enquiry into ananda. It is a discussion about Koshananda (Anandamaya kosha) and Atmananda.

Five differences between the two anandas were noted. They are:

- Koshanada is reflected ananda. Atmananda is the original, un-reflected ananda.
- Koshananda is impermanent. It is only a reflected ananda; thus, it is a conditional ananda. Atmananda, however, is permanent and is not conditional.
- Koshananda is a graded ananda, depending upon the quality of reflecting medium. Atmananda has no changes, as it is not a reflection, hence it is ungraded.
- Since Koshananda is a reflection in mind, it available for experience. It is experiential ananda.

However, Atmananda is not an object of experience.

Atmananda is Consciousness itself or Chaitanyam.

- Koshananda can be obtained by two methods. First one is Vairagya prapthihi and second one is Vishaya prapthihi. When desired object is obtained mind enjoys ananda. This is Koshananda. This koshananda can also be obtained by having Vairagyam towards the object. Viveka Shakti gives us Vairagyam. It is a mind without ragaha or dveshaha as such a calm mind. Through vairagyam and without acquiring any objects such a person is happy.

Atmananda, however, can only be realized through Gyanam that gives me the realization that I am atmananda.

The Upanishad now takes up koshananda first.

First the Upanishad defines an ideal unit of ananda. It is called manushyananda. Then ten higher levels of graded ananda were also discussed. The same higher ananda can be obtained

through intensity of one's Vairagyam. Vairagyam can also be graded with respect to dispassion. To obtain external objects we need money or wealth. Internal dispassion, however, is obtained through Viveka.

Thus we have:

- Vishaya Prapya Koshananda;
- Vairagya Prapya Koshananda;
- Gyana Prapya Atmananda.

Ch 2, Anuvakaha 8, Shloka # 6 & #7:

This joy of the gods born in the deva loka multiplied a hundredfold is a unit of the gods (karma devas) who have become so by their special karmas and it is also the joy of a Srotriya, free from desires. (Shloka # 6)

A hundred times this joy of the gods (karma devas) who have become so by their special karmas is a unit of joy of the gods (office bearers) and it is also the measure of the bliss of the Srotriya who has transcended all his desires. (Shloka # 7)

Here it says 100 units of Pitr loka ananda equals ajanajananda. An Ajanaja is a swargaloka vasi. Ajanaja's are in the swarga loka due to their punyams. Swarga loka can be obtained by two methods.

- Smartha Karmani are karmas prescribed by smriti grantha or secondary scriptures or non-vedic scriptures. Through performance of these Karmas one goes to Ajan Loka. A Srotri enjoys the same ananda. A Srotri is one with knowledge of scriptures as well as with Vairagyam. He has Vairagyam of all lower lokas.
- 100 units of ajanajananda equal one Karma Devananda. Karma Deva is one who has performed Srautha Karmas. Srautha karmas are one's prescribed by the Vedas. They also go to Swarga Loka. However, within Swarga Loka, they have a higher status and Loka as well. A Srotriya

who has the cultivated Vairagyam upto Ajananaja Loka can experience this Koshananda.

Karma deva is an ordinary citizen in Swarga Loka. Devas, however, have a higher position in Swarga Loka. One should note that a Deva is distinct and separate from a Karma Deva, although both are residents of Swarga Loka. There are only 33 Devas in Swarga Loka. These Devas have an even greater ananda than Karma Devas.

How can one become a Deva? To become a Deva one has to perform Karmas as well as Upasanas. This gives a person higher punyam. In Upasana one prays to a Deva. In Katho Upanishad, Yama tells Nachiketas that, when I was a human, I wanted to become Yama through practice of rituals.

This ananda too can be obtained through Vairagyam.

Ch 2, Anuvakaha 8, Shlokas # 8:

One hundred measures of the happiness of the gods (office bearers) is the simple unit of joy of Indra and it is also the measure of the bliss of the Srotriya who has transcended all his desires.

100 units of Devananda are equal to one unit of Indrananda. A Srotri through Vairagyam too can obtain this.

Ch 2, Anuvakaha 8, shloka # 9:

A hundredfold the bliss of Indra is the unit of joy of Brihaspati and it is also equal to the bliss of a Srotriya who is devoid of all desires.

Brahaspathi or Vachaspathi represent words of wisdom. Therefore, Lord of wisdom Brihaspathi is Guru of Indra. So he has an even better Loka. Therefore, 100 units of Indrananda equal one Brihaspatyananda. A Srotri through Vairagyam too can obtain this

Ch 2, Anuvakaha 8, Shlokas # 10:

A hundredfold the bliss of a Brihaspati is the unit of measure of the bliss of Prajapati and it also gives us a measure of the bliss enjoyed by a Srotriya who has no desires.

Here it says, 100 units of Brihaspatyananda equals one unit of Prajapatyananda. A Srotriya who has acquired the required level of Vairagyam too can obtain this.

Ch 2, Anuvakaha 8, Shlokas # 11:

A hundredfold the bliss of Prajapati is the unit of measure of the bliss of Brahman, which is in no way greater than the bliss of one who is a Srotriya and who, in his experience of the Reality, is devoid of all other desires.

100 units of Prajapatyananda equal one unit of Hiranyagarbhananda. Hiranyagarbhananda is called Brahman ananda in shloka. This Brahman is not the original ananda or the eternal Brahman. Here, it is still a reflected ananda only. This is the highest pleasure possible. A Srotri with appropriate level of Vairagya too can obtain this.

Vairagyam gives the highest level of sukham. We can be happier without possessions or by Tyaga. This is the lesson of India to the world. All other cultures talk of materialistic pleasures. While India does not condemn materialistic pleasures, it says, Tyaga is higher than material pleasures. Hence a Tyagi is more respected than a Bhogi. Citing story of a king and a Yogi, Yogi tells king, "You who has everything are standing before me, while I, who has nothing, is sitting." This is the difference between Bhoga and Tyaga.

Ch 2, Anuvakaha 8, Shlokas # 12:

The Reality in the core of man and the Reality which is in the sun are one. He who knows this, on leaving from this world, first attains the Atman made of food, next the Atman made of

Prana, next attains the Atman made of mind, next attains Atman made of Buddhi and lastly attains the Atman made of bliss.....regarding this there is the following Vaidika Verse.

Now we are moving on from Koshanada to Atmananda. The first line of the shloka is a maha vakya. A maha vakyam is one, which discusses Jivatma Paramatma aikyam or the oneness of micro and macro.

The maha vakya says that, the ananda that obtains in a person, the micro, and the ananda obtained in Hiranyagarbha or the macro; both anandas are one and the same. Now, this statement contradicts what we just learned in the last few shlokas. We just learned that Manushyananda (1 unit) and Hiranyagarbhananda (10 to the power of 20 units) are hugely different in scale. But, here, in the maha vakyam the Upanishad says, Manushyananda and Hiranyagarbhananda are one and the same.

We should be aware that in Vedas, in Sanskrit, every word has two meanings. One is known as Vachyarth or direct meaning and another is Lakshyarth or indirect meaning. Thus, to Carnatak music lovers the word Chamangudi does not mean the village, rather it means the musician who hailed from that village.

A general rule of interpretation is to apply primary meaning first and if it does not fit then apply secondary meaning. If the statement comes from same source, one of them should fit.

The word Ananda, its Vachyarth or direct meaning is experiential pleasure. This is koshananda pleasure.

Therefore, Manushyananda with 1 unit of pleasure and Hiranyagarbha with ten to the power of twenty units of pleasure are both koshanandas. So, the primary meaning does not fit here. So, we try the secondary meaning. Ananda, can also mean Atmananda or original ananda. This ananda is same in Manushyananda and Hiranyagarbhananda. This is the Lakshyarth. Atmananda has no gradations. Human being has a poor quality of

reflection, while Hiranya -garbha has a good quality of reflection.

How many methods are there to obtain Atmananda? Atmananda need not be obtained at all as it is the very Experiencer himself. It is “ I” the Chaitanyam. It is removing the ignorance and knowing that I am the Seeker. The seeking of an object is the wrong approach to obtaining Atmananda. One who knows this mahavakyam attains atmananda.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy