

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 34

Greetings All,

Chapter 2, Anuvakaha # 6, Shloka # 3:

He desired, " I shall become many and be born. He performed tapas; having performed tapas, He created all this whatsoever (we perceive). Having created it, He entered into it. He became the manifest and the unmanifest, the defined and undefined, the housed and the houseless, knowledge and ignorance, truth and falsehood and all this whatsoever exists. Therefore, it is called Existence. In this sense, there is the following Vaidika verse"

Continuing his teaching of the Upanishad Swamiji said, the Anuvakaha six has introduced some questions from a student. The teacher has started answering those questions. There were three questions raised. One was an implied one while the other two were real questions.

The implied question is, is there a Brahman or not? The teacher answering the implied question first says the entire creation comes out of Brahman. He gives seven reasons as proof of the existence of Brahman.

2. Brahman with Maya is the sentient cause of creation. Brahman as the intelligent cause is called Ishwara. He desired, visualized and created the world. He is the nimitha karanam of the world.
3. Now next point is that having created this world Ishwara himself entered the creation as a Jivatma. This process of god entering creation is known as anupravesha. Thus, every Jiva is the Paramatma himself.

Existence of Jivatma is proof of Paramatma. Citing an example of our dreams, the creation of a dream is similar to the creation of this world. There are certain similarities and

differences between swapna and real srishti. Nevertheless a swapna is the closest example of srishti.

If something is 100 percent equal to another thing it is not considered an example. When an example is given, our focus should be on the common features and not the uncommon ones. Thus, if a person is called a pillar of society, it is a comparison to pillars supporting a building. It does not mean the person is round like a pillar nor does it mean he is an inert being like a pillar.

Ishwara creates the world by his sankalpa. The same process also creates a dream. Our dream is a projection of our Self while world is a projection of Ishwara.

Everything in a dream has to be experienced. This means an experiencer also has to be there. Who creates the experiencer? I, the creator of Swapna, go into Swapna prapancha and become the dream experiencer.

Thus, the waker-creator becomes the dream experiencer.

How does this process of the dream creator entering and experiencing the dream work? Until dream is created, I am a waker identified with the physical body lying on the bed. The moment the dream occurs (swapna prapancha) a special body for experiencing the dream is created. At that moment I shed this physical body and I create the dream body also known as Vasanamayi Sharira. I, myself, take on the swapna shariram dropping the physical body. It is similar to the process of re-birth after one's death. I die in jagrit prapancha and take birth in swapna prapancha. In this process the physical body is dropped. We perform this phenomenon every day going from physical body to dream body and back. This is one of the reasons a morning bath is required by our tradition. We need to clean the body.

In swapna sharira we have swapna indriyas and all other faculties. Thus, we have gyanendriyas of shabda, sparsha,

rupa, rasa, gandha in dream body as well. Using this swapna body, we travel as well. We even get hungry in our dream. Waker becomes a product in the dream world. I am only limited by dreamtime and dream space. I am the Creator of the dream and I also am the one Created. Thus, I experience swapna. Experiencer of dream is not different from one in waking state. The Experiencer is one and same, the medium alone changes. Waker is with a sthula sharira, while dreamer is with a dream body.

How do you know waker has entered dream world? For a moment suppose that the waker was different? If waker were different, he would never know the dream experience. Reality tells us that upon waking I am aware of the nightmare I had. Thus waker and dreamer are one and the same. When I am within the dream, I never claim to be its creator. I just feel I am part of the dream, experiencing the joys and sorrows of the dream world. The moment I wake up, I dis-identify with the dream body; I now become one with the waking body. So, am I karyam or karanam depends upon which body I am associated with.

In waker-body, I am an individual in the world as a Jivatma. I claim the world is outside of me. **The moment I dis-identify from my body, I can claim I am the paramatma.** It is through Me that this whole world and creation has come into being. The moment I dis-identify with the body, I become the Creator. In the dream, the dreamer argues that there is no waker creator. **The very experiencer of dream, as a Waker he is the creator of the dream.** The very experience of the dream is proof of the Waker. So also, the very existence of Jivatama is proof of Paramtama. Paramatma takes role of Jivatma. We all need to see the Paramatma.

Having entered shariram, paramatma has become a karta as well as a bhokta. Paramatma alone, like in a dream, performs all transactions. If you want to get out of this show, you need to wake up and then body becomes falsified. Hence the saying: Brahman Satyam, Shariram Mithya.

Having entered the body, Brahman alone performs all karmas. Both Jagrat prapancha and swapna prapancha are all fields of my activity. While in each field, I take on a body for my role; I alone am really the Chaitanyam. Jagrat role, dream roles all come and go. The problem is, once I am in a field I feel I am a part of it. Shankaracharya says Jivatma is Paramatma. This is the second proof. **Your very existence is the proof of Brahman.**

3. Here Brahman is nimtha karanam or intelligent cause or creator. This is just like a carpenter is the creator of furniture.

If Brahman is the intelligent cause, what is the raw material for creation? Just as wood or gold are raw materials for furniture, jewelry etc. respectively; they can be called the material cause. Generally intelligent cause and material cause are different just as goldsmith and gold are different or a mason and his bricks are different. If Brahman is the intelligent cause, what is the material cause? What is the material cause of the five elements? The elements being: Akasha, Vayu, agni, apaha and prithvi.

Unfortunately there is nothing other than Brahman. Before creation, there was Brahman alone who was both the intelligent cause and material cause. How is this possible? Nimitham and Upadanam are generally separate. Scriptures say there are some exceptions to this general rule. The term Utsarga means general rule while Apavada means exception. Mundako Upanishad says the spider itself is the intelligent and material cause of its web.

Another example cited was, you alone are the intelligent cause and material cause of your own dream. My own vasanas become the material cause. **The dream created is solid in the dream; however, it comes from my own abstract mind. Thus, non-solid thought creates a solid dream.** Similarly, the non-solid consciousness can create a tangible earth. Creator is the non-

solid consciousness. Scientists say energy (intangible) is cause of creation (tangible). Just like I am the intelligent and material cause of the dream world, Brahman is also the intelligent and material cause of the Universe. Ishwara using Maya and Karma produces this world.

Clarifying the terminologies, we say, Carpenter is creator of furniture. In this sentence the word the verb "create" is used to describe the intelligent cause. For material cause, we say, gold becomes an ornament. Here the verb " becomes" is used. So too, Brahman "creates" the world and is the nimitha karanam. Brahman itself "becomes" the creation and is thus also its upadana karanam.

One cannot say this of a carpenter. I create the dream world and then I also become the dream world. Therefore, Brahman has become everything. In the Gita, in Vishvarupa darshanam, God says, I alone have become everything.

Therefore God is everywhere. You are seeing the Vishvarupa everywhere. That is why even when entering a river, one does not place the feet first in the river; one must touch the river and perform Prokshanam and then enter the river. Thus, the tangible universe is Brahman as is the intangible (mind, thought) world as well.

Brahman creates the world with Maya. Maya itself is never created.

In shloka: Sat means sthula prapancha and Tayat means sukshma prapancha. Niruktam means with clearly defined features. Aniruktham means with features not clearly defined such as one's inner personality. Nilayanam means clearly defined while anilayanam means not clearly defined.

Take away

1. The dream created is solid in the dream; however, it comes from my own abstract mind. Thus, non-solid thought

creates a solid dream. Similarly, the non-solid consciousness can create a tangible earth. Creator is the non-solid consciousness.

2. The moment I dis-identify from my body, I can claim I am the paramatma.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Baghawat Geeta, Class 101: Chapter 7, Verses 2 to 4

Shloka # 2:7.2

Exhaustively I shall set forth that knowledge together with its realization; once it is grasped, nothing more will remain to be known. 7.2

Exhaustively I shall set forth that knowledge together with its realization; once it is grasped, nothing more will remain to be known.

Continuing his teaching of the Gita, Swami Paramarthananda said, in the first three shlokas of chapter 7, Sri Krishna is introducing the subject of the Ishwara Svarupam. It is discussed in chapters 7 through 12. This topic discusses who is God; what is God etc. This knowledge of God introduces us to two aspects of god; God as Gyanam (lower nature, Saguna) and God as Vigyanam (higher nature, Nirguna). Where God is seen as Saguna, there is duality; with form comes duality. Saguna swarupam is also known as Bheda swarupam. Thus Rama, Krishna and Shiva all have plurality. This is God's lower

nature.

Higher nature is without form; all attributes are eliminated; there is no division. Thus, formless space represents advaitam (nirguna). Since higher nature is without attributes it is difficult for a beginner to conceive. It is too abstract for a beginner. Therefore, everyone has to start with Saguna Ishwara. Therefore scriptures prescribe Gyanam and the Vigyanam. Thus one goes from dvaitam to advaitam. Sri Krishna says, Arjuna, I will give you knowledge of both completely and convincingly. This knowledge will be so comprehensive that all your questions regarding God and yourself will be answered.

Three questions arise within us. They are:

- What is this world?
- What is God? Is there a God?
- Why am I born? Where am I going?

We have asked these questions of our parents but never got a clear answer. Until these questions are answered humans will be curious. Sri Krishna says, I will answer all these questions for you.

Mundaka Upanishad asks, what is that, knowing which everything else will be known? The Upanishad says, it is Paravidya, knowing which everything is known.

Shloka 3:7.3

एतन्मन्त्रं श्रुत्वा तन्मन्त्रं श्रुत्वा तन्मन्त्रं श्रुत्वा तन्मन्त्रं श्रुत्वा
एतन्मन्त्रं श्रुत्वा तन्मन्त्रं श्रुत्वा तन्मन्त्रं श्रुत्वा तन्मन्त्रं श्रुत्वा 7.3

Just one man among thousands strives to win it; among those who know and strive, only one comes to know Me in truth.

In this shloka Sri Krishna talks about the glory of knowledge of God as Saguna and Nirguna. This knowledge is glorified as “rare knowledge”. Anything rare, we want to possess. You want something nobody else has. Why is this knowledge rare?

Majority of people are busy pursuing other things than Gyanam. The scriptures talk about four purusharthas; dharma, artha; kama, and moksha; artha meaning security or wealth; kama means entertainment; dharma means punya for higher loka, and moksha means, inner freedom. Most people are running after dharma, artha and kama but not moksha. Even if one has desire for moksha, most do not know how to get it. Sri Krishna says the only method obtaining Ishwara Gyanam is through Guru Shastra Upadesha Sravanam.

Now number of people wanting moksha are few; among them number of people, who want Ishwara Gyanam are fewer still; and even among majority does not know how to get Ishwara Gyanam. While they try all kinds of things for getting knowledge. They are still not able to obtain it. If there are say six billion people; out of this four billion are not interested in moksha; of the one billion left, fifty percent, they want moksha but they do not know the means to obtain it. And half of that, they know that Ishwara Gyanam is the means but they do not know guru shastra Upadesha is the means; therefore they are all gone; after filtering; there are only very few who know that Shastra Vichara is important. Among thousands of people only a few strive in right direction of guru shastra sravanam to obtain inner freedom.

Now the word Siddhi in shloka means inner freedom; inner security; because according to shastras; ultimately insecurity is only a notion in our mind born out of ignorance; insecurity is a sense and that is why as long as we do not attack that inner sense of insecurity; whatever be the security you have outside; that will never give the sense of security, because really security does not come from outside. In India, one of our prime ministers was killed by her own security detail.

So a few people have understood and they want to get rid of inner sense of security, but among them also, very few people succeed in discovering that inner security; and therefore even among those who strive in the right direction; a few people

God created the world; from the standpoint of the material cause, we say God evolved into this universe. As intelligent cause, God is the creator, and as the material cause, God Himself has evolved into this creation.

How can I accept this as a fact?

Normally intelligent cause and material cause are different. The rice is different from the cook. Cook is different; rice is different; is there any doubt that rice is the material cause and the cook, the intelligent cause? They are also not identical.

How can one principle be, both causes? Upanishads say exceptions to the general law do exist. Mundako Upanishad cites example of a spider. All beings create their living space from external raw materials. A spider's web, however, is strong, light and is different. It is a wonder of creation. Spider spins the raw material from within itself; thus it is it's on material and intelligent cause. It is the Abhinna nimitha upadana karanam. God also is such a karanam.

What is nature of such a God? Upanishads say God consists of two principles put together. In our religion Ardhanarishwara symbolizes the two principles.

The two principles are:

- 1) Apara Prakriti (AP); the lower nature.
- 2) Para prakriti (PP); the higher nature.

Both have some common features and some uncommon features.

Common features: Both are eternal. Both are never created or destroyed. We can only transform matter.

Uncommon features:

1. PP is chetana Tatvam or the conscious principle. It can't be created or destroyed. Even some scientists are coming around to this conclusion. AP is material principle. Matter is also never created or destroyed and is known as Achetana. This conscious and material principle mixture is known as God.
2. Consciousness (PP) in pure form is without any attributes. Physical and chemical properties belong to matter. Consciousness is nirguna chaitanyam. AP is saguna; it has all properties. All of science is studying AP. PP, however, is not available for study. Some scientists also believe it will always be a mystery.
3. Chetana nirguna Tatvam does not undergo change under any conditions. It is free from any modifications.

Whatever changes are happening occur only at matter level; that is why some of the scientists have come to the conclusion that all our studies which are based on the physical and chemical properties will deal with only matter; consciousness will never be available for scientific study.

PP: Nirvikara, no change possible.

AP: Savikara, subject to change all the time.

The book Tao of physics also discusses this phenomenon. It says Nataraja represents the eternal dance of creation.

- PP is said to be Satyam; meaning it has independent existence. AP is dependent on PP and is a Mithya. PP+AP=Ishwara, the cause of creation.

Now you can imagine the state of evolution when God alone was there with both AP and PP within him. Then creation evolved and is called Srishti Prakaranam. It happens in two stages:

- Seed to plant;
- Plant to tree.

How does it happen or how does cosmology occur? Cosmology is mindboggling. Many theories exist for cosmology.

Sri Krishna presents evolution as per Samkhya philosophy of Kapila. It is a slightly different view from Vedic point of view. According to this, creation happened at two levels:

At **the first level** is there is only one para prakriti and one apara prakriti; this is at the pralaya or deluge stage;

Then came **the intermediary stage**; here the one-apara prakriti multiplies itself into eight-fold principle. It is similar to amoeba that multiplies itself into many.

All the while Para Prakriti, the consciousness principle remains the same. It is the material aspect alone that multiplies into ashtada or 8-fold apara prakriti.

Thus there were 8 fold apara prakriti's plus one fold para prakriti; totalling 9 at the intermediary stage of God.

And there afterwards comes **the final explosion**; final magnification wherein the ashtada prakriti multiplies into the manifold universe and now purusha comes into being.

During all this what happens to PP? Nothing happens to PP. It does not change. Conscious principle remains same. Only the materials cause changes.

Where is that para prakriti now? **Sri Krishna says stop running; that para prakriti is You the observer. So the very jiva tatvam; the very observing conscious principle, you who are the observer is para prakriti; and whatever is observed is apara Prakriti.**

Take away:

So the very jiva tatvam; the very observing conscious

principle, you who are the observer is para prakriti; and whatever is observed is apara Prakriti.

With Best Wishes

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad Class 33

Chapter 2, Anuvakaha # 6, Shloka # 3:

He desired, “ I shall become many and be born. He performed tapas; having performed tapas, He created all this whatsoever (we perceive). Having created it, He entered into it. He became the manifest and the unmanifest, the defined and undefined, the housed and the houseless, knowledge and ignorance, truth and falsehood and all this whatsoever exists. Therefore, it is called Existence. In this sense, there is the following Vaidika verse”

Continuing his teaching of the Upanishad Swamiji said, in Anuvakaha 6 of Brahmanandavalli we have just completed discussion of Pancha Kosha Viveka. Now a student raised some questions, anuprashnahas. Two questions were raised and a third was implied.

The first or implied question was, is there a Brahman? Doubts on this existence of Brahman are possible and legitimate as

Brahman is not available for transactions. Anything not available for transaction we consider it as non-existent.

The second question was, assuming there is a Brahman; will an ignorant person merge into it upon death? As per shastras, any product will merge into its cause at its destruction. The very definition of destruction is that the product merges into its cause.

The third question is, will a wise person merge into Brahman at death?

Now the teacher answered the first question. In this answer many Vedantic ideas about creation were taught. Seven reasons were given as evidence of existence of Brahman. They are:

- Brahman is existent. It is the nimitha karanam. Nimitha karanam is the intelligent cause behind creation. We can infer this from our experience because any ordinary product has an intelligent cause behind it. A piece of cloth, a mike etc. all has an intelligent cause. Similarly, our complex universe also has an intelligent cause. Concluding that there is no intelligent cause behind creation does not make sense. Even scientists don't believe anymore that there is no cause behind creation. They know the natural laws of physics and chemistry but they are not able to find the cause of creation. Many scientists believe this cause cannot be found by scientific reasoning. It is this unknown X-factor that is brought out by the shastras. It has to be the Chetana Tatvam. It is a sentient intelligent cause. It has to be an extraordinarily intelligent cause. This is Brahman, the nimitha Karanam.

When you see a wooden desk, do you ask, did a carpenter create this or do you say, it may have been created by a carpenter? Maybe can also mean, may not be. Did the wood slice itself? So, with respect to desk we accept the carpenter was behind

its creation.

Now the question rises, how did Brahman create this universe?

Any creation has three stages to it.

- A deep & intense desire to create must come up. Without it nothing gets produced. Kama avastha and Tirva ichha are required.
- Visualization as to what to create has to occur? When we build a house we visualize how many rooms, bedrooms, bathrooms, puja room etc. are required? The house has to be created in mind before it comes into actuality.
- Actual implementation of the visualization: Here the concrete creation comes out. First and second stages are not visible, only the third stage is visible. Brahman also goes through these three stages of creation.

So Brahman desired to create the universe. I can desire because I have an instrument called the mind. What is the instrument of Brahman? The instrument is called Maya or Ichha Shakti. When Brahman uses Maya, it is called Ishwara. Brahman married to Maya and thus as the householder is called Ishwara.

Why should Brahman desire to create the universe and make us suffer? If there is no creation then there is no samara and no resultant suffering as well.

Desire to create comes out of apurnatvam. Kama is considered a product of avidya. Kama produces Karma and Karma produces Phallam.

Thus: Ignorance>Desire> Action>Result.

Therefore liberation is considered freedom from Kama. A free person is a desire-less person. A person becomes free from Samasara, once all desires are gone.

Now, Bhagawan desired. If the Lord is liberated, how come he has desire?

Bhagawan's desire is not born out of apurnatvam. It is a desire born out of knowledge as such it is a non-binding desire.

Why does God desire? His desire is meant for fructification of karma phalas of Jiva rashi's. All jiva rashi's have karma and phalam, which comes into being only when there is a Samsara.

Now a question comes, if creation is for fructification of punyas and papa's, how did punyas and papa's come to be, to begin with? They came to be from a previous Srishti. In present Srishti also Karmas will be there and they will result in a new Srishti. So Bhagawan has to create swarga and naraka. He has to create different lokas. To create all these, he must have knowledge of the karma of all Jivas. Not only does he have to visualize the right environment (where) but he also has to visualize the right bodies (who).

If so, how did past Srishti come about? Also, how did first Srishti come about? As per shastras there is no first Srishti, as the process is not a linear one. Our intellect has to get out of the linear thinking or one with a beginning and an end; else we will be frustrated.

We need to think in terms of cyclic thinking. Everything in creation is cyclic. Once we can think cyclic then the mind gets out of the tyranny of linear thinking. In a circle there is no beginning or end.

If you start and end there is no circle. If I start and come back to beginning point, then it is impossible to say where is the beginning and where is the end.

Scientists also see the circulatory logic. So, every Srishti is an intermediate creation. There was one before and after it. Here we are now discussing the present Srishti. Therefore, Bhagawan creates Srishti for Karma phalam of jivatmas. He creates for the benefit of Jivarashi's.

Any number of nonbinding desires will not create samsara. The nonbinding desire has to be a pure one for that.

So the desire arose in Brahman that, "Now I am the universal father, let me multiply and become many lives." Like any father, say one with three children, Brahman also creates many children.

Thus: Aham> Aavam>Vayam.

I>We both> We All

Let me multiply myself by getting progeny. In creation, every species can reproduce only one of its own kinds. Thus, humans can reproduce humans; buffalo buffaloes etc. Bhagawan, however, is father of all species, because Maya can produce all Jiva Rashi's.

Once desire has come next is visualization; what appears where etc.? For this visualization, he requires knowledge of papam's and punyam's of all respective Jivas' (humans, insects, plants etc.). Such a Lord has to be omniscient. He has to fulfill karmas of many (parents, children; Guru shishya; brother, sister) etc. It is the result of fructification of visualization. This visualization is called Tapaha. He performed austerity through visualization. This is tapas performed through Gyanam. This tapas is performed with Maya as instrument. God, himself does not have hands and feet and indriyas to form them. Let us remember that nothing has yet been created.

Having performed Tapas for sufficient time (countless yugas) God created the whole universe. Even space and time were created. Just be aware that God has created whatever you experience in front of you.

Next question that arises is that between visualization and implementation there is a lot of effort involved; think of the effort of building a house; how difficult it is? How much time

and effort has to be put into it?

However, shastras say, God did not put in any effort; he created the samsara just by his sankalpa.

Now, how is it possible to create by one's sankalpa? Shastras say, everyone can create by sankalpa. After all we create a dream world every night through our mind and vasanas. It is an effortless process. Dream is an unreal universe. How can you say that? Shashtra's say, this universe is also an unreal universe. Ishwara has created this universe, just like you create your own dream world.

If this universe is unreal, why do I feel it is real? Shastras say, you feel many things; thus, when you are in a dream, you consider it as real. When you wake up you feel the dream was unreal. It is the same with the waking state as well. We will realize it is also unreal, when we wake up to it. Thus, God created mithya universe by Maya Shakti. Thus, God exists.

CH 2, anuvaka 6, shloka # 3: (continued)

Ishwara created the universe. This universe is meaningful only when there are jivas or sentient beings to experience it. A house is useful only when sentient people use it.

God himself enters in the universe as Jiva rashis. Thus all jivas are Bhagawan. This phenomenon of God entering universe is known as anupravesha. Shankaracharya has written extensively on anupravesha. Brihadaranyaka Upanishad also discusses this topic.

In our dream world, who goes there to experience it? I create the dream; I enter the dream as dream individual to experience the dream. Thus, I create the tiger in dream; I enter the dream world and I experience the tiger. Thus, the waker, one in waking state, becomes the dream experience. So also Ishwara becomes part of universe he created.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Swamiji's New Year Talk for 2018: Glory of Sanatana Dharma

Namathe:

Swamiji has given a special talk for the New Year and the subject of the talk is Glory of Sanatana Dharma. Please listen to this talk by clicking below:

New Year 2018 Special Talk

Baghawat Geeta, Class 100: Chapter 7, Verses 1 and 2

Greetings All,

Continuing his teaching of the Gita, Swami Paramarthananda started chapter 7 today. He said Gita consists of 18 chapters and they are divided into three groups. Chapters one through

six are known as prathama. Chapters seven through twelve are known as madhyama and chapters thirteen through eighteen are known as charama. Since each group consists of six chapters they are known as shatakam. Thus, Shankaracharya's nirvana shatakam verses are famous.

Each of the six chapter segments deals with three specific topics respectively.

Thus prathama shatakam deals with:

1. **Jiva swaroopam** or nature of the individual. Individual is neither the body nor mind. Individual is the chaitanya that is in the body mind container. This satchidananda was brilliantly discussed in the second chapter, from verse 12 to 25; in the third chapter pancha kosha viveka was discussed; in the fourth chapter also, the chaitanya atma was pointed at akarta and abhokta; in the fifth chapter it said (5.13) that consciousness is the essential nature of the individual which does not perform any action. So this Satchidananda atma which is Jiva svarupam was one of the topics which was there throughout the prathama shatakam; the first six chapters.
2. **Karma yoga** as an important sadhana was discussed. It was discussed in chapters 2,3,4 and 6 respectively. Chapter 6 discussed karma yoga at the very beginning. Importance of individual effort and initiative was also discussed. There is a big confusion that Karma theory is fatalistic. Many people say Hinduism is a fatalistic religion and that it is holding back India. **The law of karma, however, says that the present is the result of the past; if that is true, the future is the result of the present action that you choose to do; You are responsible for your life.** All four destinations of life known as purusharthas are all goals chosen by human beings.
3. **Self Effort:** Sri Krishna says you have to lift yourself;

I can help you when you do so. Therefore, individual effort, free will is emphasized in choosing a course of action. **When you choose action you are also responsible for the results. Hence the saying:**

Watch your thoughts, it will become your words and actions;

Watch your words and actions; they become your habits;

Watch your habits, they become your character;

Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

Therefore destiny is decided by character; which is decided by habit; which is decided by your words and actions and which are decided by your thoughts; therefore watch your thoughts; and direct your thoughts; and **by directing your thoughts in the present, you are ultimately determining your destiny. All is decided by thought.**

Thus three topics are highlighted by prathama shatakam.

Now in madhyama shatakam three more topics are highlighted. They are:

1. **Ishwara swaroopam** or nature of God. It represents macro aspect while Jiva swaroopam represents micro aspect of God. Therefore throughout the six chapters, Krishna talks about the definition of God, the nature of God, the function of God; the glory of God, all about God alone. And while discussing Jiva svarupam we saw that the body mind complex is the container; the cabinet, but the content, the essential Jiva, is satchidananda atma. Similarly for Ishwara also we have got aspects of the container or superficial aspect of God, and then the essential inner nature of God; deha and dehi; Shariram and shariri; anatma and atma. Just as Jiva as a mixture of anatma and atma; Ishwara is also a mixture of both; saguna and nirguna svarupam. So Ishwara svarupam is

topic No.1.

2. **Upasana:** In prathama while karma yoga is shown as sharira pradhana; physical body is active in karma yoga; whereas upasana is mana pradhana, we are gradually going from the grosser instrument to the subtler instrument. In Karma yoga, you are heavily active serving the society, contributing through pancha maha yagnas; whereas in upasana, you learn to withdraw and focus; So saguna Ishvara dhyanam; upasana; this is the second topic.
3. **Grace of God** is an important factor. Ishwara kripa or anugraha is very important. Individual effort alone does not accomplish everything. So one should not be overconfident or arrogant about it. Over confidence means I can do anything. Then he faces failure. He then lapses into fatalism. Reality is, " I accomplish things through my effort boosted by grace of god." When we start our classes we say the dhyana shloka. It says that my effort boosted by god's grace is needed. Thus three aspects of Ishwara swaroopam, Ishwara Upasana and Ishwara Kripa were discussed.

Now moving on to chapter # 7, the first three shlokas are introductory.

Shloka # 1:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ७.१ ॥
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ७.१ ॥

With mind set on Me and dependent on Me and performing Yoga, O Arjuna! hear how you will know Me wholly without any doubt whatsoever.

Sri Krishna says, " if you follow my teachings, you will come to know Me". You will get Ishwara Gyanam. There are two aspects to discovering God. First, you will know me completely. I have two natures. A lower nature that is evident

in the bodies like Rama and Krishna.

The lower nature is the visible physical nature of God; like Rama shariram; Krishna shariram; which people worship as God. In fact majority of devotees when they think of God; they think only of God only in a particular form; particular body; that is why the dhyana shlokams describe the physical form alone. Sri Krishna says that the visible, tangible form, known as saguna svarupam is also my lower nature.

Saguna svarupam is however subject to arrival and departure. It is limited in space and time and is known as aparaprakriti. And Arjuna I have got a higher nature as well; which is invisible, intangible, eternal, all pervading nature, which is called the nirguna svarupam; paraparakriti; and only when you know both; saguna and nirguna svarupam; finite and the infinite nature of God; your Ishvara Gyanam is complete. And therefore through this chapter, I am going to give you both saguna and nirguna gyanam; only then your Ishvara Gyanam is complete.

Sri Krishna asks how am I going to teach? I will teach so that you are left without any doubts. What are the conditions you need to fulfill? You should have a desire to know Me; else you will be bored. You should have a desire to know if God is your destination. "I" or God must be your goal. Should God be my goal or moksha? God and moksha are identical. In the language of spirituality it is called moksha while in religion it is called Bhagawan.

Every person wants independence; wants security; wants ananda and wants peace. Therefore peace, security; fulfillment; these are the destinations of everyone.

God alone is ever secure. Anything finite is bound by time and space; anything bound by time and space is subject to fluctuations and destruction; even the stars cannot escape destruction; they might have a very long life; but you ask the

astronomers; they will say that even the Sun will collapse but in a few billion years!; therefore we are saved. But remember, the stars explode which is known as nova; and supernova; which indicates that anything finite is insecure; seeking security from finite thing is the most unintelligent approach; Even stars die eventually. Anything finite is insecure. So true security is available only in the infinite called bhagawan. So, it has a symbol in the form of Rama and Krishna etc. Infinite is called Bhagawan in Religion. Moksha and Bhagawan are synonymous.

If your mind is fixed on Me as the ultimate destination and you work, it is known as devotion. This condition one.

When you fulfill an earthly goal you get fulfillment but you start on another goal; as such they are only intermediary goals. Poornatvam alone gives you complete fulfillment.

Yoga in shloka means all the required sadhanas depending on my level. Thus all children cannot be admitted into the same class; depending upon the level of the student; he is admitted in the first standard or sixth standard etc. Therefore depending upon my need, I have to take to karma, or upasana, or sravanam; whatever is required and practice those relevant sadhanas **or put individual effort with the grace of God**. A devotee should not challenge God. Take refuge in God. Citing an example of a long train being hauled by two engines one in the front and another in the back. Spirituality is similarly an uphill climb and while you can be engine that is pulling you still need God's push. This God's push is bhakti.

Thus conditions imposed by Sri Krishna are:

- Keep God as destination.
- Do what you should or exert self-effort.
- Seek grace of God.

With these three you will attain Me. The secret of knowing Me is same as attaining Me.

Shloka # 2:

Exhaustively I shall set forth that knowledge together with its realization; once it is grasped, nothing more will remain to be known. 7.2

Exhaustively I shall set forth that knowledge together with its realization; once it is grasped, nothing more will remain to be known.

Sri Krishna continues with the introduction. In shloka # 1, he said you would get divine knowledge or saguna and nirguna Ishwara Gyanam.

Saguna Ishwara Gyanam is Dvaita Gyanam.

Nirguna Ishwara Gyanam is Vigyanam or advaita.

A secret: When a person is at Saguna Ishwara Gyanam, there is a difference between God and the individual.

At nirguna Ishwara Gyanam level the difference between God and individual is removed.

Citing example of wave and ocean, as long as you look at the wave and ocean; from the name and form standpoint; they are different; names are different; one is called wave; other is called ocean; forms are also different; wave has got a small wavy form; whereas ocean has got an ocean of vast magnitude; So when you observe at the name and form level you see the difference; but when you go to the essential nature of both; wave is essentially water; ocean is essentially water; or satchidananda; and you find that wave and water are no more distinct. Similarly saguna gyanam means bheda gyanam; nirguna Gyanam means abheda gyanam. Bheda means difference between God and Jiva; and abhedananda means oneness; thus Gyanam is equal to bheda gyanam.

Sri Krishna says I will give you this knowledge thoroughly.

What is the benefit of this knowledge? Having gained this

knowledge you have nothing more to know. All your intellectual questions are resolved. Samsara is experienced at three levels:

1. At the gross body level people for whom samsara is only at the physical level; they talk about their diseases; they talk about their old age; they talk about their death; their samsara is at the grossest body level.
2. At the emotional level they are not bothered about the physical condition; but they feel the emotional needs of life more; they say, I am very fine; my health is very good; my children take care of me very well; but they do not spend time with me; they do not even know whether I am alive or not.
3. At the intellectual level, such as quest of a scientist. He is intellectual. They have questions, regarding the creation; when did the creation come; when did the first human being come; how did life start; what is the individual; what is consciousness; etc.

Vedanta solves all three levels of fulfillment. it gives you emotional fulfillment; it gives you even intellectual fulfillment; you find all the fundamental questions regarding Jiva, Jagat and Ishvara get resolved.

Take away:

1. When you choose action you are also responsible for the results.
2. Hence the saying:

Watch your thoughts, it will become your words and actions;

Watch your words and actions; they become your habits;

Watch your habits, they become your character;

Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

3. By directing your thoughts in the present, you are ultimately determining your destiny.

Everything is decided by thought.

4. The law of karma says that the present is the result of the past; if that is true, the future is the result of the present action that you choose to do. You are responsible for your life.

With Best Wishes

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 31

Greetings All,

Ch 2, Anuvakhaha 5, Shloka # 2:

Of that, of the former, this one is verily is the embodied self. Different from this self made up of intellect (vignanamaya) is another self within., formed of bliss (anandamaya). By this, that is filled (by anandamaya the vignanamaya is full). It also has the shape of man. According to the human form of that, is the human form of this. Of it, joy (priya) is the right side, rejoicing (moda) is the left side, and bliss (pramoda) is the trunk. Brahman is the tail support. There is this vaidika verse about it.

Swamiji said we are in the middle of anuvakaha # 5 of Brahmanandavalli. We have gone from vignanamaya to anandamaya. Vignanamaya has now become a kosha. The moment you understand it is a kosha or anatma it means anatma is born out of atma. Vignanamaya is Karyam or it has nama and roopa. Thus, it is not a substantial entity. It only has a borrowed existence. It is Mithya. As such, it is as good as non-existent. This understanding in us is known as Pravilapanam or dissolution. Mithya is dissolved in satyam. Vignanamaya is dissolved in anandamaya.

What is the shape of anandamaya? It is in the container called Vignanamaya, which has the shape of manushya. Thus, anandamaya also is in the shape of the manushya. Anandamaya does not have a shape of its own as such it borrows its shape from the container. Thus of all the Koshas only annamaya has its own shape, all others borrow from annamaya.

Now coming to the factors, anandamaya atma's head is priyam. Priyam means happiness. It's right hand side is Moda. Moda means more happiness. Its left hand side is Pramoda. Pramoda means highest happiness.

How to understand these three terms of happiness being used? It is like happy, happier and happiest. Citing an example: You go to a restaurant and see gulabjamun on menu. You like gulabjamun. The pleasure of seeing gulabjamun is priyam, also known as Ishta darshanaja sukham.

Now you order the gulabjamun and it is brought to you. This owning of object of desire is known as Moda or Ishta grahanaja sukham. Then, when you finally taste the gulabjamun you obtain Pramoda or Ishta anubhavajam sukham. This is highest pleasure when the object of desire and one who desires it, become one. Swamiji says, the food and you become one, reflecting advaita. All these three experiential pleasures are anandamaya. The word maya means it is subject to change. Thus all conditional pleasures are anandamaya. Now the Upanishad says, anandamaya

is not atma.

In case of anandamaya there are only three factors instead of the normal five. In fact anandamaya is also not the real atma. The real atma is anandaha. The suffix maya is not added to it. Ananda is the non-fluctuating pleasure, the real atma. It is not a changing, experiential pleasure. Once I know ananda is atma then anandamaya also becomes a kosha. Thus all experiential pleasures are anatma. They are subject to arrival and departure. Thus, they have nama and roopa as well. This anandamaya is a mithya. It is also known as kosha ananda.

Then, what is atma-ananda? It is not an object of experience. It has to be understood as myself. Not only is it myself, it has the support of (pucha) in Brahman. Really speaking the Brahman is only an apparent support rather than a real one. Citing an example, Swamiji says, it is like saying outer space is the support of inner space in a pot. Really speaking outer and inner space is one and the same. It is only a superficial difference.

How do we know that Brahman seemingly supports that atmananda? In beginning of this chapter Brahman was defined as Satyam, Gyanam and Anantam. From this Brahman the creation comes into being. Brahman and Atma are identical.

What is the difference between anandamaya kosha and atmananda?

Anandamaya is an object while atmananda is the subject.

Koshanada is subject to change while atmananda is my self with no arrival or departure.

How can I experience atmanada? Whatever I experience is koshananda. "I" am the experiencer, not the experience.

How can I see my own original eye?

I can never see my own original eye. Even in a mirror we see only the reflected eye. Reflected eye is visible, while

original eye is not. Reflected eye can come and go with the mirror while original eye does not change. Even the mirrors reflective quality can change the reflection. The original eye has no arrival or departure.

If original eye cannot be seen and I can see only the reflected eye; if so, what is the proof of the original eye?

The very experience of the reflected eye is proof of the original eye. Every experiential experience is proof of atmananda. So, who am I? I am Satyam, Gyanam, Anantam and Anandaha.

Now the Rig mantra comes in.

Ch 2, anuvakaha # 6,shloka #1:

If he knows Brahman as non-existent, he becomes himself non-existent. If he knows Brahman as existent, then (they) the world knows him to be existent. Of the former (anandamaya kosa), the Self is the essence.

The Rig mantra talks about a serious problem faced by Vedantic students. The student understands annamaya, pranamaya, manomaya, vignanamaya, anandamaya and now seeks the experience of atmananda as well. In general we all wish to seek to experience the objects we come in contact with.

While Atmananda is eternal, I am seeking for the arrival of the eternal atmananda. How can I look for experience of eternal atmananda? Even in Nirvikalpa Samadhi, ananda goes away when you come out of Samadhi and you feel pain. Highest mystic pleasure is really koshananda. Atmananda, you never experience. Students are not able to accept this fact. This is a universal problem. We conceptualize everything. Our study of Vedanta is often an intellectual exercise.

Nastika is one who says Brahmananda is not a subject of experience. Suppose a person negates Brahmananda, it is

equivalent to negating himself. Because, Brahmananda is Yourself. Most contradictory statement is, " I am not existent". Therefore, never negate existence of Brahman. Accept Brahmananda is existence even though it can't be experienced. There is only one thing in creation that is without objectification. It is, "I am". He himself is existence.

There is another meaning to this shloka as well. Suppose a man says Brahman is not existent, Shankaracharya says, such a person is adharmic. It is adharmic because he can't have Brahmgyanam as a goal in his life. For such a person all shastras are redundant. The very purpose of dharma shastras is to prepare one for Brahma gyanam.

In a society that values only money and entertainment, god does not exist. Such a society has no dharmic values. Such a society is exclusively focused on artha and kama.

In our culture artha and kama are perfectly acceptable until one reaches his middle age at around 40 or 50 years of age. After that one's goal is pursuit of god.

Materialists thus become asurah's. Asu means organs and raha means protector. One who protects his organs for long life. Asuraha is also called Asata.

On the other hand if one believes in Brahman, then Chitta shuddhi and Gyanam become important. He is a spiritual person. He is called a Suraha. Chapter 16 of the Gita discusses asura's and sura's.

If a family is only into material pleasures then it can become separated very easily through divorces, remarriages and inter-racial marriages. In India, family was strong although the trend is changing. In all stages of life family is required when the goal is dharma and moksha. So, accept Brahman. One day you will understand that Brahman is " I am".

Now the Yajurveda Upanishad has completed Pancha Kosha. This is pancha kosha viveka.

In the beginning three questions were raised. They were:

- 1) What is Brahman?
- 2) How to know Brahman?
- 3) What do you mean by knowing the greatest?

We have discussed what is Brahman and how to know Brahman. Now we move to discussing the third question.

However, before answering the third question, a student interrupts with a question. Questions related to a topic being taught are known as Anu-Prashna. We will discuss this first

Baghawat Geeta, Class 98: Chapter 6, Verses 43 to 47

Shloka # 43:

तस्मिन् काले तस्मिन् शरीरे तस्मिन् शरीरे तस्मिन् शरीरे
तस्मिन् काले तस्मिन् शरीरे तस्मिन् शरीरे तस्मिन् शरीरे 6.43

There he acquires memory of the ideas relating to his previous body, and he labors harder, O Bharata prince! to achieve perfection.

Continuing his teaching of the Gita, Swami Paramarthananda said, in spite of Sri Krishna's encouragement Arjuna became pessimistic with respect to his own spiritual journey. He understood that this journey requires knowledge and purification of the mind. He feels he cannot master his own

mind. Mind is after all the most difficult thing to master. That is why victory over mind is considered the greatest victory. Sri Krishna says it is a pre-requisite for gyanam. Arjuna feels he will never be able to obtain it, certainly not in this lifetime. Therefore, he has already started thinking of his preparations for the next life. It is like children who take an exam and know they have not done well, thinking of taking the exam again.

Yogabhrashta is spiritual failure. Sri Krishna has started answering Arjuna's question in shlokas 40 through 45. He points out that a person on this path has no fall at all. Shankaracharya says, once spiritual teaching is received, it cannot be destroyed. There, however, maybe a stage of temporary stagnation. It is like the glowing ember covered by ashes, even with a little fanning the fire comes back. So also such a seekers' spiritual vasanas come back to life. He picks up the thread in his next life. Spiritual failure of this janma becomes spiritual genius in next janma.

Even if one has failed in spiritual life in this life, he will still get swarga. Then he comes back in another birth to pursue spiritual life. Spiritual life can be clearly obtained only in two lokas. They are Manushya loka and Brahma Loka. If so, why not all go to Brahma Loka? Shankaracharya says going to Brahma Loka is very difficult. Getting manushya loka is also not easy. In manushya loka he or she gets the ideal continuation of his spiritual journey.

How does this continuation occur?

First, an environment for scriptural study should be available. Second, I should have an interest in such a study. Yoga Bhrashta will have both in next life, the environment and inclination. In that ideal environment (India is ideal for spirituality) the spiritual inclination arrives early in a yoga bhrashta. Swamji says any genius in any field (music, science, arts) was a bhrashta in his previous life. At death,

jiva takes poorva vasanas with it to the next birth. His inclination towards materialistic world is less. He cannot explain his own inclination other than attribute it to his poorva janma vasana.

Once he has the inclination he can't take this new life for granted. He has to use his free will to promote spirituality. This inclination has to be nourished. Therefore, the Yogabhrashta strives more and more in this new life. Due to his vasanas his effort is considerably reduced. Success of his spiritual journey is assured even with lesser effort.

Shloka # 44:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ६.४४ ॥
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ६.४४ ॥

Though not a master of himself, he is attracted by his prior discipline. Even he who desires to know about Yoga goes beyond the sphere of Vedic injunctions.

How does this spiritual inclination express itself? Where ever and whenever spirituality is practiced in any form, he has an automatic interest in it. He is helplessly drawn to it. Parents often discourage a child's inclination in this area. They don't understand that child's attraction is due to his or her vasanas. Sri Aurobindo is a good example.

They say of Aurobindo that his parents did not want him to be in Indian culture at all; they liked the western culture; therefore he was given western education and sent to England; and to a materialistic atmosphere. There he comes in contact with people who are working for the freedom of India and he gets associated with those people, and he begins to feel and if I am working for the freedom of my motherland, should I not know about India, what is its culture, what is its history; philosophy and he gradually gets sucked into it and he comes to freedom struggle and goes to Pondicherry and becomes a yogi.

Therefore, if the spiritual fire is there; nobody can stop; and if the spiritual fire is not there; whatever you do it will not work.

People who don't have the spiritual fire within them, should be allowed to follow their materialistic tendencies. Encourage them to worship god. **Spiritual maturity is an evolution, not a revolution.**

Due to his vasanas, a yogabhrashta, starts his interest in spirituality as a casual (hobby) student. But his fire catches on later. Spiritual fires are of three types: karpura buddhi (camphor), Kari buddhi (coal) and vazhathandu buddhi (banana trunk).

He becomes a camphor student. He transcends shabda brahma or karma kanda. Karma kanda is finite result. He transcends anitya phalam and obtains nithya phalam or moksha.

Shloka # 45:

योगभ्रष्टो यो यथा
योगभ्रष्टो यो यथा
योगभ्रष्टो यो यथा 6.45

The Yogin who strives hard and who has been perfected in the course of many lives attains the supreme goal, all his sins having been washed away.

What happens to Yogabhrashta in the present life (as a spiritual genius)? How does he feel the advantage of his vasanas? Sri Krishna says, he is free from impurities; he has a shudha antahakarana or mental purity.

How does mental purity express itself?

In chapter # 5, in the beginning, this topic is discussed. **His natural inclination towards spirituality shows his mental purity.**

How did he get it? Is God partial to him? This advantage he

enjoys because he has obtained it from his many, many past lives. He has clarity about life's purpose. He is not hoodwinked by materialistic goals.

Therefore, being an evolved person, he requires very limited effort in this life. His spiritual journey is a most enjoyable one. He effortlessly reaches his destination of moksha. He enjoys following Shruti-viddhi.

Shloka #46:

योगीश्वरोऽपि श्रेष्ठो तपसोऽपि श्रेष्ठो
वेदोऽपि श्रेष्ठो योगीश्वरोऽपि श्रेष्ठो 6.46

The Yogi is superior to the performance of austerities; he is deemed superior even to the knower of the Vedas; he excels those who do works. Therefore, O Arjuna! be a Yogi.

With the previous shloka Sri Krishna's answers to Arjunas's question is complete. Arjuna need not be pessimistic. Just listening to Gita gets him swarga. The question is raised, if a person has a past dosha (Sanchita karma) what happens to a Yoga bhrashta? His spiritual samskara is so strong that they keep poorva doshas at bay. They are not destroyed, as one needs gyanam to destroy past karmas, but they are kept at bay. So, don't worry about sanchita papam. Don't be pessimistic. Don't ask, when will I get moksha? Rather, enjoy the spiritual journey.

In next two shlokas Sri Krishna comes back to meditation. Here he glorifies Vedantic meditation. He also glorifies the meditator. He says, among all sadhakas the Vedantic meditator is the greatest one.

Yogi's are of four kinds.

1) Tapasvi: He is an upsaka, a saguna yogi;

2) Gyani: One who has gone through sravanam and mananam;

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 30

Greetings All,

Chapter 2, Anuvakaha # 4, Shloka # 2:

Different from that made up of mind (manas) is another inner soul made up of intelligence (Vignana) and by that this (manomaya-self) is filled. It also has the shape of man. According to the human shape of the previous, is the human shape of this one. Faith (sraddha) is its head, righteousness (Rtam) its right side, Truth (satyam) its left side, Yoga is the trunk and total intellect (mahah) is the tail and support. There is this following Vaidika verse about it.

We are now in anuvakaha # 4 of Brahmanadavalli. The Upanishad has entered Vignanamaya kosha. Initially it (manomaya) is still looked as atma, later as anatma. Once we accept vignanamaya as atma manomaya then becomes its container or deha while Vignanamaya is the dehi.

Knowledge (vignanamaya) does not have a shape. It assumes shape of manomaya or assumes manushya akara.

Once we accept manushya akara then the five factors come into play and they are the head, the right side, the left side, the central part and the support.

The knower principle Vignanamaya is the cause of deliberate

action. A man first knows something's, then he chooses one of them and he works towards accomplishing it. One cannot take an unknown thing as a goal. This is a process we perform lifelong. Pramatha, the knower becomes Karta. Shradha, faith in Vedas, guides him to spiritual knowledge. Spiritual knowledge requires shastra pramanam. If you spend a lot of time and effort on the spiritual it requires knowledge of religion. This religion or spirituality requires shastra pramanam. This comes only from shradha in religion/spirituality.

Heaven or hell has no scientific proof. There is no proof of Pitr puja reaching ancestors. Concepts of punyam, papam, and moksha are all only coming from shastra pramanam.

Mind, different from brain, is not accepted by science. End of brain is not end of mind. Mind is sukshmam, while brain is sthulam, per shastras. However, there is no proof of this.

Therefore, one who does not have an appropriate attitude towards religion cannot accept all these facts. Thus spiritual life requires gyanam and faith in validity of scriptures.

Science too believes in blind faith. They feel sense organs are the only valid way to know sense objects. We, however, believe in non-worldly knowledge of shastras.

Science believes in sense organs because it works. For supra worldly wisdom, belief in shastra works.

We are not insisting you have shradha. Without faith in the eye, you cannot walk even a single step. This faith helps me.

Shradha is head. Ritum is right hand. Sensory perceptions must be understood correctly. As an example: Senses report earth is stationary while the reality is that earth is rotating at a high speed. It is not terra firma. The eyes show stars as small while the reality is that they are several times larger than earth. So, illusion is possible. So, interpretation is

required. Scriptural illusion too must be corrected. Mananam after sravanam is performed to correct this illusion. Ritu is right side.

Satyam is utara paksha. Knowledge is not enough. As per Karma kanda knowledge is useful only when implemented.

Therefore, knowledge is incomplete without practice. **Practice of Vedic teaching is Satyam.**

Atma is the central part is known as Yogaha. Yoga means leading a focused life style. The focus should be on life's end goal or moksha. First get gyana yogyata then get gyanam.

Don't lose track of goal. Once in a while perform a check on your course to see if it needs correction. Most people get lost in the complexity of samsara. That is why 41 samskaras are prescribed to be performed by the Vedas. From birth, marriage, deaths etc. are all rituals that remind you of your goal. This constant awareness is Yogaha.

Support is mahaha or samashti Vignanamaya or Hiranyagarbha. Every action has to be supported by God. Sri Krishna says, every organ functions only when supported by the Devata of the organ. Hiranyagarbha is the overarching Devata.

Five factors are now mentioned for Vignanamaya. There is now the Rig mantra glorifying Vignanamaya.

Ch 2, Anuvakhaha 5, shloka # 1 and part of Shloka # 2:

Knowledge performs the sacrifices and it is the real agent of all the physical activities. All the "gods" worship Knowledge as Brahman, the eldest. If a man knows Brahman as knowledge and if he does not swerve from it, he attains all desires and comes to abandon all the sins of the body.

We are entering anuvakaha # 5 with the Rig mantra.

This Vignanamaya atma is the karta. This knowing, judging, fixing capacity called "I" becomes aware of a program. Then

Viveka chooses and directs me to the program. Hence Vignanamaya is important. Animals don't have this capacity. It makes humans different from all beings. Vignanamaya atma, the karta atma, alone performs all vaidic upsanas (karmas). Once scriptures go out adrishya pradhana karmas go religion also goes. This happens in inter-caste marriages, when religion and tradition are thrown out of the door. No gothra is required for such a marriage. When marriage is dharma moksha pradhana, couple has a different approach to marriage.

Vignanamaya karma also performs all non-scriptural activities like working for earning etc. Therefore, Vignanamaya is laukika Vaidika (common religion). So, meditate upon this vignanamaya atma. Even Gods meditate on this atma. This knowledgeable one performs the actions. How do they meditate? They meditate on Samashti Hiranyagarbha, the first-born Vignanamaya.

Hiranyagarbha is responsible for rest of creation. Hiranyagarbha is Brahman and he comes out of the navel of Ishwara. Vyashti-Samashti Upsana is to be performed.

The benefits of this upasana are:

- Sakama: Suppose a person performs meditation on Vignanamaya Samashti aikyam through out his life then he will drop all papams born out of individuality, even as he drops his body. Gita, in chapter # 8, says **whatever you constantly think of at time of death, you reach that after death.** This upasana drops all papa karmas. He gets only punyam. He gets Brahma Loka. He. However, cannot get moksha, as he still needs gyanam for that.
- Nishkama karma: Chitta shudhi, expansion of mind and focus of mind all improve. Individuality is dropped in meditation. It dilutes the ego by visualizing totality. If I prepare long enough I will be prepared for anandamaya atma, the next step.

What is advantage of Brahma Loka? This loka has all possible material pleasures one can think of. The environment, objects and instruments are all ideal. The Rig mantra is complete with this.

The Yajur mantra takes over now.

Here person values knowledge. People who were involved in India's freedom struggles, their Vignanamaya atma was strong. This is Vignanamaya abhimana topic. Now we are entering next sheath of ananda maya or Karana shariram.

Ch 2, Anuvakhaha 5, Shloka # 2:

Of that, of the former, this one is verily is the embodied self. Different from this self made up of intellect (vignanamaya) is another self within., formed of bliss (anandamaya). By this, that is filled (by anandamaya the vignanamaya is full). It also has the shape of man. According to the human form of that, is the human form of this. Of it, joy (priya) is the right side, rejoicing (moda) is the left side, and bliss (pramoda) is the trunk. Brahman is the tail support. There is this vaidika verse about it.

We are entering the subtler layer. Really speaking Vignanamaya is not the atma. Atma is different. Atma is now anandamaya. It is the real atma. Where is it located?

It is within vignanamaya. With this vignanamaya becomes anatma or a kosha. Every thing including anatma is born out of atma. Vignanamaya is Karyam or it has nama and roopa. Thus, it is not a substantial entity. It only has a borrowed existence. It is Mithya. As such, it is as good as non-existent. This understanding in us is known as Pravilapanam or dissolution. Mithya is dissolved in satyam. Vignanamaya is dissolved in anandamaya. Microcosm is dissolved in macro cosm. Macrocosm also gets resolved.

Take away

1. Gita, in chapter # 8, says whatever you constantly think of at time of death, you reach that after death.
2. Practice of Vedic teaching is Satyam.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Baghawat Geeta, Class 97: Chapter 6, Verses 37 to 43

Greetings All,

Shloka # 37:

संन्यासो योगो वा
योगो संन्यासो वा
संन्यासो योगो वा योगो संन्यासो वा 6.37

Arjuna said:

What fate, Krishna! is in store for the lax practitioner of Yoga whose mind is rich in faith but who fails to reach perfection in Yoga?

Continuing his teaching of the Gita, Swami Paramarthananda said, Sri Krishna has comprehensively discussed all aspects of Vedantic meditation, which has to be practiced after a thorough study of Vedantic scriptures. Nowhere else is meditation discussed in such great detail. For this reason alone Chapter 6 is an important chapter. He has also talked about obstacles to meditation including mental distraction and

its remedy. To succeed in meditation one has to develop Vairagyam or detachment. Without Vairagyam meditation is not possible. Without meditation an assimilation of teaching does not take place. Without assimilation of teaching one cannot obtain mukti. Hence Vairagyam is very important, per scriptures. Now Arjuna seeing himself wonders if he can ever get Vairagyam. He becomes pessimistic about obtaining moksha in this life. Swamiji says this is a universal problem. Every seeker becomes pessimistic, at some point or other, wondering, "Can I ever obtain moksha in this life?" **Pessimism is a common obstacle for every seeker.**

Arjuna has identified with majority of people and thus presents his problem. Shlokas 37, 38 and 39 respectively deal with Arjuna's pessimism. After shloka # 37, Arjuna asks what happens to a person who comes to Gyana yoga without going through Karma marga. In this process such a person faces obstacles and is not able to complete the path of knowledge. It is not due to lack of faith but mainly because of obstacles that he is not able to obtain moksha. His is a situation of incomplete effort although he had the faith.

So ayathihi means alpa prayathnah; a person of incomplete effort; not because of lack of faith, faith is there; sincerity is there; but because of obstacle, one could not get Gyanam. And, therefore, naturally, gyana phalam of moksha he could not attain. Then at least should have attained the karma phalam of svarga. Arjuna feels that he would not get karma phalam also, because he left the karma and spend the karma time for Gyana; with the hope of getting a higher result; I do not want svarga and came to moksha; and svarga he dropped and moksham also he did not get; which is called typical trishanku.

Trishanku left the earth for the sake of attaining heaven and he was not granted entry in the svarga loka, and therefore he came down and Vishvamitra said do not come here and go up and Vishvamitra pushing up,

Arjuna! neither in this world nor in the world to be does he come to ruin; for no evil betides the doer of good, My son!

First of all, consoling Arjuna, Sri Krishna says, "don't worry". Then he elaborates. Suppose a man comes to gyana yoga, the Vedanta sravanam alone gives him two benefits:

- Mukhya phalam, primary benefit and
- Avantara phalam, secondary benefit or by-product

Explaining the two phalams, when you plant a mango tree; the primary benefit you expect is mango fruit; but there are so many by-products, you get the shade of the tree; and the temperature will be lesser; the roots of the tree retain some water; and therefore in the surrounding area, there is more coolness.

Mukhya phalam: If a person has all required qualifications, he will get gyanam and punyam. If he does not have sufficient qualifications, he will just get the secondary phalam of punyam alone. **In chapter # 18, Sri Krishna says even if a person listens to Gita , without understanding it, it produces punyam.** It is similar to sahasra nama japa. Punyam here means one gets swargam.

Oh Partha: for a Gyana margi, a person who has come to shastra sravanam, there is no downfall at all either in this janma or after death; there is no question of spiritual fall. What is the reason? Because such a person happens to be mangala-karta, he is doing a noble action, even listening to Gita is a mangala karma, which

Sri Krishna called in the fourth chapter, as Gyana yagna.

Even though no homa kunda is involved; even though no oblations are involved; this Gyana yagna will give as much punyam as any other vaidika karma; and that punyam is the minimum result that one will get. But if he has got qualification, he would not require this punyam; because

In the new life he will use all his prosperity for spiritual growth. He will perform more of nishkama karma; he can do more of service because dharma is there in the mind; money is there; when dharma and artha come together, he will use all the money for noble activities; nishkama karma will be more and all those karmas will give him more purity and sadhana chatushtaya sampathi. In the purva janma he failed because of his incomplete qualifications; now all those qualifications will be completed in the next janma and he will be ready for Gyanam.

Now, Sri Krishna gives a second possibility although it is a rare one.

Shloka # 42:

योगिनो यो जन्मते योगिनो यो जन्मते
योगिनो यो जन्मते योगिनो यो जन्मते 6.42

Or , he is born in a family of wise yogins. This sort of birth , however, is far rarer in the world.

He is born to a Gyani, although they may not be in prosperity. Not born in prosperity here means they lead a very simple life. **When there is Gyanam, poverty is not a curse.**

It will be considered as an ideal thing for following tapas. You do not have to specially practice sanyasa; because you have to have something to renounce; therefore I need not work for sanyasa. Being born to Yogi's he need not go in search of a guru as well.

Fewer possessions mean less to worry about.

Thus, such a birth, as child of a gyani, is a rare one. It is rare because Gyanis themselves are rare and a grihasta gyani is rarer still.

The next question was: Will I start my spiritual sadhanas from scratch again or is it a continuation of my knowledge into the

next birth?

Sri Krishna says, "You will be born with spiritual knowledge of the previous birth." He is thus a spiritual genius. So, a spiritual genius was probably a Yoga Brashta in his previous birth.

Shloka # 43:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ६.४३ ॥
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ ६.४३ ॥

There he acquires memory of the ideas relating to his previous body, and he labors harder, O Bharata prince! to achieve perfection.

In the new birth, in a prosperous family or Gyani's family, this jiva gets associated with spiritual gains of his previous birth.

Why is it so?

As per shastras, between the two janmas, body is different but not the mind. While body dies, the mind does not. Sukshma shariram does not die.

A mother gives birth to a body but not the mind. Every child comes into this world with his or her own Vasanas. In the early years the vasanas remain dormant but manifest themselves in later years.

How do you know a child is a spiritual genius? From its inclinations. In Vedanta class's people who attend are of various age groups, young and old. Age is of the body, not the mind. Gyana Vrudha (old) is a mature person. Body is 15 but Gyanam maybe 95 years old.

Take away:

1. Pessimism is a common obstacle for every seeker. Will I

- ever get moksha in this life?
2. In chapter # 18, Sri Krishna says even if a person listens to Gita without understanding it, it produces punyam.
 3. If one is born in poverty, one does not have time for spirituality.
 4. When there is Gyanam, poverty is not a curse. Poverty here means leading a simple life.
 5. A mother gives birth to a body but not the mind. Every child comes into this world with his or her own vasanas.

With Best Wishes

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 29

Greetings All,

Chapter 2, Anuvaka 3, shloka 2:

Of that former annamaya, this pranamaya is the atman. Different from this pranamaya-self made up of pranas, there is another self constituted of the mind. With that self, made of mind, the pranamaya is full. This is also of the form of man. Its human form is according to that of the former. Of it, Yajus is the head, Rk is right side, Saman is the left side, the scriptural injunction (adesa) is the trunk and the group of hymns of Atharva -Vada is the tail and support. There is

the following Vaidika verse about it.

We are in anuvakaha # 3 of Brahmanadavalli. The Upanishad has entered Pancha Kosha Viveka. This viveka is supposed to sensitize the mind. Mind has to become very sensitive. Citing an example: An axe is used to cut a tree; a blade is used to shave your face; the blade is subtler than the axe. A laser is used in eye surgery; it is an even more sensitive instrument. Thus sensitivity of instrument depends on subtlety of operation. Here, for understanding the atma, something inconceivable, the mind has to be very subtle. The subtlety of mind has to develop gradually. Thus, we started from annamaya and went to pranamaya; or from anatomy to physiology. Physiology is not tangible. Thus, functioning of eye can only be detected by testing it and not by a direct check. Pranamaya is thus subtler than annamaya.

Upanishad has made Pranamaya the Atma now. So we have to dwell on Prana. A Rig mantra was used to tell us this. Every physical body is a bead and through every body the life principle passes through. It is that which makes us alive and is called Sutra upasanam. If one practices this upsana two benefit accrue.

Sakama Upsana: One gets a long life.

Nishkama Upasana: One gets Chitta shudhi, Chitta Ekagrata, Chitta Vishalata. The mind becomes sensitive enough to go to next layer called manomaya.

In shloka # 2 we are also now entering manomaya. Really speaking Pranamaya is not atma. The atma is actually monomaya. Where is manomaya located? It is within pranamaya. With this pranamaya becomes anatma or a kosha. Every thing including anatma is born out of atma. Pranamaya is Karyam or it has nama and roopa. Thus, it is not a substantial entity. It only has a borrowed existence. It is Mithya. As such, it is as good as non-existent. This understanding in us is known as

Pravilapanam or dissolution. Mithya is dissolved in satyam. Pranamaya is dissolved in manomaya.

Another important point to note in this meditation is that we are practicing annamaya and samashti annam aikyam. Then we practice pranamaya and samashti prana aikyam. It shows Vyashti and Samashti aikyam at every level. The resolution of microcosmic also results in resolution of the macrocosmic.

Now, we are at manomaya. This manomaya (the content) fills pranamaya kosha (the container). What is shape of manomaya? Manas does not have a shape of its own. It is like water. It assumes the shape of container. It takes shape of pranamaya. Now, pranamaya also has no shape of its own. So annamaya lends shape to pranamaya. Pranamaya in turn lends shape to manomaya. Thus, manomaya atma has manushya akara. It is a borrowed akara.

Once this is accepted, Manomaya has five factors. Atma is the head as Yajur Veda mantra. Rig Veda mantra is right hand side or south side. Sama Mantra is left hand side. Scriptural injunctions also known as adesha or Vidhi vakya, is the trunk. Atharvana Veda mantra is the tail and thus the support.

Shankaracharya says, Atharvana Veda is meant for health wealth etc. They provide Iha Loka Phalam. Whatever your goal is in life, one has to take care of health. Money, health, mental health's are all important. Before going for adrishta phalam one has to obtain drishta phalam.

Shankaracharya now discusses a specific problem in this shloka. In annamaya its five factors are an intrinsic part of annamaya. In Pranamaya the five factors are also part of pranamaya. However in Manomaya the five factors are Vedas that are external to manomaya. How have outside factors become part of manomaya atma?

Answering his own question, shankaracharya says, Vedas are wisdom in form of thought or manovrithi. Rig mantra is Rig

manovrithi. In Vedas, thought is converted to sound and then re-communicated as a thought. Every mantra is Vrithi; it is converted to sound and then thought. Thus Yajur, Rig, Sama are all Vrithi's (thoughts). Therefore Rig mantra is on right side and Sama on left etc. Vrithis are a part of manomaya atma.

Last line of this shloka says with respect to manomaya atma there is a Rig mantra.

Chapter 2, Anuvakaha # 4, Shloka # 1: Rig mantra.

Whence all speech turns back with the mind without reaching It (The eternal truth or Brahman). He who knows the bliss of eternal truth, the Brahman, fears not at any time. This mind is the embodied soul of the pranamaya. Of this pranamaya the manomaya is the Self.

Now we are entering anuvakaha # 4, shloka # 1, a Rig mantra. The mantra starts at Yato and ends at Kadachaneti.

Here the upasana is a Vyashti samashti Upsana. The goal is Vyashti samashti aikyam.

Hiranyagarbha (brahman) is total manomaya. This is glorification of Hiranyagarbha. He being Samashti or the total, individual mind cannot conceive of it. Hiranyagarbha is inconceivable to the mind. Vyashti cannot measure Samashti. Hiranyagarbha is embodiment of highest ananda (brahmanada). This ananda is meditated upon. Samashti hiranyagarbha in Vyashti Manomaya is meditated upon.

The benefits of Manomaya meditation are:

1. Sakama: The person will not have any fear at all. Hiranyagarbha gives him highest security in relative terms as possible.
2. Nishkama karma: Gives Chitta shuddhi, Chitta Ekagrata and Chitta Vishalata. Mind becomes sensitive enough to go to the next step.

This manomaya atma is called sharira atma. Annamaya and pranamaya are respectively shariram or the Deha while manomaya is the Dehi.

Chapter 2, Anuvakaha # 4, Shloka # 2:

Different from that made up of mind (manas) is another inner soul made up of intelligence (Vignana) and by that this (manomaya-self) is filled. It also has the shape of man. According to the human shape of the previous, is the human shape of this one. Faith (sraddha) is its head, righteousness (Rtam) its right side, Truth (satyam) its left side, Yoga is the trunk and total intellect (mahah) is the tail and support. There is this following Vaidika verse about it.

Here Upanishad is taking us to the next step or layer. Manomaya is not really the atma. The Atma is Vignanamaya atma. Where is this atma located? It is located within manomaya. Thus, now, manomaya has become an anatma.

Manomaya becomes a Karyam. Anatma is always a product. Whatever is a product is only a nama and roopa. Thus, Karyam is only a nama and roopa. Therefore, anatma is called mithya as it depends on something else. **Anatma has only a borrowed existence;** it does not have its own existence. As such it is as good as non-existence. Therefore, manomaya does not exist. This is known as Pravailapanam or the intellectual denial of the existence of manomaya. Manomaya atma is swallowed. Vyashti and Samashti are both resolved in the process.

Vignanamaya also has Manushya akara. It is a borrowed akara from manomaya. Thus Vignanamaya is in a manushya container.

The five factors of Vignanamaya or knowledge are now defined. Knowledge is required for karma. Manas stands for doubts. Thus, the more subtle knowledge destroys doubts.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy