



ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ १०.३६ ॥

**Of tricksters I am the game of dice; of the vigorous I am vigor; I am victory, I am resolution; of the virtuous, I am virtue.**

### **Dhyutam:**

Among those activities that rob us of our discriminative powers, I am gambling. Gambling makes one addicted. Kalidevata resides in several places and deludes human minds says, Bhagavan. In entire Mahabharata the message is that if we are not careful, gambling can suck us down. Dharmaputra got hooked on it and lost his sense of propriety and lost his wife and brothers. He knew Dharma and yet lost his balance. In our younger days parents used to tell us not to play cards because of this.

### **Tejas:**

I am internal brilliance amongst all brilliant people. Brilliance is one who resists temptations. It is easier to say no the first time as it becomes more difficult later. Therefore I am that brilliant discrimination that resists temptations.

### **Satva:**

I am Satva guna among Satvic people. I am the satva guna, which represents spiritual inclination; rajo guna represents materialistic inclination; Artha-kama inclination is caused by rajo guna; Dharma moksha inclination is caused by satva guna; and tamo guna obstructs our inclination for both of them; tamo guna makes a person lazy with neither materialistic inclination, nor spiritual inclination.

Scriptures say Tamasic **person must cultivate material desires and then go to Spiritual desires.** That spiritual desire is

Satva Guna.

**Vyavasayaha:** means prayatna or effort. This effort is to fulfill spiritual desires. Thus Pancha Maha Yagna is important for Chitta Shuddhi. It is industry as a character of mind where I will lead one to victory or success.

Thus, Satva Guna triggers Vyavsayaha victory. I am That. If we get spiritual success we should not be arrogant as even that is due to the Lord. Pull of free will should be backed by Ishwara anugraha.

**Shloka # 37:**

Among members of the Vrsni clan, I am Vasudeva; among  
pandavas, I am Arjuna. Among the contemplative sages, I am  
Vyasa; among the seers, I am seer Usnaha. **10.37**

**Among members of the Vrsni clan, I am Vasudeva; among  
pandavas, I am Arjuna. Among the contemplative sages, I am  
Vyasa; among the seers, I am seer Usnaha.**

Among descendants of Vrishni's (Yadava Vamsha) I am Vasudeva.  
One of Sri Krishna's names is Varshneya.

Why does he claim he is greatest here; because Sri Krishna is an avatara of God. Why is Sri Krishna most glorious among avataras? In Sri Krishna avatara alone God performs as a liberating Acharya, as Jagat Guru. Therefore Sri Krishna's teaching of the Bhagavat Gita is one of the three main textbooks of Vedanta shastra. These three books are known as Prasthanaya Trayam. First one, the Upanishads, is called the shruti prasthanaya; the second one is bhagavad Gita called the smrti prasthanam; and the third one is brahma sutras, the nyaya prasthanam.

The Gita, even now is fresh and valid; it is not an obsolete textbook; rather it is a valid teaching; and since Krishna is the Gitacharya, he is the greatest one.

Among Pandavas I am Arjuna himself. Why is Arjuna the greatest

and not Dharmaputra? If Gita is the gretest shastra, Arjuna was the first receiver of this greatest teaching. He got teaching from Narayana himself. Why was Arjuna chosen for giving Gita teaching? Several reasons are given but most obvious one is that Arjuna asked Sri Krishna for the teaching.

Among Muni's, I am Vyasa Acharya. Why so? Sri Krishna is the greatest Acharya as he is a brahma vidya acharya. Among prastahna Trayam one contribution is by Sri Krishna and other of the Brahma sutra is by Vyasa. Vyasa, within Mahabharata, did even the compilation of Gita. He contributed to both Gita and Brahma sutra. During amaniavattam tarpanam there is a prayer offered to Krishnadvaipayana or Vyasa. Therefore, among Rishis, I am Vyasa. He got name Vyasa as he compiled the Vedas as well. He called four disciples and asked for their assistance. Vyasa's original name was Krishnadvaipayana; he was also called Vedavyasa and thus became known as Vyasa.

Among great seers, who can see all three kalas, I am Shukracharya; or Usana, the asura guru. Here Kavi does not mean a poet rather he is a Kranta darshi or one with ESP; who sees beyond sense organs.

### **Shloka # 38:**

दण्डो दण्डितेषु तेषु विजयस्योक्तो  
सुप्तोऽस्योक्तोऽस्योक्तोऽस्योक्तोऽस्योक्तो 10.38

**Of those who chastise, I am the rod; of those who seek victory, I am the tactics. Of secrets, I am the silence, and of the learned, I am knowledge.**

Among disciplinarians or orderliness, I am Danda, the rod of punishment. The process of discipline can include: Requesting, education and punishment. Sri Krishna says generally people are immature and gross; and therefore education, good words, etc. do not work; generally, what works is, dandah or punishment.



others are saguna Ishvara vibhuthi; vibhuthi means mahima.

**Shloka # 40:**

शुद्धं शक्तिं मे नान्यथा शक्तिं विदुः शक्तिं  
शुद्धं शक्तिं मे नान्यथा शक्तिं विदुः शक्तिं 10.40

**Scourge of foes! There is no limit to My divine powers. What has been stated by Me is only illustrative of the extent of that puissance (power).**

Here Sri Krishna says, Arjuna, I have stopped enumerating my glories. If I have to list all of them it is inexhaustible. My intention is to give a sample of glories. My divine glories have no end. Why then enumerate them? This enumeration is only a random sample of my glories. How to extend this list? Sri Krishna says, I will tell you how to do it by yourself.

**Shloka # 41:**

शुद्धं शक्तिं मे नान्यथा शक्तिं विदुः शक्तिं  
शुद्धं शक्तिं मे नान्यथा शक्तिं विदुः शक्तिं 10.41

**Whatever being has power, glory, or energy, know (each of them) to be born of a part of My splendor.**

Sri Krishna says you can make your own list. When you see creation in daily life, if you see something that is wonderful (natural or artificial) that makes you awe struck or rich or abundant or powerful, like energy of sun; anything beautiful, when you see it, remember Me. When you see such a thing you prostrate and hand it over to temple. Powerful, rich, etc are all an infinitesimal part of god's glory; that is why we worship nature.

**Shloka # 42:**

शुद्धं शक्तिं मे नान्यथा शक्तिं विदुः शक्तिं  
शुद्धं शक्तिं मे नान्यथा शक्तिं विदुः शक्तिं 10.42

**O Arjuna! Wherefore should you know so much of all these? Encompassing this entire world by a fragment of My power, do I abide, eternally.**

Sri Krishna says, Arjuna! you can look at all this from a different perspective as well. Thus water being present in every wave; bubble or drop is one way of looking at water. Really speaking, all waves, bubbles and drops are all in water.

In a similar manner the whole creation is in Me. I remain supporting this creation or another way of seeing it is, that this entire creation is in Me.

Space is not within this hall; that is not the correct statement; rather all the Halls are in space. Similarly Bhagavan is not in the living beings; but all living beings are in Bhagavan; and that too they do not occupy the whole Bhagavan; I am only sustaining them; in one corner of Me; So the whole cosmos is only occupying a part of Me; so how big I am; so the whole cosmos is like a bubble in Me; the ocean; So with this Krishna concludes the description of His glories.

**Take away:**

Tamo guna makes a person lazy with neither materialistic inclination, nor spiritual inclination.

A tamasic person must cultivate material desires and then go on to spiritual desires. That spiritual desire is Satva Guna.

**With Best Wishes,**

**Ram Ramaswamy**

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# Baghawat Geeta, Class 138: Chapter 10, Verses 33 – 35

Shloka # 33:

अक्षरानाम् अक्षराहं अक्षराहं अक्षराहं अक्षराहं  
समासिकस्याहमेव अक्षराहं अक्षराहं अक्षराहं अक्षराहं 10.33

Aksaranam, of the letters; I am the akarah, letter a. Samasikasya, of the group of compound words, I am the compund (called) Dvandva. Besides, aham eva, I Myself; am the aksayah, infinite, endless; kalah, time, well known as 'moment' etc.; or, I am the supreme God who is Kala (Time, the measurer) even of time. I am the dhata, Dispenser, the dispenser of the fruits of actions of the whole world, visvatomukhah, with faces everywhere.

**Akshara:**

Continuing his teaching, Swamiji said, we are seeing Sri Krishna continue enumeration of the glories of Ishwara. In Shloka # 33, he said that among Aksharas I am Aa. Sarasvati Devi is in the form of Alphabetic letters. Even among all letters Aa is most sacred. It is sacred because it is a basic letter that emerges from our mouth without doing anything to the mouth. Thus sounds such as E, U come about by some modification to the mouth whereas Aa is an effortless sound of the mouth. Akara is also a flexible sound that can be modified into other alphabets. Hence Aa kara is considered Karana aksharam, causal sound, while all other alphabets are considered Karya Aksharam, the effect. Vedas say that A Kara manifests as all other letters. It says all letters are a modification of Aa. In our tradition every alphabet has a presiding deity. The presiding deity of Aa is Brahmaji, the

Creator of the world. Since Aa is the cause of all letters, Sri Krishna says, I am letter Aa.

**Samasha:** Are compound words that are properly arranged. By compound words I save prepositions. Citing an example, in the sentence, I bought puja material really means I bought material for puja. Puja material is thus a compound word. Similarly, the sentence, I went to Shiva temple, really means I went to a temple where Shiva is worshipped. Similarly, Ganga water really means water from Ganga.

And how do you know what preposition is to be used; you know it from the context thus Ganga water means water from Ganga; Pooja material means material for pooja. And Adayar class does not mean classes

From Adayar rather it means classes conducted in Adayar. So in which place, which preposition is to be used, we get to know from the context.

Similarly, when I say I went to Birla Mandir, what I really mean is that I went to a temple built by Birla, which is the context.

This compound formation is very systematic. Four basic compounds are enumerated and these four are later expanded into 7 types of compound, then these types of compounds are further expanded into 35 types of compounds; Thus we have many compounds called samasaha; and these group of compounds are called

Saamasikam. Samasikam means samasanam samuham; the group of compound are:

tatpurusha samas; bahuvrihi samasa; karmadharaya samas; Dvigu samas; dvandva samas; avyayibhaava samas. In Sanskrit we can compound words, which can contain tens of words joined together. Thus, Kalidasa's Shyamala Dandakam has many samasaha words. Therefore, among compounds I am Dvanda



from sunrise to sun set, the distance, in land, covered would be given as a gift to runner. One person took the challenge and ran; as he came to closer to sunset, he wanted to get more distance and ran the last few minutes very hard and in doing so, he collapsed and died. So, what happened to all the land he acquired?

So, I am destroyer, samhara tatvam, Says Sri Krishna.

### **Udbhava:**

I am Udbhava, meaning source of future prosperity or wealth. The resource or source of all the future prosperity or future wealth; because if you have to

produce anything in future, they all must be there potentially; we can never generate anything if that provision is not there and Sri Krishna says that provision is myself.

### **Kirti, Sri, Nari, Smriti, Medha:**

Female Devatas such as Mahalaxmi, goddess of wealth; Sarawati, goddess of knowledge and Parwati, Goddess of Shakti are called adhishtana devatas. Why do we have these devatas? Some universal laws govern everything. Such laws govern even our organs. These laws function because of an intelligent principle. For every government law too there is an officer required to maintain it. Any law is governed by an intelligent principle.

Thus it flows as follows: Higher Intelligence> Laws> Object.

Adhishatna devatas include Bhumi devata, alphabet devata etc are all aspects of Ishwara or God or Total intelligence.

So God for Kirti, name and fame, is called Kirti devata. Similarly we have Vak devata, Smriti devata, and Medha devata. Vedas have prayers for all such Devatas, thus there is a medha suktam.

**Dhriti:** means Perseverance or will power or continued effort despite failures. It is the resilience like a rubber ball that bounces back. There are several types of people. One who upon failing renounces every thing. The other type is a person, who upon failing, keeps trying again and again.

I am Dhriti says Sri Krishna.

### **Medha:**

Medha means intelligence principle; we do not know why some brains are very intelligent and others not. So there are again laws governing this and that devatha is called medha devatha; and we have got Vedic prayers directed to medha such as medha sukhtam; a special prayer for medha devi;

**Kshama:** means Patience or the capacity to wait. It is often tested at traffic stops where we have to wait. I am Kshama says, Sri Krishna.

### **Shloka # 35:**

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥  
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ १०.३५ ॥

**I am also the Brhat-sama of the Sama (-mantras); of the metres, Gayatri. Of the months I am Marga-sirsa, and among seasons, spring.**

### **Sama Mantra:**

Among sama mantras, I am Brihat Sama, a mantra, a very suspicious one, glorifying the Lord. This mantra praises God; hence it is known as Brihat or infinite one. I am Brihat Sama mantra, says Sri Krishna.

### **Gayathri Mantra:**

I am gayathri mantra among all Veda mantras, says Sri Krishna. The word Chandas has two meanings; one is it is a Vedic meter

and second one is, it is a Vedic mantra as well. Chandas provides rules of poetry. There are many chandas such as Anushtup, Trishtup etc.

Among Vedic mantras I am Gayathri. Gayathri has two meanings. Gayathri is a meter consisting of three lines, with 8 letters in each. Gayatri is also a mantra. Why is Gayathri glorius? **Its main glory is that it is Veda saraha.** Brahmaji wanted to take essence of vedas (Rg, Yajur and Sama) and he got gayathri.

Thus, we have:

Rg veda sara: Tatsavitha varenyam

Yajur Veda sara: Bhargo devasya Dhimahi

Sama Veda sara: Dhiyo yonaha prachodayat.

This mantra was originally called Savitri mantra. Savithri is name of Surya devata. It was set in gayathri meter hence it is called gayathri.

Also, Om Bhur Bhuvaha is not part of Gayatri mantra, it was added to aide the chanting of the mantra.

Since it is essence of Vedas, it is called Veda itself. Hence father teaches Gayathri to son and it continues on.

Gayathri mantra protects one from all papams or invisible negative effects. How come all people are not allowed to chant Gayathri?

Only one's who are initiated can chant Shrauta Gayathri.

Shrauta Gayathri is from Vedas.

Smartha gayathri can be chanted by anyone. Smartha Gayatri is from Smriti's.

**Smartha gayatri is as follows:**

yo devah savitasmakam dhiyo dharmati gocarah|

prerayet tasya yat bhargah tatvarennya mupasmaheh ||

**Essence of Gayathri mantra:**

**The meaning is very simple: we are meditating upon the sacred effluence of Sun God.**

And why are we meditating and worshipping Gayathri? What do we get out of it? Gayathri is that effulgence which activates our intelligence or buddhi. So therefore, I worship the solar effulgence, because it is supposed to activate my brain; my medha shakti increases, memory power increases; and that is why for brahmacharis, or students, gayathri was emphasized; because it gives every student memory power.

Gayathri activates buddhi shakti; and therefore Sri Krishna says, I am Gayatri Mantra; **if a person does not chant the gayatri; he loses all the advantages of being a vaidika purusha.**

**And it is said in our tradition that without chanting gayatri; whatever other mantras one chants, they all will not be that effective; on the other hand, if he chants gayatri, then no other mantra is required at all.**

And furthermore, gayathri itself is divided into two based upon how it is read; thus, one says, tat savithu varenyam while other says tat savithu vare niyam; Second one has 24 letters, while first one 23 letters. One with 24 letters is called gayathri. **Second one with 23 letters is called nichir Gayathri. During sandhyavandhanam; one is supposed to chant nichir gayathri;**

**Margashirsha:**

Among 12 months of the year I am Marga shirsha or the period from Dec 15 to January 15.



ॐकारं वाचं ॐकारं वाचं ॐकारं वाचं ॐकारं वाचं ॐकारं वाचं ॐकारं वाचं ॐकारं वाचं

**The sound letter A helps the meditator to attain a well-developed waking personality (vishva). The meditator on U attains a well-developed Taijasa (mind and intellect) and for one who meditates on M reaches Prajna. In the “ soundless” state, after Mkara, there remains no attainment.**

Swamiji said the Upanishad is analyzing Omkara from mantra # 8 onwards. The Upanishad talked about Omkara and A U M was equated to first three padas of atma. It also gave three Upanishads to practice for the unprepared students. Thus meditating on Akara symbolizes Virat, U kara symbolizes Hiranyagarbha and M kara symbolizes Pragya or Anataryami, respectively.

After practicing the upasana for some time one comes to Omkara Vichara and then resolves A U and M. An example of this process of resolution was provided by our discussion of Bangle, Chain, Ring and Gold. We found there is no substance called bangle, chain or ring respectively. We found that in all of them gold alone is the substance. This understanding that there is no bangle, chain or ring is called padartha-nisheda or negating substantiality of all three ornaments except gold. Padartha Traya Laya, this dissolution of all three, occurs by clear thinking. Once this dissolution occurs question may come up as to why when three padarthas are not there anymore why do we still have the three words? Now, existence of a word is relevant only if there is a corresponding object. First substance, bangle was negated; then we found there is no relevance for word ring as well and in a similar manner relevance of chain was also negated. Padatraya nisheda, means negation of corresponding words. Thus padartha and padatraya, that is all three padas (Virat, Hiranyagarbha and Pragya) and respective three matras (A U M, are negated and then only advaitam gold remains.

Similarly we have to negate sthula, sukshma and karana





**significance of Omkara, nothing else whatsoever should be thought of.**

While writing his commentary Gaudapada consolidates his teaching of his previous karikas as well. He says, one has to clearly understand that the four padas of Atma equate with four matras of Omkara; thus every pada equates to a specific matra. Having clearly known Omkara and Atma, thereafter he should not have any other thought; he should arrive at Turiyam and abide in it.

(My Note: After understanding the four equations clearly, one should practice nididhyasanam with the Omkara mantra. Omkara can be used as a support for nididhyasanam. How do you meditate? Chant OM and

when you come to silence, you have to dwell upon the knowledge that there are two components in that

silence, one is silence and the other is consciousness. Then turn your attention from silence to

Consciousness then you claim that you are that Turiyam consciousness. This is called silence meditation.)

### **Karika # 25:**

ॐकारं चिन्तयन् चित्तं ॐकारं चिन्तयन् चित्तं ॐ  
ॐकारं चिन्तयन् चित्तं ॐकारं चिन्तयन् चित्तं ॐ ॐ ॐ

**Soak the mind with the roar of AUM; Identify the mind with the sound of AUM; AUM is Brahman the ever fearless. He who is always unified with AUM shall know no fear whatsoever.**

Having studied Mandukya and equating Omkara to the four padas of Atma, one must dwell on this through nidhidhyasanam.

Thus when one meditates on first pada Gross Cosmos comes up.

When he meditates on second pada Sukshma Prapancha comes up.

When he meditates on third pada Karana Prapancha comes up.

When he meditates on fourth pada, Turiyam comes up and he should see that other three prapanchas are non-substantial.

With Turiyam he should know that other three do not have any substance just as bangle (sthula prapancha), chain (Sukshma prapancha) and ring (karana prapancha) do not have a substance. This process of assimilation is nidhidhyasanam.

Similarly, A becomes meaningless as does U and M as well. In silence word disappears; there will only be silence consciousness. Student must perform this nidhidysanam. Now sound part of Omkara is saguna Brahman while silence part of Omkara or Amatra is nirguna Brahman. Pranava in the karika means Omkara.

This one has to learn to see in the sadhana. This will provide freedom from all insecurities. All these shlokas are nidhidhyasana shlokas. Gaudapada says you have to dwell on Omkara as often as possible as it will help in arriving at the "silence awareness". Through Om one comes to this silence.

Advantages of this nidhidhyasanam: Once I know I am silence awareness, I am not afraid of death anymore. Sthula shariram is mortal, Suskhma shariram is mortal and Karana shariram is also mortal but I, the silence, am free from mortality.

### **Karika # 26:**

ॐकारोऽस्योऽस्योऽस्योऽस्योऽस्यो ॐकारोऽस्यो ॐ  
ॐकारोऽस्योऽस्योऽस्योऽस्योऽस्यो ॐकारोऽस्यो ॐ ॐ ॐ

**AUM is verily the lower Brahman and it is also declared to be supreme Brahman. Pranava is without any cause preceding It, without subsequent manifestation, without anything inside and outside, unrelated to any effect and changeless.**

All these karikas are Omkara dhyanam related. Omkara is both Nirguna Brahman (without attributes) and Saguna brahman (with





**and which is ever peaceful because of negation of all duality in it, is the true sage; none other.**

In this concluding karika Gaudapada reminds us of mantra number twelve's definition of Amatra.

Definition of Amatra: Amatra is one without any limitation; either related to space or time. A is limited; U is limited; M is limited; but Amatra does not have any limitation. In meditation we should not work for relative silence; here sound comes and it displaces silence. However, Vedanta says this is not the truth. The true silence is Chaitanyam that is absolute silence; which is free from duality. It is present in silence and sound. It is ever auspicious; it is never disturbed by sound, just as waker's silence is not disturbed by dreamer's noise. This person who recognizes Omkara in this manner is a real Seer, a wise person. With this the Amatra karika is over; Chapter # 1 is over; and Upanishad is also over.

**Take Away:**

Omkara meditation:

Chant OM and when you come to silence, you have to dwell upon the knowledge that there are two components in that silence, one is silence and the other is consciousness. Then turn your attention from silence to consciousness and claim that you are that Turiyam, consciousness. This is called silence meditation.

**With Best Wishes,**

Ram Ramaswamy

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Upasana # 1: it is Aptehe and adimatva.

Upasana # 2: Utakarsha and Ubhayatvat

Upasana # 3: Mithi and Apithi .

Once a nishkama upsana is performed by a manda bhakta his mind will be prepared.

Now, instead of going to fourth pada and fourth matra, Goudapada gives us a break in the following karikas where he talks of the three upasanas.

### Karika # 19:

विश्वस्य प्रथमोऽक्षरं आत्मा प्रथमोऽक्षरं विश्वस्य  
प्रथमोऽक्षरं आत्मा प्रथमोऽक्षरं विश्वस्य ॥ १९ ॥

**When identity of Vishva and the A sound is to be described, the common features between them are “being the first” in their respective positions as well as similarity of all pervasiveness.**

In this karika Gaudapada is summarizing the Mantra # 9. Sampratipathi means identified with a particular mantra. In such a meditation, Vishwa is equated to Atvam or Amatra. Vishwa is Akara. Vishwa also includes Virat, Jagrat prapancha and Sthula prapancha. The entire jagrat prapancha is thus visualized on Aa.

Here the common features are:

1. Aadi: Virat is primary and Aa is also primary.
2. Apte: Both Aa and Virat are all pervading in nature.

This is upasana #1. Its phalam is mentioned later on by Guadapada.

### Karika # 20:

विश्वस्य प्रथमोऽक्षरं आत्मा प्रथमोऽक्षरं विश्वस्य ॥ २० ॥



1. Mithi: Also called Manam in karika, meaning measure. Sthula, sukshma prapancha enter the measure and then come out of it as well. Utkatam means evident. Measure-ness.
2. Laya samanya; Gaudapada uses laya instead of Apithi as used in mantra # 11. Laya is resolution ground; Karana Prapancha is also resolution ground and upon dissolution it goes back to its potential state.

Law of conservation of energy is actually described in Upanishad. It says that sthula suskhma parapancha go back to Laya.

Also Aa and U resolve in M. When we say M is resolution ground it is from a practical point of view as technically M cannot be resolution ground; it has to be Aa alone. By nature of Aa it is the material cause of all other sounds, their karanam; as such all have to be resolved back in it alone.

Upanishad is indicating a practical reality that Mm is end of all talking. This is third Upasana prescribed for the unprepared students.

### **Karika # 22:**

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**He who knows without doubt what the common features are in three states, is worshipped and adored by all beings; and he is indeed the greatest sage.**

Normally Upasana is for manda adhikari's. This may give the student an inferiority complex; hence Gaudapada is trying to boost the student by glorifying the upsaka.

That meditator who clearly knows the equation based on common features in all three upasanas becomes a revered one. The three upsanans correspond to the three states of experience.



Similarly U kara pradhana Omkara Upasana is when U is equated with Hiranyagarbha. It will lead after death to Taijasa or Hiranyagarbha aikyam. Shikshavalli also describes this aikyam.

Third is M kara pradhana Omkara Upasana will lead after death to Pragya or Antaryami Aikyam. He will merge into God. It is not a Gyani's merger. Upasaka's merger lasts only until his punyam and then he starts again while Gyani, after merger, do not come back.

How about Amatra and Turiyam? One who comes to Amatra does not travel after death as he becomes one with Brahman here and now. This is fourth matra.

Let us assume one has practiced this Upasana and prepared the mind for enquiry. How to do the enquiry? What is difference between Upasana and enquiry?

Aa is invoked as sthula prapancha and U is invoked as sukshma prapancha. Normally a word is used to reveal an object. Word is padam and object is padartha. Every padam represents a padartha.

Vedanta asks us to enquire into truth of this, asking us in effect to perform a Vichara.

Padam is a word. Four words are used: Bangle, Chain, Ring and Gold. Each padam must reveal a padartha. Bangle reveals bangle padartha. Ring reveals ring padartha. Chain reveals chain padartha while Gold reveals Gold padartha. Thus four padams reveal four padarthas. But upon enquiry I find gold is substance in front of me, but in the word bangle there is no padartha. Ring also has no padartha, chain too has no padartha. Therefore, upon enquiry three padarthas are dismissed; that is bangle, chain, ring; thus substance is dismissed. Once three padartha's are negated the corresponding padam's are also negated as they have no object to reveal. Therefore enquiry leads to dismissal of padartha and later padams as well.



Krishna enumerate the glories of Ishwara. The entire creation is a manifestation and glory of the Lord. Sri Krishna chooses a few specialties as his glory. They can be chosen to invoke God. Even though all rivers are glorious, Ganga can be used to invoke god. Hence Ganga is considered sacred. Everyone enumerated can be an alambanam. Many are identified from mythological stories. Thus he cites in shloka # 30 about Prahlada. Prahlada stuthi in the Bhagavatham is a very well known sthothram; in which we find the highest

Vedanta talked about. In the Bhagavatham there are many stuthis or sthothrams; Dhruva stuthi; Prahlada sthuthi; Kunthi sthuthi; Bhishma sthuthi; each character

glorifies the Lord and the beauty is, in those sthothrams not only the puranic glories are there; the highest Vedanta is also packed in those stuthis and among them Prahlada is also a great one.

It is an important one because even though Prahlada is born an asura, by his spiritual sadhana he could change his character and become a Gyani. Therefore one need not feel bad about one's janma; jati does not indicate superiority or inferiority;

He was son of an Asura who changed. His jati did not matter. It was his guna that finally mattered. Karma with proper attitude makes one a guna Brahmana.

I am also Kala tatvam to ripen karmas at the right time. Karmas of groups of people also fructify at the same time. A sick person's papam fructifies. Another person serving me (sick person) is my punyam; while it is his papam that he has to serve me even while losing his sleep. So God becomes kala delivering the right karma at right time to right person.

Among animals I am Lion. Among birds I am Garuda, son of Vinata. Garuda is Vahanam of Vishnu. In Vaishnavism there is a Garuda Alwar or a great devotee.



Guru's are seated at higher level and knowledge flows from Guru to Shishya.

3. Ganga is a perennial river. Brahma vidya also is perennial. What is proof of this? The fact that we are able to learn this Vidya is the proof.
4. When you dip in Ganga you feel refreshed. In same way, Vedanta teaching is also refreshing to one.
5. Even though Ganga flows from Gomukh to Calcutta, you can take a dip in it only at Ghat with steps. So also Brahmailidya, you can only dip at Guru's Ghat.

### Shloka # 32:

0 Arjuna sarganam, of creations; I am the adih, beginning; ca,  
and ; he antah, end; ca eva, as also; the madhyam, middle-I am  
the origin, continuance and dissolution. At the commencement  
(verse 20) origin, end, etc. only of things possessed of souls  
were spoken of, but here the mention is of all creations in  
general. This is the difference. Vidyanam, among knowledges; I  
am the adhyatma-vidya, knowledge of the Self, it being the  
foremost because of its leading to liberation. Pravadatam, of  
those who date; aham, I; am vadah, Vada, which is preeminent  
since it is a means to determining true purport. Hence I am  
that . By the word pravadatam are here meant the different  
kinds of date held by dators, viz Vada, Jalpa, and Vitanda.  
[Vada: discussion with open-mindedness, with a view to  
determining true purport; jalpa: pointless date; Vitanda:  
wrangling discussion. [Jalpa is that mode of date by which  
both parties establish their own viewpoint through direct and  
indirect proofs, and refute the view of the opponent through  
circumvention (Chala) and false generalization (Jati) and by  
pointing out unfitness (of the opponent) to be argued with  
(Nigraha-sthana). But where one party establishes his  
viewpoint, and the other refutes it through circumvention,  
false generalization and showing the unfitness of the opponent

to be argued with, without establishing his own views, that is termed Vitanda. Jalpa and Vitanda result only in a trial of strength between the opponents, who are both desirous of victory, But the result of Vada is the ascertainment of truth between the teacher and the disciple or between others, both unbiased.

Among creations, I am beginning, end and middle. Sri Krishna said the same in shloka # 20. How to reconcile this? One indicates spatially while second looks at time wise; Srishti, Sthiti and Laya karanam.

Vidya means any discipline of knowledge; any science is called Vidya and there are so many branches of

knowledge in our tradition such as: the four vedas; shiksha, kalpa, vyakaranam, niruktham, chanda, jyothisham etc.; there are so many branches in the sciences and the modern sciences are many as you know, and among all of them, I am the spiritual knowledge.

Among sciences, I am Atma Gyanam. In chapter # 9 it was called Raja Vidhya, self-knowledge that says Atma is the only reality, all others are unreal.

Thus, Apra Vidya is Avidya and Paravidya is Gyanam.

It is only self-knowledge that liberates a human being from our limitations.

The sense of physical limitation is expressed in the form of our desire to accumulate more and more and more because with myself I feel I am limited; So I have a sense of physical limitation, I have a sense of emotional limitation, that I am not loved by all; I am not loved by own children; no one enquires about me; they do not even check whether we are there or not; so all these are all what; emotional deprivation; emotional sense of limitation; Then the next level of limitation is intellectual; any amount I know, I know that I

do not know much; the greater I know, the greater the ignorance is exposed; and therefore, this sense of limitation is samsara and any branch of knowledge other than self-knowledge will not remove this limitation; In fact, not only it will not remove, it will create only further limitation; like Newton said; thousands of discoveries he made and at the time of death, he declared that I was playing with a few pebbles on the shore, while the vast ocean of truth is in front. Therefore, material sciences will only increase the sense of limitation; whereas this is the only knowledge give me poornatvam.

No other branch other than self-knowledge can remove these limitations. Material science will increase sense of limitation while self-knowledge alone will give Poornatvam.

This is also the rarest of knowledge. Many don't come to this knowledge. The number of people who know this are indeed very rare.

Then the next one Vadaha means a discussion for arriving at the truth. In our tradition, they talk about several types of discussions; anything you take, they have studied thoroughly; they talk about vadaha; they talk about jalpa, they about vithanda; they talk about jathi; they talk about chalam; these are all different types of discussions, And vadaha or samvadaha between guru and Shishya, both are meant for only one purpose and that is arriving at the truth; whereas in all other discussions, arriving at the truth is not the aim, winning the argument is the aim; and hence the expression heated argument.

Doing namaskara to teacher means I will set aside without my ego or notions.

Whenever I am in agreement with you, you accept me; which means what; you hold on to your view alone; this is called filtered listening; whichever is convenient you take and the

other things you are not able to drop. That means I lack intellectual honesty; therefore a discussion wherein I set aside my ego; wherein I am ready to openly accept, not mentally verbally accept my mistake and I am interested in listening to other persons; it is the most difficult thing in any discussion or dialogue; our mind is itching to talk; and we are waiting for that person to take a breath; at that time you enter and you finish off your arguments; So if I can listen in a relaxed manner to the other person and similarly I talk, that is called vada or samvada; that alone will lead to discovery of truth; and therefore Sri Krishna claims that I am vadaha.

### **Shloka # 33:**

अक्षरानाम्, अक्षराणां, अक्षराणां अक्षराणां अक्षराणां  
अक्षराणां अक्षराणां अक्षराणां अक्षराणां अक्षराणां 10.33

**Aksaranam, of the letters; I am the akarah, letter a. Samasikasya, of the group of compound words, I am the compund (called) Dvandva. Besieds, aham eva, I Myself; am the aksayah, infinite, endless; kalah, time, well known as 'moment' etc.; or, I am the supreme God who is Kala (Time, the measurer) even of time. I am the dhata, Dispenser, the dispenser of the fruits of actions of the whole world; visvatomukhah, with faces everywhere.**

Among letters I am letter Aa. In English language Aa does not exist. In all Indian languages Aa is first letter. It is most fundamental sound, because when you open your mouth, the sound that comes is Aa. All other sounds are modified versions of Aa alone. By changing your mouth you can show teeth and it becomes Ee .Thus Aa's modifications result in other sounds. Thus, Aa is Karana Aksharam while others are Karya Aksharani.

### **Take away:**

1. It is only self-knowledge that liberates a human being from our mental, emotional and intellectual limitations.



Taijasa I am consciousness that is witness of subtle universe. In Pragma I am consciousness that is the witness of the causal universe, which I experience as total blankness. In Sushupti when I am experiencing total it is the experience of whole universe in potential form.

In Vishwa my attention is on object I. In Taijasa I am conscious witness of sukshma prapancha. In Pragma, I am witness of Karana parapancha. In Turiyam I turn my attention to I the observer who am there even as sthula, sukshma and Pragma are all changing. Thus Vishwa, Taijasa and Pragma are stepping stones to land in Turiyam. This Turiyam was described in mantra # 7.

Now we are starting to turn out attention to Chatur matra OM kara; travelling from A to U to M where I turn my attention to consciousness, one that is aware of silence. Thus sound is an object of my awareness; then Silence is an object of my awareness then to the awareness itself that is a witness of the silence. Thus when sound is not, awareness is still there; when silence is not, awareness is still there; when silence is there, it is the awareness of silence. So starting with awareness of sound, awareness of silence, thus Omkara Vichara is travelling from sound to silence to awareness of silence. Here sound is an object; silence is an object while the awareness is not an object. This awareness continues in silence and sound. Awareness and witness are used synonymously.

So, how to do I make use of Omkara upasana to land into my own awareness? To develop the skill of Omkara Vichara initially I learn to equate the four padas to the four matras and let the mind absorb this equation completely.

Now we move to mantra # 9 where Vishwa and Aa kara are equated.

Here, Vishwa (Vaishwanara) and Aa kara are equated. Upanishad

prescribes a meditation to equate and assimilate the knowledge. Sound Aa is taken as symbol to meditate upon. Aa represents Virat or Vishwa rupa; thus during meditation the whole gross atma comes up. Thus shaligramam is an object of reverence for an Indian. This perspective comes from generations of association, while a foreigner just sees it as a piece of art.

Two common features of Aa and Virat are:

1. Virat is first gross creation and after Virat all other creations came about. Among alphabets too Aa is the first letter.
2. The pervasion of both. Aa sound has transformed into all other letters. Aa inheres in all alphabets. Sri Krishna says in chapter # 10, I am Aa kara. Virat and Aa kara are both all-pervading or Vyapti.

Phalam for this Upasana is:

Worldly results: In mantra, Veda means Upasana. Here Upasaka attains all kamas and pervades his possessions or expands them. His family expands; property and possession all expand. One who meditates on Aa kara and Vishwa in life will become foremost in any field he enters, hence the word Aadishcha Bhavati is used.

Above were the material results of the Upasana.

Spiritual benefits are: His capacity to equate Aa with Vishwa expands. In meditation, when he practices Vedantic meditation, mind thinks of Vishwa, Taijasa, and Pragya; it also goes to Hiranyagarbha, Antaryami and Chaitanya adhishtanam. The silence will not be blankness; it will represent consciousness behind silence. The stillness in Omkara meditation will land in Consciousness.

**Mantra # 10:**



on Saraswati or Samasto Gyana Upasana. This person will become learned. Santati means extent of knowledge. Utkrashati means increases.

2. Samanascha Bhavati: He will become a common man to all. He will be accepted by all groups; he will not be a part of any camp; he will be liked by all; a mediator.

His knowledge will influence his family; his family will also be learned or will be Brahma Gyani's.

If a person practices Nishkama Upasana, this equation will help him in Omkara Upasana. In his mind whole universe will come up and resolve itself into silence.

### **Mantra # 11:**

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

**Pragya, whose sphere of activity is deep sleep, is M the third letter of AUM, because it is both the "measure" and also "that wherein all become one". One who knows this identity of Pragya and M is able to know the real nature of things and beings, and also come to realize as being the Self of all.**

The third mantra is M kara; this M is equated to Pragya or Antaryami or Ishwara. In Upanishad, the fifth and sixth mantras described Pragyaha as obtaining in deep sleep. At cosmic level it is called Pralayam and at individual level it is called Laya or sleep. These two also have two common features.

They are:

1. Apithe: ground of dissolution or merger or

disintegration. Pragma is sleep state, when whole universe dissolves, just as in pralayam. My worries, knowledge etc, dissolve in sleep. At Samashti, Ishwara dissolves everything in him. Apitihi is Laya sthanam.

M is also Laya sthana. When you close mouth the sound that comes out is Mm. Mm is thus resolution ground for all alphabetic letters.

2) Mithihi: A measuring vessel. Pragma is compared to a measure. Mm is also compared to a measure.

When people measure, say in a village, the grain disappears in the measure and then, when, one pours out the grain becomes visible again; this is similar to un-manifesting and manifesting.

Pragma is also like a measure. When I go to sleep, my world goes into Me, the Pragma and becomes invisible. When I wake up, it all reappears again. It repeats when I go to sleep again. So, Pragma is also a measure.

It is same with letter M. After speaking, I close my mouth with M. All other sounds are resolved. They again come back when I talk again. Thus, it is similar to a measure as well.

This measure-ness is a common feature. So during meditation see the M sound and visualize the hidden universe.

The benefits of this meditation are that one who practices M kara Antaryami Upasana gets two worldly benefits.

1. Because of the "measure upsana" he will be able to measure everyone and everything; and make the right judgment.
2. Apitishcha Bhavati: everything is resolved into him. He becomes one with Ishwara. All problems disappear into him.

Spiritual benefit: is developing skill for Vedantic meditation



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**If any one has ever imagined or projected the manifold ideas, they might disappear. This explanation is for the purpose of teaching. Duality in the explanation ceases to exist when the highest Truth is Realized.**

Swamiji said in these karikas beginning from # 10 to # 18, Guadapada made an analysis of mantra # 7, the most significant mantra of the Upanishad. He also did a comparison and contrast of the four padas as well.

He said Turiyam has to be known. What is its significance? Once I know Turiyam, immediately Ignorance is removed, just as light removes darkness immediately and automatically.

Once Ignorance is gone, Error and misconceptions along with it also go away. Once rope is not known clearly we see a snake. Once we know it is a rope all misconceptions of rope such as snake, crack in the floor etc go away. There may be many misconceptions; they all go away. Therefore knowledge removes Ignorance and Error. Once both are gone; I know I am the consciousness that is Turiyam, free from Ignorance and Error. As per Vedanta, Turiyam, by definition is, Consciousness free from Ignorance and Error. If Ignorance and Error are there it is Vishwa or Taijasa. If Ignorance alone is there it is Pragyaha. So Ignorance alone can make me an Agyani in all three padas. Once Ignorance goes, one becomes a Gyani with awareness that he is Turiyam.

Once I know I am Turiyam, I can claim all features of Turiyam as my own. One main feature of Turiyam is that it is Shantam, Shivam and Advaitam. In my vision there is no duality at all; all are gone.

Even the idea that I am Gyani has duality in it. As a knower, I am a subject who knows something as an object; this involves dvaitam. With knowledge this duality goes and I am no more a knower. Self-knowledge removes the idea of knowerhood. A gyani

loses the idea that he is not even a Gyani?? Then who am I? I am not pramata, prameya or pramanam; but I am Turiyam without all three features of Vishwa, Taijasa and Pragya.

A side point here is **when a Gyani says I am non-dual advaitam; dvaitam continues for him; he just does not attribute reality to it.**

If this were not true a Gyani cannot even be a Guru, as he has to see at least one Shishya, which means Dvaitam. **When we say Gyani is in advaitam, perceptual dvaitam continues but he does not attribute advaitam to it. Sky is perceived as a blue dome over earth. Knowledge is that there is no blue dome, but perception continues even while knowing it is a perception alone.** I know ocean water is colorless, but eyes will still report it as with color; however, I will know it is a perception only.

Similarly, sun does not rise rather it is the earth that moves. My perception sees sunrise and sunset, but I know the sun does not rise or set.

I perceive the stationary earth but I know it moves violently around the sun. As per Vedanta, **perception does not prove reality.**

You see pure blue water, blue dome in sky and a stationary earth. Gyani also perceives these dualities, but he knows the perceived reality is not real.

He knows water is colorless and moving earth is really moving at 60,000 MPH. Our sense organs are not designed to know reality. They are meant to give us a working knowledge of world. Hence newspapers report daily, the sunrise and sunset times. This is for the working knowledge alone. What is working knowledge; it is that, there is duality. Real knowledge is that there is no duality.

Working knowledge is Vyavahrika Satyam. Paramarthika Satyam is



1. Akara Matra: In English there is no akara at all. In Indian languages Aa is first and significant letter. Scriptures say Aa is most significant alphabet of all. It is the sound that comes automatically from mouth.
2. U kara Matra: There is no U in English language as well. Hence Om can't be written in English. In Sanskrit, as per grammar or Sandhi rules, Aa+ U=O.
3. M kara matra: It is a consonant.
4. Amatra: is the silence that follows the Om.

We can equate Atma and Om in all respects. Atma is a compound with four parts to it as is OM. Since both have four parts, one can equate each part to a part of Om respectively. What is the advantage of this equation? Once you equate Om and Atma, we can use it for meditation. When we chant OM all four padas of atma come up by association. Then we can claim Turiyam. For Turiya Dhyanam, Omkara is an ideal symbol.

Atma analysis leads to pure consciousness while Omkara analysis leads to pure silence. The silent consciousness is my inner most nature while all our talking is Samsara. This is the analysis.

This atma with four padas is Omkara.

Thus: Total Atma= Total Omkara.

If you dismantle the components of both, each pada equates to each matra and vice versa.

Om has A U M and Silence (amatra). Silence is discussed in mantra # 12. Amatra means the silence that follows.

What about the four padas of Atma? We already discussed the four padas from mantra # 2 to 5, both at macro and micro level.

**Mantra # 9:**

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one gold becomes many jewelry. The cause pervades all effects. Gold pervades all ornaments. Letter Aa pervades all alphabets. All alphabets are manifestations of Aa. For each alphabet there is a devata. For Aa, it is Brahma as Karanam for whole creation. Aa is Sarvavyapi; Virat is also Sarvavyapi. Apte in shloka means Sarvavyapi.

There is a second common feature. Virat is born first before creation of individual being. Macro is born first then individual being(s) come about. Aa is also first born sound. Adimatva means Primary. So, both are all pervading and primary. May you meditate on Aa as a symbol of Virat just as we meditate on a Linga as a symbol of Lord Shiva. So, perform Akar Virat Aikya dhyanam.

**Take Away:**

When a Gyani says I am non-dual advaitam; dvaitam continues for him; he just does not attribute reality to it.

As per Vedanta, perception does not prove reality.

**With Best Wishes,**

Ram Ramaswamy

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**Baghawat Geeta, Class 135:**

# Chapter 10, Verses 24 to 27

Shloka # 24:

ॐ ऋषिर्ब्रह्मर्षिः ॐ ऋषिर्ब्रह्मर्षिः ॐ ऋषिर्ब्रह्मर्षिः ॐ ऋषिर्ब्रह्मर्षिः ॐ ऋषिर्ब्रह्मर्षिः  
ॐ ऋषिर्ब्रह्मर्षिः ॐ ऋषिर्ब्रह्मर्षिः ॐ ऋषिर्ब्रह्मर्षिः ॐ ऋषिर्ब्रह्मर्षिः ॐ ऋषिर्ब्रह्मर्षिः 10.24

**O son of Prtha, know me to be Brhaspati, the foremost among the priests of kings. Among commanders of armies I am Skanda; among large expanses of water I am the sea.**

Continuing his teaching, Swamiji said, I was in midst of narrating a story of Ganga Avatharanam in last class about how Bhagiratha brought Ganga from heaven to earth. He came to know from his father Amshuman that his ancestors were burnt to ashes by sage Kapila. He came to know that Ganga jalam could save their lives yet. So, he decided to bring Ganga to earth. Hence we call a person of great determination as Bhagiratha and such effort is called Bhagiratha Prayatnam.

The question soon came up if Ganga decided to descend to earth, who would receive the mighty fall of ganga on earth. He learnt that only Shiva could receive ganga. So he had to perform tapas to Lord Shiva for 1000 years. Lord Shiva agreed to receive ganga; he also wanted to teach ganga a lesson for her arrogance. Finally ganga came down and Shiva received her in his jatas. After receiving her he covered his jata, thus Ganga was completely hidden. Then Shiva went back to his tapas. But this posed a problem for Bhagiratha as he had wanted ganga to flow down and bless his ancestors. Now with ganga caught in Shivas jata, this did not happen. So, Bhagiratha again performed tapas to Lord shiva. Then Lord shiva let a small stream of ganga to flow to earth. Symbolically Ganga Devi is considered Brahma Vidya coming out of Lords wisdom. It indicates the knowledge coming down to the earth from the Lord's wisdom.

Now as ganga flowed on earth it passed through the hermitage



Among Maharsihi's (Sapta Rishi's) born from Brahma's mind or manas putra's, Brghu is the preeminent one. I am Brghu the greatest among them, says, Sri Krishna.

A story about Brghu is that he tested the Trimurti's once to see who had most patience. Brahma lost his temper; Shiva also lost his temper; but Vishnu alone did not lose his temper.

Bhrghu and went and kicked Vishnu's chest; and instead of getting angry, Vishnu asked Bhrghu, is your leg alright, is it paining; and they say because of that alone, Vishnu got the mark in his chest. Imagine if somebody should conduct an examination of Trimurthi themselves; certainly he must be greater; Therefore that Bhrghu, the great examiner, I am.

Among all monosyllable words I am Omkara. Why is it greatest? It is essence of entire Vedas. Taittiriya Upanishad says, just as butter is churned from milk similarly Brahmaji churned the Vedas to obtain Om, hence it is considered Veda Sara. It is the most efficacious of all mantras. It is used in all karma kanda mantras. All rituals start with the word Om. Omkara is an alambanam. Karma kanda, Upasana kanda and Vedanta, all start with Om.

Omkara Vichara is considered essence of entire creation says Mandukya Upanishad. So we begin and end with Om. I am most sacred Omkara, says Sri Krsihna.

Ghiram means among words I am monosyllable Omkarara.

Among all types of spiritual sadhanas I am Japa Yagya. He chooses japa because, it can be practiced by all people, despite caste, creed and other differences. Thus only a Grihasta can chant agnihotri; a Kshatriya alone can perform Raja Suya Yagya; only people with sacred threads can perform other rituals.

Some Japas are Varna, ashrama, upasana, male, female etc., specific. Japa Yagya is one which can be chanted anywhere, at

any time, in all conditions, by anyone; hence it is considered the greatest sadhana. Benefit of japa yagya is that there is no himsa involved as no sacrifice of an animal is done. Gautama Budha turned against Hinduism because he was against animal sacrifice. Japa Yagya has no Himsa. There is also no expenditure of money and things involved in japa yagya. It is also as efficacious as other rituals. **Hence a Vedic person must perform at least one ritual of japa everyday. So, japa is recommended by chanting god's name at least 108 times. Japa obtains all sadhana chatushtaya sampathi's.**

In japa the first two letters ja indicates what janmavicchedaha; the end to the cycle of birth and death. And the next letter pa indicates papa nasha. Since this sadhana will remove all the papams and through that will put an end to the cycle of samsara; therefore japa is a great sadhana.

What is Japa? It is recitation of sacred word. It is different from parayanam such as reading of Gita etc. In japa same word is repeated. So, Sri Krsihna says, among sadhanas, I am Japa.

Among mountains I am Himalaya, the abode of Shiva.

### **Shloka # 26:**

Among all trees I am Ashwatha tree, abode of the Trinity, says Sri Krishna. A pradarshanam of Ashwatha tree is considered a pradarshanam of Trinity. The root of tree symbolizes Brahmaji, Vishnu the trunk and the Shiva the top. In ch # 15 Ashwatha tree is shown as Samsara or bondage.

**Among all trees (I am) the Asvatha (peepul), and Narada among the divine sages. Among the gandharvas [A class of demigods regarded as the musicians of gods.] (I am) Citraratha; among the perfected ones, the sage Kapila.**

Among all trees I am Ashwatha tree, abode of the Trinity, says Sri Krishna. A pradarshanam of Ashwatha tree is considered a pradarshanam of Trinity. The root of tree symbolizes Brahmaji, Vishnu the trunk and the Shiva the top. In ch # 15 Ashwatha tree is shown as Samsara or bondage.

Among Deva Rishi's, I am Narada. All puranas mention Narada. Even Chandogya Upanishad mentions Narada as disciple of Sanatkumara. In Chandogya upanishad; Narada is the disciple of Sanath kumara. And Narada receives Brahma vidya from Sanatkumara and that teaching is a very famous one; and it is called bhuma vidhya; so in the seventh chapter of the Chandogya upanishad; brahman is called bhuma; Brahma vidya is called bhuma vidhya and that is received by Narada from Sanatkumara and therefore Narada is a great Gyani as well. He distributed knowledge to all people; Naram means knowledge; Da means Giver.

Among Gandharvas, citizens of heaven, or of Gandharva loka, one's who know performing arts, I am king of Gandharvas, Chitraratha. In mahabaharta this gandharva raja appears.

Among great sidhas, people with extraordinary powers, I am Kapila. Miraculous powers and spiritual knowledge have no connections. There are four types of Sidhas:

1. No self-knowledge with Sidhi.
2. Self knowledge with no sidhi.
3. Self knowledge with Sidhi.
4. No self-knowledge with no sidhi.

Those who have Gyanam without Sidhi are liberated Gyani's. Gyani with sidhi are also liberated. One's without Gyanam are not Gyani's. Kapila had both Gyanam and Sidhi. In Bhagavatha purana Kaplia is supposed to be one of the avatharas of Bhagavan; Kapilavathara is very well known in Bhagavatham.

He taught his mother Vedanta. There is another Kapila Rishi, a philosopher who propounded Sankhya philosophy. Here Sri Krishna is talking about Vedanta teacher Kapila.

A person can get Sidhi by several methods. They include:

1. Money (precious stones etc.,)
2. Aushadam (herbs),

3. Mantras. With certain type of mantras you do purscaranam; What is purscaranam? You have to find out how many letters are there in the mantra; suppose Om Namashivaya; OM, Na, Ma, Si, Va, Ya; 6 letters; You have to multiply it with lakhs, that means 6 lakhs time minimum you have to chant; This is minimum. What is maximum? Multiply by crores; therefore five crores times, 12 crores times; then the potency of the mantra is released; like through nuclear fission or fusion; the energy within the atom is released, how much energy, it can destroy a Hiroshima or a nagasaaki. So much power is there in a small atom; similarly, every mantra has got tremendous potency, that potency is released by purscaranam of the mantra; through that also a person gets siddhis.
4. Meditation by focusing mind called Yoga also gives Sidhi.
5. Janma, by birth, also gives Sidhi. Purva punya and papam also can determine sidhi. Thus we see some people can withstand electric shock and some others can withstand acid burns.

Among Sidhas I am Kapila Muni, says Sri Krishna.

Kapila means yellow colored one.

### Shloka 10. 27:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ १०.२७ ॥  
 ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ १०.२७ ॥

**10.27 Among horses, know Me to be Uccaihsravas, born of nectar; Airavata among the lordly elephants; and among men, the Kind of men. [Uccaihsravas and Airavata are respectively the divine horse and elephant of Indra.]**

In previous shloka I forgot to mention that Kapila is same one from Ganga avatharanam.

Now there is another story I wish to narrate. First we discussed ganga avatharanam. The second story is churning the milky ocean. Both teach fundamental lessons that perseverance is most important virtue in an individual. Failure should not deter you; it should trigger greater effort.

Gods and demons brought vasuki as the rope and they churned the ocean with Manthara parvatham as churning rod. There were differences of opinion as to who should hold the head of the snake. Once the churning rod went down and Lord Vishnu came in Tortoise form to lift and support the churning rod. A lot of things came out of the churn such as: Kaustubha, Lakshmi, Dhanvantari, Hala hala, the poison etc,. Symbolically the churning indicates Brahma Vidya and churning of our mind, as in Vedanta class. Mind is the kshira sagara and white represents satva guna and satva guna represents the mind which is satvic and when you do the churning with the rod of scriptures, scriptural statements, varieties of things arrive.

### **Take away:**

A Vedic person must perform at least one ritual of japa everyday. So, japa is recommended by chanting god's name at least 108 times. Through Japa, one obtains all sadhana chatustaya sampathi's.

Vedanta considers perseverance is a most important virtue in an individual. Failure should not deter you; it should trigger greater effort.

**With Best Wishes,**

**Ram Ramaswamy**

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# Mandukya Upanishad, Class 12

## Mantra # 7; Karika # 11:

Swamiji said in these karikas beginning from # 11 Guadapada is comparing and contrasting the four padas. This study is for clarifying the karika. This clarification is called Svadhanya Vaidhanya Vichara. It shows the study of common and uncommon features. Two specific factors are studied for comparison. They are: 1) Ignorance and 2) Error, or misconceptions born from ignorance.

When you do not recognize a rope, as a rope, it is called Rajju Agyanam; where it is mistaken as something else; hence called an error. Error is always born out of ignorance; with knowledge there can be no more error.

Ignorance is the cause while error is its effect. Ignorance is referenced by four expressions of Gaudapada. They are:

1. Nidra: Ignorance is figuratively called sleep. When you are asleep to a fact, you are ignorant of the fact.
2. Agrahanam: Non-perception of fact. Rope ignorance is non-perception that it is a rope.
3. Karanam: Ignorance is referred to as cause or karanam. Why is it a cause? Because it is cause of error, cause of mistake or misconception, hence it is karanam.
4. Beejam: or Seed. Why seed? Just as from a seed sprout comes out, from seed of ignorance, error or mistake arises. Rope misconception is born from rope ignorance. Some mistake it as snake, some as mala (garland), some as a crack in the earth, yet others as a stick. All misconceptions are born from one seed of ignorance.

Following four factors provide reference points for Ignorance.

Errors too can be referenced by these four factors.

The four factors are:

- Swapna: Error is swapna; thus in dream we have a non-factual experience.
- Anyathagrahanam: Misperception. In error we always perceive things wrongly, thus we see snake in a rope.
- Karyam: Error is born of ignorance; it is an effect born of ignorance; hence it is called Karyam.
- Ankuraha: Sprout or a plant. Error is a sprout that comes out of the seed of ignorance or Beeja ankuraha.

Using these four expressions Gaudapada is going to compare and contrast the four padas.

### **Karika # 11:**

वैश्वानरस्यैव तज्जिज्ञानं तद्विज्ञानं च  
प्रज्ञास्यैव तज्जिज्ञानं तद्विज्ञानं च

**Vishwa and Taijasa are both conditioned by cause and effect. But Prajna is conditioned by cause alone. Both cause and effect exist not in Turiya.**

Vishwa, the waker, the first pada, is associated with Karyam (error) and karanam (ignorance). Waker has both ignorance and error. What is the Waker ignorant of? He is ignorant that I am Turiyam, the Paramatma. Since he is ignorant, he makes a mistake that I am the Jivatma, the limited sorrowful individual; that I am limitless, is not known; in error, I only know I am a limited individual. Every Waker looks at himself as a limited "I".

The dreamer also has same pair of problems or as Taijasa. Taijasa also has karyam and karanam. During dream, I am ignorant of fact that I am the limitless paramatma or Turiyam; I commit a mistake that I am limited individual or jivatma suffering from dream samsara. This is the second pada is also

associated with ignorance and error.

Pragyaha is the third pada; the sleeper associated with only Karanam, or ignorance. A sleeper does not make a mistake; he has only got ignorance. It is called pure ignorance. What does it mean? Error free ignorance is called pure ignorance; even though I am ignorant that I am limitless; I don't create any mistake because the mind is in a resolved state; as such it cannot commit mistakes. Hence called Total ignorance or also called Bliss. Ignorance becomes a problem only when it is mixed with erroneous perceptions.

Say a rope is lying in a shadow (half-lit area) and you see it partially; hence you see it as a snake causing to be frightened. Had the rope been in a pitch-dark area, and then there would have been rope ignorance, as I don't see the rope to begin with. Here Ignorance exists, but there is no wrong perception of snake. Here Ignorance is there without an error. Hence, in Total Ignorance, one knows no Samsara or there is no error. It is only in partial ignorance that the error comes in.

In deep sleep also there is no samsara. Gyani and deep sleep both don't have samsara. Only Waker and Agyani have samsara.

Shankaracharya in his Brahmasutra commentary talks of this error and calls Adhyasa. So, Gaudapada says, a sleeper has only "ignorance without error".

In Turiyam also there is neither ignorance nor error. It is free from both. It is pure Consciousness alone. It is the illuminator of ignorance and error. Why so? Several reasons are given:

1. Pure consciousness is asangaha; it is relation-less like space. Space is everywhere but not connected to anything including ignorance and error.
2. Consciousness is a higher order reality or Paramarthika Satyam. While ignorance of error is Vyavaharailka

Satyam. Both can't be connected. Thus, a waking person can't be hurt by dream water, fire etc. Waker is higher order reality while dreamer is a lower order reality.

3. Prakash Tatvam: Illuminator of a thing can never be polluted by anything. Light can't be contaminated by whatever it shines on.

### Karika # 12:

प्रज्ञा न ज्ञानं न विज्ञानं न अज्ञानं न त्रिषु  
प्रज्ञा न ज्ञानं न विज्ञानं न अज्ञानं न त्रिषु

**Prajna does not know anything of the Truth or the untruth., nor does Prajna know anything of the Self or of the not-Self; Prajna knows nothing. But Turiya is ever and it is always the all-knowing , the all-seeing.**

In these two shlokas gaudapada is contrasting Pragma and Turiya and their uncommon features.

Pragma is associated with ignorance.

Turiya is not associated with ignorance.

This contrast is in both shlokas 12 and 13.

Pragma does not know anything. It is absolutely ignorant. Pragma is errorlessly ignorant and hence blissfully ignorant. Pragma does not know himself. I don't know the object or the subject. Nobody says, "I am sleeping", nor does he say, "I am Turiyam". How about others? He does not know others as well. He does not know Atma or anatma. Neither does he know reality nor the unreal world. It is state of Total Ignorance.

What about Turiyam? It is pure Consciousness, the illuminator of everything including ignorance, the state of "I don't know anything". If asked, do you know that you don't know anything, and then I am conscious of my ignorance. Consciousness is illuminator of ignorance and error; hence it is called Sarva Dhriti. Illuminator is not tainted by whatever it illumines.



In Brhadaranyaka Upanishad Yagyavalkya compares moksha with sleep. Unfortunately with problems we have today, we don't get sleep.

Here dvaitam means error or perception of the limited "I". Why is it an error? It is an error because advaitam is a fact. Agrahanam means absence. Absence of dvaitam or error is common to both Pragma and Turiyam. So, in sleep, I am in advaitam. Turiyam is also a state of advaitam. So, error abhava (absence) is common to both.

**Karika # 14:**

वैश्वानरं तैजसं प्राज्ञं सुषुप्तं च ।  
अज्ञानं तेषां तद्वैश्वानरं तैजसं च ॥

**Vishwa and Taijasa, the former two are associated with the conditions of dream and sleep, Prajna is the state without dream. Those who have known the Truth do not see either sleep or dream in Turiya.**

This shloka is similar to # 11. Shlokas # 11 and # 14 are similar. All four padas are compared in them. In shlokas # 12 and # 13 only two padas are compared.

First two padas, Vishwa (waker) and Taijasa (dreamer) are associated with nidra or ignorance and error. Waker is associated with ignorance and error; it is same for Taijasa as well; whereas Pragma is associated with ignorance or it is state of error-less ignorance or Total ignorance.

In Turiyam there is neither nidra (ignorance) nor swapna (error). Both are not there. Wise people don't see ignorance or error in Turiyam.

This is the comparison and contrast. To be liberated you have to become Turiyam. In Vishwa and Taijasa, you will not get liberation. How to become Turiyam will be topic of next class.

**Take Away:**



And therefore first Lord Krishna enumerates paramarthika Vibhuthi and thereafter all Vyavaharika Vibhuthis as well.

He says, I am beginning, middle and end of all creation; I am the srishti, sthiti and laya karanam. Thus clay is the beginning, middle and end of all pots. It is clay alone at all stages. It is karanam that always exists in past, present and future.

So Sri Krishna says I am the cause of the creation; which existed in the beginning; and I am the sustaining principle of the creation; because of which alone the world enjoys existence; and I am the cause into which the world resolves.

Since god is only one permanently there, you should hold on to him. As, he alone can give you security. I am willing to love all people, but when asked who is my security, my answer will only be, God; not my son, friend etc. Anything else you will not have any assurance of security. So, hold on to Karanam, the Lord.

### **Shloka 21:**

Among the Adityas [viz Dhata, Mitra, aryama, Rudra, Varuna, Surya, Bhaga, Vivasvan, Pusa, Savita, Tvasta and Visnu.-Tr.] I am Visnu; among the luminaries, the radiant sun; among the (forty-nine) Maruts [The seven groups of Maruts are Avaha, Pravaha, Vivaha, Paravaha, Udvaha, Samvaha and parivaha.-Tr.] I am Marici; among the stars I am the moon.

Among the Adityas [viz Dhata, Mitra, aryama, Rudra, Varuna, Surya, Bhaga, Vivasvan, Pusa, Savita, Tvasta and Visnu.-Tr.] I am Visnu; among the luminaries, the radiant sun; among the (forty-nine) Maruts [The seven groups of Maruts are Avaha, Pravaha, Vivaha, Paravaha, Udvaha, Samvaha and parivaha.-Tr.] I am Marici; among the stars I am the moon.

Sri Krishna enumerates various things and beings in universe. He says they are all my own manifestations. During enumeration some are laukika vibhuti's, from this world, while others are from Puranas, including the Devatas.

Thus, Puranas talk of Adityas, the 12 faces of sun god; sun in

the 12 months of the year; there is only one sun, but every month he feels different, hence the 12 sun gods. 33 main gods are enumerated. Thus, they are 12 adithyas, 8 Vasu's, 11 rudras, Indra and Prajapati; all add up to 33. Karma kandis know these gods very well. Brihadaranyaka Upanishad says these 33 gods are the ones that become 33 crore devatas. So Sri Krishna says, among these 33 Devatas, I am Vishnu. Adityas were born to aditi; And among them I am vishnu; because vishnu in vamana avathara was born as aditi puthra; and therefore I am vamana rupi vishnu among aditi puthras. Among luminaries in sky, stars, planets, sun etc I am Ravi, the sun god with powerful rays. Sun god is adored even in sandhya vandanam. Even our survival is due to Sun.

In Ramayanam, Agastya rishi came and taught Aditya Hridayam mantra to Rama for both material victory as well as spiritual victory. Therefore aditya hridayam is a wonderful prayer for materialistic people; also for getting health; for getting money; for getting victory in examinations children can chant that; and for spiritual students as well it is supposed to be a wonderful prayer. Hence, when sun rises, we say sun is coming to bless us. Hence they ask us to get up early as we are supposed to welcome him.

A group of devatas, in heaven, is known as Marut devatas. There are different colonies of devatas in heaven. Depending on our punyam we will go one such colony. Thus 49 Marutis are there, 7 each in 7 groups. They preside over the Vayu tatvam. Sri Krishna says I am Marichi among the maruti's. I am the tender, cool breeze that you feel presided by Marichi devata. Among night luminaries, stars, planets, moon etc, I am the moon or Chandra devata whom we worship on purnima day.

## Shloka # 22:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ १०.२२ ॥  
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥ १०.२२ ॥

**Among the Vedas I am Sama-veda; among the gods I am Indra. Among the organs I am the mind, and I am the intelligence in creatures.**

Sri Krishna says, Among Vedas I am sama veda. Why choose Sama Veda? Because, it is the only musical veda, as such more attractive.

The word God is used in two contexts. One is the God, the creator. The other is gods who are really jivas occupying heavenly world due to their punyam. They are samsari's, only with powers. Once their punyam is exhausted they will come back as humans or some other being.

So here, we are talking about only the superior jivas, because of their punya papam; and among their Gods, celestials, I am Vasavaha; meaning Indra devatha or Indra. He is controller of all devatas. He is a jiva as well. Once his punyam is over he will also have to take another birth.

Among sense organs I am the mind. Every sense organ can function only in a particular field. But mind is behind all sense organs; it can function in shabda, sparsha, rupa, rasa, and gandha. Hence mind is an ideal symbol. In Taittiriya Upanishad this topic is discussed. The more you think of mind the more you wonder about its capacity.

In every being I am its sentiency or Chetana. Scientists are still trying to find out what is life or death; it is all still a mystery to them. Even a small insect, you can see how sensitive it is; they have all systems that we have within them, while we can't even create a unicellular organism. Hence emphasis on ahimsa paramo dharma; hence vegetarianism is promoted to avoid or reduce himsa. In eating vegetables, the plants are not killed.

Shloka # 23:

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Among the Rudras [Aja, Ekapada, Ahirbudhnya, Pinaki, Aparajita, Tryam-baka, Mahesvara, Vrsakapi, Sambhu, Harana and Isvara. Different Puranas give different lists of eleven names.-Tr,] I am Sankara, and among the Yaksas and goblins I am Kubera [God of wealth. Yaksas are a class of demigods who attend on him and guard his wealth.]. Among the Vasus [According to the V.P. they are: Apa, dhruva, Soma, Dharma, Anila, Anala (Fire), Pratyusa and Prabhasa. The Mbh. and the Bh. given a different list.-Tr.] I am Fire, and among the mountains I am Meru.

12 Adityas were mentioned; hence surya namaskara is performed 12 times. Now 11 Rudras are enumerated in the scriptures; and that is why when we have rudra ekadashini or eleven times chanting of Rudra is performed. All of them are rudras. Among them I am Shankara; why shankara; because he is the most auspicious one. Mangalam means ananda. Rudra means one has removed dukha. Wherever Rudra parayanam is performed dukha goes away. Another group of devatas are called Yaksha's and Raksha's. Among them I am Kubera; one who presides over wealth. In Badrinath, there is a place for Kubera and there is a belief that if you keep a coin in Kubera's hand and keep that coin in your safe, it will multiply. He is lord of wealth and we don't condemn wealth. Then pavaka vasunam asmi; the next important group of devathas are ashta vasavaha. Vasus are eight, presiding over the eight directions; So among the ashta vasus, I am agni devatha; So pavaka is agni; agni is called pavaka because he is the greatest purifier; In the relative sense also; if you want to purify anything it has to be heated; including food. If you have to remove all the impurities; say in water, the best way is to boil the water; and the Surgeon, if they want to purify their instruments, is to boil in water; and if you have to dispose off the dead body, fire of cremation is the best method of purification; and so on. So from loukika point of view agni is the



bring a special avathara and out of Lord's shakthi; skand means flow, to emerge out; to originate; from the third eye of Lord Shiva; third eye represents Gyanam and that is why Subramanya is Gyana Subramanya.

Among all water reservoirs I am sagara, the ocean. In Puranas there is a big story regarding this that I will mention briefly for you all:

In Ramayana Vishwamitra told a story about arrival of ganga from heaven to earth. There was a Raja named Sagara. He had 60,001 sons. They are called saagaraha. One of them was Asamanja. The king wanted to perform the ashwa medha Yaga. The horse went in front of the conquering army.

Indra got frightened of this Yaga, as he felt threatened. Indra stole the Yaga horse. All 60,000 sons went after Indra except Asamanja. Indra went underworld. Going after him they started digging and soon the hole was full of water and it became known as Sagara. They went to Patala Loka looking for Indra. The scared Indra wanted to hide the horse and run away. Sage Kapila was doing penance in Patala Loka at that time. Indra left the horse in the sage's ashrama. The Saagara's saw the horse there and thought Kapila stole the horse. They shouted at Kapila. He got angry and cursed them all; due to the curse, they were all killed. The king sent asamanja to Sage Kapila. Asamanja met kapila. He told him if he brought ganga down to earth his brothers could be saved. He told this to his father. Father asked asamanja to bring ganga down. Asamanja prayed to ganga but failed to bring her down. Asamanja's son ansuman also tried and failed. Ansuman 's son Bhagirathi did tapas to ganga and she agreed to come down. The question was if Ganga came down who would withstand her force of descent? It was determined that only Shiva can receive ganga by receiving her in his mat of hair. So he did tapas to shiva.

Take away:

**With Best Wishes,**

**Ram Ramaswamy**