

Mandukya Upanishad, Class 3

Greetings All,

Swamiji said, in last class we saw that in Vedanta when Shabda Pramanam is employed properly through Srvanam, Mananam and Nidhidhyasanam; through a qualified Guru; it will produce Gyanam. Even though words normally don't reveal Brahman, the Upanishad still uses different methods to reveal Brahman through words. The Gyani parampara is proof of that.

People say Upanishadic words give only knowledge and that they don't give us experience of Brahman. Vedanta says, our problem is not lack of experience rather it is lack of knowledge. Thus, we experience Dvaita in jagrat and swapna avastha and advaita in sushupti avastha. While we do have these experiences, unfortunately our conclusion from them is faulty. It is here that the Upanishads come to our help. It wants us to enquire into our available anubhava to come to know that the Advaita Aham is my real nature and that the Jagrat and Swapna dvaita experience is mithya.

This is a new knowledge correcting my misconceptions and this knowledge is enough for moksha. Since this teaching is occurring at the end of Vedas, it is called Vedanta. Vedanta does not mean end of knowledge.

In this Vedantic part we are trying to gain knowledge of ourselves as such it is called Gyana Kandam; unlike Veda purva that is called Karma kandam.

Since this portion deals with nature of myself, my swarupam or atma and not the universe, it is also called atma viddhya. In this process it reveals that I the atma am the limitless entity, existence consciousness and hence called Brahman or the limitless one or Brihat Samatvat Brahma. Scriptures also call this means of obtaining knowledge of Brahman as Brahma Vidya, Atma vidya and even as Upanishad.

The word Upanishad can be broken-down as Upa Ni Sat.

Upa means Guru's knowledge.

Ni means Nischaya Gyanam; knowledge without any doubts.

Sat means vehicle or carrier. Sat also means destroyer of ignorance and Samsara. Another meaning of Sat is Sadhayati Gamayati Prapayati Iti Sat or one which carries the seeker to Brahman. It helps Jivatma merge with Paramatma. Shankaracharya also says, Brahma Sadhayati Gamayati Prapayati Iti Sat.

Upanishad means it is knowledge from Guru that takes Jivatma to Paramatma. It does not mean paramatma is sitting somewhere waiting for jivatma. Rather, here, merger means removal of the notion that I am different from Paramatma. Hence it is called Upanishad. In the end portion of the Vedas this knowledge is given as a dialogue. A group of dialogues or even one dialogue is called Upanishad. They say, at some time in the past there were 1080 Upanishads, but many have been lost. Now there are only 108 Upanishads available. Shankaracharya has commented on only ten of them. All ten of them are considered great only because Shankaracharya commented on them. Mandukya is one of the ten Upanishads. It is the smallest among them with only twelve shlokas. Mandukya Upanishad belongs to Atharvana Veda. A Rishi named Manduka revealed it. The word root Manda means to be happy. Therefore, one who is always happy is known as Manduka. Even though it is small, it is comprehensive and all glorify it. There is another Upanishad known as Muktika Upanishad that details the dialogue between Rama and Anjaneya. This Upanishad tells us about the many other Upanishads, how many are there; which Upanishad belongs to which Veda etc. Muktika Upanishad says study of Mandukya Upanishad alone can give Gyanam. It says, if you don't understand Mandukya Upanishad, study the other ten; if you still don't understand then study all 108 of them; if you still don't get it try it in the next birth. " Mandukya ekam eva alam."

Gaudapada wrote the commentary on the twelve shlokas of Mandukya Upanishad in verse form. He occupies a very important position in Advaita Tradition.

The following is an important mantra for advaitins:

Narayanam Padmanabhuvam Vasishtam Shaktim cha tatputra
parashar cha vyasam shukam gaudapadam mahantam govind
yogindramathsya Shishyam Sri Shankaracharyamathsya Padmapadam
cha hastamalakam cha shishya tam totakam vartikkarmanyansmad
gurun santatmanosmi

Sadashiva samarambham Shankaracharya madhyamam

Asmad acharya paryantam vande Guru Paramparam.

The Adi Guru of all Guru's is Vishnu, then came Brahma then Vasishta, Shakti, Parashara, Vyasa, Shuka, then Gaudapada and then Shankara, all the way down to my Guru.

From Narayana to Shuka, the first part of the Guru parampara, are all from Puranas or mythology and not from history. Here each disciple is son of a father; thus Vishnu's son was Brahma and so on. It is also called Pitr-Putr parampara.

Then the parampara changed. While Shuka was a Rishi, Gaudapada was a Manushya. From Gaudapada onwards there is history available of this parampara. From Gaudapada onwards the parampara became different in that it started the Sanyasi paramapara as well. Hence Gaudapada is a very important acharya. Gaudapada was Shankaracharya's Guru's Guru. Hence Gaudapada's Karika is very important.

Gaudapada lived in Gauda Desha or Northern Bengal. His original name is not known. The suffix pada means reverence. So he was the honorable acharya from Gauda Desha. Among his works Mandukya Karika is most important one. He has written 215 shlokas. They help us understand the Upanishad comprehensively, when studied with the Karika. Shankaracharya

started the tradition of studying this Upanishad with its Karika. Shankara also has written a commentary on the Karikas. Following this tradition, we will also study the Upanishad and Karikas together. The 227 shlokas of the Upanishad are divided into four chapters. Each chapter is called a Prakaranam. The four prakaranams are:

1. Agama Prakaranam.
2. Vyatathya Prakaranam
3. Advaita prakaranam
4. Alata Prakaranam

These four prakaranams contain the mantras as well as Karikas.

Agama Prakaranam is a mixture of entire Upanishad with 29 Karikas, thus it has 41 shlokas.

Since it has the entire Upanishad, later Prakaranams have only the Karikas. Since Agama prakaranam is a mixture of Upanishad mantras as well as karikas, which is more prominent of the two? It is said that Chapter One is Upanishad pradhana. Other three chapters are Karika pradhana. The word Agama conveys that the Vedas and their Upanishads as coming from God himself.

Since Chapter One includes Upanishad it has a shanti patha as well. The shanti patha is from Atharvana Veda. Other Upanishads such as Mundaka, Prashna, and now Mandukya are all from Atharvana Veda and they all have the same common Shanti patha.

Shanti patha:

“Om. Shining Ones! May we hear through our ears what is auspicious; Ye, fit to be worshipped! May we see with our eyes what is auspicious; May we, endowed with body strong with limbs, offering praise, complete the full span of life bestowed upon us by the divine beings; May Indra, of enhanced fame, be auspicious unto us; May Pūshan, who is all-knowing,

be auspicious unto us; May Tārکشya, who is the destroyer of all evils, be auspicious unto us; May Brihaspati bestow upon us auspiciousness!

Om. Peace! Peace! Peace!

We have studied this Shanti patha before. Its essence is that through the shanti patha the seeker is asking for three boons; and they are:

1. Ayushyam: A long enough life to be able to complete the study of the Upanishad through Sravanam, Mananam and Nidhidhyasanam.
2. Arogyam: Good health with a good physical body. It does not make sense to live long with a sick body. Sense organs should function well and should focus on good actions such as hearing good, seeing good and speaking good. Mind should be emotionally sound so that I can learn the teaching with a balanced mind. Intellectual health is also important and a sharp intellect is highly desirable so that I can pursue this Vichara.
3. Nirvignatvam: Freedom from obstacles. Prayers to various gods are offered for freedom from obstacles.

This prayer is specific to learning this Upanishad without any obstructions. The Shantipatha ends with Om Shanti chanted three times meaning it is seeking freedom from obstructions of Adhyatmika, Adhidavika and Adhi bhautika nature.

Shloka # 1:

Om, the word, is all this. A clear explanation of it is (the following)- all that is past, present and future, verily, is OM. That which is beyond the three periods of time is also indeed, OM.

First chapter is a mixture of Upanishad and karikas. Upanishad is in prose while karikas are in verse. In this chapter, mantra and karika are mixed.

The first six shlokas are Upanishadic mantras and their karikas. Then comes the seventh mantra.

The first two mantras are introductory ones. They talk of two types of enquiry.

1. Omkara Vichara mantra: this first mantra introduces us to the fact that through Omkara one can arrive at the ultimate reality.
2. Atma Vichara mantra: The second mantra introduces us to self-analysis.
3. Third to seventh mantras: elaborates on atma vichara.
4. Eighth to twelveth mantras: here Omkara vichara is elaborated upon.

All these twelve shlokas are expanded upon further by Gaudapada's commentaries.

Om is discussed in Taittiriya Upanishad as well. It says Brahmaji churned the Vedas and took out the pranava mantra or the Omkara mantra.

In Taittiriya Upanishad's Shikshavalli also the Omkara mantra is discussed.

Now the Upanishad says the monosyllable mantra is the entire creation. If you have to know about creation, just study of Omkara mantra gives you this knowledge.

This study includes all present, past and future creations. The three states are all in Omkara. Anything beyond time is also in Omkara. Omkara represents within time and outside of time as well or Vyavaharika loka as well as paramarthika loka. What is beyond time? Consciousness, Maya, Avidya etc., are all beyond time. In short Omkara is everything.

Truth of Omkara equals truth of creation. Hence this pursuit is important. So, we will study Omkara.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Upanishadic Thoughts With References from Bhawad Geeta



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Mandukya Upanishad, Class 2

Introduction to the Upanishad, continued

Swamiji said, in last class we saw that Vedanta Pramanam is the only means of Brahma Gyanam; all others are extrovert and reveal only anatma. Vedanta Pramanam, in words, however, reveals Brahman. Scriptures however, say Brahman is beyond description of words. They say, words cannot describe Brahman; however, Upanishad itself is in words, if so, how does it reveal Brahman? Even logically words cannot reveal Brahman as the object of revelation must still fulfill the five conditions we saw in the last class. The five conditions were: Rudhi, Jatihi, Guna, Kriya and Sambandha. If an object is evidently available and clearly visible such as say the sun or water then we can have a common description and agreement on this experience. Then we can call it by a name, property, function, relationship or species.

If we don't know name of an object sitting on a table we can describe it through relationship called adhara adheyam sambandha. Through adhara, adheyam can be revealed; and through adheyam, adhara can also be revealed. Through relationship of table we can refer to an object.

These are the five conditions. But Brahman does not meet any of these five conditions.

Thus, Brahman does not have Rudhihi, because we don't have Brahman as a popular experience say like the sun or water. Thus Brahman is not popularly available. This phenomenon is known as Pratyaksha Pratibhihi or popular availability.

Secondly, Jati is also not available to describe the Brahman. There is no Brahman species. Species is possible only when there are many members to compare with. Brahman is Ekam; as such it can't be compared with.

Guna: Brahman is nirgunam; as such it has no properties.

Kriya: Brahman does not have action. It is known as Nishkriya Brahman.

Sambandha: This also does not apply to Brahman as it requires at least two entities. But, Brahman is Ekam. It is non-dual.

Therefore, some people, raising an objection, say, Brahman can't be revealed through words, and as such Vedanta Pramanam can't function.

The answer to this is that even though normally words don't reveal Brahman, using abnormal or unusual methods, they can reveal the truth. Upanishad can do this by having a Guru use the words in a meaningful manner. Four methods are given by the Upanishads through which Brahman can be revealed by words.

They are:

1. **Using unreal attributes:** Brahman is revealed through Mithya attributes. Citing some examples: Revealing sky via its blue color, although in reality the color of sky is not blue. Akasha does not have a color; it only has a mithya color of blue. Similarly the ocean is revealed through the blueness of ocean while in reality water is not blue. Sun can be revealed as the rising sun or setting sun while in reality we know sun does not rise or set. It appears so, as the earth revolves. Thus, words can reveal through apparent attributes. This is one method of revealing Brahman. The Sakshitvam of Brahman or consciousness is also an apparent attribute used to reveal Brahman. In reality Sakshitvam is not a real attribute; it is only an apparent attribute.

Shakshitvam means witnessing and it is an apparent attribute.

2. **Temporary or incidental attributes:** are also used to reveal objects. It is not a real or intrinsic attribute. Citing example a man is searching for a house among many similar houses. How to reveal the house of Mr. X? A crow sat on that house. Now, the crow becomes an incidental indicator of the house. The person showing the house shows the crow only as an incidental attribute. Similarly consciousness can't be revealed directly. So its direct association with body is used to reveal. Thus, consciousness is not a part, product, or property of body; rather it is something that makes the body sentient. The body will die and Consciousness is not permanently connected to the body; but we use the incidental body to reveal Brahman.
3. **.Absence of attribute** is used to reveal Brahman. Citing an example: There are several drinking glasses with each containing coke, milk, water and even an empty one respectively. How to identify the empty glass? Emptiness is revealed through absence of things. Emptiness does not have any color. It is a negative attribute. Another example: Several people wore spectacles while there was one person without spectacles. So, here, absence of spectacle is an attribute. Similarly when we call a person a bald man it refers to absence of hair or a person without hair. Thus, Anantam Brahman or absence of limitation (nirakara, nirguna, etc) is all absence of attributes. Thus the three attributes we have seen are: Apparent, Incidental and Absence.
4. The fourth attribute is one where without talking of Brahman, he talks of something else and thus indirectly talks of Brahman. **Thus, it is talking without talking about it.** Citing an example: A Mother has two boys. She tells elder boy, you are very intelligent, making younger son feel bad. Although mother did not say anything to younger boy, just praising elder son was

enough of a signal. Another example: three men are in a room with a glass full of water. One left the room then came back and noted glass was empty. He asked, who drank the water? One of them said I did not drink the water. The implication, without saying it, was that the other person drank the water. This is known as communication without communicating and is also called **Maunam Vakhyanam**. Maunam does not always mean keeping the mouth shut. Another example: some one came to meet me just before I left for a class. He kept talking and finally I had to remind him that I had a class at 5:30 PM. He understood and took leave. Here again the communication was indirect. Another example: someone was leaving in his car. I asked where are you going? He says where can I drop you off? This is another non-verbal communication. Upanishad calls it Neti Neti method of communication. After negating everything whatever is left behind is called Neti, Neti method. It does not talk of subject positively rather it talks of other topics and thus communicates. Thus through Neti Neti method we discover that Atma is not the Known or the Unknown. So, whatever is left is only the knower alone. Known and unknown are all objects. This is the **fourth method known as Lakshanavrithi or the Implication method**.

These are the four methods used to reveal knowledge.

Lastly one more important topic needs to be discussed.

The general perception is that words can give knowledge. Knowledge is however complete only when it is intimately and directly experienced. Only then is knowledge complete. Thus beauty of Gangotri and Badrinath can be experienced in our direct viewing experience. Reading only gives me knowledge but it is incomplete unless I directly experience Badri or Gangotri.

Vedanta is in words and it can only give knowledge; but it is incomplete, as one still needs the direct experience. If so, how, will Vedanta knowledge be considered complete?

For this a variety of sadhanas are discussed, to convert Gyanam to experience, such as meditation, sravanam, mananam etc. This is known as Gyana Anubhava Bheda. They consider Atma Gyanam is different from Atma anubhuti. Therefore, without Atma anubhuti, knowledge will be incomplete. How then to get Vedanta Anubhava? They say Vedanta Gyanam is Gyanam while anubhava is obtained through meditation.

Vedantic point of view:

They say Vedantic words can give only knowledge; we agree with this. They say, it can't give anubhava; we agree with this as well.

We, however, say, Vedanta does not give anubhava nor does it wish to give anubhava. Vedanta says we don't require any more new experiences at all. Our problem is not lack of new experiences. Our problem is lack of knowledge alone. What does this mean? All our self-experiences can be classified in two categories:

- Dvaita anubhava
- Advaita anubhava.

All of us have gone through both dvaita and advaita experiences. Every human being has gone through both. How do you say so?

In waking and dream states we go through dvaita anubhava. I am the subject (experiencer) different from the object. Subject object duality exists and is known as Savikalpa anubhava. In this dvaita anubhava, I experience myself as an individual, localization in time and space occurs separate from others, and naturally I am a limited "I"; individual, localized and separate, I.

Another experience we have is during sleep. Here there is no division of subject and object. No subject object duality exists. I am not an individual entity. No localization occurs; thus I cannot say I am in Madras as I cannot locate myself. I have no limitation. This "I" experience in sushupti is the clean advaita anubhava.

Jagrat & Swapna: Dvaita anubhava.

Sushupti: Advaita anubhava.

Other than these two anubhavas there is no other anubhava.

Therefore, Vedanta does not want to give any new anubhavas; we have gone through all anubhavas in Avastha Trayam. Our problem is not lack of any anubhava; **our problem is in dvaita I experience myself as a limited "I" and in advaita I experience myself as a limitless "I".**

The question before us is, which is our real nature, the limited or limitless I? Both can't be our real nature as they are diagonally opposites. So, only, one of them is my real nature and the other is only an incidental nature; or Swabhavik dharma and Agantuka dharma. Unfortunately before studying Vedanta we concluded, erroneously, that the limited I is our real nature and limitless I is an incidental one or it is a Vesham (disguise).

So problem is not lack of experience rather it is our wrong conclusions from our experiences. Vedanta's aim is not to give me another experience rather it raises questions and rectifies our conclusions.

The rectified conclusion is that I am the limitless one, my real nature. Limited human experience is only an incidental Vesha. **"You are not a human being requiring spiritual experience; rather you are a spiritual being temporarily going through a human experience",** said somebody.

Therefore Vedanta does not give or want to give us a new experience. Therefore student should not expect a new experience. Mandukya Upanishad's analysis of Avastha Trayam brings us the proper knowledge. Vedanta assists us in arriving at proper knowledge in the Jagrat Avastha. In the other two avasthas, sushupti and swapna, a teacher cannot teach us.

Thus, Vedanta gives us knowledge and it is enough for liberation.

Take Away:

1. Our problem is, in dvaita, I experience myself as a limited "I" and in advaita I experience myself as a limitless "I". The question before us is, which is our real nature, the limited or limitless I?
2. "You are not a human being requiring spiritual experience; rather you are a spiritual being temporarily going through a human experience".

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Mandukya Upanishads, Class 1

Introduction to the Upanishad:

Greetings All,

Swamiji said, having completed Taittiriya Upanishad now we are entering Mandukya Upanishad. It is a different Upanishad from Mundako Upanishad. Today, I will give you a general

introduction to this Upanishad. In the introduction I will consolidate the introductions of previous Upanishads. Thus our original scriptures are called Vedas or Shruti, a means or source of knowledge. They are a body of literature through which we come to know about the means and ends of human life. It is also called Shruti, as Rishi's heard it, as revealed to them by the Lord. So, Vedas are considered a revealed literature, one not born out of human intellect as such also called Aupurushyam. They have been propagated as karna parampara as well. These Vedas are four in number and are: Rg, Yajur, Sama and Atharvana.

This vast Vedic literature is classified as follows:

1. Veda Purva.
2. Veda Anta.

This Veda-purva section talks about varieties of karma. Karmas are rites to be done. Therefore, it is called karma section (action-section). Veda-anta section does not focus on action but on knowledge. Veda-purva section gives benefit by doing. Veda-anta section gives benefit by knowing. Therefore, Veda-anta section is called Gyana section (knowledge-section). In all the four Vedas, karma section and Gyana section are found. Veda expects every follower of Veda to start with the karma section, the religious way of life. Gyana section deals with the spiritual life. One should start with religious life and graduate into spiritual life. **Without religious life, spirituality will not work. Without spirituality, religious life is incomplete.** Therefore, the follower of the Veda should follow a religious life and go to spirituality.

Veda Purva: First part or beginning part of the Vedas includes: a) Sadhya Trayam, b) Sadhana Trayam and c) Dosha Trayam.

Sadhya Trayam: are three types of human goals. The human goals are:

1. Self Improvement
2. Improvement of possessions. This can include one's house, material possessions, one's family etc.
3. Improvement of set up. This includes the environment in which you live or environmental improvement.

Human being desires security and happiness and they are dependent on these three goals. If anyone of these goals is missing, happiness and security are difficult to reach. So, these are the goals for a human being in Veda Purva.

Sadhana Trayam:

To accomplish the human goals three disciplines known as Sadhana Trayam are prescribed. They are:

1. Physical disciplines for the body that include rituals. These disciplines are also called Kayika Sadhanani.
2. Verbal disciplines in the form of Japa and Parayanam. They are also known as Vachika Karmani.
3. Mental disciplines also known as Manasa Karmani often in the form of meditation.

Dosha Trayam: Are the three forms of defects. All human goals have certain intrinsic defects or Doshas. These defects are considered natural to the human goals. The defects are:

1. **Dukha mishritatvam:** These are goals that are mixed with pain. The goals give joy but are mixed with pain of acquisition, preservation and the pain of loss.
2. **Atriptikaram:** They never give total satisfaction resulting in perpetual struggle. It is like a gambler, even when he wins, he wants to play more and more.
3. **Bandhatvam:** They are all dependency causing goals. They lead to enslavement. They weaken an individual.

Generally majority of people are satisfied with the Sadhya, Sadhana and even with the Doshas. Majority of people who are mediocre are satisfied with these three. Some rare people

having experienced doshas look for goals that are defect free. Very few seek Dosha Rahita sadhyam, defect free goals.

To these advanced people, adventurous people, Vedanta addresses them; it tells them that it has Nirdosha Sadhyam; for them Vedanta is relevant. And, what does Vedanta say to those mature people? It says this dosha rahita sadhyam is Brahman. Gita in chapter five also defines Brahman as Nirdoshaha. Now, the Seeker wants to reach this Brahman. Vedanta, however, tells him, kindly don't seek Brahman. You will never find Brahman, as You are that Brahman. Tat Tvam Asi. This is the revealing and shocking statement of Vedanta. Listening to this from Vedanta the seeker finds a problem. Until Vedanta statement he, the seeker, looked at himself, as one saturated with Doshas. He sees defects in each one his five koshas as well. His life is riddled with defects, is his conclusion. Even a rare, good opinion about myself, will be shattered by family and society. So, what is my vision of myself? It is that I am Sa-Dosha while Vedanta says you are Nirdosha Brahman.

So, what am I, is the big question? Am I the pure Brahman or am I the defect-full human? I can't dismiss the Vedas, as they are divine in origin. Veda is called Adrishta Pramanam, so I can't set it aside.

Even though Vedanta declares that, we will not easily accept it, because we already have a conclusion about ourselves. Our conclusion is that we are miserable jivas but Vedanta says that we are, the wonderful, Brahman. Our conclusion has been arrived at due to our experiences over so many years. Samsara is helplessness, anger, frustration, and depression. Life has become a meaningless, burdensome, boring struggle. 'We are miserable jivas' is a conclusion that we have arrived at but Vedanta says otherwise. Which one is correct? We have to enquire. Thus begins self-enquiry as to whether we are miserable jivas or wonderful Brahman. Vedanta, being a means of knowledge, helps us perform that enquiry.

At the same time I experience my own doshas everyday. I can't set them aside as well. Anubhava Pramanam says I am Sadushta while Veda says I am Adushta. **Therefore, I have to enquire into self-enquiry, acquire self Knowledge and this will then remove my self-misconception.**

Once I am a seeker of knowledge, I must seek an appropriate instrument of knowledge as well. For color knowledge I require eyes. For knowledge of sound I require ears. So, we need Pramanam. There are six pramanams or instruments. They are:

1. a) pratyaksha: perception,
2. b) Anumana: inference, comparison and analogy
3. c) Upamana: postulation, derivation from circumstances
4. d) Arthapatti: non-perception,
5. e) Anupalabdhi: meaning negative or cognitive proof,
6. f) Shabda: word, testimony of past or present reliable experts.

Of these six instruments five are outward facing, objective proof of the external world. None of them, however, observe my self. They will not help with self- knowledge. Eyes can't see my own face. It is an intrinsic limitation. Then, there is only one pramanam and that is Vedanta Pramanam that can reveal my own nature. Without mirror I can't see my face. So, I have to use Vedanta Darpana. To use mirror I need eyes as well. It is like I need a microscope to look at the very small microbes and I need a telescope to see far away objects. To attain Brahman I have to employ Vedanta Pramanam. Now, how do you use Vedanta Pramanam? First of all never use it all by yourself. Learn how to use it. Operating it involves the following steps:

- Sravanam
- Mananam
- Nidhidhyasanam

The more you look into the mirror, you see yourself with

greater clarity. Similarly, Shastric study is to turn you towards your self.

Shravanam: It is a systematic analysis of Vedanta teaching and extracting the central teaching. For this analysis six factors have to be considered. They are:

1. Upakrama-Upasamhara: commencement and Conclusion,
2. Abhyasa : practice or reiteration,
3. Apurvata: unprecedentedness,
4. Phala: fruit,
5. Arthavada: glorifying passage or explanatory statement and\
6. Upapatti: illustration.

In simple English, **Shravanam is a systematic and consistent study of Vedantic literature for a length of time under a competent teacher.**

Who is a competent teacher? One who was a competent disciple is now a competent teacher. This will give me self-knowledge that I am Nirdosha Brahman.

Mananam:

This process will remove all doubts about the teaching. I find it difficult to believe that I am defect free. Mananam should clear all such doubts. It will free knowledge from all forms of doubts.

Nidhidhyasanam: It is Vedantic meditation. It is internalizing the teaching by dwelling on the doubt free knowledge in any form such as reading, writing, repeated listening, discussion, teaching and meditation. Meditation is not insisted upon as the only method. This internalizing is the de-conditioning process. There are many forms of Self-Conditioning. We never question our conditioning. Here we want

to eliminate all our conditioning. Once I discover this fact, all three Sadhyams, their arrival and departure, will not make any serious difference in me.

When things and people are around me, I feel it is a burden; but without them, I also feel emptiness. Moksha means both, burden and emptiness, do not affect me anymore.

All this we learnt as an introduction from previous five Upanishads. A few more points need to be noted. One doubt that can come up is that scriptures say, Brahman can't be revealed by words. Reasoning alone can prove it.

Now, words can reveal an object only if the object fulfills certain conditions. They are called Shabda Pravriti Nimithani. Here Shabda means words; Pravriti means function; Nimithani means condition.

There are five conditions for words to reveal any knowledge. Brahman, however, does not fulfill any of them. How can Brahman be revealed by studying scriptures or words or via shabda Pramanam?

The five conditions for words are:

1. Rudhihi or Pratyaksha Vishayatvam: means it is available for direct perception. You can see an object. Then we can name the object. Let us call the object a "Clip". In future the word Clip reveals the object in mind.
2. Jathihi: Means species. Consider a tree outside that you have not experienced. You have experienced some other tree(s). You understand tree without experiencing the tree outside. You are able to do so because this tree also belonged to the same class of tree. You, thus, understand the meaning of the word "tree" as object falling under a species.
3. Guna: Properties of the object also help identify it.
4. Karma: When someone says, call the driver; the word driver reveals him through his function.

5. Sambandha: Relationship is another way of revealing.
Thus father, brother, sister etc., reveal relationships.

Brahman, however, does not have any of the five above. If so, how will Upanishad teach Brahman?

Take Away:

1. Without religious life, spirituality will not work. Without spirituality, religious life is incomplete.
2. Shravanam is a systematic and consistent study of Vedantic literature for a length of time under a competent teacher.
3. When things and people are around me, I feel it is a burden; but without them, I also feel emptiness. Moksha means both, burden and emptiness, do not affect me anymore.
4. Shravanam: It is a systematic analysis of Vedanta teaching and extracting the central teaching.
5. Mananam: This process will remove all doubts about the teaching.
6. Nidhidhyasanam: It is internalizing the teaching by dwelling on the doubt free knowledge in any form such as reading, writing, repeated listening, discussion, teaching and meditation.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 51

Greetings All,

Swamiji said, today I will give you a summary of Brghuvalli. It is the third and final chapter of the Upanishad. Main teaching of Upanishad was in Chapter 2 on the topic of Brahma Vidya.

Chapter 3 deals with certain other but important topics. Chapter 3 begins with the word Brghu, hence the name of the chapter as well. The chapter is in prose form and it is divided into paragraphs known as anuvakahas. There are ten anuvakahas. Topics discussed are: Gyana Sadhanani and Gyana Phalam.

Gyana sadhanani deals with Brahma Gyana sadhanani. Gyana Phalam deals with Brahma Gyana phalam or fruits of this knowledge. For our convenience the chapter can be divided into three topics. They are:

1. Direct means of Brahma Gyananam or Sakshat Karanani.
2. Indirect means of Brahma Gyananam also called Sahakari Karanani.
3. Gyana Phalam or the benefit of this knowledge.

Anuvakaha #1 through # 5:

First topic; Gyana Sakshat Karanani: Is addressed from Anuvakaha #1 through # 5. What is the direct means of Brahma Gyanam? It is enquiry into Brahman or Brahma Vichara. Brahma Vichara is called Tapas in the Upanishad. This enquiry should be done with Guru and Shastra say the Upanishads. Enquiry in Vedanta always includes Guru and Shastra. Both are important. Even if one of them is absent, enquiry will be inadequate. Guru is shown through Guru Shishya teaching between Varuna and Brghu. Their dialogue is the teaching. Importance of Shastra is shown when Varuna gives two clues for this enquiry. They

are: 1) Brahma Upalabdi Dwaram and 2) Brahma Lakshanam.

Brahma Upalabdi Dwaram includes factors useful for enquiry such as Pancha Maha Kosha (Annam, Prana, Manaha etc.) Definition of Brahman was given as Brahma Lakshanam. What is the lakshanam? It means Brahman is Jagat Srishti Sthithi Laya Karanam. These two factors indicate the role of shastras.

Keeping Guru and shastra in mind, Brghu conducted his enquiry. His method was Pancha Kosha Viveka. It is one methods of Vichara. This Vichara was discussed in great detail in chapter 2. Its significance is that it takes the intellect of the student from grossest annam to the subtlest ananda. In each anuvakaha, Brghu travels through each kosha and beyond the koshas he discovers ananda.

What is ananda? This, again, was detailed in Chapter 2. It means Chaitanyam. It is not experiential pleasure, which is called ananda maya. This Ananda is the Sat Chit Ananda.

Every thing rises in Chaitanya; rests in it and resolves in it as well. With this the Vichara is over, from anuvakaha #1 through Anuvakaha # 6. First topic of Chapter 3 is over.

Anuvakaha # 7-# 10:

Second topic, Sahakari Sadhanani: are the indirect factors. They don't directly produce Brahma Gyanam, just as water is indirectly responsible for the growth of a fruit. It plays a supportive role to the seed, the main cause of the fruit. Vichara can be compared to the seed while other sadhanani assist the Vichara.

What are the other Sadhanani?

They include:

1. Karma: Karma yoga's are saha kari Sadhanani. Several disciplines are prescribed under Karma.
2. Upasanas are meditations.

These two subjects are addressed from anuvakaha # 7 to anuvakaha # 10. In Anuvakaha 10, only first half addresses these topics. So it is three and a half anuvakahas that are involved.

Sahakari Sadhanani:

1. Karma Yoga. This includes certain Sad Bhavanas and Sad Karmani. Their combination is karma Yoga. It says:
2. We should have a healthy attitude towards annam.
3. Never criticize food. Don't criticize food you are eating or have eaten.
4. Anna Tyaga Vrajanam. Don't waste food served to you. It is an indirect form of insult.
5. Anna Vridhi Karanam. Produce plenty of food.
6. Anna Danam; Share the food. Producing and sharing are both part of Karma Yoga.
7. Athiti seva: Service to guest. Athithi seva can be taken as service to humanity or manava seva or manushya yagna. Thus, Upanishad is also hinting at pancha maha yagnas.

All above are under karma yoga, where emphasis is on Service with proper attitude.

Next Sahakara Sadhanani are Upasanani:

Four groups of Upasanas are prescribed. They are:

1. Virat Upsasana. Here it is meditation on entire creation as body of Lord. In Virat upasana, three pairs of things are taken and meditated upon. They are:

Shariram and Prana.

Agni and Jalam

Prithvi and Akasha.

We are asked to see their interdependence and interconnectedness and thus see the one-ness of cosmos.

Virat: if we see one organ, then we see a cosmic organism, the One Cosmic Being whose many organs that are interconnected. Here Sakama and Nishkama Upasanas are both prescribed. **Sakama upasana promotes material growth and brings tangible results. Nishkama Upasana brings internal growth with intangible results.**

2. Second is Adhyatmika Upasanani: Here God is invoked as various faculties in our own body. They are seen as Brahman. All five Karma Indriyas are taken such as Vak (mouth), Pada (feet); Pani (hands); Payu (rectum) and Upastha (genitals) – for reproduction. Powering each of the Indriyas is Prana Shakti. So meditate on Prana as well. Thus five plus one, we have six indriyani to meditate upon. Here too we should perform Sakama or Nishkama Upasana.

3. Third factor is Adhidavika upasanani: Here various natural forces are meditated upon. The four forces discussed are: Nakshatra, Vidyut, Vrishti and Pashu.

All four are connected to an agrarian society. Meditate upon the sun; sun representing the stars. Lightning represents power and energy. Vrishti represents the fulfilling rain. Pashu represents wealth. So, meditate upon each of them as Bhagawan.

4. The fourth one is Akasha Upasanani: Here the gunas of Akasha are meditated upon. It is closest to Brahman. Akasha, like Brahman, is also infinite, all supporting and unaffected. So, see Ishwara Vibhuti in Akasha. This is a significant meditation as Akasha is closest to Brahman. If we can visualize the subtle Akasha, then our intellect is subtle enough to “perceive” Brahman.

With this all four groups of meditation are over. With this we have prepared our mind to be Sadhana Chatushtaya Sampana. After preparation of mind one should perform the Pancha Kosha Vichara as prescribed in Chapter 2.

Anuvakaha # 10, Shloka # 4 –Shloka # 6

Gyana Phalam:

From Bhatruvyaha in anuvakaha # 10, shloka # 4, till end of Shloka # 6 is Gyana phalam. It says here we obtain Jivan mukti or moksha. Jivan mukti is obtained in this very life. Videha mukti, although not discussed by Upanishad, means the person has no more births. Jivan mukti alone is discussed in four different contexts:

1. Pancha Kosha abhimana Tyaga: freedom from identification with anatma. Pancha Kosha represents Universe. Once you dis-identify from all Pancha Koshas, you are atma swarupam; your own nature; ananda swarupam and abhaya swarupam. **Here one is completely detached from everything in creation.** It is also known as Sarvatra Abhimana Rahitaha.
2. If Gyani is bored with dis-identification, then he can take to abhimana as well. Here he identifies with entire creation. “I am everything” is his perspective when he identifies with creation. It is known as Sahi Tatvam. I am one with Ishwara. **Here you identify with everything in Creation.**

Note: Partial attachment is what makes you a Samsari.

Individuality rises in me with Raga and Dvesha due to partial identification. Once I give up partial identification I become a free person. It is the partial identity that binds me to my child, my wife, etc (mamakara). Once this is given up he finds the whole creation is his house etc. Nothing binds him. This is called Swatantram. I don't claim anything as mine. I claim everything as mine. I don't linger in between.

3. **Anandaha:** I appreciate every event objectively. I appreciate birth; death is not a tragedy; union, separation, growth and decay, all are viewed objectively. There is nothing to complain in creation.

Gyani's Sama Ganam indicates this.

These are Gyana Phalams. With this the Upanishad is over.

Take Away:

Two methods of obtaining Jivan mukti are:

1. Here one is completely detached (dis-identified) from everything in creation.
2. Here you identify with everything in Creation.

Sakama Upasana: Sakama upasana promotes material growth and brings tangible results.

Thus, Gita says, our prayers to God will be answered. We will obtain the material benefits that we sincerely pray for.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 50

Greetings All,

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 10, Shloka # 5:

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

according to his wishes, he roams upon the face of this globe and sits singing the following Sama song of joy.

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

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

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

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

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

relationships. Dependence on external world is given up. For such a person the world becomes anatma.

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

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

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

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

Now the Gyana Phalam of jivan mukti is discussed. This Jivan mukta enjoys Purnatvam. It is not a temporary experience and it is in the form of knowledge and the knowledge is that I am purnam. He owns up to Atmananda. His sense of fulfillment is expressed in a song. So the Gyani also sings. It is expressed as Sama Ganam, a Vedic song.

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 10, Shloka # 6:

Oh!Oh!Oh! I am the food. I am the food. I am the food. I am the eater of food. I am the eater of food. I am the eater of food. I am the author of the shloka. I am the author of the shloka. I am the author of the shloka. I am the first born (hiranyagarbha) of the True (of the eternal and Immortal). I

am the centre of immortality, prior to the Gods. Whoever gives me, he surely does save thus. I am the food that eats him who eats food. I have conquered all, in this world. I am luminous like the sun. He who knows thus (also attains aforesaid results). This is the Upanishad.

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

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

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

What is the song?

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

If you identify with anatma, you are in microcosm, that is, identification with the body. Glory belongs to macrocosm

alone. Identification with microcosm is identification with Ahamkara. If not identified with body and mind then one can claim identification with atma; as such I am infinite; here he can claim the glory. This glory is from atmadrsti.

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

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

ShlokaKrit in shloka means the instrument that links Bhokta and Bhojyam. Thus, seer and seen are linked by the eye; hearer and the heard are linked by the hearing instrument; Pramata and Prameya are linked by Pramanam. Karta and Karma are linked by Karanam. In all these, I am, all the three factors of subject, object and the experience. Thus, I am the Triputi. I am Nirvikalpa Aham appearing as Savikalpa Prapancha.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Take away:

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

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

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

Not sharing food is considered bad.

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 49

Ch 3, Anuvaka 10, shloka # 3:

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

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

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

The other power is amrithum or immortalizing power of oneself. Through propagation every species immortalizes itself. The material cause of a child is the parent; flesh and blood of parent is now in child. So it is an indirect form of perpetuation or immortalizing. Thus we have the saying that when one dies he is survived by so and so. Immortality is always ananda. That is why we crave for it. So, we take pictures. That is one of the reasons we name a child. Hence the reason we start an endowment in a name. Mortality is Dukham. Immortality is ananda. One's child is ananda. Brihadaranyaka Upanishad says one's son is ananda. Parents consider their child special and unique. He sees child as himself or an extension of himself. So it leads to prajathihi, then to amrutam and through it to ananda. Through these three glories, prajathihi, amritum and ananda we should meditate on organ of procreation. It is an Adhyatmika upasana.

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

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

Vrishti: Rain is one of the natural forces. Drought is a problem in some parts of India. It has many affects. It is

crucial for human beings. It brings food and many other benefits. When rain comes don't take it for granted. Hence the idea of storing rain water and harvesting it. Meditate on it as fulfillment. Eating well and drinking water requires rain. Several Upanishads talk of rain. Even Tirukural talks of the glory of rain.

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

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

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

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

Akasha Upasana:

This is the subtlest of all upasanas. In akasha alone everything exists. So everything is akasha. In Brahmanandavalli, akasha is one that creates; it is karanam of Vayu, the karyam. Agni is also creation as is jalam; all finally come from Akasha. Nothing exists separate from akasha. Akasha is closest to Brahman. So it is the best Alambanam or symbol for Brahman. Both Akasha and Brahman are invisible; both are non-tangible; both are non-pollutable; both are non-divisible; both are ekam; both are all pervading; both are

sarva-adharam. There are many features that are common to both. Both are sukshmam. If one trains one's mind to meditate on akasha our intellect will get refined enough to understand Brahman. Hence it is an important Upasana. So, Upanishad gives us a group of Akasha Upasanas next.

Ch 3, Anuvaka 10, shloka # 4:

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

This is the last group of Upasanas of the Upanishad.

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

Prathishta: Or support.

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

Shankaracharya says same phalams are applicable to other adhidaivika upasanas as well. As the upsana, so is the

benefit. Thus, with upasana on rains one gets fulfillment. It is the same with Pashu and Nakshatra as well. If one is not interested in the benefits he will certainly obtain spiritual gains.

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

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

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

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

Tataha: means the Akasha Tatvam. Parimara means destructive agent; Nashakaranam means Akasha tatvam is the destructive agent of Ishwara. At time of pralaya everything resolves into akasha finally, in the reverse order of creation. Thus during dissolution, the process reverses as follows:

Prithvi>Jalam>Agni>Vayu>Akasha.

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

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

Both types of enemies will perish. A question can come up as to why the Upanishad is talking about destruction of people

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

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

Ch 2, Anuvakaha 10, Shloka # 5:

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

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

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

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Taitreya Upanishad, Class 48

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 10, Shloka # 1:

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

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

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

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

May you procure enough annam. It is not enough to have food but we should also have the heart to share it with others. Generosity is a faculty that requires a lot of punyam. They

say that among 100 people you will only find one with courage; one with wisdom is found only one in a thousand; a scholar who can communicate what he knows is rarer still and found only one in a hundred thousand; **but the rarest of all is one who wants to give, such a person is rarely found.**

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

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

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

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

In what form will I get the result of danam? Phalam is received as annam from others. As I give, so I receive. You will be treated exactly as you treat others. The world is like a mirror; smile begets smile while frown begets frown.

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

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

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 10, Shloka # 2:

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

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

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

Adhyatmika Brahma Upsananani:

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

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

What are the organs meditated upon?

1. Vachi:

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

In speech one sees God as wellbeing. Vak indriya has only the

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

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

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

▪ **Yoga Kshema:**

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

Apana represents Kshema meaning preservation of accumulation.

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

▪ **Karmeti Hastha yoho:**

Meditate on power of activity residing in hand. Karma affects

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

▪ **Padayoho:**

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

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

From this we learn every organ of body is sacred.

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

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

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

With this the first group of Upasanas are over.

A small point made by shankaracharya is worth noting. Whenever

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

- Sakama upsana phalam
- Nishkama upsana phalam.

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

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

Ch 3, Anuvaka 10, shloka # 3:

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

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

Take away:

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

With Best Wishes,

Taitreya Upanishad Class 47

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 8, Shloka # 1:

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

In first six anuvakas of Brghuvalli the Upanishad summarized pancha kosha viveka as a means of Brahmaavidya. Now in anuvaka # 7 it gives some secondary preparatory disciplines as well. These disciplines are in the form of Upasanas and Vrthams and are described in anuvaka's 7, 8 and 9 respectively. Three Vrthams were given along with disciplines including Vishwarupam upasana. In these upasanas three pairs of things were taken and their inter dependence meditated upon. We see everything as one cosmic organism or as Vishwarupam.

The first pair was Sharira and Prana.

The second pair was Agni and Jalam.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For consumption of water and exit of water from body god has created this thermostat. Agni tatvam (prathistha) is

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

The second Vrattham and upasana are now complete.

CH 3, Anuvaka # 9, Shloka # 1:

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

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

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

At individual level every object is a different form of earth alone. These objects also consume space. In a small flat people are very conscious of space. In one house plastic

chairs are hung from the wall. Tables are folded for the same reason. So, all objects consume space. Therefore, earth is a consumer of space.

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

Akasha>Vayu> Agni> Jalam> Prithvi.

During dissolution the process reverses:

Prithvi>Jalam>Agni>Vayu>Akasha.

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

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

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

Prithvi and Akasha have annam annada sambandham. They have Prathishta Prathishitita Sambandam as well. Everything is interdependent. One who meditates on this cosmic symbiotic relationship will be supported in his life as well. Remember society has to be supported and if you can make yourself indispensable to society, it will also support you. However,

if you are a parasite on society you will be considered a burden. You give and you will be given. He will get worldly results as phalam.

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

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

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

Ch 3, Anuvaka # 10, Shloka # 1:

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

Now we are in the tenth and final anuvaka of Brghuvalli. Here

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

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

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy

Tatitreyaya Upanishad, Class 46

Ch 3, Anuvakaha 6, Shloka # 1:

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

Continuing his teaching Swamiji said, we have completed first six anuvakahas of Brghuvalli. In these anuvakahas the Upanishad gave a summary of Brahma-vidya. Let us remember that Brahma-vidya was already discussed as the main topic of Chapter two. Chapter 3 has provided us with a summary of Jivatma-paramatma aikyam, revealed through pancha kosha viveka. Jagat karanam Brahma is Pancha Kosha Vilakshanam atma. This Pancha kosha Vilakshana atma was identified as ananda atma. Here teaching reaches its culmination. This pancha Kosha vichara was named Tapas. Veda Purva Bhaga defines Tapas as austerities. Vedanta, however, does not define Tapas as austerities but as one pointed enquiry into Self. Pancha Kosha viveka enquiry process was discussed in this context. Through the story of a father and son the necessity of a guru was indicated; even Brghu needed a guru. In this portion an important mantra was quoted as Brahma Lakshanam or definition of Brahman as Srishti, sthithi, laya karanam. With this the first part of Brghuvalli is over. Benefits of this Brahma vidya were next provided. Life remains settled. Psychologically one remains in a settled condition, relieved and in lightened condition. Worldly benefits were also mentioned. Now we are entering second part of Brghuvalli in

Anuvakaha # 7.

Ch 3, Anuvakaha # 7, Shloka # 1:

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

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

A particular meditation group is also prescribed. Intention is to look at whole universe as body of God. This new perspective is that universe is not fragmented, but is one cosmic organism or is Ishwara Shariram. This macro Ishwara is Virat Ishwara. It is a unique teaching by the Upanishad of what god is. In other religions, god is a separate entity who remains away from our world in an unseen place. This is known as Tatastha Ishwara, a god away from world, who is safely ensconced somewhere.

Vedanta says, Ishwara is not away from world; rather he is manifestation of the world. How to manifest this? How can I look at world as one whole principle? Citing example of our body, individual bodies have several parts, organs etc. Why do

we look at a bunch of organs as one whole body? There is logic to it. Even though there are several parts to our body, they are all an interconnected whole. Each organ is connected and dependent on other organs, interconnected and interdependent. So, if one organ gets affected, others are also affected, although probably over a period of time. Thus, in diabetes, while pancreas is affected, over time it also affects the feet and the brain. This connection is not physically perceptible. Similarly, whole cosmos is one organic whole. Every part of creation is related to various parts of creation. Environmental balance is affected, related to rainfall especially, when deforestation occurs.

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

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

1) Annam Annadaha Sambandam;

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

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

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

2) Pratishtha Prathishthita sambandam

Mutually supported relationship. Each pair supports each

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

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

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

First pair is Annam and Shariram.

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

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

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

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

This is a beautiful meditation. Daily Sandhya vandanam

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

Explaining anuvakaha # 7 Swamiji said:

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

The First pair is Pranam and Shariram.

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

Another angle is, when you are physically active.

To reduce obesity, one exercises. At that time Prana is activated; then Prana eats body's own weight. Thus prana eats up body. So, here body is annam and prana is annadam, the first relationship.

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

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

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

to act. So, body supports Prana to function.

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

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

CH 3, anuvakaha # 8, shloka # 1:

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

Second Vrtham: Don't waste food on plate. It is disrespect to Annam. Suppose I am full, should I keep eating? Don't let such a situation develop. Take only what you need to begin with. Suppose server keeps serving despite my protestations? Here again one may cause waste of food; but here the papam belongs to the server. So be careful in eating and serving. **Do not waste food is the vratham.**

Upasana # 2: The pair is Agni and Jalam.

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

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

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

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

Take away:

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

With Best Wishes,

Ram Ramaswamy