

Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 90: Chapter 10, Verses 24-28

(January 22 –January 28, 2020)

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TRANSLITERATION

पुरोधसां च मुख्यं मां विद्धि पार्थ बृहस्पतिम् ।

*purodhasām cha mukhyaṁ mām viddhi pārtha
bṛhaspatim*

सेनानीनामहं स्कन्दः सरसामस्मि सागरः ॥ १०-२४ ॥

senānīnām ahaṁ skandah sarasām asmi sāgarah

महर्षीणां भृगुरहं गिरामस्म्येकमक्षरम् ।

*maharṣhīṇām bhṛigur ahaṁ girām asmyekam
akṣharam*

यज्ञानां जपयज्ञोऽस्मि स्थावराणां हिमालयः ॥ १०-२५ ॥

yajñānām japa-yajño 'smi sthāvarāṇām himālayah

अश्वत्थः सर्ववृक्षाणां देवर्षीणां च नारदः ।

*aśhvattahḥ sarva-vṛikṣhāṇām devarṣhīṇām cha
nāradah*

गन्धर्वाणां चित्ररथः सिद्धानां कपिलो मुनिः ॥ १०-२६ ॥

*gandharvāṇām chitrarathah siddhānām kapilo
muniḥ*

उच्चैःश्रवसमश्वानां विद्धि माममृतोद्भवम् ।

*uchchaiḥśhravasam aśhvānām viddhi mām
amṛitodbhavam*

ऐरावतं गजेन्द्राणां नराणां च नराधिपम् ॥ १०-२७ ॥

airāvataṁ gajendrāṇām narāṇām cha narādhipam

आयुधानामहं वज्रं धेनूनामस्मि कामधुक् ।

*āyudhānām ahaṁ vajraṁ dhenūnām asmi
kāmadhuk*

प्रजनश्चास्मि कन्दर्पः सर्पाणामस्मि वासुकिः ॥ १०-२८ ॥

*prajanaśh chāsmi kandarpaḥ sarpāṇām asmi
vāsukih*

TRANSLATION

- (24)** O Arjun, amongst priests I am Brihaspati; amongst warrior chiefs I am Kartikeya; and amongst reservoirs of water know me to be the ocean.
- (25)** I am Bhrigu amongst the great Rishis (seers) and the transcendental Om amongst sounds. Of all the sacrifices, know me to be the sacrifice of chanting the Holy Name (of Paramaatman); amongst immovable things I am the Himalayas.
- (26)** Amongst trees I am the banyan tree; of the celestial sages I am Narad. Amongst the Gandharvas I am Chitrath, and amongst the *siddhas* I am the sage Kapil.
- (27)** Amongst horses know me to be Uchchaihshrava, begotten from the churning of the ocean of nectar. I am Airavata amongst all lordly elephants, and the king amongst humans.
- (28)** I am the Vajra (thunderbolt) amongst weapons and Kamadhenu amongst the cows. I am Kaamdev, the god of love, amongst all causes for procreation; amongst serpents I am Vasuki.

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Chapter 10

Verse 24:

Lord Krishna reveals that of all priests, His *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence is Brihaspati, the chief priest of all the demigods. The word *senaninam* means generals or commanders of armies. Of them all, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is Skanda, the son of Shiva, who is also known as Kartikeya, who commands the armies of the demigods. Lord Krishna further says that amongst all bodies of water, His *vibhuti* is the mighty ocean.

Verse 25:

Lord Krishna reveals that of all the holy sages, His *vibhuti* is Maha Rishi Bhrigu, who possesses wisdom, glory, and devotion. According to one of the divine pastime described in the Puranas, Lord Vishnu holds the mark of Maha Rishi Bhrigu's foot on His chest when Bhrigu tested the trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiv. The word *giram* means articulate sound vibrations, of which Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is the powerful monosyllable OM. Krishna had declared previously, in verses 7.8 and 8.13, the syllable "OM" to be a sacred sound. It is the *anāhat nād* (the sound vibration that pervades creation). It is often present in the beginning of Vedic mantras for invoking auspiciousness. Of all *yajñas*, the act of dedicating ourselves to the Supreme, the simplest one is the chanting of the holy names of God. This is called *japa yajña*, or the sacrifice of the devotional chanting of the divine names of God. For the practice of ritualistic *yajñas*, a number of rules are applicable, all of which need to be meticulously followed. However, in *japa yajña*, there are no rules. It can be done anywhere and at any time, and is more purifying than the other forms of *yajñas*. In the present age of *Kali*, the chanting of the names of God is even more emphasized. Of all terrestrial mountains, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is the mighty, towering Himalayas.

Verse 26:

Among all trees, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence is the sacred *Ashwattha* or peepal tree, also called the Bodhi Vriksha, under which Mahatma Gautam Budhha attained his spiritual enlightenment. Among all celestial sages, His *vibhuti* is Narada of exceptional *bhakti* or loving devotion. Narada is the Guru of many great personalities such as Ved Vyas, Valmiki, Dhruv, and Prahlad. He is always engaged in singing the glories of God and doing divine works throughout the three worlds. Of all the *Gandharvas* or celestial singers and musicians, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is Chitraratha, famous for his outstanding singing. Of all *Siddhas*, the *yogis* who have attained spiritual perfection, and who have acquired spiritual wisdom, dispassion, renunciation etc., and who are endowed with great

purity, holiness enlightenment, and supernatural powers (*siddhis*), Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is Kapiladeva, the son of Kardama Muni and Devahuti.

Verses 27:

Of powerful horses and mighty elephants, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence is the horse *Uchchaihshrava* and the elephant *Airavata*, who both were manifested from *amrtodbhavam*, the churning of the ocean by *devas* (celestial gods) and *asuras* (demons). *Uchchaihshrava* is a celestial winged-horse that belongs to Indra, the king of the celestial abodes. It is white in color and is the fastest horse in the universe. *Airavata* is a white elephant that serves as the vehicle of Indra. Among humans, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is *naradhipam*, the ruler of men or the king.

Verses 28:

Among weapons, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence is the *vajram* or thunderbolt, the weapon of Indra, chief of the celestial demigods. Among all cows His *vibhuti* is the *Kamadhenu* or *Surabhi* cows which fulfill all desires. *Kandarpah* or the passionate desire is His *vibhuti*, which results in procreation of progeny. His *vibhuti* is not connected in any way to the desire for sense gratification and bodily enjoyments. Of poisonous snakes, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is Vasuki, who was used as a rope to pull the boat containing all species of life during Lord Krishna's incarnation known as *Matsya Avatar*. Vasuki was also used as a rope to rap around the *Mandara* mountain to churn the nectar from ocean by *devas* (demigods) and *danavas* (demons) during Lord Krishna's incarnation as *Kurma Avatar*.