

Reflections from Shrimad Bhagavadgita– Part 91: Chapter 10, Verses 29-33

(January 29 –February 4, 2020)

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ORIGINAL SANSKRIT DOCUMENT

TRANSLITERATION

अनन्तश्चास्मि नागानां वरुणो यादसामहम् ।

anantaśh chāsmi nāgānām varuṇo yādasām aham

पितॄणामर्यमा चास्मि यमः संयमतामहम् ॥ १०-२९ ॥

pitṛīṇām aryamā chāsmi yamaḥ sanyamatām aham

प्रह्लादश्चास्मि दैत्यानां कालः कलयतामहम् ।

prahlādaśh chāsmi daityānām kālaḥ kalayatām aham

मृगाणां च मृगेन्द्रोऽहं वैनतेयश्च पक्षिणाम् ॥ १०-३० ॥

*mṛigāṇām cha mṛigendro 'ham vainateyaśh cha
pakṣhiṇām*

पवनः पवतामस्मि रामः शस्त्रभृतामहम् ।

pavanaḥ pavatām asmi rāmaḥ śhastra-bhṛitām aham

झषाणां मकरश्चास्मि स्रोतसामस्मि जाह्नवी ॥ १०-३१ ॥

jhaṣhāṇām makaraśh chāsmi srotasām asmi jāhnavī

सर्गाणामादिरन्तश्च मध्यं चैवाहमर्जुन ।

sargāṇām ādir antaśh cha madhyam chaivāham arjuna

अध्यात्मविद्या विद्यानां वादः प्रवदतामहम् ॥ १०-३२ ॥

adhyātma-vidyā vidyānām vādaḥ pravadatām aham

अक्षराणामकारोऽस्मि द्वन्द्वः सामासिकस्य च ।

akṣharāṇām a-kāro 'smi dvandvaḥ sāmāsikasya cha

अहमेवाक्षयः कालो धाताहं विश्वतोमुखः ॥ १०-३३ ॥

aham evākṣhayaḥ kālo dhātāham viśhvato-mukhaḥ

TRANSLATION

- (29)** Amongst the snakes I am Anant; amongst aquatics I am Varun. Amongst the departed ancestors I am Aryama; amongst dispensers of law I am Yamraj, the lord of death.
- (30)** I am Prahlad amongst the demons; amongst all that controls I am time. Know me to be the lion amongst animals, and Garud amongst the birds.
- (31)** Amongst purifiers I am the wind, and amongst wielders of weapons I am Lord Rama. Of water creatures I am the crocodile, and of flowing rivers I am the Ganges.
- (32)** O Arjun, know me to be the beginning, middle, and end of all creation. Amongst sciences I am the science of spirituality, and in debates I am the logical conclusion.
- (33)** I am the beginning “A” amongst all letters; I am the dual word in grammatical compound words. I am the endless, ever-flowing Time, and amongst creators I am Brahma.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1I8VB4ruCG4_w-S6UugIwH6MovdtqsTHm

Chapter 10

Verse 29:

Among the non-poisonous snakes of many heads, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence is the divine snake Ananta endowed with the qualities of dispassion and mightiness. Among the inhabitants of water (aquatics), His *vibhuti* is Varun, the ruler of the aqueous kingdom. Among the departed ancestors (manes), Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is Aryama, one of the sons of Aditi and Sage Kashyapa. Among the chastisers of law and justice, His *vibhuti* is Yamaraj, the demigod in charge of death who either rewards the souls of the righteous or punishes the souls of the unrighteous in the next life.

Verse 30:

Among those born in demoniac lines, called *Daityas*, the children of Diti and Sage Kashyapa, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence is the great devotee Prahlada, who was totally devoted to the Supreme Lord in loving devotion while he was still in his mother's womb. Of all subjugators or controllers, His *vibhuti* is Time, which is the greatest subduer that wears down even the biggest and the mightiest entities of the universe. Of all beasts, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is the majestic lion, the king of the jungle. Of all birds, His *vibhuti* is *vainateyah* or the son of Vinata, also known as Garuda, the king of all birds as well as the vehicle of Lord Vishnu.

Verse 31:

Among all the purifiers, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence is the swift moving wind. Wind is the greatest and the most effective natural purifier as it converts impure water into water vapor, carries away the foul smells of the earth, and makes the fire burn by fueling it with oxygen. Among weapon wielding warriors, His *vibhuti* is the valiant Lord Rama who is considered a *lila avatar* or the divine pastime incarnation of the Supreme Lord Krishna Himself. Of all water-dwelling creatures, His *vibhuti* is *Makara*, a specific crocodile, which lives in the deepest part of the ocean and can swallow a whole whale. Of all the flowing rivers, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is the holy river Ganges, on whose banks many great sages have performed austerities for ages.

Verses 32:

In order to describe the entire creation (*sarga*) as His *vibhuti* or the divine, transcendental opulence, Lord Krishna uses the word *sarganam*, meaning "of all created things", which include the all five elements (the *pancha Bhuta*): earth, ether, air, fire, and water. He says He is the beginning (Creator), middle (Maintainer) and end (Destroyer) of all things in

existence. In verse 20 of this Chapter, Lord Krishna revealed His *vibhuti* as the beginning, middle and ending of all living entities, using the word *bhutanam*. But here He is referring to the broader insentient process that manifests itself as creation of the sum total of all things in existence. **Of all the knowledge that exists, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is *adhyatma-vidya* or the paramount knowledge of the eternal soul which exists within all living entities.** **Of the three forms of debate and argument, including *vada*, *jalpa* and *vitanda*, His *vibhuti* is *vada*, which is the logical, discriminating debate that results in knowledge of the irrefutable, conclusive, and absolute truth.** This is in opposition to the other two forms of debate, including *jalpa* which is an argument calculated to destroy the opposition at any cost, including even by deception and falsehood. The third one is *vitanda* whose aim is to criticize and undermine the oppositions position without ever establishing any position of its own.

Verses 33:

Of all letters of the alphabet, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* or divine, transcendental opulence is the letter A. The Vedic scriptures declare that the letter A is all speech and takes many various forms when manifested from different parts of the body such as throat, nose, palate, abdomen etc. **Of compound words His *vibhuti* is the dual compound (*dvandva*) such as Rama-Krishna which exemplifies the prominence of both parts, which are complimentary yet independent.** Lord Krishna's another *vibhuti* is the ever-flowing Time. Earlier in Verse 30 above, Lord Krishna stated that His *vibhuti* was Time in terms of being a controller of the longevity of lifespan of all created beings, in the finite sense; but here He reveals another aspect of Time being His *vibhuti* in the infinite sense as an eternal, ever-flowing phenomenon. **The first type of Time determined the duration of a life and is terminated when the *jiva* or embodied being's life is terminated. The second type of Time flows uninterrupted as infinite Time.** **Of all creators, Lord Krishna's *vibhuti* is *dhataham visvato-mukhah* meaning the four faced Brahma whose faces can see on all sides.**