maniShA panchakaM with translation

మనీషాపఞ్చికం సార్థమ్

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November 7, 2020

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సత్యాచార్యస్య గమనే కదాచిన్నుక్తి దాయకమ్ । కాశీక్యేత్రం ప్రతి సహ గౌర్యా మార్గే తు శ్ర్కారమ్ ॥ అన్హ్యవేషధరం దృష్ట్యా గచ్ఛ గచ్ఛేతి చాబ్రవీత్ 1 శఙ్కరఃసో౽పి చాణ్లలస్తం పునః ప్రాహ శ్ర్కరమ్ ॥ ఆర్యా వృత్త -అన్న మయాదన్న మయమథవా చైతన్య మేవ చైతన్యాత్ । యతివర దూరీకర్తుం వాఞ్చిసి కిం బ్రూహి గచ్చ గచ్చేతి । శార్థూల విక్రీడిత ఛన్గ -ప్రత్యోగ్వస్తుని నిస్తరజ్దేసహజానన్గావబోధామ్బుధౌ విప్రో విదార్జు సినిది కిం గజ్దామ్ముని బిమ్బితే మృరమణౌ చాణ్దాల వీథీపయః పూరే వా<u>్నరమసి</u> కాఞ్చనఘటీమృత్కుమృయోర్వా మృరే ॥ జాగ్రత్స్వప్ప సుషుప్తిషు స్పుటతరా యా సంవిదుజ్బమ్బతే యా బ్రహ్మా దిపిపీరికాన్తతనుషు ప్రోతా జగత్సా క్షిణీ । సైవాహం న చ దృశ్యవస్త్వితి దృఢప్రజ్ఞాపి యస్యాస్తి చే-သာ္မရွာစ်ိဳးခလ္က လ လ လို ဆို ဆို လိုလ်ပိုင်္ခရွိသို သင်္လဆို သည် ။ ဂ။ బ్రహ్మైవాహామిదం జగచ్చ సకలం చిన్మాత్రవిస్తారితం సర్వం చైతదవిద్యయా త్రిగుణయా ౖశేషం మయా కల్పితమ్ ١ ఇత్తం యస్య దృఢా మతి: సుఖతరే నిత్యే పరే నిర్మ లే చాణ్డాలో ఒస్తు స తు ద్విజో ఒస్తు గురురిత్యేషా మనీషా మమ ॥ ౨॥ శశ్వన్న శ్వరమేవ విశ్వమఖిలం నిశ్చిత్య వాచా గురో-ర్నిత్వం బ్రహ్మ నిరన్తరం విమృశతా నిర్వ్యాజశాన్తాత్మనా । భూతం భావి చ దుష్కృతం ప్రదహతా సంవిన్నయే పావకే

అనుష్టుప్ ఛన్గా -



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ప్రారబ్ధాయ సమర్పితం స్వవపురిత్యేషా మనీషా మమ ॥ 3॥ యా తిర్యజ్నరదేవతాభిరహమిత్యన్తః స్ఫుటా గృహ్యతే యద్భాసా హృదయాకదేహవిషయా భా<u>రి</u> స్వతో 2 చేతనాః । తాం భాస్త్యెః పిహితార్క మణ్డలనిభాం స్ఫూర్తిం సదా భావయ-న్యోగీ నిర్వృతమానసో హి గురురిత్యేషా మనీషా మమ ॥ ४॥ యత్సౌఖ్యామ్నుధిలేశలేశత ఇమే శక్రాదయో నిర్వృతా యచ్చిత్తే నితరాం ప్రశా<u>న</u>కలనే లబ్ద్వా మునిర్నిర్వృతా యచ్నిత్తే నితరాం ప్రశా<u>న</u>కలనే లబ్ద్వా మునిర్నిర్వృతా యచ్నిత్తే నితరాం ప్రశా<u>న</u>కలనే లబ్ద్వా మునిర్నిర్వృతా యచ్నిత్తే నితరాం ప్రశాన్తకలనే లబ్ద్వా మునిర్నిర్వృత్తా యప్నిల్యే సురేన్ద్రవన్దికలుగే కిర్మాహ్మైవ న బ్రహ్మ విద్ యః కశ్చిత్స సురేన్ద్రవన్దితపదో నూనం మనిషా మమ ॥ ×॥ దాసస్తే 2 హం దేహదృష్ట్యా 2 శింభో జాతస్తేం 2 శో జీవదృష్ట్యా త్రిదృష్టే । సర్వస్యా 2 2 త్మన్నాత్మదృష్ట్యా త్వమేవే-త్యేవం మే ధీర్నిశ్చితా సర్వశాస్రైక్తి ॥ ॥ ఇతి శ్రీమచ్ఛఙ్కరభగవతః కృతౌ మనీషాపఞ్చకం సమ్పూర్ణమ్ ॥

Introduction

ManIShA panchakam was written by Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya. A biography of Shankara and his other compositions of vedic literature can be found in the shankara.itx document. Shri Shankara has been criticized by modern western scholars for propounding sectarian beliefs in his commentary (bhashya) of Brahma sutra where he restricts the recitation of Vedas to the upper castes only . However, one should note that one is handicapped when writing a commentary on a text . Thus in independent compositions like the upadesasahasri and this short text, manIShA panchakam he expounds his Advaita philosophy in all its glory . Advaita, the non-dualistic philosophy expounded in detail by Shri Shankara, does not recognize differences between people based on caste, creed, religion, gender etc since we are all the manifestations of the same Brahman. The scene is set in Varanasi (Kashi/Benaras), the ancient sacred city of India, and the home to the famous kashi visvanatha temple. Adi shankarAchArya, the expounder of the advaitic, non-dualistic philosophy, was on the way to the temple after finishing his bath . Suddenly he saw a chandAla (an outcaste), on the way, and beckons to him to keep a distance, as per

the practice and custom in those days. That outcaste is none other than the Lord sha.nkara (Shiva) Himself! At such beckoning, the Lord addresses his devotee sha.nkarAchArya, in the first two stanzas (the prologue), as under:

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అనుష్టుప్ ఛన్ద -సత్యాచార్యస్య గమనే కదాచిన్ముక్తి దాయకమ్ । కాశీక్యేత్రం ప్రతి సహ గౌర్యా మార్గే తు శ్ర్కారమ్ ॥ అన్వ్యవేషధరం దృష్ట్వా గచ్ఛ గచ్ఛేతి చాబ్రవీత్ । శజ్కరఃసో 2 పి చాణ్డిలస్తం పునః ప్రాహ శ్ర్కారమ్ ॥ ఆర్యా వృత్త -అన్న మయాదన్న మయమథవా చైతన్యమేవ చైతన్యాత్ । యతివర దూరీకర్తుం వాఞ్ళిసి కిం బ్రూహి గచ్ఛ గచ్ఛేతి ॥

O great ascetic! Tell me . Do you want me to keep a distance from you, by uttering 'go away' 'go away' taking me to be an outcaste ? Is it addressed from one body made of food to another body made of food, or is it consciousness from consciousness — which, O, the best among ascetics, you wish should go away, by saying " Go away, go away"? Do tell me.

శార్దూల విక్రీడిత ఛన్ద -ప్రత్య గ్వస్తుని నిస్తరఙ్గసహజానన్దావబోధామ్బుధౌ విప్రో వియం శ్వపచో వయమిత్యపి మహాన్కో వెయం విభేదభ్రమః । కిం గజ్గామ్బుని బిమ్బితే విమ్బరమణౌ చాణ్డాలపిథీపయః పూరే వా <u>వ</u>రమస్తి కాఞ్చనఘటీమృత్కుమ్భయోర్వా వమ్బరే ॥

Answer me . While the supreme Being is reflected in every object as the sun's reflecion could be seen in the placid waveless water bodies why this doubting confusion and differentiation i.e. whether one is a brahmin or an outcaste ? who is the superior one etc ?. Is there any difference in the reflection of the sun in the waters of the Ganges or in the water present in the street of an outcaste?

Likewise, is there any difference when the water- containers happen to be golden vessels and earthen pots ? (Immediately shankarAcharya realises the presence of the Lord Shankara before him (who has apparently shown Himself with a view to removing the last vestige of imperfection in His devotee) and reels off the following 5 stanzas-constituting 'manIShApa.nchakam'-ending with a further stanza in the form of an epilogue).

If one is convinced firmly, that he is that very Soul which manifests itself in all the conditions of sleep, wakefulness and dream, in all the objects from the great Brahma (the creator) to the tiny ant and which is also the vibrant, but invisible, witnesser of all, then as per my clear conclusion, he is the great teacher/preceptor, be he a twice-born (i.e higher castes) or an outcaste.

I am quite convinced that he is the great Master, be he a Brahmin or an outcaste, who, dwelling on the pure and infinite Brahman thinks of himself as that very Brahman, of whose manifestation the whole Universe is,though apparently the Universe is assumed to consist of different things, due to ignorance and the three Gunas (Satva, Rajas and Tamas).

I am fully convinced by the Preceptor's words that the entire Universe is a transitory illusion and that the human body is given to constantly meditate on the infinite and supreme Being with a serene and unquestioning mind and thus to burn in that sacred Fire the sins with which the human is born. యా తిర్యఙ్నరదేవతాభిరహమిత్యన్తః స్ఫుటా గృహ్యతే యద్భాసా హృదయాషదేహవిషయా భా<u>ని</u> స్వతో 2 చేతనాః । తాం భాస్యైః పిహితార్క మణ్డలనిభాం స్ఫూర్తిం సదా భావయ-న్యోగీ నిర్వృతమానసో హి గురురిత్యేషా మనీషా మమ ॥ ४॥

In my considered opinion that Yogi is great who has clearly grasped within himself the truth and quality of the supreme Being through which all our activities are performed and whose effulgence is hidden by ignorance [of an ordinary person] even as the sun's halo is covered/hidden by the clouds.

యత్సౌఖ్యామ్బుధిలేశలేశత ఇమే శక్రాదయో నిర్వృతా యచ్చిత్తే నితరాం ప్రశాన్తకలనే లబ్ధ్వా మునిర్నిర్వృతః । యస్మిన్నిత్యసుఖామ్బుధౌ గలితధీర్ప్రహ్మైవ న బ్రహ్మవిద్ యః కశ్చిత్స సురేన్ద్రవన్దితపదో నూనం మనీషా మమ ॥ ×॥

I am convinced that whoever has his mind dwelling upon the Great Being who is being worshipped by Indra and other gods and is thus completely at peace with himself has not only understood Brahman but he is himself that great Brahman!

దాసస్తే౽హం దేహదృష్ట్యాలెస్మి శంభో జాతస్తేంలశో జీవదృష్ట్యా త్రిదృష్టే । సర్వస్యాలెలత్మన్నాత్మదృష్ట్యా త్వమేవే-త్యేవం మే ధీర్నిశ్చితా సర్వశాస్త్రైం ॥

Oh Lord ! In the form of body I am your servant . In the form of life, O three-eyed one, I am part of yourself . In the form of soul, you are within me and in every other soul. I have arrived at this conclusion through my intellect and on the authority of the various scriptures.

॥ ఇతి శ్రీమచ్ఛఙ్కరభగవతః కృతా మనీషాపఞ్చకం సమ్పూర్ణమ్ ॥

Thus ends the 'manIShApa nchakam' composed by the AdishankarAcharya.

Encoding by Narayanaswami at swami at math.mun.ca

Translation by Shri S. V. Ganesan

Shri Kanchi MAhaswami Discourse

(English translation of discourse by P N Ramachandran

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The Mahaswami (late Shri Chandrashekharendra Sarasvati Swami) is considered a saint of recent times. His discourses on various topics while on a visit to Madras in 1930's are indeed the benchmark.)

The Harijan asked:

అన్న మయాదన్న మయమథవా చైతన్య మేవ చైతన్యాత్ ।

Which should get away from which, whereto and how? What is your intention? Is it that one frame made of bone and flesh and itself a product of food, should get away from another frame of same composition and same origin? Or, that the soul (atma) resident in a frame should not come near another soul (atma) similarly resident in another frame? Oh! The best among Brahmins, please answer me, what is that which should get away?

ప్రత్యగ్వస్తుని

The sun's light falls both on the waters of the Ganges as well as of those of drains. The sun's image gets reflected from both these surfaces. Is there any difference between the two images? Similarly, is there any difference in the images of the sun reflected in the water contained in a vessel whether the latter is made of gold or of mud?

There is a permanent reality (paramatma) in our bodies. Paramatma, which is all perfect has the innate attributes of both bliss and knowledge. There are no differences in it. It is omniscient like the ocean. Even this comparison is not fully correct. In the ocean there are many waves. But in the paramatma there are no waves. The physical ocean has atmosphere standing upon it. This causes the waves in the ocean. But paramatma exists everywhere. There is no place without it. In view of its omnipresence there are no waves in it. It is both unexcellable bliss and limitless knowledge. In the paramatma which is of such nature, how can there be differences?.

The question being in the nature of highest knowledge, evoked reply in the same vein. Adi Sankara said, .If you are such a knower of Brahmam (supreme reality), then you are indeed my Guru (revered teacher).. Adi Sankara's reply is in five slokas known as ManeeshA Panchakam. Maneesha means firm conviction and Panchakam means five-fold. Adi Sankara sets out these as his firm convictions.

Adi Sankara replied:

జాగ్రత్స్వప్న

(Maneesha Panchakam . verse 1)

If this type of firm self-knowledge is found in any one . the knowledge that from the great Brahma (the creator) to the tiny ant, in all animate and inanimate things there is the supreme Brahman that is .I.; that the things which knowledge perceives as .I. are not .I.; then whether he be a Harijan or a Brahmin, that one alone is my Guru. This is my deep conviction and faith. How are we to look at all living things in the world as identical with ourselves? This self-knowledge is indeed hard to attain. There are three states of experience: waking (jAgrat), dream (swapna) and deep sleep (suShupti). Although the states differ and the mental attitudes during these states differ, the person who experiences these is one and the same. Similarly we should be firmly convinced that one and the same .I. prevails in various things and in various places in the three states of experience. Although we perform or experience in different states acts and mental attitudes distinct from one another and although these acts and attitudes seem to be the work of distinct bodies and minds, we know that it is one and the same person that performs these acts or experiences these attitudes. Likewise the acts and mental attitudes, seemingly of other persons, are in reality our own. Bodies alone are separate but the inner self (the .I.) is the same. We should thus look at the entire world in this unitary view and not be misled by apparent differences.

We see an article. The act of seeing has both an object (the particular article seen) as well as the subject (one who does the act of seeing). These two states (object and subject) are separate and distinct from one another. The body is seen . so it is the object. Atma (soul) sees . so it is the subject. This analogy can be extended to other acts such as perception or consciousness. The body is perceived . so it is the object. Atma (soul) does the act of perceiving . so it is the subject. Thus the body and the soul are separate from one another. He who considers the soul as that which is seen (that is, confuses the object for the subject) can only be termed as an aggyani (ignorant of reality/truth).

యత్సౌఖ్య

(Maneesha Panchakam . verse 5)

Encoded by Narayanaswami at swami at math.mun.ca

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