

OM

Om Shree Krishnaya Param Brahmane Namah!

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

॥ ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

प्रथमस्कन्धः

PRATHAMASKANDHAH (CANTO ONE)

॥ सप्तमोऽध्यायः ॥

SAPTHAMOADHYAH (CHAPTER SEVEN)

**The Creation or Construction of Sreemadh Bhaagawatham and
Punishment to Aswatthamaa (son of Dhrona)**

[This chapter explains about the preparation and creation of Sreemadh Bhaagawatham describing the glorious stories of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan by Sri Vedha Vyasa. The story of Aswatthamaa's atrocious and cruel killing of all the five sons of Paanjchaali while they were sleeping in the camp on the final day of the war was explained in detail. Arjjuna along with Krishna chased Aswatthamaa to kill him. Aswatthamaa casts Brahmaasthra as a final chance to save his life. Arjjuna counter attacked with Brahmaasthra and blocked it. Aswatthamaa had been brought to

Paanjchaali as promised by Arjjuna to be killed and to perform last rites for her sons sitting on the head of Aswatthamaa. But at the instance of Panjchaali and others with the exception of Bheema Aswatthamaa was released.]

शौनक उवाच

Saunaka Uvaacha (Saunaka Said):

निर्गते नारदे सूत भगवान् बादरायणः ।
श्रुतवांस्तदभिप्रेतं ततः किमकरोद्विभुः ॥ १ ॥

1

Nirggathe Naaradhe Sootha! Bhagawaan Baadharaayanah
Sruthavaamsthadhabhipretham thathah kimakarodhwibhuh

Oh, the great orator Sootha! Please explain to us in detail what did the noblest Vyaasa, the one who is known as Baadharaayana, do after listening to the words or advice or instructions from the heavenly sage Narada once he left the monastery.

सूत उवाच

Sootha Uvaacha (Sootha Said):

ब्रह्मनद्यां सरस्वत्यामाश्रमः पश्चिमे तटे ।
शम्याप्रास इति प्रोक्त ऋषीणां सत्रवर्धनः ॥ २ ॥

2

Brahmanadhyaam Saraswathyaamaasramah paschime thate
Samyaapraasa ithi proktha risheenaam sathravardhddhanah

तस्मिन् स्व आश्रमे व्यासो बदरीषण्डमण्डिते ।
आसीनोऽप उपस्पृश्य प्रणिदध्यौ मनः स्वयम् ॥ ३ ॥

3

Thasmin swa aasrame Vyaaso Badhareeshandamandithe
Aaseenoapa upasprisya prenidhaddhyou manah swayam.

The most noble and scholarly sage Vedha Vyaasa had a monastery named “Samyaapraasa” on the sandy shore at the western banks of the divine river Saraswathy which is popularly known as “Brahmavaahini” due to the nobility and divinity of the river. This monastery had divinely beautiful surroundings with different types of berries, trees, creepers, and beautiful gardens. Vyaasa Bhagawaan with severe austerity and undaunted devotion to Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan used to purify his body and mind by taking ritual ablutions in the divine river Saraswathy. After having the ablution, he used to sit under the shade of the berries fully concentrating without having any deviation of his mind and heart on Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan and without having any physical movement from where he sat and used to meditate.

भक्तियोगेन मनसि सम्यक् प्रणिहितेऽमले ।
अपश्यत्पुरुषं पूर्वं मायां च तदुपाश्रयाम् ॥ ४॥

4

Bhakthiyogena manasi samyak prenihitheamale
Apasyath purusham poorvvam maayaam cha thadhupaasrayaam.

Due to the supreme devotion to Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan, Vedha Vyaasa reached at the climax of Bhakthi Yoga and was dancing with enjoyment of the ecstasy of devotion to Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. Thus, complemented with Bhakthi Yoga to the maximum his mind and heart very clear and pure without having any iota of ignorance Vedha Vyaasa initially was able to visualize Lord Sri Maha Vishnu and immediately along with that he could visualize the Illusion also created by Lord Sri Maha Vishnu and he had the full awareness that the cause of such realizations or visualizations are nothing other than Illusion. [Here Vyaasa Bhagawaan knew that this universe is unreal and nonexistent. The only reason why we feel this universe and species therein are in existence is due to Illusion.]

यया सम्मोहितो जीव आत्मानं त्रिगुणात्मकम् ।
परोऽपि मनुतेऽनर्थं तत्कृतं चाभिपद्यते ॥ ५॥

5

Yeyaa sammohitho jeeva aathmaanam thrigunaathmakam
Paropi manutheanarththam thathkritham chaabhipadhyathe.

Though factually there is no difference between Self and the Ultimate God [meaning Jeevaathma and Paramaathma are one and the same] due to the Sathwa, Rajas and Thamas qualities created by illusion we feel that the Self or Jeevaathma and Ultimate God or Paramaathma are distinct. As a result of the distinctive feelings created by illusion we are forced to suffer or enjoy all the consequences. [This means the pain/pleasure; sorrow/happiness, good/bad and all such dualities of opposites are creations of illusion, and all these feelings are illusory and not real.]

अनर्थोपशमं साक्षाद्भक्तियोगमधोक्षजे ।
लोकस्याजानतो विद्वांश्चक्रे सात्वतसंहिताम् ॥ ६॥

6

Anarththopasamam saakshaadh bhakthiyogamaddhokshaje
Lokasyaajaanatho vidhwaamschakre saathwathasamhithaam.

The most scholarly Vyaasa Bhagawaan wrote or created Sreemadh Bhaagawatham for the benefit and prosperity of the mankind of the universe knowing fully well that Bhakthi Yoga of Lord Sri Maha Vishnu is the primary path one can tread for the prosperity and for uplifting of mankind and to cross over the entanglements in the ocean of material world with full of miseries and distresses and also with an intention to remove all the mishaps for the ignorant ones. [Here ignorant ones are those who are ignorant or unaware of having the need to possess pure devotion to Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. And by reading or listening to Sreemadh Bhaagawatham the ignorance can be eliminated or removed.]

यस्यां वै श्रूयमाणायां कृष्णे परमपूरुषे ।

भक्तिरुत्पद्यते पुंसः शोकमोहभयापहा ॥ ७॥

7

Yesyaam vai srooyamaanaayaam Krishne paramapoorushe
Bhakthiruthpadhyathe pumsassokamohabhayapahaa.

Those who listen to Sreemadh Bhaagawatham with full attention and complete devotion would definitely attain undaunted and pure devotion to Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan who is the transcendental plenary incarnation of Lord Sri Maha Vishnu. And such devotion to Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan would definitely eliminate and remove all negative qualities like sorrow, distresses, lust, covetousness, etc.

स संहितां भागवतीं कृत्वानुक्रम्य चात्मजम् ।
शुकमध्यापयामास निवृत्तिनिरतं मुनिः ॥ ८॥

8

Sa sahithaam Bhaagawatheem krithwaanukramya chaaathmajam
Sukamadhdhyaapayaamaasa nivriththiniratham munih

The most noble and divine sage Sri Vedha Vyaasa Maharshi composed or wrote or created Sreemadh Bhaagawatham and tested himself for factual and devotional and philosophical and informational and for grammatical accuracy and was fully and completely contented and self satisfied and reached to the climax of divine ecstasy. Then he taught this most noble and divine Sreemadh Bhagawatham, describing the glories of Lord Sri Vaasudheva Sri Krishna Bhagawaan, in its entirety to Suka Brahmarshi who was his own son and disciple.

शौनक उवाच

Saunaka Uvaacha (Saunaka Said):

स वै निवृत्तिनिरतः सर्वत्रोपेक्षको मुनिः ।
कस्य वा बृहतीमेतामात्मारामः समभ्यसत् ॥ ९॥

Sa vai nivriththinirathassarvathropekshako munih
Kasya vaa brihatheemethaamaathmaaraamassamabhyasath.

Oh, the magnificent orator Sootha! Why did Suka Brahmarshi, who was walking around the world as a fully renounced mendicant without having any interest at all in the life of this material world, take so much interest in studying this huge text of philosophical Ithihaasam of Sreemadh Bhaagawatham, narrating the stories and glories of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan, in its entirety by spending such a lot of time? [This is a very basic and natural question anyone would have posed knowing the nature of Sri Suka Brahmarshi. One who was fully renounced and having no interest in material life should pick up interest in learning so intensely about Sreemadh Bhaagawatham. We already had the answer in the previous chapters but would definitely be confirming it again and again.]

सूत उवाच

Sootha Uvaacha (Sootha Said):

आत्मारामाश्च मुनयो निर्ग्रन्था अप्युरुक्रमे ।
कुर्वन्त्यहैतुकीं भक्तिमित्थम्भूतगुणो हरिः ॥ १० ॥

10

Aathmaaraamaascha munayo nirgrentthaa apyurukrame
Kurvvanthyaahaithukeem bhakthimiththam bhoothaguno Harih

हरेर्गुणाक्षिसमतिर्भगवान् बादरायणिः ।
अध्यगान्महदाख्यानं नित्यं विष्णुजनप्रियः ॥ ११ ॥

11

HarergunakshipthamathirBhagawaan Baadharaayanih
Adhddhyagaanmahadhaakhyaanam nithya Vishnujenapriyah

Those who do not have any self pride within their conscientious mind would and could develop spontaneous and unbound devotion in Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan without assigning any reason for that because they are always enjoying the ecstasy from that transcendental devotion. And oh Brahmins! Such devotion would be constant and permanent. This is one of the best and the primary qualities of having dedicated devotion to Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. Sri Suka Brahmarshi always stands in the front and at the foremost of the dedicated devotees of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. Sri Suka Brahmarshi, the son of Vedha Vyaasa, in heart and mind was so much attracted and attached with unconditional love and unbound devotion to Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. This great and supreme most and the noblest text of Sreemadh Bhaagawatham in its entirety was learned by Sri Suka Brahmarshi from his father Sri Vedha Vyaasa Maharshi and then walked around in the world with the ecstasy of divine happiness due to the sublimation of his soul and mind and heart with and within and without in Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan and absolutely having no awareness of any botheration or of the happenings around him in this material world. Suka Brahmarshi with these most supreme devotional songs of Sreemadh Bhaagawatham enabled all the devotees of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan to drink this ambrosia and enjoy the zenith of supreme happiness of blissful divine status.

परीक्षितोऽथ राजर्षेर्जन्मकर्मविलापनम् ।
संस्थां च पाण्डुपुत्राणां वक्ष्ये कृष्णकथोदयम् ॥ १२॥

12

Pareekshithoattha raajarsherjjanmakarmmavilaayanam
Samstthaam cha paanduputhraanaam vakshye
Krishnakatthodhayam.

Oh Brahmins! I will explain, the details of the birth of Pareekshith Mahaaraaja and then his virtuous deeds and activities and deliverances of his subjects and for the benefit of this universe and how he became such a renounced supreme king of the dynasty of the renowned Pandu and also how he became a Rajarshi (meaning a king or ruler who is a sage) and how he was able to attain ultimate

salvation, please listen to me carefully. And in fact, the story of Pareekshith Mahaaraaja is the reason for us to narrate the incarnation of Lord Sri Maha Vishnu as Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan and the purpose of that most noble and supreme and perfect incarnation starting from the very beginning of his birth and his childhood plays and godly activities until he disappeared from the face of this earth to his own abode of Vaikunda after completing all the responsibilities of the incarnation.

यदा मृधे कौरवसृञ्जयानां
वीरेष्वथो वीरगतिं गतेषु ।
वृकोदराविद्धगदाभिमर्श-
भग्नोरुदण्डे धृतराष्ट्रपुत्रे ॥ १३॥

13

[Wounding or destroying the magnanimity of Aswatththaama.]

Yedhaa mrididhe kauravasrinjjayaanaam
Veereshwaddho veeragethim getheshu
Vrikodharaavidhddhagedhaabhimarsa-
Bhagnorudhende Ddhritharaashtraputhre.

भर्तुः प्रियं द्रौणिरिति स्म पश्यन्
कृष्णासुतानां स्वपतां शिरांसि ।
उपाहरद्विप्रियमेव तस्य
जुगुप्सितं कर्म विगर्हयन्ति ॥ १४॥

14

Bhaarththuh priyam Dhraunirithi sma pasyan
Krishnaasuthaanaam swapathaam siraamsi
Upaaharadhvipriyameva thasya tha-
Jjugupsitham karmma vigarhayanthi.

In the battle of Kurukshethra the Kauravaas were defeated by Paandavaas. But all the warriors and almost all the leaders of Kauravaas and most of the leaders and almost all of the warriors of

Paandavaas were also killed and reached heaven of the braves called Veeraswargga. [Aswaththamaa, Kripa (maternal uncle of Aswaththamaa as well as the official preceptor of Kauravaas and Paandavaas) and Krithavarmma were the three leaders who were not killed from Kaurava side. Though Sanjaya participated in the battle he was not always in the field and was also not killed from side of Kaurava. Ddhritharaashtra, of course, did not participate in the war. From the side of Paandavaas all the five Paandavaas along with Sri Krishna Bhagawaan and Ddhrishtaddhyumna and the five sons of Paanchaali were not killed. But on the night of the final day after victory was declared to Paandavaas' side Aswaththamaa very deceitfully sneaked into the camp at night and killed Ddhrishtaddhyumna and all the five sons of Paanjchaali in their sleep.] Aswaththamaa with an intention to please, his master, Dhuryoddhana, who was down with broken thigh from the irresistible kick of Bheema with his club, killed all the five sons of Paanchaali in their sleep and then beheads them and brought over their heads and spread them in front of Dhuryoddhana. But Dhuryoddhana not only least appreciated such heinous action of Aswaththamaa but also brutally condemned and hated such cruel and heinous action of his associate Aswaththamaa from toe to head. It is quite but natural that no one can tolerate such blamable and condemnable heinous actions of anyone.

माता शिशूनां निधनं सुतानां
निशम्य घोरं परितप्यमाना ।
तदारुदद्वाष्पकलाकुलाक्षी
तां सान्त्वयन्नाह किरीटमाली ॥ १५॥

15

Maathaa sisoonaam niddhanam suthaanaam
Nisamya ghoram parithapyamaanaa
Thadhaaarudhadh baashpakalaakulaakshee
Thaam saanthwayannaaha kireetamaalee.

Paanjchaali came to know that all her most darling sons were so cruelly and mercilessly and horribly and brutally murdered by Aswaththamaa in their sleep while they were contentedly sleeping

after a victorious battle of eighteen long days. As soon as she heard the heart-breaking news Paanjchaali came running and wailing with tearful eyes out of unbearable pain and distress and sorrow. Paanjchaali was under complete turmoil and her eyes were shaken and red. In order to console Paanjchaali who was wailing and lamenting aloud with intolerable pain, Paarththa or Arjjuna promised and committed to her like this:

तदा शुचस्ते प्रमृजामि भद्रे
यद्ब्रह्मबन्धोः शिर आततायिनः ।
गाण्डीवमुक्तैर्विशिखैरुपाहरे
त्वाऽऽक्रम्य यत्स्नास्यसि दग्धपुत्रा ॥ १६॥

16

Thadhaa suchasthe premrijaami bhadhre!
Yedhbhrahmabenddhossira aathathaayinah
Gaandeevamukthairvvisikhairupaahare
Thwaaaakramya yeth snaasyaasi dhegdhddhaputhraa.

“Oh Paanjchaali! I will kill that Brahmin, Aswaththaamaa, who is a heinous murderer with the arrow released from this most renowned bow called Gaandeeva of mine and bring his head after beheading him with my sword. You can sit on top of that head and perform the ritualistic last rites for your sons, and you take the ritual ablution after completing all rituals according to the norms. I will wipe your tears only after that. Whatever happens, happens. It was destiny. We could not prevent it. Oh, the most chivalrous lady, please try to get rid of your pains from this agony and try to be consoled with my assurance.”

इति प्रियां वल्गुविचित्रजल्पैः
स सान्त्वयित्वाच्युतमित्रसूतः ।
अन्वाद्रवदंशित उग्रधन्वा
कपिध्वजो गुरुपुत्रं रथेन ॥ १७॥

17

Ithi priyaam valguvichithrajelpai-
Ssa saanthwayithwaaachyuthamithrasoothah
Anwaadhhravadhdhamsitha ugraddhanwaa
Kapidhddhwjo guruputhram retthena.

With such charming and consoling and assuring words to his beloved wife Paanjchaali, Arjjuna who had the mark of the monkey or Hanumaan on the flag of his chariot boarded into the chariot with Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan who was his friend, chariot driver (charioteer) and above all his preceptor and advisor and proceeded to capture Aswaththamaa, the worst heinous criminal, who was the son of his own preceptor, of martial arts and specifically of arrow shooting, Dhronaachaarya. Arjjuna was well prepared and fully equipped with his renowned bow Gaandeeva and all powerful Brahmaasthra and other most powerful and most destructive weapons capable of destroying the whole world in a fraction of a second if needed. Arjjuna's chariot was also well set, and he had his master of the world Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan with him who is the Omnipresent and the Omnipotent.

तमापतन्तं स विलक्ष्य दूरात्
कुमारहोद्विग्रमना रथेन ।
पराद्रवत्प्राणपरीप्सुरुर्व्या
यावद्गमं रुद्रभयाद्यथार्कः ॥ १८॥

18

Thamaapathantham sa vilakshya dhooraath
Kumaarahodhwignamanaa retthena
Paraadhhravath praanapareepsururvvyaaam
Yaavadhgamam Rudhrabhaadhyetthaa kah

Aswaththamaa noticed from too far away itself that he is being followed and chased by Arjjuna who is also known as Kireeti in his famous chariot with high speed like that of storm. Aswaththamaa was terrified and horrified and shaky and shivering and driving his chariot as fast as he could to save his life because he was sure that Arjjuna was definitely not going to spare him for the worst heinous crime he committed by killing the innocent young boys, in their sleep

in the camp at the battlefield, who were the sons of Paanjchaali. Aswaththhaamaa's running chased by Arijuna was exactly like that of Brahmadhevaa's, the one with four faces, running out of fear to save his life while he was being chased by Rudra or Stthaanu in the past. [This story of the challenge between Brahma Deva and Rudhra Deva will be explained later but Brahma Deva was running for his life as Rudhra or Maha Deva was chasing him to capture and kill him.]

यदाशरणमात्मानमैक्षत श्रान्तवाजिनम् ।
अस्त्रं ब्रह्मशिरो मेने आत्मत्राणं द्विजात्मजः ॥ १९॥

19

Yedhaasaranamaathmaanamaikshatha sraanthavaajinam
Asthram Brahmasiro mena aathmathraanam dhwijaathmajah

Aswaththhaamaa noticed that his horses were completely tired and weary and worn out and exhausted and unable to run or even to move for an inch longer. Also, he knew well that he had no other alternatives or way out to save his life other than to use his Brahmaasthra which certainly was capable of eliminating the enemy target by burning them into ashes. Therefore, Aswaththhaamaa decided to tie and shoot the Brahmaasthra which was in his control. [Aswaththhaamaa was never taught in complete how to use this Brahmaasthra by his father and preceptor, Dhronaachaarya. He has been taught only partially to shoot but not to withdraw. It was a primary and preliminary condition that unless you also know how to withdraw the arrow you should never shoot or use this Brahmaasthra. Dhronaachaarya intentionally did not teach him how to call back or withdraw the arrow because he was aware that Aswaththhaamaa being so heinous could use it for evil purposes and or even to destroy the whole world for the satisfaction of his selfish motivation.]

अथोपस्पृश्य सलिलं सन्दधे तत्समाहितः ।
अजानन्नुपसंहारं प्राणकृच्छ्र उपस्थिते ॥ २०॥

20

Atthopasprisya salilam sandhaddhe thathsamaahithah

Ajanannupasamhaaram praanakrichcchra upastthithe.

Then out of fear and to save his own life he sanctified himself by ritually sprinkling water on his body and meditated with full concentration and recited the prescribed Manthra and immediately he tied and shot the Brahmaasthra though he was unaware of the Manthra to call back or withdraw the arrow. [This is why Aswaththaamaa was considered as the most selfish and cruel personality because he was ready to destroy the whole world just to save his own single life. How selfish he was?]

ततः प्रादुष्कृतं तेजः प्रचण्डं सर्वतो दिशम् ।
प्राणापदमभिप्रेक्ष्य विष्णुं जिष्णुरुवाच ह ॥ २१ ॥

21

Thathah praadhushkritham thejah prechandam sarvvathodhisam
Praanaapadhamabhiprekshya Vishnum Jishnuruvaacha ha.

By seeing the most magnanimous and huge and splendorous and glaring light of the fire emitted from that Brahmaasthra which was capable enough to destroy not only this earth but also all the three worlds of the universe, Arjjuna who was the son of Devendhra, the king of heaven, under utter dismay and total confusion as how to deal with the situation spoke these words to Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan who was his protector and savior and also the savior of the entire universe.

अर्जुन उवाच

Arjjuna Uvaacha (Arjjuna Said):

कृष्ण कृष्ण महाभाग भक्तानामभयङ्कर ।
त्वमेको दह्यमानानामपवर्गोऽसि संसृतेः ॥ २२ ॥

22

Krishna Krishna Mahabhaga! Bhakthaanaamabhayankara!
Thwmeko dhehyamaanaanaamapavarggosi samsritheh

Hey Krishna! Hey Vishno! Oh, the most supreme Godhead! Oh Hare! Oh Maha Vishno! You are the only one who can provide protection and consolation and refuge for the down-trodden and the grief stricken and the needy devotees of yours and even for the whole mankind and for all the species of this universe. You are the only provider of relief and release and ultimate salvation to all those who are entrapped and drowning the ocean of horrible miseries of this material world.

त्वमाद्यः पुरुषः साक्षादीश्वरः प्रकृतेः परः ।
मायां व्युदस्य चिच्छक्त्या कैवल्ये स्थित आत्मनि ॥ २३ ॥

23

Thwamaadhyah purushah saakshaadheeswarah prekritheh parah
Maayaam vyudhasya chichcchakthyaa kaivalye sthitha aathmani.

You are the primeval and primary supreme God. You are a transcendental incarnation of Lord Sri Maha Vishnu. You are the original and true God. When we think deeply, we will come to know that you are the one who is independent of this nature and this universe. You are the one with the power of your knowledge or with the power of your Jnjaana Yoga stands as independent of the illusory power which is controlling this universe. You are Omniscient. You are the self realized. You are the one who is splendorous as the Supreme most and the one and the only one God.

स एव जीवलोकस्य मायामोहितचेतसः ।
विधत्से स्वेन वीर्येण श्रेयो धर्मादिलक्षणम् ॥ २४ ॥

24

Sa eva jeevalokasya maayaamohithachethasah
Viddhathse swena veeryena sreya ddharmaadhilekshanam.

All four Purushaarththas are being properly executed by the self emanated energy from your infinite effulgence, which is the ultimate source of all the infinite energy within and without all universes, for

the benefit and up keeping of all the species including the mankind of this universe which are being fully controlled by the illusory power created by you even before the very creation of this universe. Oh Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan! You always stand independent as the provider of the source of the infinite energy needed for the survival of the universe and also you always stand independent and beyond the illusory power controlling the universe. [The four Purusharththaas are 1) Ddharmmam = Righteousness, 2) Arththam = Prosperity or Wealth, 3) Kaamam = Desire and 4) Moksham = Spiritual Liberation or Salvation.]

तथायं चावतारस्ते भुवो भारजिहीर्षया ।
स्वानां चानन्यभावानामनुध्यानाय चासकृत् ॥ २५॥

25

Thatthaayam chaavathaarasthe bhuvo bhaarajiheershayaa
Swaanaam chaananyabhaavaanaamanudhddhyaanaaya
chaasakrith.

Oh Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan! You're this incarnation is with the purpose of eliminating the excess burden thrust upon the earth due to the imbalanced growth of evil forces and also for providing comfort and happiness with your timely blessings and boons to your votaries and devotees.

किमिदं स्वित्कुतो वेति देवदेव न वेद्म्यहम् ।
सर्वतोमुखमायाति तेजः परमदारुणम् ॥ २६॥

26

Kimidham swith kutho vethi dheva dheva na vedhmyaham
Sarvathomukhamaayaathi thejah paramadhaarunam.

Oh my God! Oh my God! What is this blinding and horrible brilliance of splendorous effulgence of light spreading all over the sky and focusing and coming straight towards us? What is it? Wherefrom is this coming.

श्रीभगवानुवाच

Sree Bhagawaan Uvaacha (Sree Bhagawaan Said):

वेत्थेदं द्रोणपुत्रस्य ब्राह्ममस्त्रं प्रदर्शितम् ।
नैवासौ वेद संहारं प्राणबाध उपस्थिते ॥ २७॥

27

Veththedham Dhronaputhrasya Braahmamasthram predharsitham
Naivaasau vedha samhaaram praanabaaddha upastthithe.

Oh Arjjuna! This is Brahmaasthra shot out by Aswatththama who did not know how to withdraw or call back this most destructive weapon. He shot this out of fear of his life as this was the only alternative left with him to save his life.

न ह्यस्यान्यतमं किञ्चिदस्त्रं प्रत्यवकर्शनम् ।
जह्यस्त्रतेज उन्नद्धमस्त्रज्ञो ह्यस्त्रतेजसा ॥ २८॥

28

Na hyasyaanyathamam kinjchithasthram prethyavakarsanam
Jehyasthratheja unnadhddeamasthrajnjo hyasthrathejasaa.

As no other arrow or Asthra can inactivate Brahmaasthra you have to immediately shoot the same Brahmaasthra of yours against the Brahmaasthra of his to block and destroy it. Oh, Ddhananjaya or the one who is the master of Archery! You are the one who has mastered archery and are well aware of all the ins and outs of all types of asthraas how to use them and also how to call back or withdraw them including that of Brahmaasthra.

सूत उवाच

Sootha Uvaacha (Sootha Said):

श्रुत्वा भगवता प्रोक्तं फाल्गुनः परवीरहा ।

स्पृष्ट्वापस्तं परिक्रम्य ब्राह्मं ब्राह्माय सन्दधे ॥ २९॥

29

Srithwaa bhagawathaa proktham Phaalgunah paraveerahaa
Sprishtwaapastham parikramya Braahmam Braahmaaya
sandhaddhe.

As soon as Arjjuna, who was smart and brave and capable of destroying all his enemies, heard such words from Hari, Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan, he purified his body by touching and sprinkling water. Thereafter Paarththha or Arjjuna made a circumambulation to Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan and worshiped him. Then he aimed and cast, that most destructive and sharp and fiery Brahmaasthra, to counteract with the one shot by Aswaththhaamaa.

संहत्यान्योन्यमुभयोस्तेजसी शरसंवृते ।
आवृत्य रोदसी खं च ववृधातेऽर्कवह्निवत् ॥ ३०॥

30

Samhathyaanyonyamubhayosthejasee sarasamvrithe
Aavrithya rodhasee kham cha vavriddhaathearkkavahnivath.

When those two most brilliant and splendorous Brahmaasthraas met or hit together the entire world was shaky like some earthquake or strong tremor and the sky was filled with an infinite number of most horrible lightning. The entire world, the earth and all other planets of this universe looked as if they were all fully covered by multitudes of suns combined with many spears of terrific fire balls.

दृष्ट्वास्त्रतेजस्तु तयोस्त्रील्लोकान् प्रदहन् महत् ।
दह्यमानाः प्रजाः सर्वाः सांवर्तकममंसत ॥ ३१॥

31

Dhrishtwaasthrathejasthu thayosthreen lokaan predhahanmahath
Dhehyamaanaah prejaassarvvaassaamvarththakamamamsatha.

The brilliant and splendorous fire when the two Brahmaasthraas struck together was so immense and so terrific that the entire mankind of the universe got scared and thought that they were seeing the fire of dissolution of not only this world but also of all the three worlds in the universe and thought that all the worlds and entire living and nonliving beings therein were definitely going to be burned to ashes.

प्रजोपद्रवमालक्ष्य लोकव्यतिकरं च तम् ।
मतं च वासुदेवस्य सञ्जहारार्जुनो द्वयम् ॥ ३२॥

32

Prejopaplavamaalakshya lokavyathikaranjcha tham
Matham cha Vaasudhevasya sanjjahaaraarjjuno dhwayam.

Foreseeing the atrocious disaster to mankind and annihilation and dissolution of the universe and after reading the mind of what Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan wanted him to do, Arjjuna withdrew or called back or deactivated both Brahmaasthraas without causing any destruction.

तत आसाद्य तरसा दारुणं गौतमीसुतम् ।
बबन्धामर्षताम्राक्षः पशुं रशनया यथा ॥ ३३॥

33

Thatha aasaadhya tharasaa dhaarunam Gauthameesutham
Bebenddhaamarshathaamraakshah pasum resanayaa yetthaa

Arjjuna with blazing red eyes out of utter contempt and anger tied and trapped Aswatthamaa, the son of Dhrona, with a piece of rope just like how we tie a cow with rope.

शिविराय निनीषन्तं दाम्ना बद्ध्वा रिपुं बलात् ।
प्राहार्जुनं प्रकुपितो भगवानम्बुजेक्षणः ॥ ३४॥

Sibiraaya nineeshantham dhaamnaa bedhddhwaa ripum belaath
Praahaarjjunam prekupitho Bhagawaanambujekshanah

The most charming Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan with lotus like eyes who was actually disguised in the human form looked at Arjjuna who was also popularly known as Kireeti who was trying to pull down and bring Aswatthamaa to the camp at the battlefield told out of anger and intolerance like this: -

मैनं पार्थर्हसि त्रातुं ब्रह्मबन्धुमिमं जहि ।
योऽसावनागसः सुप्तानवधीन्निशि बालकान् ॥ ३५॥

“Mainam Paarththaarhasi thraathum Brahmabendddhumimam jehi
Yoasaavanaagasah supthaanavaddheennisi baalakaan”

“This lowest and the meanest and the cruelest Brahmin did kill those poor kids who were innocently sleeping in the night inside the camp at the battle-field without showing even a little bit of mercy. Therefore, Oh the most intelligent Arjjuna! this Brahmin duly deserves for nothing other than death penalty and hence you must kill him right now.”

मत्तं प्रमत्तमुन्मत्तं सुप्तं बालं स्त्रियं जडम् ।
प्रपन्नं विरथं भीतं न रिपुं हन्ति धर्मवित् ॥ ३६॥

“Maththam premaththammunmaththam suptham baalam shriyam
jedam
Prepannam virattham bheetham na ripum hanthi ddharmmavith.”

“One who upkeeps the principles of life would never kill the following types of persons even if they are his enemy. They are the one who is intoxicated, the one who is mentally imbalanced, the one who is careless by nature, the one who is retarded, the one who cannot think

straight, the one who is insane, the one who is in sleep, the one who is a boy, the one who is a coward, the one who is devoid of his chariot in the battle field, the one who seeks refuge, the one who is a mendicant and or a lady.”

स्वप्राणान् यः परप्राणैः प्रपुष्णात्यघृणः खलः ।
तद्वधस्तस्य हि श्रेयो यद्दोषाद्यात्यधः पुमान् ॥ ३७॥

37

“Swapraanaan yah parapraanaih prepushnaathyaghrinah khalah
Thadhwaddhasthasya hi sreyo yeddhoshaadhyaaathyaddha
pumaan.”

“One who believes and holds up a notion that his own life can be made more comfortable and happier at the cost of others life is so wretched and so cruel and the worst sinner. For his own benefit it is better to kill and eliminate him forever from the face of this earth. Otherwise, he is bound to fall to the bottom of hell due to his own evil actions. Therefore, Oh Arjjuna! Please kill him immediately without having any mercy on this evil and sinful wretched creature though he is born as a Brahmin.”

प्रतिश्रुतं च भवता पाञ्चाल्यै शृण्वतो मम ।
आहरिष्ये शिरस्तस्य यस्ते मानिनि पुत्रहा ॥ ३८॥

38

Prethisrutham cha bhavathaa paanjchaalyai srinwatho mama
“Aaharishye sirasthasya yesthe maanini puthrahaa.”

Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan continued to Arjjuna that I also heard your promise to Paanjchaali that: “Oh the most noble of the ladies! I will kill the murderer of your sons with the arrow and bring his head over to you.” Oh, the best of the archers, Ddhananjaya! You must fulfill your commitment and promise right now.

तदसौ वध्यतां पाप आतताय्यात्मबन्धुहा ।
भर्तृश्च विप्रियं वीर कृतवान् कुलपांसनः ॥ ३९॥

152

“Thadhasau vadhdhyathaam papa aathathaayyaathmabendduhaa
Bharththuscha vipriyam veera! Krithavaan kulapaamsanah”

“Therefore, you must kill this murderer and destroyer of your own family members who committed such a heinous crime. He is wretched, sinful, and evil and cruel. Oh Arjjuna, you are the bravest of the warriors! This wretched guy also earned his own master’s hatred and dissatisfaction also due to this most horrible and heinous action.”

सूत उवाच

Sootha Uvaacha (Sootha Said):

एवं परीक्षता धर्मं पार्थः कृष्णेन चोदितः ।
नैच्छद्भन्तुं गुरुसुतं यद्यप्यात्महनं महान् ॥ ४० ॥

Evam pareekshithaa ddharmmam Paartthah Krishena chodhithah
Naichchadhddhanthum gurusutham yedhyapyaathmahanam
mahaan.

Having complete understanding of the underlying intention of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan that he was really trying to test the capacity of Arjjuna, who was the most intelligent and the smartest of the archers, to hold on to righteousness under any circumstances, Arjjuna did not wish to kill Aswatthamaa, the son of his Brahmin preceptor.

अथोपेत्य स्वशिविरं गोविन्दप्रियसारथिः ।
न्यवेदयत्तं प्रियायै शोचन्त्या आत्मजान् हतान् ॥ ४१ ॥

Atthopyethya swasibiram Govindhapriyasaaratthih
Nyevedhayaththam priyaayaisochanthyya aathmajaan hathaan.

Along with his friend and chariot driver Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan who was also popularly known as Kanna, Arjjuna the smartest and bravest of the archers of world for all the time brought in front of Paanjchaali and put the heinous murderer of all her five sons, Aswatthamaa tied and pulled like an animal.

तथाऽऽहृतं पशुवत्पाशबद्धमवाङ्मुखं कर्मजुगुप्सितेन ।
निरीक्ष्य कृष्णापकृतं गुरोः सुतं वामस्वभावा कृपया ननाम च ॥ ४२॥

42

Thatthaaahritham pasuvath paasabedhddha-
Mavvngmukham karmma jugupsithena
Nireekshya Krishnaapakritham gurossutham
Vaamaswabhaavaa kripayaa nanaama cha.

Having seen the son of her husbands' Brahmin preceptor who was brought in front of her tied with a rope like an animal or more specifically like a cow who was stooping down his head out of the guilty conscious that he had committed such a heinous and horrible and cruel crime of killing all her sons at sleep in the camp of the battle field, Paanjchaali who possessed with highest and noblest of good qualities welcomed Aswatthamaa with folded hands out of respect and reverence.

उवाच चासहन्त्यस्य बन्धनानयनं सती ।
मुच्यतां मुच्यतामेष ब्राह्मणो नितरां गुरुः ॥ ४३॥

43

Uvaacha chaasahanthyasya benddhanayanayanam sathee,
"Muchyathaam, muchyathaamesha Braahmano nitharaam guruh

Paanjchaali could not stand to see a Brahmin who is always to be considered as a preceptor and even otherwise of course the preceptor – son of the preceptor also is to be considered as a preceptor as in the absence of his father he also used to teach his father's students – being pulled and brought in front of her like a cow

tied up with a rope. As it was unbearable agony and pain and distress Paanjchaali the most beautiful woman with lotus petal like eyes asked repeatedly to her beloved husband Arjjuna and to the Almighty God, Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan, to “untie and release, please untie and release him immediately.”

सरहस्यो धनुर्वेदः सविसर्गोपसंयमः ।
अस्त्रग्रामश्च भवता शिक्षितो यदनुग्रहात् ॥ ४४॥

44

“Sarehasyo ddhanurvvedhassavisarggopasamyemah
Asthagraamascha bhawathaa sikshitho yedhanugrahaath”

Paanjchaali continued. “Hey Arjjuna! From whom did you learn how to hold the bow, how to fix the arrow on the bow, how to tighten the arrow with bow string, how to take the aim and how to shoot and perfectly hit on the target? In short from whom did you learn all about archery and other weaponries and all the secretive tricks of Dhanur Vedham or A to Z of all weaponries? Who was that great and most noble personality?”

स एष भगवान् द्रोणः प्रजारूपेण वर्तते ।
तस्यात्मनोऽर्धं पत्न्यास्ते नान्वगाद्वीरसूः कृपी ॥ ४५॥

45

“Sa esha Bhagawaan Dhronah prejaaropena varththathe
Thasyaathmanoardhddham pathnyaasthe naanwagaadhveerasooh
Kripee.”

“This Brahmin is the son of that great and most noble and most learned and most renowned preceptor of you, Dhronaachaarya. That Dhronaachaarya’s divinely chaste better half Kripi did not end her life along with her most divinely beloved and respected husband only because of her most affectionate son who is this same Aswaththamaa was still alive. And that most noble preceptor is still in existence today and is represented in the form of his own this son, Aswaththamaa.”

तद्धर्मज्ञ महाभाग भवद्विर्गौरवं कुलम् ।
वृजिनं नार्हति प्राप्तुं पूज्यं वन्द्यमभीक्षणशः ॥ ४६॥

46

“Thadhddharmmajnja! Mahaabhaaga! Bhawadhbhirggauravam
kulam
Vrijinam naarhathi praapthum poojyam vandhyamabheekshnasah”

“Therefore, oh the embodiment of virtues! Oh, the most fortunate and the most noble personality! Oh, the great personality of all the best principles! Oh, the most beloved husband who is the base and basis of my own life! It is definitely not fair and could never be justified at any count of this preparation to bring unbearable grief and sorrow to the family and dynasty of your own most respectful preceptor by killing his only son who could maintain his family hierarchy. Because of us there should not be any grief and sorrow for the family of our preceptor. We are always bound to worship and salute the family of our preceptor.”

मा रोदीदस्य जननी गौतमी पतिदेवता ।
यथाहं मृतवत्साऽऽर्ता रोदिम्यश्रुमुखी मुहुः ॥ ४७॥

47

“Maa rodheedhasya jenanee gauthamee pathidhevathaa
Yetthaaham mrithavathsaaaarththaa rodhimyasrumukhee muhuh”

“Oh, my beloved lord, Arjjuna! You know better than me all the principles of righteousness and you are the one who tread through the path of virtues. You should never put Gauthami (another name of Kripi), the chaste wife of Dhronaachaarya, to cry and weep forever due to the loss of her only son. I know the pain and grief of the death of my kids and that chaste women should never be brought to my situation by killing her only living son. Please be sure that you perform only the most rightful deed.”

यैः कोपितं ब्रह्मकुलं राजन्यैरजितात्मभिः ।

156

तत्कुलं प्रदहत्याशु सानुबन्धं शुचार्पितम् ॥ ४८॥

48

“Yeiih kopitham Brahmakulam raajanyairakrithaathmabhih
Thath kulam predhahathyaasu saanubendddham suchaarppitham.”

“The evil and cruel minded rulers of the earth, the kings, would make
Brahmins to curse them. And with the curses of such grief-stricken
and painful Brahmins the entire family and even the dynasty would
completely be doomed and destroyed.”

सूत उवाच

Sootha Uvaacha (Sootha Said):

धर्म्यं न्याय्यं सकरुणं निर्व्वलीकं समं महत् ।
राजा धर्मसुतो राज्याः प्रत्यनन्दद्वचो द्विजाः ॥ ४९॥

49

Dharmmyam nyaayyam sakarunam nirvyaleekam samam mahath
Raajaa Ddharmmasutho raajnijaah prethyanandhadhwacho
dhwijaah

The most virtuous and noble Ddharmmaputhra, the son of
Yemaddharmma Raja, sincerely complemented and supported queen
Paanjchaali for her such most appropriate words of righteousness,
principles of virtues, principles of justice, principles of do's and don'ts
by the kings to Brahmins, of compassion and kindness, due mercy to
fellow beings, of truth, of nobility, of equality and above all of all the
best in life.

नकुलः सहदेवश्च युयुधानो धनञ्जयः ।
भगवान् देवकीपुत्रो ये चान्ये याश्च योषितः ॥ ५०॥

50

NakulaSsahadhevascha Yuyuddhaano Ddhananjayah

157

Bhagawaan Dhevakeeputhro ye chaanye yaascha yoshithah

Nakula, Sahadheva, Saathyaki, Paarthththa or Ddhananjaya or Arjjuna, Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan who is the son of Dhevaki Dhevi and more over all the men and women present there and the whole sages and celestial bodies all equally and magnanimously appreciated and complemented and enjoyed the words that came out of the divine and glorious mouth of Paanjchaali.

तत्राहामर्षितो भीमस्तस्य श्रेयान् वधः स्मृतः ।
न भर्तुर्नात्मनश्चार्थे योऽहन् सुप्तान् शिशून् वृथा ॥ ५१ ॥

51

Thathraahaamarshitho Bheema “sthasya sreyaan vaddhah smrithah
Na bharththurnaathmanaschaarthththe yoahan supthaan sisoon
vritthaa.”

But Bheema who was full of revengeful vengeance and anger disagreed and said: “This atrociously cruel guy had killed the young lads who were innocently sleeping at night in the camp. Can anyone in the world commit any crueller and more horrible and unpardonable crime? He did not do such atrocities not for his personal gain. He did commit this merciless and terrible crime with the assumption that his master would really be pleased but his master Dhuryoddhana was not only unhappy with such malicious and heinous crime but also condemned such action. It is so stupidly wonderful! You are all now conferring to release and free this merciless and horrible murderer of the innocent boys even after killing them in their sleep. It is atrocious! It is horrible! I disagree with this decision from toe to head. For the sake of everyone including for his – Aswaththhaamaa’s - own sake it is better to kill him now.”

निशम्य भीमगदितं द्रौपद्याश्च चतुर्भुजः ।
आलोक्य वदनं सख्युरिदमाह हसन्निव ॥ ५२ ॥

52

Nisamya Bheemagedhitham Dhroupadhyascha chathurbhujah

Aalokya vadhanam sakhyuridhamaaha hasanniva.

The four handed (Chathurbhuj) Godhead Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan asked Arjjuna with a smile at his face after listening to Bheema's assertive opinion why Aswaththaamaa should immediately be killed and Paanjchaali's detailed assertion why Aswaththaamaa should not be killed and should be released and set him free with salutes.

श्रीकृष्ण उवाच

Sri Bhagawaan Uvaacha (Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan Said):

ब्रह्मबन्धुर्न हन्तव्य आततायी वधार्हणः ।
मयैवोभयमाम्नातं परिपाह्यनुशासनम् ॥ ५३॥

53

Brehmabenddhurnna hanthavya aathathaayee vaddhaarhanah
Maiyaivobhayamaamnaatham paripaahyanusaasanam.

Brahmins are not to be killed or Brahmins do not deserve to be killed. But one who has committed such a horrible and cruel and heinous crime of murdering someone at sleep should necessarily be killed even if they had been born in a Brahmin family. Such sinners, even if belonging to a Brahmin family, deserve to be killed. That is my opinion and advice. You do whatever deems fit and satisfying both the requirements.

कुरु प्रतिश्रुतं सत्यं यत्तत्सान्त्वयता प्रियाम् ।
प्रियं च भीमसेनस्य पाञ्चाल्या मह्यमेव च ॥ ५४॥

54

Kuru prethisrutham sathyam yeththath santhwayathaa priyaam
Priyam cha Bheemasenasya Paanjchaalyaa mahyameva cha.

You should not back out or deviate from what you promised and committed to console your beloved wife, Paanjchaali. You think

deeply and ensure that your action would be capable of satisfying and convincing the interest of your wife, Paanjchaali, and your brother, Bheemasena, and of course of mine as well.

सूत उवाच

Sootha Uvaacha (Sootha Said):

अर्जुनः सहसाऽऽज्ञाय हरेर्हृदिमथासिना ।
मणिं जहार मूर्धन्यं द्विजस्य सहमूर्धजम् ॥ ५५ ॥

55

Arjjunassahasaaaajnjaaya Harerhardhdhamatthaasinaa
Manim jehaara moordhddhanyam dhwijasya sahamoordhddhajam.

Having fully understood underlying intention and the motivated direction of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan, Arjjuna who was the son of the Lord of Heaven or Dhevendhra and who was the bravest and smartest and the most efficient and the most talented of the living warriors of all the three worlds immediately dug out with his sword the jewel implanted on the head of Aswaththamaa along with the hair. [Just like Karnna was born with a shield and ear studs, Aswaththamaa was born with an implanted jewel on his head. Without the jewel he would not have any of his luster and splendor and he would be as good as dead.]

विमुच्य रशनाबद्धं बालहत्याहतप्रभम् ।
तेजसा मणिना हीनं शिबिरान्निरयापयत् ॥ ५६ ॥

55

Vimuchya resanaabedhddham baalahathyaahathaprebham
Thejasaa maninaa heenam sibiraannirayaapayath.

Aswaththamaa, the son of Dhrona, who had already lost his luster and splendor by killing the boys at sleep and who had been tied up with a rope and whose implanted head jewel from birth had been dug

out of his head along with hair had immediately been untied and released from the camp in the battlefield of Kurukshethra.

वपनं द्रविणादानं स्थानान्निर्यापणं तथा ।
एष हि ब्रह्मबन्धूनां वधो नान्योऽस्ति दैहिकः ॥ ५७॥

57

Vapanam dhrevinaadhaanam stthaanaanniryaapanam thatthaa
Esha hi Brehmabenddhoonaam vaddho naanyoasthi dheihikah

There is an accepted regulatory practice that death penalty under special circumstances if warranted could be exempted for a low mean Brahmin culprit by awarding with punishment by any one of the following three methods: 1) Executing appropriate payment or depriving him of all his wealth and properties, 2) Shaving off his hair completely from his head and or 3) Exiling him from the state. Execution of any one of the above punishments is sufficient to avoid exercising physical death penalty for a Brahmin according to prescribed norms and practices for a long time ago.

पुत्रशोकातुराः सर्वे पाण्डवाः सह कृष्णया ।
स्वानां मृतानां यत्कृत्यं चक्रुर्निर्हरणादिकम् ॥ ५८॥

58

Puthrasokaathuraassarvve paandavaassaha Krishnayaa
Swaanaam mrithaanaam yeth krithyam chakrurnnirharanaadhikam.

Thereafter the sorrowfully grieving Paandavaas along with Paanjchaali performed appropriate last rites prescribed in Vedhaas for their young dead sons.

इति श्रीमद्भागवते महापुराणे पारमहंस्यां संहितायां
प्रथमस्कन्धे द्रौणिनिग्रहो नाम सप्तमोऽध्यायः ॥ ७॥

Ithi Sreemat Bhaagawathe Mahaa Puraane
Paaramahamsyaam Samhithaayaam

Pratthamaskanddhe Dhrounigrāho Naama
Sapthamoadhyaayah

Thus, we conclude the Seventh Chapter named as the Punishment to Aswaththaamaa, the son of Dhrona, of the First Canto of the Most Divine and the Supreme Most and Greatest Mythology known as Sreemad Bhagawatham.

Om Shree Krishnaya Param Brahmane Namah!
Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!
Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!
Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!