

OM

Om Shree Krishnaya Param Brahmane Namah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

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॥ ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

प्रथमस्कन्धः

PRATHAMASKANDHAH (CANTO ONE)

॥ एकोनविंशोऽध्यायः ॥

EKONAVIMSOADHYAH (CHAPTER NINETEEN)

**Pareekshith's Fasting unto Death and Arrival of Suka
Brahmarshi**

[Pareekshith Mahaaraaja was cursed by Sringeri, the son of Sameeka, that he will be killed by snake bite on the seventh day from the date of his curse. Pareekshith came to know about this horrible curse from a messenger sent by Sameeka. He decided to go on Praayopavesam or fast unto death and with that determination he crowned his son Janamejaya as the emperor and went to the banks of sacred river Mandhaakini which is a tributary of the holy river Ganga. Knowing the decision of Pareekshith Mahaaraaja, all the Dhevarshees, Brahmarshis, Rajarshees, Sages, Brahmins and Sanyaasees from all the three worlds arrived at the banks of Ganga where Pareekshith was going to observe his Praayopavesam. And then Pareekshith and all others assembled there noticed the arrival of Sri Suka Brahmarshi

who was the noblest and divinest of all the sages and the steadfast devotee of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. After receiving and offering worship and other formal hospitalities Pareekshith Mahaaraaja prostrated Sri Suka Brahmarshi again and with folded hands and with utmost respect and reverence requested him to explain that what is the best thing he can listen or recite or worship or perform within that short period available to him until his death.]

सूत उवाच

Sootha Uvvacha (Sootha Said):

महीपतिस्त्वथ तत्कर्म गर्ह्यं
विचिन्तयन्नात्मकृतं सुदुर्मनाः ।
अहो मया नीचमनार्यवत्कृतं
निरागसि ब्रह्मणि गूढतेजसि ॥ १ ॥

1

Maheepathisthwattha thath kamma gerhyam
Vichinthayannaathmakritham sudhurmmanaah
“Aho mayaa neechamanaaryavath kritham
Niraagesee Brahmani gooddathejasi.”

Pareekshith Mahaaraaja, after returning home contemplated his despicable act at the monastery of Sameeka Brahmarshi and started repenting about that heinous crime he committed and felt so sad about it and was ashamed of his action. He thought in his mind: “Alas! It was pitiable! I committed such a heinous crime to that faultless and divinely powerful great sage of severe austerity. He was the noblest of the Brahmin Rishis or Brahmarshis. Just like a demonic rogue, I committed a devilish act upon him.”

ध्रुवं ततो मे कृतदेवहेलना-
द्दुरत्ययं व्यसनं नातिदीर्घात् ।
तदस्तु कामं त्वघनिष्कृताय मे
यथा न कुर्यां पुनरेवमद्धा ॥ २ ॥

“Ddhruvam thatho me krithadhevahelanaath
Dhurathyayam vyanam naathidheerghaath
Thadhasthu kaamam thwghanishkrithaaya me
Yetthaa nakuryaam punarevamadhddhaa.”

“Due to my abusive and contemptuous act of putting the skeleton of the snake on the meditating sage of severe austerity I have certainly deviated from righteous principles of my life and was against the will and wish of supreme God, Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. Due to this despicable action against God, I would definitely be subjected to severe threat and danger with appropriate punishment in the immediate future. I was very uncivilized and sinful due to my accusable act against the divinely and pure sage of the status of a Brahmarshi. Let my sins be eliminated with severe punishments. Moreover, let such severe punishment also teach me a lesson not to repeat any such inappropriate and non-righteous and abusive and contemptuous deeds in my life forever in the future.”

अद्यैव राज्यं बलमृद्धकोशं
प्रकोपितब्रह्मकुलानलो मे ।
दहत्वभद्रस्य पुनर्न मेऽभू-
त्पापीयसी धीर्द्विजदेवगोभ्यः ॥ ३॥

“Adhyaiva raajyam belamridhddhakosam
PrekopithaBrahmakulaanalo me
Dhehathwabhadrasya punarnna meabhooth
Paapeyasee ddheerdhwijadhevagobhyah”

“While the emperor was languished and wailing in repentance of his sinful act against the Brahmin Sage, he heard the news that due to the horrible curse of the son of the Brahmin Sage (Sringi was the son of Sameeka, the Brahmin Sage) he will be burned to death instantaneously in the most terrible and powerful and fiery poison from the bite of Thakshaka, the most voraciously poisonous snake.

Pareekshith Mahaaraaja took it as a blessing and favorable news to him.”

स चिन्तयन्नित्थमथाशृणोद्यथा
मुनेः सुतोक्तो निरृतिस्तक्षकाख्यः ।
स साधु मेने न चिरेण तक्षका-
नलं प्रसक्तस्य विरक्तिकारणम् ॥ ४॥

4

Sa chinthayanniththamatthaasrinodhyetthaa
Munossuthektho nirirthisThakshakaakhyah
Sa sasshu mene na chirena Thakshakaa-
Nalam presakthasya virakthikaaranam.

Pareekshith Mahaaraaja thought that the enraging effulgence of the divine dynasty of Brahmarshi destroyed his entire kingdom along with all the wealth and treasures, the entire warrior forces and all other material possessions of it. He thought he was very corrupted and evil. Let that be a lesson to him so that he would never ever in his life think of disturbing and torturing the sages or virtuous beings or even the poor and innocent animals like that. He was very much after the material benefits and possessions and that could definitely and completely be destroyed by intolerable heat emitted from the fiery poison of Thakshaka which would be injected into him with his bite. And thus, he would be able to abandon his interest in evil and atrocious material actions.

अथो विहायेमममुं च लोकं
विमर्शितौ हेयतया पुरस्तात् ।
कृष्णाङ्घ्रिसेवामधिमन्यमान
उपाविशत्प्रायममर्त्यनद्याम् ॥ ५॥

5

Attho vihaayemamamum cha lokam
Vimarsithau heyathayaa purasthaath
Krishnaamghrisevaamaddhimanyamaana

Upaavisath praayamamarththyanadhyaam.

Pareekshith Mahaaraaja firmly determined to abandon this material world initially and then the celestial world also and with full preparation sat down on the banks of river Mandhaakini, a tributary of sacred Ganga, on Praayopavesam – which means fasting unto death – by fully concentrating his mind onto the lotus feet of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan who was the transcendental and primeval incarnation of Lord Sri Maha Vishnu.

या वै लसच्छ्रीतुलसीविमिश्र-
कृष्णाङ्घ्रिरेण्वभ्यधिकाम्बुनेत्री ।
पुनाति लोकानुभयत्र सेशान्
कस्तां न सेवेत मरिष्यमाणः ॥ ६॥

6

“Yaa vai lesachchreethulaseevimisra-
Krishnaamghhirenwabhyaddhikaambunethri
Punaathi lokaanubhayathra sesaan
Kasthaam na sevetha marishyamaanah”

“The sacred river Ganga carries the most auspicious water containing the dust from the lotus feet of the ultimate transcendental God, Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan, and the leaves of divinely sacred Thulasi [Thulasi is holy Basil and considered to be most purifying and divine] plant. And also, the holy river Ganga originated from heaven and hence it is a celestial river and flows into the nether world of Paathaal through earth. Therefore, this sacred river is always in the process of sanctifying all the three worlds of heaven earth and paathaal and also the gods and demigods as well as even Lord Sri Maha Dheva. In that case how it is possible for the one who is approaching death can or should stay away from that sacred river Ganga? [Pareekshith Mahaaraaja has done the most appropriate thing to go to the banks of Mandhaakini for his Praayopavesam.]”

इति व्यवच्छिद्य स पाण्डवेयः
प्रायोपवेशं प्रति विष्णुपद्याम् ।
दध्यौ मुकुन्दाङ्घ्रिमनन्यभावो

मुनिव्रतो मुक्तसमस्तसङ्गः ॥ ७॥

7

Ithi vyevachcchidhya sa Paandaveyah
Praayopavesam prethi Vishnupadhyaam
Dheddhyau Mukundhaamghrimananyabhaavo
Munivratho mukthasamasthasamgah

Pareekshith Mahaaraaja, the most renowned emperor of Paandava family, with full determination to abandon material life went over there and sat under Praayopavesam (fasting until death with austerity) concentrating his mind and heart onto the lotus feet of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan or Mukundha by renouncing all material thoughts once for all. Pareekshith has renounced all his material associations and has nothing in his mind other than the lotus feet of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan.

तत्रोपजग्मुर्भुवनं पुनाना
महानुभावा मुनयः सशिष्याः ।
प्रायेण तीर्थाभिगमापदेशैः
स्वयं हि तीर्थानि पुनन्ति सन्तः ॥ ८॥

8

Thathropajegmurbhuvanam punaana
Mahaanubhaavaa munayassasishyaah
Praayena theerththaabhigemaapadhesai-
Sswayam hi theerththaani punanthi santhah

The great sages, divine scholars, and mendicants who have renounced and released of all material interests and all sacred Rishis along with their disciples and all arrived there under the plea that it was a part of their pilgrimage. They themselves are sanctifiers of the pilgrim places.

अत्रिर्वसिष्ठश्च्यवनः शरद्वा-
नरिष्टनेमिर्भृगुरङ्गिराश्च ।

पराशरो गाधिसुतोऽथ राम
उतथ्य इन्द्रप्रमदेध्मवाहौ ॥ ९॥

9

AthrirVasishttasChyavanasSaradhwa-
NArishtanemirBhrigurAmgiraascha
Paraasaro Gaaddhisuthoattha Raama
Uthaththya IndhrapremadhEddhmavaahau.

मेधातिथिर्देवल आर्षिषेणो
भारद्वाजो गौतमः पिप्पलादः ।
मैत्रेय और्वः कवषः कुम्भयोनि-
द्वैपायनो भगवान्नारदश्च ॥ १०॥

10

MeddhaathitthirdhDhevala Aarshtisheno
Bhaaradhwaajo Gauthamah Pippalaadhah
Maithreya Ourvah Kavashah Kumbhayonir-
Dhwaipaayano BhagawanNaaradhascha.

अन्ये च देवर्षिर्ब्रह्मर्षिवर्या
राजर्षिवर्या अरुणादयश्च ।
नानार्षेयप्रवरान् समेता-
नभ्यर्च्य राजा शिरसा ववन्दे ॥ ११॥

11

Anye cha DhevarshiBrahmarshivaryaa
Raajarshivaryaa Arunaadhayascha
Naanaarsheyaprevaraan samethaa-
Nabhyarchya raajaa sirasaa vavandhe.

The list of the most divine and sagely and scholarly personalities include: Athri, Amgiras, Vasishta, Viswaamithra, Gauthama,

Arishtanemi, Uthaththya, Raama [Parasuraama], Indhrapremadha, Bhrigu, Meddhaathitthi, Maithreya [Maithreya is the one who advises this Sreemadh Bhaagawatham to Vidhura Mahaasaya], Aurvva, Dhevala, Pippalaadha, Chyevana, Iddhmavvaha, Saradhwaan, Bharadhwaaja, Kavasha, Paraasara, Agasthya, Aarshtishena, Baadharaayana, Heavenly sages like Naaradha, the most divine Brahmarshis those who are scholars of Vedhaas, great Raajarshis [Raajarshi is a king who becomes a sage with severe austerity. Examples: Viswaamithra – he was ordained with the status of Brahmarshi later on by Brahma Dheva and Janaka Mahaaraaja, the father of Sitha Dhevi.], and all pure and divine Brahmins. And a huge crowd of the most divine and sacred personalities gathered at the place where Emperor Pareekshith Mahaaraaja was observing the most auspicious Praayopavesam. Pareekshith Mahaaraaja worshipped all of them with due respect and reverence.

सुखोपविष्टेष्वथ तेषु भूयः
 कृतप्रणामः स्वचिकीर्षितं यत् ।
 विज्ञापयामास विविक्तचेता
 उपस्थितोऽग्रेऽभिगृहीतपाणिः ॥ १२॥

12

Sukhopavishteshwattha theshu bhooyah
 Krithaprenaamah swachikeershitham yeth
 Vinjaapayaamaasa vivikthachethaa
 Upasthithoagreabhigriheethapaanih

After all those scholarly and divine and sacred and noble sages were seated properly and comfortably, Pareekshith Mahaaraaja prostrated them humbly and respectfully. Then with folded hands and standing in the middle of them frankly without having any corruption of mind conveyed his interest and determination to fast until death.

राजोवाच

Raajovaacha (King – Pareekshith Mahaaraaja – Said):

अहो वयं धन्यतमा नृपाणां

महत्तमानुग्रहणीयशीलाः ।
राज्ञां कुलं ब्राह्मणपादशौचा-
द्दूराद्विसृष्टं बत गर्ह्यकर्म ॥ १३॥

13

“Aho vayam ddhanyathamaa nripaanaam
Mahaththamaanugrehaneeyaseelaah
Raajnjaam kulam Brahmanapaadhasauchaath
Dhooraadhwisrishtam betha gerhyakarmma.”

Sri Pareekshith Mahaaraaja, who was a divinely fortunate Emperor, Said: “Oh it is wonderful, and it is divinely great! All those kings and emperors those who are found to be eligible for the grace and blessings of self realized divine souls like you the great sages are considered to be the most divinely fortunate because normally these kings and emperors are kept at a far distant place from you and considered to be as refuse and rejected as if they are worse and far impure than the dirty water left out after washing the feet of the Brahmins. [Normally the dirty water with dust after washing the feet is definitely impure and thrown away. And emperors and kings are also considered to be like that dirty water and being kept at bay by such divine self realized souls. So Pareekshith considers himself as most fortunate due to the presence of these great Dhevarshees, Brahmarshis, Rajarshees and Brahmins.]”

तस्यैव मेऽघस्य परावरेषो
व्यासक्तचित्तस्य गृहेष्वभीक्षणम् ।
निर्वेदमूलो द्विजशापरूपो
यत्र प्रसक्तो भयमाशु धत्ते ॥ १४॥

14

“Thasyaiva Meaghasya Paraavareso
Vyaasakthachiththasya griheshwabheekshnam
Nirvedhamoolo dhwijasaaparooopo
Yethra presaktho bhayamaasu ddhaththe.”

“I am the emperor and thus the administrating ruler of this world. Naturally, I am very much interested and involved in material life with my wife, children, family, my country and all other entrapments associated with material life. I consider this curse of the divine young Brahmin, Sringeri, as a blessing bestowed on me by Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan with the motive of releasing me from these material entrapments by myself getting renounced of all my material interests and possessions and to create asceticism in me. Thus, it is surely a blessing of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan.”

तं मोपयातं प्रतियन्तु विप्रा
गङ्गा च देवी धृतचित्तमीशे ।
द्विजोपसृष्टः कुहकस्तक्षको वा
दशत्वलं गायत विष्णुगाथाः ॥ १५॥

15

“Tham mopayaatham prethiyanthu vipraa
Gemgaa cha dhevee ddhritichiththameese
Dhwijopasrishtah kuhakasThakshako vaa
Dhesathwalam gaayatha Vishnugaatthaah”

“Oh, the most noble and divinely great Brahmins! Oh, the most prosperous and divine Goddess, Gangaadhevee! This poor and innocent mendicant surrenders life and soul and earnestly seeks refuge upon you. Please remember that I have surrendered all and everything onto you and therefore kindly accept my offerings and prayers and provide me with refuge. Let me be bitten by the most horribly poisonous snake, Thakshaka, as a result of the curse cast on me by the divine young and noble Brahmin. Please, all of you recite aloud proclaiming the glorious stories of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan who is the embodiment of kindness and compassion and provider of anything, and everything needed by his true devotees.”

पुनश्च भूयाद्भगवत्यनन्ते
रतिः प्रसङ्गश्च तदाश्रयेषु ।
महत्सु यां यामुपयामि सृष्टिं
मैत्र्यस्तु सर्वत्र नमो द्विजेभ्यः ॥ १६॥

“Punascha bhooyaath Bhagawathyananthe
Rethih presamgascha thadhaasrayeshu
Mahathsuyaam yaamupayaami srishtim
Maithryasthu sarvvathra namo dhwijebhyah”

“I am not sure how many more lives I am left with in this material world but my sincere prayers are that in all those lives let my unlimited love and steadfast devotion to the ultimate reality of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan who is the enemy of all evil and Aasuric forces, progressively be increased. Let me have the opportunity for constant association throughout my lives with the steadfast devotees of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. Also let my interest and devotion and respect for them be increased day by day to immortal infinity. Oh, the most divine Brahmins; I prostrate by bowing down my head on the ground and salute all of you with folded hands with prayers to shower your grace and blessings onto me.”

इति स्म राजाध्यवसाययुक्तः
प्राचीनमूलेषु कुशेषु धीरः ।
उदङ्मुखो दक्षिणकूल आस्ते
समुद्रपत्न्याः स्वसुतन्यस्तभारः ॥ १७॥

Ithi sma raajaaadhddhyavasaayayukthah
Praacheenamooleshu kuseshu ddheerah
Udhangmukho dhekshinakoola aasthe
Samudhrapathnyaasswasuthanyasthabhaarah

Pareekshith Mahaaraaja enthroned his son, Janamejaya, as his successor and assigned all the responsibilities of ruling this world most properly and righteously. [Janamejaya was the eldest son of Pareekshith, and he was the one who conducted the most famous sacrifice of serpents – Sarpa Sathra – in order to invoke Thakshaka who bit and killed Pareekshith into the sacrificial fire and burn to death.] And then with the firm determination to observe

Praayopavesam he went to the banks of the holy river Ganga. He placed the seat made up of sacrificial grass called Kusa as it was pointing towards the eastern direction. And then he sat on that seat facing towards the north. He was in full Yogic meditation and his mind was fully concentrating on the lotus feet of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan.

एवं च तस्मिन् नरदेवदेवे
प्रायोपविष्टे दिवि देवसङ्घाः ।
प्रशस्य भूमौ व्यकिरन् प्रसूनै-
र्मुदा मुहुर्दुन्दुभयश्च नेदुः ॥ १८॥

18

Evam cha thasmin naradhevadheve
Praayopavishte dhivi dhevasamghaah
Presasya bhoomau vyakiran presoonai-
Rmmudhaa muhurdhundhubhayascha nedhuh

When Pareekshith Mahaaraaja observed Praayopavesam like that all the gods and demigods of heaven praised and complemented and congratulated him. Then they showered flowers continuously all over the earth to sanctify that divine and most auspicious ceremony and started beating aloud the celestial drums to notify all the three worlds the importance and greatness and nobility of the celebration.

महर्षयो वै समुपागता ये
प्रशस्य साध्वित्यनुमोदमानाः ।
ऊचुः प्रजानुग्रहशीलसारा
यदुत्तमश्लोकगुणाभिरूपम् ॥ १९॥

19

Maharshayo vai samupaagethaa ye
Presasya saaddhwithyanumodhamaanaah
Oochuh prejaanugrehaseelasaaraa
Yedhooththamaslokagunaabhiroopam.

All those great sages, those who are always willing to bless the mankind and all the species of the world, assembled there also cheered and announced that the determination of Pareekshith Mahaaraaja was really great, most auspicious and supremely divine and congratulated and complimented him for his sacred action. And then they started singing and reciting the glorious stories of the supreme personality of Yaadhava dynasty, Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan who was the transcendental and primeval and perfect incarnation of Lord Sri Maha Vishnu.

न वा इदं राजर्षिवर्यं चित्रं
भवत्सु कृष्णं समनुव्रतेषु ।
येऽध्यासनं राजकिरीटजुष्टं
सद्यो जहूर्भगवत्पार्श्वकामाः ॥ २०॥

20

“Na vaa idham raajarshivarya! Chithram
Bhawathsu Krishnam samanuvratheshu
Ye ddhyaasanam raajakireetajushtam
Sadhyo jehurBhagawathpaarswakaamaah”

“Oh, the supreme most personality of all the Kings and Emperors! Certainly, this divine action from you is not considered to be something wonderful or surprising because you are born into the dynasty of Paandavaas who were always very closely associated with and lived with and dined with and played with the supreme GodHead, Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. There are a number of your predecessors who also have abandoned their powerful and magnanimous thrones and crowns for the sake of devoting their lives to serving at the lotus feet of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. [The opportunity to worship Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan was considered to be far more superior to holding powerful position like the emperor of the world by many of predecessors of Kuru or Puru or Paandava Dynasty.]”

सर्वे वयं तावदिहास्महेऽद्य
कलेवरं यावदसौ विहाय ।
लोकं परं विरजस्कं विशोकं

“Sarve vayam thaavadhihaasmaheadhya
Kalebaram yaavadhasau vihaaya
Lokam param virajaskam visokam
Yaasyathyayam Bhaagawathapreddhaanah”

“Those most noble Sages also told that until Pareekshith Mahaaraaja, who is the supreme most devotee of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan, abandons this material body for attainment of his soul to reach Vaikunda, the abode of Lord Sri Maha Vishnu, we all will wait here by singing and reciting and debating and interpreting the divine and glorifying stories of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. We are sure that Pareekshith Mahaaraaja will definitely be released of all the distresses and sorrows he was facing due to his material attachments and would attain immortal and eternal happiness as he is going to be released of his Rajo Guna. [Rajo Guna is the natural quality of the kings. Pareekshith is already now dominant with Sathwa Guna due to his detachment of passions and material life and due to the steadfast and staunchest devotion to Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan.]”

आश्रुत्य तदृषिगणवचः परीक्षि-
त्समं मधुच्युद्गुरु चाव्यलीकम् ।
आभाषतैनानभिनन्द्य युक्तान्
शुश्रूषमाणश्चरितानि विष्णोः ॥ २२ ॥

Aasruthya thadhrishigenavachah Pareekshith
Samam Madhuchyuthaguru Chaavyeleekam
Aabhaashathaitaanabhinandhya yuktham
Susrooshamaanascharithaani Vishnoh

Hearing the divine words sweetly spoken by those greatest and noblest of the sages had the same or better impact of drinking the celestial ambrosia. Those words were divine, noble and were full of spiritual philosophies and principles. Pareekshith Mahaaraaja was

divinely pleased and satisfied and congratulated and complemented those sages with due reverence and appreciation. And then Pareekshith Mahaaraaja with unbound desire and enthusiasm and interest to listen to more and more of the glorifying stories of the ultimate and supreme most GodHead, Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan, spoke these words.

समागताः सर्वत एव सर्वे
वेदा यथा मूर्तिधरास्त्रिपृष्ठे ।
नेहाथ नामुत्र च कश्चनार्थ
ऋते परानुग्रहमात्मशीलम् ॥ २३ ॥

23

“Samaagathaassarvatha eva sarvve
Vedhaa yetthaa Moorthyddharaasthriprishte
Nehaaatthavaaamoothra cha kaschanaarthththa
Rithe paraanugrehamaathmaseelam.”

“Oh, the great sages! You all are selfless and have dedicated and devoted your lives to help and guide and to direct and to bless and grace others. You have nothing other than helping others either in this world or in other worlds. [These sages are selflessly wandering in Swargam, Bhoomi and Paathaal with the sole purpose of spreading the divine stories of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan.] I am now most fortunate that you all have assembled here. It is as if Brahma Dheva who is the embodiment of all the Vedhaas himself has arrived here. You are all Omniscient. You are all as good as Brahma Dheva in respect of the knowledge of all Vedhaas. Your presences have provided me with the divinest and blissful happiness.”

ततश्च वः पृच्छ्यमिमं विपृच्छे
विश्रभ्य विप्रा इति कृत्यतायाम् ।
सर्वात्मना म्रियमाणैश्च कृत्यं
शुद्धं च तत्रामृशताभियुक्ताः ॥ २४ ॥

24

“Thathascha vah prichcchyaamimam viprichcche
Visrabhya vipraa ithi krithyathaayaam
Sarvvaathmanaam mriyamaanaischa krithyam
Sudhddham cha thathraamrisathaabhiyukthaah”

“Oh, the great Brahmin Sages! You are all most trustworthy and most gratifying and divine personalities of highest intelligence and talents and masters of Vedhaas. I am now in a dilemma as to what to do next. Therefore, I am begging for your help. With your supreme intelligence of divinity please think and analyze and tell me as of what the most befitting and suitable action is, I should perform at this juncture of impending immediate death of my material body and material life.”

तत्राभवद्भगवान् व्यासपुत्रो
यदृच्छया गामटमानोऽनपेक्षः ।
अलक्ष्यलिङ्गो निजलाभतुष्टो
वृत्तश्च बालैरवधूतवेषः ॥ २५ ॥

25

ThathraabhawadhBhagawaan Vyaasaputhro
Yedhrichcchayaa gaamatamaanoanapekshah
Aleksyalinggo nijalaabhathushto
Vrithasthribaalairavaddhoothaveshah

[ARRIVAL OF SRI SUKA BRAHMARSHI]

Sri Suka Brahmarshi who was the most divine and the most knowledgeable and the staunchest of the staunchest devotee of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan whose life has been fully dedicated at the lotus feet of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan and who was the true Mendicant or an Avaddhootha (A true Avaddhootha in its fullest senses) arrived there by chance. [The meaning of the word Avaddhootha will be explained later. Mendicant is the word loosely used but it warrants explanation.] Sri Suka Brahmarshi was the most powerful and effulgent son of Vedha Vyaasa and the entire Sreemadh Bhagawatham had first been taught to Sri Suka Brahmarshi by his father and preceptor, Vedha Vyaasa who was the

author of Sreemadh Bhagawatham. Sri Suka Brahmarshi was surrounded by number of beautiful women of severe austerity and smart children. Sri Suka Brahmarshi was wondering all around the world without any purpose or aim. Sri Suka Brahmarshi had no desire to go to a particular place or no desire to stay at a particular place. Sri Suka Brahmarshi was self realized and soul realized personality. Sri Suka Brahmarshi was always in the ecstasy of the bliss of soul realization. Sri Suka Brahmarshi was dressed in such a way that he was not interested in dressings at all, and he was not bothered or concerned of his dresses. Sri Suka Brahmarshi was disinterested in this material life. Sri Suka Brahmarshi was living beyond this material world and was living in the immortal and eternal spiritual world and Sri Suka Brahmarshi's mind and heart was always concentrating on the lotus feet of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. [Dear devotees I am unable to use the pronoun He for Sri Suka Brahmarshi because of my inherent and intuitive feeling I cannot represent Sri Suka Brahmarshi merely by a pronoun "He". Though repetition is boring please pardon as this is presentation of Sri Suka Brahmarshi for explaining Sreemadh Bhagawatha Puraanam to Sri Pareekshith Mahaaraaja.] Sri Suka Brahmarshi was the most renowned in all the three worlds. Sri Suka Brahmarshi did not belong to any caste or creed or of any social order or any social status and was independent of all such materialistic natures. And that Sri Suka Brahmarshi, by chance, arrived at the same place on the banks of sacred river Ganga where Pareekshith Mahaaraaja was observing his Praayopavesam and all the sages, gods and demigods and Brahmins were assembled.

तं द्वाष्टवर्षं सुकुमारपाद-
करोरुबाह्वंसकपोलगात्रम् ।
चार्वायताक्षोन्नसतुल्यकर्ण-
सुध्वाननं कम्बुसुजातकण्ठम् ॥ २६॥

26

Tham dhwyashtavarsham sukumaarapaadha-
Karorubaahwamsakapolagaathram
Chaarvaayathaakshonnasathulyakarnna-

Subrwaananaam kambusujaathakanttam.

निगूढजत्रुं पृथुतुङ्गवक्षस-
मावर्तनाभिं वलिवल्गूदरं च ।
दिगम्बरं वक्त्रविकीर्णकेशं
प्रलम्बबाहुं स्वमरोत्तमाभम् ॥ २७॥

27

Nigoodajethrum priththumgavakshasa-
Maavarththanaabhim valivalgudharam cha
Dhigambaram vakravikeernnakesam
Prelambabaahum swamaroththamaabham.

श्यामं सदापीच्यवयोऽङ्गलक्ष्म्या
स्त्रीणां मनोज्ञं रुचिरस्मितेन ।
प्रत्युत्थितास्ते मुनयः स्वासनेभ्य-
स्तल्लक्षणज्ञा अपि गूढवर्चसम् ॥ २८॥

28

Syaamam sadhaapeechyavayomgalekshmyaa
Sthreenaam manojnam ruchirasmithena
Prethyuththithasthe munayah swaasanebhya-
Sthallekshanajnjaa api gooddavarchchasam.

Sri Suka Brahmarshi, the divine son of Sri Vedha Vyaasa, was sixteen years old and would maintain this age throughout his life. [Being an Avaddhootha he was released of the material life and material changes like the movement of time could not have any impact on Sri Suka Brahmarshi.] Sri Suka Brahmarshi was the embodiment of eternal beauty and immortal charm. Sri Suka Brahmarshi's eternal beauty and immortal charm reflected on every part of his body like hands, legs, shoulders, thighs, cheeks, long and attractive eyes, long and highly raised nose, black and pretty eyebrows, equally parallel two ears, very strong and stout bones well covered with flesh, very broad and large and high and thick chest, very trimmed and deep navel, well shaped and attractive stomach,

conch-shell like soft and smooth and beautiful neck and all other parts. Sri Suka Brahmarshi possessed too long and strong hands and with pitch black and long hair waving on the head and forehead. Sri Suka Brahmarshi was naked. Sri Suka Brahmarshi was black in color like Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. [By all means and in all respects Sri Suka Brahmarshi was another incarnation of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan.] Sri Suka Brahmarshi because of his age which was just crossing adolescence and entering into youth was very much attracted and affined by all young and beautiful ladies and their mind wandered around Sri Suka Brahmarshi. Sri Suka Brahmarshi was the most attractive and mind capturing smile. Sri Suka Brahmarshi was an eloquent orator and was Omniscient. Sreemadh Bhaagawatham was flowing through the bloodstream of Sri Suka Brahmarshi. The mind and heart and soul of Sri Suka Brahmarshi have nothing other than unlimited devotion to Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. All those great sagely Brahmins were experts of physiognomy and were able to read and recognize Sri Suka Brahmarshi thoroughly well and they very respectfully and reverently received Sri Suka Brahmarshi. [The mother of Suka Brahmarshi was Ghrithaachi, a Celestial beauty or an Apsara Sthri. She was a famous dancer in the court of Indhra. Once she was attracted by Vedha Vyaasa while he was preparing the sacrificial fire. But he was ejaculated at that time and Ghrithaachi came there in the form of a Suka or Parrot and swallowed the ejaculated fluid and was impregnated. She held the pregnancy for sixteen years and delivered Suka Brahmarshi and provided the child to Vedha Vyaasa. The same Ghrithaachi, the Nymph or the Celestial beauty, is also the mother of Dhronaachaarya who was fathered by Bharadhwaaja. There is also another version about the origin of Suka Brahmarshi that he was born to a woman belonging to the Suka community for Vedha Vyaasa which was not extremely popular.]

स विष्णुरातोऽतिथय आगताय
तस्मै सपर्या शिरसाऽऽजहार ।
ततो निवृत्ता ह्यबुधाः स्त्रियोऽर्भका
महासने सोपविवेश पूजितः ॥ २९॥

Sa Vishnuraathoathithaya aagathaaya
Thasmai saparyaam sirasaaaajehaara
Thatho nivriththaa ha buddhaa sthriyoarbhakaa
Mahaasane soapavivesapoojithah

Pareekshith Mahaaraaja who was renowned as Vishnuraatha, because he was protected and saved right from the embryo stage itself, bowed his head down and prostrated at the feet of Sri Suka Brahmarshi and received him with utmost divinity and respect and requested him to occupy the most exalted and highest and the most revered seat of the dais. By seeing all these respect and divinity and nobility of Pareekshith Mahaaraaja attributed to Sri Suka Brahmarshi all those ignorant children who followed and accompanied him ran and went away and hid somewhere and those women did exactly the same. Sri Suka Brahmarshi who was not only respected but also worshiped by all those Brahmarshis and Dhevarshees and the Brahmins and all others worshiped Sri Suka Brahmarshi and ensured that the supreme most and the noblest of all of the Brahmarshis, Sri Suka Brahmarshi, was comfortably seated at most exalted and highest seat.

स संवृतस्तत्र महान् महीयसां
ब्रह्मर्षिराजर्षिदेवर्षिसङ्घैः ।
व्यरोचतालं भगवान् यथेन्दु-
ग्रहर्क्षतारानिकरैः परीतः ॥ ३०॥

30

Sa samvrithasthathra mahaan maheeyasaam
Brahmarshiraajarshidhevarshisamghaih
Vyerochathaalam Bhagawaan yetthendhur-
Greharkshathaaraanikaraih pareethah

In that congregation of all divinely and scholarly sages of Brahmarshis, Dhevarshees, Raajarshees, Brahmins and Sanyaasees, etc. surrounded there it was definitely magnanimous of the most magnanimous and divine of the divinest and scholarly of the most scholarly and spiritual of the most spiritual and self realized of the most supreme self realized was Sri Suka Brahmarshi. Sri Suka

Brahmarshi was the most effulgent and was shining like the brightest of brightest stars among other stars and suns and planets. [Here the comparison is the stars and suns, and planets are all the Brahmarshis, Dhevarshees, Raajarshees, Brahmins and Sanyaasees and Sri Suka Brahmarshi as the brightest star among all of them. Please refer to the list of all Dhevarshees, Brahmarshis, etc. provided here above including Naaradha, Vyaasa Bhagawaan, etc.]

प्रशान्तमासीनमकुण्ठमेधसं
मुनिं नृपो भागवतोऽभ्युपेत्य ।
प्रणम्य मूर्ध्नावहितः कृताञ्जलि-
र्नत्वा गिरा सूनृतयान्वपृच्छत् ॥ ३१ ॥

31

Presanthamaaseenamakunttameddhasam
Munim nripo Bhaagawathoabhyupethya
Prenamyamoorddhnaavahithah krithaanjjalir-
Nathwaa giraa soonrithayaaanwaprichcchath.

Pareekshith Mahaaraaja, who was the staunchest of the devotees of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan who was the most perfect and transcendental and primeval incarnation of Supreme and Ultimate God, Lord Sri Maha Vishnu, approached very close to Sri Suka Brahmarshi, who was the most perfectly pacified, most peaceful, most calm, the most sharply intelligent and the most divine personality, and worshiped and prostrated him and then stepped back a couple of steps and again bowed down to him and then with folded hands and with utmost respect and reverence and with utmost politeness spoke sweet and polite words like:

परीक्षिदुवाच

Mahaaraaja Pareekshith Said:

अहो अद्य वयं ब्रह्मन् सत्सेव्याः क्षत्रबन्धवः ।
कृपयातिथिरूपेण भवद्भिस्तीर्थकाः कृताः ॥ ३२ ॥

32

“Aho adhya vayam, Brahman, sathsevyaaah khethrabenddhavah
Kripayaaathitthiroopena Bhawadhbhistheerththakaah krithaah”

Emperor Pareekshith Mahaaraaja spoke: “Oh the great sages,
Brahmins, Brahmarshis, Dhevarshees, Raajarshees and the divine
Sanyaasees! Because you all have accepted my invitation and
arrived here as my guests the entire Kshathriya tribe have now been
sanctified with your presence and blessings. Oh! How fortunate are
these low class Kshathriyaas because we got an opportunity to serve
you all with respect and reverence! This royal class has now become
worthy of engaging in some divine deeds of serving you.”

येषां संस्मरणात्पुंसां सद्यः शुध्यन्ति वै गृहाः ।
किं पुनर्दर्शनस्पर्शपादशौचासनादिभिः ॥ ३३ ॥

33

“Yeshaam samsmaranaath pumsaam sadhyahsudhddhyanthi vai
grihaah
Kim punardhersanasparsapaadhasauchaasanaadhibih”

“If we simply remember the names of these most sacred and divine
sages by that alone our lives will be fully purified and sanctified and
with blissful satisfaction one can secure salvation. All these sages
are so great and divine and self realized and as good as the
incarnations of Lord Sri Maha Vishnu. And in that case, it is need-
less to speak about the divinities and nobilities of those who get the
opportunity to see them and to touch them and to prostrate them and
to wash and wipe off their feet and to be-seated them inappropriately
divine seats in our home and to adore them and to worship them.
Such people are the most fortunate ones in this world and no doubt
about it.”

सान्निध्यात्ते महायोगिन् पातकानि महान्त्यपि ।
सद्यो नश्यन्ति वै पुंसां विष्णोरिव सुरेतराः ॥ ३४ ॥

34

“Saanniddhyaaththe mahaayogin paathakaani mahaanthyapi
Sadhyo nasyanthi vai pumsaam Vishnoriva suretharaah”

“Oh, the most noble and most humble Yogi! [Pareekshith Mahaaraaja is addressing Sri Suka Brahmarshi.] You are the supreme most pearl of all the pearls of the scholarly and divinest and noblest of all the noble Yogis. Your simple presence alone is more than enough to wash away and eliminate all the sins and evil forces inflicted on mankind just like the mere presence alone of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan, who is the transcendental and primeval incarnation of Lord Sri Maha Vishnu, all the Asuraas or demonic forces and Raakshasaas or giants or evil forces are annihilated and driven away from the face of this planet itself.”

अपि मे भगवान् प्रीतः कृष्णः पाण्डुसुतप्रियः ।
पैतृष्वसेयप्रीत्यर्थं तद्गोत्रस्यात्तबान्धवः ॥ ३५॥

35

“Api me Bhagawaan preethah Krishnah Paandusuthapriyah
Paithrishwasreyapreethyarththam thadh
gothrasyaaththabaanddhavah”

“Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan, who was most charming and beautiful and attractive with long eyes like those of the petal of lotus flower, being the friend and relative of the sons of Paandu may be pleased and is possible to bless me as a favor and benefit to please his cousins. Also, it is possible that Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan may bless me to please my father, Abhimanyu being the son of his sister, because I am being the son of his sister’s son. [Subhadhra is the sister of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan. Abhimanyu is the son of Subhadhra and Arjjuna. And Pareekshith is the son of Abhimanyu and Uththara. That is the reference here.]”

अन्यथा तेऽव्यक्तगतेर्दर्शनं नः कथं नृणाम् ।
नितरां म्रियमाणानां संसिद्धस्य वनीयसः ॥ ३६॥

36

“Anyatthaa theavyakthageetherdhersanam nah kattham nrinaam
Nitharaam mriyamaanaanaam samsidhddhasya vaneeyasah”

“Otherwise, how is it possible for me to have this divine opportunity of having the presence and meeting with you at this time as you are the rarest of the rarest to be seen by materialists like me and all those who have assembled here. You are always moving incognito to the common people. You are superior to the celestial bodies in this material world. You are the one who has already reached the other side of the spiritual world which no Dhevarshees or Brahmarshis can attain. This is purely and definitely due to the blessing and grace of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan.”

अतः पृच्छामि संसिद्धिं योगिनां परमं गुरुम् ।
पुरुषस्येह यत्कार्यं म्रियमाणस्य सर्वथा ॥ ३७॥

37

“Athah prichcchaami samsidhddhim yoginaam paramam gurum
Purushasyeha yeth kaaryam mriyamaanasya sarvatthaa.”

“You are the ultimate Aachaarya or Preceptor of all these Aachaaryaas of Preceptors. Therefore, you are definitely the foremost Aachaarya being the most devout and most scholarly and the most noble and the most effulgent and the most shining and the ultimate master of Sreemadh Bhaagawatham among all these sages, Brahmins, Brahmarshis, Dhevarshees, Raajarshees and the divine Sanyaasees. I am awaiting my impending death very soon and under this situation I am seeking your guidance and advice as to what is the best action I can undertake. I am very enthusiastic and eager and anxious to know about it. Your advice and guidance would be the most valuable one for me at this time.”

यच्छ्रोतव्यमथो जप्यं यत्कर्तव्यं नृभिः प्रभो ।
स्मर्तव्यं भजनीयं वा ब्रूहि यद्वा विपर्ययम् ॥ ३८॥

38

“Yechcchrothavyamattho jaapyam yeth karththavyam nribhih prebhoh

Smarththavyam bhajaneeyam vaa broohi yedhwaa viparyayam.”

“Which subject is the best for mankind to listen to? Which Manthra or Hymn is to be recited continuously? What is it that we should always remember or rather whose name should always be kept in our mind? What is the action or what are all the actions that we should perform always? Which or Whose divine Form that we should always pray and worship? And also, what are all the opposite of all these that I should never engage into. [Pareekshith is asking here that what is it that he should never do until he dies.] Please explain all these things to me so that I can firmly establish all those things into my mind and consciousness.”

नूनं भगवतो ब्रह्मन् गृहेषु गृहमेधिनाम् ।
न लक्ष्यते ह्यवस्थानमपि गोदोहनं क्वचित् ॥ ३९॥

39

“Noonam Bhagawatho, Brahman, griheshu grihameddhinaam
Na lekshyathe hyavastthaanamapi godhohanam kwachith.”

“Oh, the most noble and the most divine sage, Suka Brahmarshe!
[Brahmarshe is the address from Brahmarshi.] Normally, you never used to stay for a moment more than that required for milking the cow in the house of a Grihastthaasrami or a family-man, like me. It is purely due to my unbounded luck that a personality of nobility and steadfast divinity of your stature came here by yourselves and willingly sat and happily spent this much time with me at this time and there is absolutely no doubt about it.”

सूत उवाच

Sootha Uvaacha (Sootha Said):

एवमाभाषितः पृष्टः स राज्ञा श्लक्ष्णया गिरा ।
प्रत्यभाषत धर्मज्ञो भगवान् बादरायणिः ॥ ४०॥

40

Evamaabhaashathah prishtah sa raajnjaa slakshnayaa giraa
Prethyabhaashatha ddharmmajnjo Bhagawaan Baadharaayanih

As Pareekshith Mahaaraaja asked questions like that, Sri Suka
Brahmarshi who the son of Baadharaayana was or Vedha Vyaasa
and who was the omniscient with all pervading knowledge of
Ddharmma or Righteousness spoke like this ...:

इति श्रीमद्भागवते महापुराणे वैयासक्यामष्टादशसाहस्र्यां
पारमहंस्यां संहितायां प्रथमस्कन्धे शुकागमनं नामैकोनविंशोऽध्यायः ॥ १९॥

Ithi Sreemat Bhaagawathe Mahaa Puraane
VaiyaasakyaamAshttaaDhesaSaahasryaam
Paaramahamsyaam Samhithaayaam Pratthamaskanddhe
Sukaagamanam Naama Ekonavimsoaddhyaayah

Thus, we concluded the Nineteenth Chapter named as the Arrival
and Appearance of Sri Suka Brahmarshi of the First Canto of the
Most Divine and the Supreme Most and the Greatest Mythology
known as Sreemad Bhagawatham created by the Great Scholarly
Sage Vyaasa with Eighteen Thousand Stanzas.

॥ इति प्रथमस्कन्धः समाप्तः ॥

**Ithi PratthamaSkanddhah Samaapthah
Thus Concluded First Canto**

**SAMAAPTHOAYAM PRATTHAMASKANDDHAH
CONCLUDED FIRST CANTO**

॥ ॐ तत्सद्ब्रह्मार्पणमस्तु ॥

OM This is Devotionally Dedicated to ParaBrahmam OM

**Om Shree Krishnaya Param Brahmane Namah!
Om Namoh Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!
Om Namoh Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!
Om Namoh Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!**

OM

Om Shree Krishnaya Param Brahmane Namah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Om Namō Bhagavathe Vaasudevayah!

Dear Devotees: With the grace and blessings of Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan we have concluded the first Canto of Sreemadh Bhaagawatham. We have another eleven more Cantos to be completed of which the tenth Canto is larger than one third of the whole book. At this time, I have to acknowledge with deepest appreciation and thanks the great work done by my brother, Gopikkochattan, in reviewing it thoroughly and making corrections and suggestions and providing me with proper guidance. He is cross-checking the original stanzas in Sanskrit as well. Thank you kochatta. I am also deeply indebted to my intimate friend, Bhargavan, for reviewing these writings so meticulously and making corrections. His diligence and accuracy and sincerity are matchless and cannot be explained in words. I have to state here his perfection is such that he makes sure I have spelt "is" as is not as "it" and "it" as it not as "is". And it is not an exaggeration. He had corrected even those words at a few places. I am sure but for Bhargawan no one could have corrected "beetle" for me which I incorrectly spelt as "betel". Who could ask the question whether there was a second Brahma to wed Saraswathy? And how come Lord Krishna, the younger one, the eighth incarnation and Balaraama, the elder one, ninth incarnation. Let him continue to use all his available time other than that Kenishamol, his little granddaughter,

wanted to play with him. I do not know the amount of time he might have spent correcting Bhagawatha Maahaathmyam. But his final comment was so funny, and many times made me laugh my stomach out. And let me quote it “(This is hell of a lengthy forward for a story with marketing material and event management advises to boot)”

What a sporty approach! Thanks, and Cheers, Bhargavan. These corrections are most valuable, and I am updating them immediately. Please continue. I also have to acknowledge with thanks the appreciation and encouragement I get from all others. May Lord Sri Krishna Bhagawaan bless us all to continue these writings and readings and editing!