SRIMAD BHAGAVATAM

CHAPTER 22, VOLUME 4

THE ADVICES OF SAINT SANAT KUMARA

<u>PREFACE</u>

This chapter is one of the most important one as the great Sanaka Saints appear before the emperor Prthu, as promised by Shri Hari Himself to Prthu earlier. Their appearance in the great assembly of Prthu was just not a mere visit. It was intended to propagate great principles involving the methods of self realization and also to show to the world as to how a human being should conduct himself in this world while he is alive.

To a pertinent question put forward by Prthu as to "How to achieve the good fortune (auspiciousness) through the easiest way in this world" (Stanza 15), Saint Sanat Kumar's eloquent answers are worth reading as those answers contain very great principles which are universal and valid for all times to come.

This chapter also explains as to how the emperor Prthu ruled over this world and what kind of personality he was while being here in this world.

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Stanza 1

maitreya uvāca janeṣu pragṛṇatsv evaṁ pṛthuṁ pṛthula-vikramam tatropajagmur munayaś catvāraḥ sūrya-varcasaḥ

(maitreya uvāca) Maitreya Maharshi said to Vidura. (pṛthula-vikramam) As the greatest emperor (pṛthum̀) Prthu was (pragṛṇatsu) being praised and worshiped (evam̀) in this manner (janeṣu) by his people (catvāraḥ) four (munayaḥ) saints, (sūrya-varcasaḥ) who were looking so bright as the sun, (upajagmuḥ) arrived (tatra) there.

Stanza 2

tāms tu siddheśvarān rājā vyomno 'vatarato 'rciṣā lokān apāpān kurvatyā sānugo 'caṣṭa lakṣitān

(rājā tu) The emperor Prthu, (sānugaḥ) who was surrounded by his people, (acaṣṭa) could see those saints (avatarataḥ)
coming down (vyomnaḥ) from the sky (arciṣā) radiating such effulgence (kurvatyā) capable of mitigating (apāpān) the sins (lokān) of all the worlds, (lakṣitān) and realized (tān) that they were none other than (siddheśvarān) the Sanaka Saints.

Stanza 3

tad-darśanodgatān prāṇān pratyāditsur ivotthitaḥ sa-sadasyānugo vainya

indriyeśo guṇān iva

(vainya) The emperor Prthu, (sa-sadasyānugaḥ) who was in the company of his ministers and people, (utthitaḥ) got up (pratyāditsuḥ iva) as if he was in an effort to bring back (prāṇān) his own life (tad-darśanodgatān) which had surged forward from him to get a good vision of those great saints (iva) just like (indriyeśaḥ) the senses (guṇān) move forward to accept the smell and other sense objects.

<u>Note</u> : Prthu got up as if he was trying to arrest and hold his life which jumped away from him as it got so much attracted towards those great Sanaka Saints. The context in which the above stanza has been presented this way is because of (a) the poetic beauty of saying these words and (b) to emphasize the fact that Prthu showed his respects to the Sanaka Saints firstly from his inner self whereafter from his extended arms.

Stanza 4

gauravād yantritaḥ sabhyaḥ praśrayānata-kandharaḥ vidhivat pūjayāṁ cakre gṛhītādhyarhaṇāsanān

(sabhyaḥ) Prthu, who was very well acquainted with the procedures of protocol in the assembly of the emperor, (gauravāt) dignifiedly (yantritaḥ) presented himself, (pūjayān cakre) and worshiped those Sanaka Saints
(praśrayānata-kandharaḥ) by bowing down his head with all his humility (gṛhītādhyarhaṇāsanān) after they were welcomed and made to sit with the offerings of water to their feet and by other methods (vidhivat) prescribed as per the established procedure.

Stanza 5

tat-pāda-śauca-salilair mārjitālaka-bandhanaḥ tatra śīlavatāṁ vṛttam ācaran mānayann iva

(*mārjitālaka-bandhanaḥ*) Prthu sprinkled with his hand little water (*tat-pāda-śauca-salilaiḥ*) washed out from the lotus feet of the Sanaka Saints on the cluster of hair over his head (*iva*) in a way (*ācaran*) setting an example (*vṛttam*) through such actions (*mānayan*) as to how to honour (*tatra*) and welcome (*śīlavatām*) such great saints.

Stanza 6

hāṭakāsana āsīnān sva-dhiṣṇyeṣv iva pāvakān śraddhā-saṁyama-saṁyuktaḥ prītaḥ prāha bhavāgrajān

(bhavāgrajān) Once the Sanaka Saints, the elder brothers of Shri Rudra, (āsīnān) occupied their seats (hāṭakāsane) made of gold, (sva-dhiṣṇyeṣu) who were shining (iva) like (pāvakān) the blazing fire, (prītaḥ) the most happiest Prthu (śraddhā-saṁyama-saṁyuktaḥ) told them with due respect and self restraint.

Stanza 7

pṛthur uvāca aho ācaritaṁ kiṁ me maṅgalaṁ maṅgalāyanāḥ yasya vo darśanaṁ hy āsīd

durdarśānām ca yogibhiķ

(pṛthur uvāca) The emperor Prthu said: (maṅgalāyanāḥ) Hey the great souls upon whom all the auspiciousness rest! (aho) What a wonder! (kiṁ maṅgalaṁ) I do not know what good deed (ācaritaṁ) has been done (me) by me ? (Because of which) (yasya) I have been (āsīt hi) fortunate enough (darśanaṁ) to see you right before me, (naḥ) when you normally do not (durdarśānāṁ) show up yourselves (yogibhiḥ ca) even to the greatest Yogis.

Stanza 8

kim tasya durlabhataram iha loke paratra ca yasya viprāḥ prasīdanti śivo viṣṇuś ca sānugaḥ

(sivaḥ) When Lord Shiva (viṣṇuḥ ca) and Vishnu (sānugaḥ) with their accompanied followers (viprāḥ) and brahmins (prasīdanti) are pleased (yasya) with a person (kim) what is that (durlabhataram) so rare to achieve (tasya) for such a person (iha loke) in this world (paratra ca) as well as in the other world?

Stanza 9

naiva lakṣayate loko lokān paryaṭato 'pi yān yathā sarva-dṛśaṁ sarva ātmānaṁ ye 'sya hetavaḥ

(yathā) The way in which (ātmānam̀) the Supreme Being, (sarva-dṛśam̀) who is a witness to each and everything, (sarve) is not being perceived by all the people, in the same manner (paryațataḥ api) although you travel (lokān) around all the worlds, (lokaḥ) the people of the world (na eva lakṣayate) are incapable of (yān) seeing you. (ye) Such great saints as you are (asya hetavaḥ) have appeared before me on your own.

Stanza 10

adhanā api te dhanyāḥ sādhavo gṛha-medhinaḥ yad-gṛhā hy arha-varyāmbu-Tṛṇa-bhūmīśvarāvarāḥ

(yad-gṛhā hi) Such homes (dhanyāḥ) are really considered prosperous, (adhanāḥ api) though not in terms of actual material wealth, (te sādhavaḥ) when the devoted (gṛha-medhinaḥ) householders (arha-varyāmbu-tṛṇabhūmīśvarāvarāḥ) engage themselves in the service/worship of the great saints like you with water, grass, land, the householders and the servants.

Stanza 11

vyālālaya-drumā vai te 'pyariktākhila-sampadaḥ yad-gṛhās tīrtha-pādīyapādatīrtha-vivarjitāḥ

(yad-gṛhāḥ) Whichever homes (tīrtha-pādīya-pādatīrtha-vivarjitāḥ) have not experienced the washed water from the feet of the devotees of Shri Hari (the Vaishnavas), whose feet are the pious place of worship,

(te) such homes (ariktākhila-sampadaķ api) despite being the constant dwelling place of all the material wealth,
 (vyālālaya-drumā vai) are certainly the trees in which the

snakes have firmly made their place of habitation.

Stanza 12

svāgatam vo dvija-śresthā yad-vratāni mumuksavah caranti śraddhayā dhīrā bālā eva brhanti ca

(dvija-śreṣṭhāḥ) Hey the great brahmins! (vaḥ svāgatam) We welcome you all. (yat) You are the ones (bālāḥ eva) while remaining continuously young, (dhīrāḥ) are very firmly rooted in your determination (in the pursuit of truth), (mumukṣavaḥ) and are the seekers of deliverance (caranti) carrying out (ca) even (bṛḥanti) the greatest (vratāni) pious deeds (śraddhayā) with utmost attention.

Stanza 13

kaccin naḥ kuśalaṁ nāthā indriyārthārtha-vedinām vyasanāvāpa etasmin patitānāṁ sva-karmabhiḥ

(nāthāḥ) Hey the great saints! (kuśalaṁ kaccit) Can there be good fortune (naḥ) for us (indriyārthārtha-vedinām) who consider the sense gratification as the real goal of life (patitānāṁ) and who have fallen into this world, (etasmin vyasanāvāpe) which is the source of all miseries (sva-karmabhiḥ) because of one's past actions and deeds?

<u>Note</u> : Prthu is conveying to the Sanaka Saints that he is not qualified to make any offering of pleasantries to them as the Sanaka Saints are far ahead in spiritual knowledge as compared to the people living on the earth. He is reiterating the same through the following stanzas.

Stanza 14

bhavatsu kuśala-praśna ātmārāmeṣu neṣyate kuśalākuśalā yatra na santi mati-vṛttayaḥ

(na iṣyate) It is not appropriate (kuśala-praśnaḥ) to discuss about the good fortune (bhavatsu) of yours (ātmārāmeṣu) as you are in the state of eternal bliss within your own self. (yatra) That being so, (na santi) there is absolutely no (mati-vṛttayaḥ) thought within you about the perceivement of (kuśalākuśalāḥ) good or bad fortune.

Stanza 15

tad ahaṁ kṛta-viśrambhaḥ suhṛdo vas tapasvinām sampṛcche bhava etasmin kṣemaḥ kenāñjasā bhavet

(tat aham) Therefore, let me (samprcche) ask (vah) you
(kṛta-viśrambhah) with absolute confidence (suhṛdah) as you are the friends (tapasvinām) of the suffering people -"How to achieve the good fortune (auspiciousness) through the easiest way in this world."

<u>Note</u> : Prthu goes on to convey that the Sanaka Saints are not merely the yogis or saints. They are the very form of the Bhagavan Himself.

Stanza 16

vyaktam ātmavatām ātmā bhagavān ātma-bhāvanaḥ svānām anugrahāyemāṁ siddha-rūpī caraty ajaḥ

(vyaktam) It is absolutely very clear that you, (siddha-rūpī) in the form of the great yogis, (carati) are travelling (imām) in this world (anugrahāya) to bless (svānām) the devotees of (bhagavān) Shri Narayana,

(ātmā) Who shines as the principle of consciousness (pure knowledge) (ātmavatām) within those who are firmly determined in the pursuit of truth,

(ātma-bhāvanaḥ) Who unfolds His forms for the benefit of His devotees, (ajaḥ) but Who Himself does not have any birth or any changes at all.

Stanza 17

maitreya uvāca pṛthos tat sūktam ākarṇya sāraṁ suṣṭhu mitaṁ madhu smayamāna iva prītyā kumāraḥ pratyuvāca ha

(maitreya uvāca) Maitreya Maharshi replied to Vidura:
(ākarņya) After listening (tat sūktam) to these words of Prthu
(madhu) so sweet to the ears (mitam) conveyed through very minimum words, (sāram) which were full of logical
(suṣṭhu) and meaningful contents, (prītyā) the extremely pleased (kumāraḥ) Sanat Kumara Saint (pratyuvāca ha) replied to him (smayamāna iva) smilingly. sanat-kumāra uvāca sādhu pṛṣṭaṁ mahārāja sarva-bhūta-hitātmanā bhavatā viduṣā cāpi sādhūnāṁ matir īdṛśī

(sanat-kumāra uvāca) The saint Sanat Kumara said to Prthu: (mahārāja) Hey emperor! (viduṣā ca api) Despite yourself being very knowledgeable, (bhavatā) you have (sādhu) set a good example (pṛṣṭaṁ) by putting such questions (sarva-bhūta-hitātmanā) keeping in view the benefits of the people at large. (matiḥ) The thinking (sādhūnāṁ) of good people (īdṛśī) are always like this.

<u>Note</u> : Sanat Kumara is appreciating the assembly of people in the company of Prthu.

Stanza 19

saṅgamaḥ khalu sādhūnām ubhayeṣāṁ ca sammataḥ yat-sambhāṣaṇa-sampraśnaḥ sarveṣāṁ vitanoti śam

(saṅgamaḥ) The assembly (sādhūnām) of good people (sammataḥ khalu) is always beneficial (ubhayeṣāṁ ca) for both (the speakers as well as the listeners).

(yat-sambhāṣaṇa-sampraśnaḥ) The questions and answers with explanations conducted among themselves (vitanoti) lead to the growth (śam) of welfare/happiness (sarveṣām) for all.

<u>Note</u> : After appreciating the assembly of good people in this manner, Sanat Kumara saint is advising the ways leading to deliverance on the basis of the questions put forward by Prthu.

Stanza 20

asty eva rājan bhavato madhudviṣaḥ pādāravindasya guṇānuvādane ratir durāpā vidhunoti naiṣṭhikī kāmaṁ kaṣāyaṁ malam antar-ātmanaḥ

(*rājan*) Hey emperor! (*bhavataḥ*) You (*asti eva*) definitely have (*durāpā*) the rarest (*ratiḥ*) and the ardent desire (*guņānuvādane*) to listen about the glories (*pādāravindasya*) of the pious lotus feet (*madhudviṣaḥ*) of Shri Hari.

(naiṣṭhikī) This steadfastness (of listening to the glories)
(vidhunoti) removes (malam) the dirt (kāmam) of desires which (kaṣāyam) forms as the accumulated stains (antar-ātmanaḥ) within the mind.

<u>Note</u> : Only if the dirts within the mind are cleansed one can attain non attachment in matters of worldly desires to achieve happiness within the mind. Sanat Kumara is carrying on further with his dialogues saying that there is no other way than cleansing one's mind totally, as highlighted by various scriptures, as a method for the purpose of seeking deliverance.

Stanza 21

śāstreṣv iyān eva suniścito nṛṇāṁ kṣemasya sadhryag-vimṛśeṣu hetuḥ asaṅga ātma-vyatirikta ātmani dṛḍhā ratir brahmaṇi nirguṇe ca yā

(eva) Only (iyān) this much (the cleanliness of mind brought about due to constant listening to the glories of Shri Hari) (suniścitaț) has been determined by the scriptures for the purpose of the auspiciousness/deliverance of the human beings.

(Once this stage is established in the mind) ($y\bar{a} ca$) what has been

(sadhryag-vimṛśeṣu) thought about very well (śāstreṣu) through the scriptures (hetuḥ) for the (kṣemasya) auspiciousness

(*nṛṇām*) of the human beings (*asaǹgaḥ*) is the natural development of an attitude of non attachment (*ātmavyatirikte*) towards all the worldly desires and at the same time

(*dṛḍhā ratiḥ*) firmly anchoring oneself only to (*ātmani*) the Supreme Being (*nirguņe*) Who/Which is beyond all characteristics

(brahmaṇi) and Who/Which is the form of Brahman (the Supreme Knowledge/Supreme Consciousness).

<u>Note</u> : This kind of non attachment to worldly desires and simultaneous steadfastness of anchoring with that Supreme principle is possible for a sincere devotee of Shri Hari whose heart is already clean because of constant engagement of himself with the devotional service. For other people, who are not that much devoted, these qualities can develop according to the degree of cleanliness of mind. These are explained through the following four stanzas.

Stanza 22

sā śraddhayā bhagavad-dharma-caryayā jijñāsayādhyātmika-yoga-niṣṭhayā yogeśvaropāsanayā ca nityaṁ

puņya-śravaḥ-kathayā puṇyayā ca

($s\bar{a}$) That (the non attachment to worldly desires and firm anchoring to that Supreme Being) ($\dot{s}raddhay\bar{a}$) is possible for a person through total attention,

(bhagavad-dharma-caryayā) by following the prescribed duties of the devotional service (as well as the prescribed duties according to the occupation),

(*jijñāsayā*) by inculcating keen desire to understand the principles of knowledge leading to deliverance,

(adhyātmika-yoga-niṣṭhayā) by practising the methods leading towards the knowledge of acquiring self realization,

(yogeśvaropāsanayā ca) by rendering service to the great saints and others who have achieved self realization,

(*nityam*) and by regularly (*punya-śravah-kathayā ca*) listening to the pious glories of Shri Hari, (*punyayā*) Who is worthy of being glorified.

Stanza 23

arthendriyārāma-sagosṭḥy-atṛṣṇayā tat-sammatānām aparigraheṇa ca vivikta-rucyā paritoṣa ātmani vinā harer guṇa-pīyūṣa-pānāt

That (the non attachment to worldly desires and firm anchoring to that Supreme Being) can happen when a person --

(a) (arthendriyārāma-sagosṭhy-atṛṣṇayā) develops aversion to the company of seekers of material comforts, and

avoids those who constantly undertake deeds to fulfil those material desires,

(b) (aparigraheṇa ca) rejects totally such desires of material comforts which, (tat-sammatānām) according to such a person, comes as a hindrance to the attainment of self realization,

© (ātmani) and dwells deep within himself (vivikta-rucyā) and enjoys constantly in that state of mind (paritoṣe) when he develops absolute bliss and satisfaction in that state of existence (guṇa-pīyūṣa-pānāt vinā) even when he is not being offered the taste of the nectar of listening to the pious glories (hareḥ) of Shri Hari.

Stanza 24

ahiṁsayā pāramahaṁsya-caryayā smṛtyā mukundācaritāgrya-sīdhunā yamair akāmair niyamaiś cāpy anindayā nirīhayā dvandva-titikṣayā ca

That (the non attachment to worldly desires and firm anchoring to that Supreme Being) can happen when a person --

(a) (*ahimsayā*) develops the sense of co-existence with all the living beings,

(b) ($p\bar{a}ramahamsya-caryay\bar{a}$) serves the great saints with the intention of following the path of knowledge as prescribed by them,

© (smṛṭyā) constantly remembers and pursues the divine qualities of the Bhagavan,

(d) (mukundācaritāgrya-sīdhunā) continuously enjoys the

essence of the flow of nectar of the glories of Shri Hari,

(e) (yamaih) follows the prescribed principles of self restraint,

(f) (akāmaiḥ) gives up his desire for material acquisition,

(g) (niyamaih) strictly adheres to the laid out principles,

(h) (anindayā api ca) refuses to condemn others who follow different methods,

(i) (*nirīhayā*) indulges in activities without expectation of *fruitive results*,

and (f) (dvandva-titikṣayā ca) tolerates without any complaint the effect of weather like heat, cold etc.

Stanza 25

harer muhus tatpara-karṇa-pūraguṇābhidhānena vijṛmbhamāṇayā bhaktyā hy asaṅgaḥ sad-asaty anātmani syān nirguṇe brahmaṇi cāñjasā ratiḥ

(syāt) Such a person (as described in the previous three stanzas) develops

(asangah) total aversion (anātmani) to all things distinctly separate from the truth and (sad-asati) brought about because of cause and effect factors, (vijṛmbhamāṇayā) as a result of his incremental (bhaktyā hi) devotion in particular,

(*muhuḥ*) because of his constant (*tatpara-karṇa-pūra-guṇābhidhānena*) listening from devotees about the glories (*hareḥ*) of Shri Hari, which become so endearing to the ears,

and (añjasā) very easily (ratiḥ ca) attains firm endearment (nirguṇe) with that changeless (brahmaṇi) and permanent Supreme Brahman (the pure form conscious bliss).

<u>Note</u> : What happens next after having reached the stage of aversion towards all existential things and firmly rooting oneself with the very source which is constant and permanent.

Stanza 26

yadā ratir brahmaņi naisthikī pumān ācāryavān jñāna-virāga-raṁhasā dahaty avīryaṁ hṛdayaṁ jīva-kośaṁ pañcātmakaṁ yonim ivotthito 'gniḥ

(yadā) When a person reaches (naiṣṭhikī) the stage of firm (ratiḥ) and total endearment (brahmaṇi) to the ever permanent and changeless form of the Supreme bliss,

(*ācāryavān*) at that time, with the help of a trained teacher,

(pumān) that person (jñāna-virāga-raṁhasā) inherits appropriate knowledge (in the pursuit of truth) and at the same time disassociates himself from things which are

existential in nature,

(avīryam) and turns himself into a person without having any particular desire to achieve by doing deeds for fulfilment of desires,

(dahati) and burns up (jīva-kośam̀) the veil (the mind which is the seat of thoughts and feelings) enveloping (hṛdayam̀) his consciousness,

(pañcātmakam) which contained all the five aspects like ignorance, false pride, liking for certain things, dislike for certain other things, and persistence towards some others etc.,

(yonim iva) in such a manner as if he himself is the origin of (agnih) burning fire (utthitah) rising up very high.

Stanza 27

dagdhāśayo mukta-samasta-tad-guņo naivātmano bahir antar vicaste parātmanor yad-vyavadhānam purastāt svapne yathā purusas tad-vināse

(dagdhāśayaḥ) Thus having burned his veil (the mind which is the seat of thoughts and feelings) enveloping the inner consciousness and,

therefore, (mukta-samasta-tad-guṇaḥ) having got liberated himself from the existential nature of his life,

(ātmanaḥ) such a person turns into an entity of equanimous being,

(*na vicaste eva*) and does not at all see in his experience (*bahiț*) anything outside of him (*antaț*) or anything inside of him.

(puruṣaḥ) That person (yat vyavadhānam) stops seeing the existence of separation (parātmanoḥ) among the visible objects, and also between him and those objects,

(purastāt) which was earlier perceived by him,

(tad-vināśe) and when such separateness had stopped existing in his perception,

(svapne yathā) his condition becomes just like a woken up person who does not see whatever had been seen by him during his dream stage.

<u>Note</u>: The mind, which is enveloped by the thoughts and feelings, in fact reflects the separateness. When that itself gets burned the feeling of separateness gets destroyed. The feeling of separate identities is just like the reflection of whatever one perceives during dream stage. This is what has been conveyed above.

Now, Sanat Kumara is going ahead with his explanation giving specific logics to impress upon the fact that it is this mind which is responsible for the dualistic perceptions originating within oneself.

Stanza 28

ātmānam indriyārtham ca param yadubhayor api saty āśaya upādhau vai pumān paśyati nānyadā (upādhau) Only when the cause factor (āśaye) known as the mind (sati vai) is in the wake up and dream stage,

(pumān) the person (paśyati) perceives distinct duality, (ātmānam) he being the seer, (indriyārtham ca) and all other objects separately,

(yadubhayoh param api) and the existential context between these objects in the form of individual identities.

(*ānyadā na*) During the deep sleep stage there is no perception of them as being separate identities and as such the dualistic perception does not take place.

<u>Note</u>: Imposing upon the single entity known as the all pervading consciousness as being the seer and the seen is due to the reflection of the cause known as the mind. This is being explained with appropriate example.

Stanza 29

nimitte sati sarvatra jalādāv api pūruṣaḥ ātmanaś ca parasyāpi bhidāṁ paśyati nānyadā

(*nimitte*) Only when the cause factors (*jalādau*) such as water, mirror etc., (*sati*) are available to (*pūruṣaḥ*) the human

(sarvatra api) in this world, (paśyati) he is able to see (bhidām)
the separateness (ātmanaḥ ca) between him (parasya api) and
his reflection. (anyadā na) Otherwise, he does not see the
separate identity.

<u>Note</u> : Therefore, it is understood that the duality of perception

is due to the cause factors.

Through the previous four stanzas Sanat Kumara has described about the attainment of deliverance due to detaching oneself from the material desires and rooting firmly within oneself.

Through the following four stanzas he proceeds to say as to how the worldly desires become the cause factor coming in the way of self realization.

Stanza 30

indriyair viṣayākṛṣṭair ākṣiptaṁ dhyāyatāṁ manaḥ cetanāṁ harate buddheḥ stambas toyam iva hradāt

(manah) When a person's mind (dhyāyatām) constantly remembers about the material objects,

(*indriyai*^h) his sense organs (*viṣayākṛṣṭai*^h) get attracted towards these material objects.

(ākṣiptaṁ) As his mind gets agitated because of this,
(cetanāṁ) the power of thinking (buddheḥ) of his mind,
(harate) gets diminished from within, (iva) just like
(stambaḥ) the clusters of grass plants on the shore of the
pond suck up (toyam) the water (hradāt) from that pond.

Stanza 31

bhraśyaty anusmṛtiś cittaṁ jñāna-bhraṁśaḥ smṛti-kṣaye tad-rodhaṁ kavayaḥ prāhur ātmāpahnavam ātmanaḥ (cittam anu) As the person follows his mind (the thought processes), which is now bereft of its power of thinking because of the sense organs getting themselves attracted towards the objects of material pleasures,

(*bhraśyati*) he loses the power (*smṛti*) of the method of follow up measures undertaken by him previously towards his self realization.

(*smṛti-kṣaye*) When his memory gets distorted thus, (*jñāna-bhraṁśaḥ*) it leads to distortion of his knowledge itself.

(tad-rodham) This distortion of knowledge, (ātmanaḥ) which has happened to his thinking process, (āhuḥ) is being called (kavayaḥ) by the saintly persons (ātmāpahnavam) as the destruction of his own conscience.

<u>Note</u> : What does it matter if the destruction of conscience takes place? This doubt is being cleared through the following stanza.

Stanza 32

nātaḥ parataro loke puṁsaḥ svārtha-vyatikramaḥ yad-adhy anyasya preyastvam ātmanaḥ sva-vyatikramāt

(pumsah) When a person (yadadhi) goes overboard beyond certain things (loke) in this world (preyastvam) and draws very endearingly (anyasya) to other matters,
 (ātmanah) that person (sva-vyatikramāt) is himself responsible for the destruction of his own self.

(na) There is nothing (parataraḥ) more damaging (ataḥ) than this when the adverse effect arising out of this wrong approach (svārtha-vyatikramaḥ) becomes the obstruction for his benefits.

<u>Note</u> : Saint Sanat Kumara is making clear the reasons for the above statement.

Stanza 33

arthendriyārthābhidhyānam sarvārthāpahnavo nṛṇām bhramśito jñāna-vijñānād yenāviśati mukhyatām

(arthendriyārthābhidhyānam̀) The continuous thought processes about the material requirements and the means to fulfil them (sarvārthāpahnavsarvārthāpahnavaḥ) leads towards the destruction of achievement towards the real purpose of life (nṛṇām) for the human beings.

(yena) Thus, because of this thinking about the material desires and their fulfilment, (jñāna-vijñānāt) their knowledge and intelligence (bhramśitaḥ) get arrested and (āviśati) they become (mukhyatām) just like that of a non moving entity though they continue to be living.

<u>Note</u> : Saint Sanat Kumara has explained above about the condition of a person who seeks fulfilment of only material desires. Now he goes on to say about matters relating to the over adherence to the ways of achieving things in life.

Stanza 34

na kuryāt karhicit saṅgaṁ

tamas tīvraṁ titīriṣuḥ dharmārtha-kāma-mokṣāṇāṁ yad atyanta-vighātakam

(titīrişuḥ) Those who desire to cross over (tīvram tamaḥ) the hellish miseries of darkness (of this worldly life) (na) should not (karhicit) at all be (sangam kuryāt) drawn very much into anything (yad atyanta-vighātakam) which comes as the most vehement obstacle before them (dharmārtha-kāma-mokṣānām) towards the achievement of the four principles of life namely pursuing the righteousness, acquiring the material prosperities according to one's occupation, fulfilling the desires of life, and the attainment of deliverance.

<u>Note</u> : Saint Sanat Kumara goes on to explain through the next stanza that by mentioning above "the four principles of life" together as a term, one should not construe that each one of them are in equal footing.

Stanza 35

tatrāpi mokṣa evārtha ātyantikatayeṣyate traivargyo 'rtho yato nityaṁ kṛtānta-bhaya-saṁyutaḥ

(tatrāpi) Among the four principles of life a person should aim at (as mentioned above), (arthaḥ) one principle of (mokṣaḥ) attainment of deliverance (eva) can only (iṣyate) be determined (ātyantikatayā) to be of permanent nature.

(yataḥ) That is because, (traivargyaḥ) the other three (arthaḥ) principles of life (nityaṁ) are constantly (kṛtānta-bhayasaṁyutaḥ) subjected to the fear of destruction as they are under the influence of the flow of time. <u>Note</u> : Now, Saint Sanat Kumara is making more clear about the fear of destruction under the influence of the flow of time.

Stanza 36

pare 'vare ca ye bhāvā guņa-vyatikarād anu na teṣāṁ vidyate kṣemam īśa-vidhvaṁsitāśiṣām

(ye bhāvāḥ) Various species of lives (pare) in the higher (avare ca) as well as the lower stratas (anu) continually regenerate (guṇa-vyatikarāt) as a result of their individual characteristics of nature such as Sattva, Rajas and Tamas.

(*teṣām na vidyate*) None of them get (*kṣemam*) permanent protection or deliverance (*īśa-vidhvamsitāśiṣām*) as they are all subjected to destruction due to the power of the flow of time.

Stanza 37

tat tvam narendra jagatām atha tasthūṣām ca dehendriyāsu-dhiṣaṇātmabhir āvṛtānām yaḥ kṣetravit-tapatayā hṛdi viśvag āviḥ pratyak cakāsti bhagavāms tam avehi so 'smisa

(narendra) Hey the emperor ! (tat) In view of all these reasons (tvam) you (avehi) must understand (sah asmi) with such perfect concept that "that Supreme Being is me alone" without having any perception of dualism (tam) about that Supreme Being,

(hṛdi) Who is positioned within the hearts (āvṛtānām)

enveloped by (dehendriyāsu-dhiṣaṇātmabhiḥ) the faculties like body, sense organs, air of life, mind, and the self driving existential feeling (Ahamkara) (jagatām) of the living (atha) as well as (tasthūṣāṁ ca) the non living life forms;

(kṣetravit-tapatayā) and remains inherently engineering the required energy of life-driving force and as the controller of (pratyak) the individual life form;

(cakāsti) and shines (āviņ) as the conscious intelligence,
(viśvak) as well as the one Who is spread out everywhere without any gap.

<u>Note</u> : It is mentioned above that "the Supreme Being shines within the hearts of all the living and non living beings". That being so, does it not happen that all the good and bad qualities of these beings also affect that Supreme Being? Now, Saint Sanat Kumara is explaining with his devotion that this kind of thoughts are misplaced.

Stanza 38

yasminn idam sad-asad-ātmatayā vibhāti māyā viveka-vidhuti sraji vāhi-buddhiḥ tam nitya-mukta-pariśuddha-vibuddha-tattvam pratyūḍha-karma-kalila-prakṛtim prapadye

(yasmin) Upon which Supreme Being (vibhāti) manifests
 (māyā) the illusions (known as Maya Shakti)
 (sad-asad-ātmatayā) because of the influence of the cause and effect factors,

(*idam*) which is perceived by a person in the form of this universe (*viveka-vidhuti*) and which fades away when he is equipped with the knowledge of self realization, (vā) in the same manner in which (ahi-buddhiḥ) the person gets rid of the misconception of live snake being there (sraji) in place of a garland of flower,

(tam) Unto Him,

 (nitya-mukta-pariśuddha-vibuddha-tattvaṁ) Who is eternally liberated, Who is absolutely pure, Who is the form of continuous consciousness, Who is the only Truth,
 (pratyūdha-karma-kalila-prakṛtiṁ) and Who surpasses this illusionary universe (nature).

(prapadye) one must surrender.

<u>Note</u> : Since it is the utmost difficult path to perceive that Supreme Being that "He is in fact me alone" principle, through the following two stanzas, Saint Sanat Kumara is advocating the path of devotion.

Stanza 39

yat-pāda-paṅkaja-palāśa-vilāsa-bhaktyā karmāśayaṁ grathitam udgrathayanti santaḥ tadvan na rikta-matayo yatayo 'pi ruddhasroto-gaṇās tam araṇaṁ bhaja vāsudevam

(araṇam̀) One must take shelter (tam vāsudevam) unto that Shri Vasudeva (bhaja) and worship Him,

(santaḥ) the way in which the pure devotees,
 (yat-pāda-paṅkaja-palāśa-vilāsa-bhaktyā) constantly pursue their devotion at His pious lotus feet,
 (udgrathayanti) and are able to break apart (karmāśayaṁ) the knots of false ego tied to their hearts (grathitam) due to their

bonding with the fruitive activities,

(tadvat) which achievement (na) is not possible (yatayaḥ api) even to the greatest yogis (rikta-matayaḥ) even though they have kept away their minds from the desire for worldly matters (ruddha-sroto-gaṇāḥ) and have the control over their senses.

<u>Note</u>: Does it augur well to say that it is not possible for the great yogis to break apart the knots in their hearts arising out of their bonding with the fruitive activities? When it is particularly mentioned in the Vedas that the possession of knowledge about Brahman is the supreme, how come the greatest yogis cannot attain this feat as easily as the pure devotees? This is clarified through the following stanza.

Stanza 40

krcchro mahān iha bhavārņavam aplavešām şad-varga-nakram asukhena titīriṣanti tat tvam harer bhagavato bhajanīyam anghrim krtvodupam vyasanam uttara dustarārnam

(*titīriṣanti*) There are persons who aspire to cross over (*bhavārṇavam*) this ocean of the miseries of worldly life,

(sad-varga-nakram) which is always influenced by the crocodile known as the five senses and the mind,

(asukhena) with the help of their yogic powers.

(mahān) There shall be great (kṛcchraḥ) difficulties (iha) for crossing over the ocean of miseries of this worldly life (aplaveśām) if that Supreme Controller is not taken shelter unto, Whom alone is the instrument for the same.

(tat) Therefore, (tvam) you (the emperor Prthu) (uttara)
cross over (vyasanam) the most misery ridden (dustarārņam)
and the most difficult ocean of this worldly life (kṛtvā) totally
depending upon (bhajanīyam) the most worshipable (anghrim)
pious lotus feet (hareḥ) of Shri Hari alone (udupam) as the
only ship, (bhagavataḥ) Whose feet are the reservoir of all
the prosperities and good qualities.

Stanza 41

maitreya uvāca sa evam brahma-putreņa kumāreņātma-medhasā darśitātma-gatiḥ samyak praśasyovāca tam nṛpaḥ

(maitreya uvāca) Maitreya Maharshi said to Vidura: (saḥ nṛpaḥ) The emperor Prthu, (samyak) who was advised thus very appropriately (darśitātma-gatiḥ) on matters of self realization (ātma-medhasā) by the self realized (kumāreṇa) Saint Sanat Kumara, (brahma-putreṇa) the son of Lord Brahma,

(praśasya) appreciated (tam) him well (uvāca) and replied.

Stanza 42

rājovāca kựto me 'nugrahaḥ pūrvaṁ hariṇārtānukampinā tam āpādayituṁ brahman bhagavan yūyam āgatāḥ

(*rājovāca*) The emperor Prthu replied: (*bhagavan*) Hey the embodiment of complete knowledge! (brahman) Hey the form of the Supreme Brahman!
(ārtānukampinā) The kind hearted (hariņā) Shri Hari Himself
had blessed (me) me (pūrvaṁ) earlier (anugrahaḥ) assuring
(kṛtaḥ) your arrival here. (yūyam) You are (āgatāḥ) kind
enough to reach this place (tam āpādayituṁ) in order to
honour His words.

Stanza 43

niṣpāditaś ca kārtsnyena bhagavadbhir ghṛṇālubhiḥ sādhūcchiṣṭaṁ hi me sarvam ātmanā saha kiṁ dade

(bhagavadbhiḥ) You are (ghṛṇālubhiḥ) so much merciful (niṣpāditaḥ ca) that you could execute Shri Hari's words (kārtsnyena) with utmost perfection. (me sarvam) Whatever I possess, (ātmanā saha) including that of my body, (sādhūcchiṣṭaṁ) are all the remnants of the food stuff of the saintly persons. (hi) That being so, (kiṁ dade) what shall I give you?

<u>Note</u>: Prthu says that everything including his own body had been offered to the saints in the form of worship and himself remains as the remnants of the food stuff of the saintly persons. Therefore, he is asking them as to what he can offer to them as presents because he does not own anything including his own body. This is what he is conveying through the above stanza.

Stanza 44

prāņā dārāḥ sutā brahman gṛhāś ca sa-paricchadāḥ rājyaṁ balaṁ mahī kośa iti sarvaṁ niveditam (brahman) Hey the great saints! (prāņāḥ) My own life,
(dārāḥ sutāḥ) wife, sons, (gṛhāḥ) all the homes (saparicchadāḥ) together with material contents within them, (rājyam) my own power to rule, (balam mahī) the army, the
land, (kośaḥ ca) the treasury, (iti sarvam) and all those things, (niveditam) are re-presented to you.

<u>Note</u>: Prthu says that whatever are seen as belonging to him are all the blessings of the saints like the great Sanaka Saints. Therefore, he is not in a position to offer any gift to them as all the possessions he is holding now are all the gifts of the saints. Therefore, he says that he is only re-offering and not gifting.

Re-offering or re-presenting happens when a person gives back the property to the same giver from whom he had received it earlier. When a servant offers rolls of betel leaves to his master the servant is not gifting the master anything but only does a service as the betel leaves already belong to the master. In the same manner, Prthu says that he is only doing a service and not offering any material to the saints.

Through the following two stanzas Prthu is explaining his own position.

Stanza 45

sainā-patyaṁ ca rājyaṁ ca daṇḍa-netṛtvam eva ca sarva lokādhipatyaṁ ca veda-śāstra-vid arhati

(veda-śāstra-vit) Only a brahmin, who has acquired the required Vedic knowledge, (arhati) deserve (sainā-patyam ca) to hold the leadership of the army, (rājyam ca) the power to rule, (daņḍa-netṛṭvam eva ca) the position of the chief of justice, (sarva lokādhipatyam ca) and the status as the controller of the entire world.

Stanza 46

svam eva brāhmaņo bhuṅkte svaṁ vaste svaṁ dadāti ca tasyaivānugraheṇānnaṁ bhuñjate kṣatriyādayaḥ

<u>Note</u>: Let us assume for a moment, for argument sake, that the emperor owns certain things as his own possession. Even if he gives all of them in charity to his teachers (the brahmins who are equipped with the Vedic knowledge) that action cannot tantamount to payment in replacement of the obligations done by the great teachers.

Stanza 47

yair īdṛśī bhagavato gatir ātma-vāda ekāntato nigamibhiḥ pratipāditā naḥ tuṣyantv adabhra-karuṇāḥ sva-kṛtena nityaṁ ko nāma tat pratikaroti vinoda-pātram

(*nigamibhi*^h) Let those knowledgeable brahmins, who are very well versed in Vedic principles, (*adabhra-karuņā*^h) and

who are mercifully magnanimous,

(tuṣyantu) be happy (nityam) for ever and ever (sva-kṛtena) with their own pious deeds (pratipāditā) of educating and showing (naḥ) to us (ekāntataḥ) in the specific and clear cut

manner

 (yaiḥ) these (īdṛśī) methods of specialized knowledge (ātma-vādaḥ) relating to self realization
 (gatiḥ) and promoting the path of awareness (bhagavataḥ) leading to the Supreme Brahman.

(ko nāma) Who (tat pratikaroti) can repay anything to those teachers as a replacement of the obligations done by them (uda-pātram vinā) except that we can only stand before them with our folded hands?

Stanza 48

maitreya uvāca ta ātma-yoga-pataya ādi-rājena pūjitāḥ śīlaṁ tadīyaṁ śaṁsantaḥ khe 'bhavan miṣatāṁ nṛṇām

(maitreya uvāca) Maitreya Maharshi said to Vidura:
(te) The Sanaka Saints, (ātma-yoga-patayaḥ) the greatest yogis with the perfect knowledge about the Supreme Brahman, (pūjitāḥ) were worshipped (ādi-rājena) by the emperor Prthu in this manner. (śaṁsantaḥ) As the people assembled were praising (śīlaṁ) about the good qualities (tadīyaṁ) of the emperor Prthu, (khe abhavan) the Sanaka Saints rose high into the sky, (nṛṇām) while all others (miṣatāṁ) were looking.

Stanza 49

vainyas tu dhuryo mahatām samsthityādhyātma-śikṣayā āpta-kāmam ivātmānam mena ātmany avasthitaḥ

(vainyaḥ tu) The emperor Prthu, (dhuryaḥ) who is the most important person (mahatām) among the greatest personalities, (adhyātma-śikṣayā) having thus become the beneficiary of the advice on matters connected with self realization, (avasthitaḥ) remained there (samsthityā) with total focus (ātmani) within himself, (ātmānam) and considered (āpta-kāmam iva mene) that he had achieved all his desires (fulfilled the purpose of life).

Stanza 50

karmāņi ca yathā-kālam yathā-deśam yathā-balam yathocitam yathā-vittam akarod brahma-sāt-kṛtam

(akarod) He performed (karmāņi ca) all his deeds (yathā-kālam) according to the requirement of time, (yathā-deśam) place (yathā-balam) and his capacity, (yathā-vittam) in accordance with the available means of wealth (yathocitam) and strictly as required, (brahma-sāt-kṛtam) submitting all such deeds to the Supreme Brahman.

Stanza 51

phalam brahmani vinnyasya nirvişangah samāhitah karmādhyakṣam ca manvāna ātmānam prakṛteh param

Stanza 52

gr.hesu vartamāno 'pi sa sāmrājya-śriyānvitaḥ nāsajjatendriyārthesu niraham-matir arkavat

(sah) Prthu carried on with his duties as an emperor,

(vinnyasya) submitting (phalam) all the fruitive results of his deeds (brahmaṇi) to that Supreme Brahman;

(*nirviṣaṅgaḥ*) not getting himself bound to his deeds and actions;

(samāhitaḥ) constantly (manvānaḥ ca) committed to the thought (ātmānaṁ) of his own self, (karmādhyakṣaṁ) being positioned as a witness to everything, (param) remaining beyond (prakṛteḥ) the material nature;

(niraham-matiḥ) discarding the feeling of false ego (anvitaḥ)
 by equanimous approach (sāmrājya-śriyā) towards the
material wealth (api) even while (vartamānaḥ) carrying out (
 gṛheṣu) the duties of the householder as well as of the
 emperor;

(arkavat) shining himself as the bright sun (na asajjata) without getting himself attracted (indrivārtheṣu) to the matters connected with the gratification of senses.

Stanza 53

evam adhyātma-yogena karmāņy anusamācaran putrān utpādayām āsa pañcārciṣy ātma-sammatān vijitāśvaṁ dhūmrakeśaṁ haryakṣaṁ draviṇaṁ vṛkam

(karmāņi anusamācaran) By carrying out his duties every day (evam) in this manner (adhyātma-yogena) disassociating his mind from the material pleasures and sense gratification, simultaneously concentrating himself only on the path of self realization,

(utpādayām āsa) he begot (arciṣi) through his wife 'Archis' (pañca putrān) five sons (ātma-sammatān) equalling him in all respects with the names (vijitāśvam) Vijitasva, (dhūmrakeśam) Dhumrakesa, (haryakṣam) Haryaksha, (draviṇam) Dravina, (vṛkam) and Vrka.

Stanza 54

sarveṣāṁ loka-pālānāṁ dadhāraikaḥ pṛthur guṇān gopīthāya jagat-sṛṣṭeḥ kāle sve sve 'cyutātmakaḥ

(pṛthuḥ) Emperor Prthu, (acyutātmakaḥ) who was the potency of Lord Vishnu Himself, (gopīthāya) in order to protect and sustain (jagat-sṛṣṭeḥ) the creations of the world, (kāle) depending upon the situation and time (dadhāra) embodied himself (ekaḥ) as a single personality (sarveṣām) with all (guṇān) the qualities of (loka-pālānām) each and every controller of the world (the qualities of each and every divine personality who were assigned with their respective responsibilities for the purpose by the divine order).

Stanza 55

mano-vāg-vṛttibhiḥ saumyair guṇaiḥ saṁrañjayan prajāḥ rājety adhān nāmadheyaṁ soma-rāja ivāparaḥ

(prajāḥ saṁrañjayan) Making all the people happy (saumyaiḥ)
through his sweet and attractive (guṇaiḥ) qualities of
(mano-vāg-vṛttibhiḥ) his heart, words and deeds, Prthu (
 adhāt) was a befitting personality to be equated with (
 nāmadheyaṁ) the synonym (rājā iti) for the word "Raja" and
 remained (iva) just like (aparaḥ) another (soma-rājaḥ) full
 moon (the full moon so much endearing to his people).

<u>Note</u> : The word meaning of the word "Raja" is the one who pleases his people - "ranjayati iti raja". Prthu was a perfect example of an ideal king as established by the scriptures. This is what is being conveyed through the above stanza.

Stanza 56

sūryavad visrjan gṛhṇan pratapaṁś ca bhuvo vasu durdharṣas tejasevāgnir mahendra iva durjayaḥ

Stanza 57

titikṣayā dharitrīva dyaur ivābhīsṭa-do nṛṇām

(sūryavat pratapan) Just like the illuminating sun, the emperor

Prthu (gṛḥṇan) extracted (vasu) the prosperities (bhuvaḥ) from the earth (visrjan ca) and distributed them all. (tejasā) By his powers (durdharṣaḥ) he was unconquerable (agniḥ iva) just like the fire. (mahendraḥ iva) Just like Indra (durjayaḥ) he could not be won over by any one. (titikṣayā) For his powers of tolerance (dharitrī iva) he could be equated with the earth.

(ābhīṣṭadaḥ) He ruled over the earth by providing all the desires (nṛṇām) to his people (dyauḥ iva) as if the earth was heaven.

Stanza 58

varṣati sma yathā-kāmam parjanya iva tarpayan samudra iva durbodhaḥ sattvenācala-rāḍ iva

(parjanyaḥ iva) The emperor Prthu was just like the rain God (tarpayan) satisfying the needs of everyone (yathā-kāmam) according to their desires (varṣati sma) by showering the prosperities in plenty. (durbodhaḥ) His depth could not be comprehended by anyone (samudraḥ iva) as he was just like the ocean. (sattvena) By his determination (ācala-rāt iva) he was unshakeable just like the Meru mountains.

Stanza 59

dharma-rāḍ iva śikṣāyām āścarye himavān iva kubera iva kośāḍhyo guptārtho varuṇo yathā

(śikṣāyām) In the execution of justice and rule of law, (dharma-rāt iva) Prthu was just like the Lord of Death (Dharma Raja). (himavān iva) He was just like the himalayas (āścarye) for his wondrous personality. (kośāḍhyaḥ) His wealth was so much (kuberaḥ iva) that they could be equated with that of Kubera. (guptārthaḥ) He protected his wealth well

(varunah yathā) just like Varuna, the water God.

Stanza 60

mātariśveva sarvātmā balena sahasaujasā aviṣahyatayā devo bhagavān bhūta-rāḍ iva

(balena) His strength, (sahasā) his determination, (ojasā) and his power (mātariśvā iva) were just like the air God (Vayu) (sarvātmā) capable of travelling fast and reaching to any location. (aviṣahyatayā) His exemplary valour and courage (bhagavān bhūta-rāt iva) were just like that of Bhagavan Shri Rudra.

Stanza 61

kandarpa iva saundarye manasvī mṛga-rāḍ iva vātsalye manuvan nṛṇāṁ prabhutve bhagavān ajaḥ

(kandarpaḥ iva) He was just like Kamadeva
(saundarye) as far as his beauty was concerned. (manasvī)
His inner determination (mṛga-rāt iva) was just like that of the lion. (vātsalye) As far as his affection (nṛṇām) towards his people goes, (manuvat) he was just like the emperor Manu,

(bhagavān ajaḥ) while he was just like Lord Brahma (prabhutve) as to his powers of control.

Stanza 62

bṛhaspatir brahma-vāde ātmavattve svayaṁ hariḥ bhaktyā go-guru-vipreṣu viṣvaksenānuvartiṣu hriyā praśraya-śīlābhyām ātma-tulyaḥ parodyame

(bṛhaspatiḥ) He was like Brhaspati (Vachaspati) (brahma-vāde)
 in the matter of the understanding of the inner meanings of
 the Vedas. (ātmavattve) In the matter of winning over his
 senses (svayam̀) he was no less than (hariḥ) Shri Narayana
 Himself.

(ātma-tulyaḥ) He could be compared only to himself (bhaktyā) as far as his devotion (go-guru-vipreṣu) towards the cows, the teachers, the brahmins etc, (viṣvaksenānuvartiṣu) as well to those who are the dedicated worshippers of Shri Hari, (hriyā) apart from his fitting mannerisms, (praśraya-śīlābhyām) humility, purity of thoughts and actions, (parodyame) and performance of things for the benefit of others at all times.

Stanza 63

kīrtyordhva-gītayā pumbhis trailokye tatra tatra ha praviṣṭaḥ karṇa-randhreṣu strīṇāṁ rāmaḥ satām iva

(*kīrtyā*) His great fame and glories spread resoundingly (*trailokye*) in all the three worlds (*urdhva-gītayā*) as they were sung loudly (*pumbhiḥ*) by the great saints (*praviṣṭaḥ*) and they even entered (karņa-randhreşu) within the ears (strīņām) of the women folks (tatra tatra) at different places.
(ha) In this manner he shined within the ears (satām) of all the good people (rāmaḥ iva) just as he was Shri Ramachandra Himself.

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This concludes the twenty second chapter of Volume 4 of Srimad Bhagavatam

Hari Om