

VEDANTA MOOLA SARAM
OR
THE ESSENCE OF THE UPANISHADS

(By A Science Graduate)
(Continued from our issue of 24-9-48)

C I I

XXI. THE CHANDOGYA UPANISHAD (Contd.)

Seventh Adhyayam

This chapter too is in the form of one continuous dialogue between a Guru and a disciple, the Guru in this case being the great Rishi Sanatkumarar who teaches his disciple Nowadar various forms of meditation and ends by giving him an idea of the Great Infinite (God) and dwelling on the nature of the sanctified soul.
Section I commences by saying that Naradar approached Sanatkumarar and asked for instruction. The latter asked him to relate what he knew already so that he (Sanatkumarar) may supplement the same. Naradar replied: I know the Rig-Vedam, the Yajur-Vedam, the Sama-Vedam, fourth the Atharva-Vedam, fifth the Itihasa-Puranis, grammar, rituals (Pitrya-Sradha), mathematics, physics, chronology, logic, ethics and polity, technology (Niruktam or etymology), phonetics, prosody, Bhuta Vidya (literally science of spirits, refers to medical science presumably), Kshatra Vidya (science of war), astronomy Sarpa Vidya (science of snake charming, poisons and antidotes thereto) and the fine arts (including those of dancing, music, &c). All this I know (sruti 2).—Rather a formidable list this is indeed. Naradar would appear to be an encyclopaedia of all knowledge under the sun. But he confesses: But I know the Mantras or words only and not the substance (thereof). I have heard that people find relief from sorrow through man (teachers) like you. I am in grief, Oh Lord. Pray relieve me from this sorrow (s.uti 3).—This reminds us immediately of such lines from the the Tamil as the following:

சந்தமேய உயர்பயன் எனக் கொல், வ லறிவான்
நன்றன் நெய்ப்பாள் எனின் (Tirukkural)

What good is there for men in learning,
If it gives them for God no yearning?

ஆமர்தன் எவ்வகை...பாகத்து அருள் வடிவம் தாளுமாய்
ஆன்மபுலனே... (Tiru Kalitru Padyar)

Of what use is (the learning of) the Agamas, &c, if He (God) whose half is the Gracious Lady does not bestow His Grace (on the learned).

சந்தமேய உயர்பயன் எனக் கொல், வ லறிவான்
நன்றன் நெய்ப்பாள் எனின் (Ibid).

Immediately on hearing the (gracious) words of the Gnana Guru only do the benefits accrue to those who learn the Shastras. (Otherwise such learning is like) the drinking of the (salt) water of the bellying sea (which) does not quench one's thirst.

The Sruti proceeds: Sanatkumarar replied, all you have learnt is only nominal. Rig-Vedam is a name, so are Yajur-Vedam, Sama-Vedam... All these are mere names. Meditate on the names. He who meditates on the names as Brahman is, as it were, lord and master as far as the names reach (sruties 4 and 5).—In other words, God is nameless and formless (சுத்யாகம் இல் உதயம் ஓர்நிலை இவ்வாக்), names set a limit to His august nature and meditation with names results in benefits up to a certain point only, as far as such names go.—Naradar then enquires if there is anything greater than names.

Section II gives Sanatkumarar's reply which states that speech is greater than names and enjoins meditation on speech as Brahman. Speech (Vach, வாக்கு) as we have explained elsewhere, is known in its initial or extremely subtle state as **சித்திரம் வாக்கு** or **சத்தம்** (Nadam) and represents sound or the spoken word, while the same reduced to writing is known as **Bindu** (வீத்து) and this latter seems to be what is called **namam** or name in the Upanishad. These (Vach and Namam) represent what is known as the world of words (கேரந்தியாயந்தம்), consisting of mantras (மந்திரவாக்கம்) words), Padas (பதகம் syllables) and Vannas (வண்கல்கள், letters) in Siddhantic parlance.

Section III speaks of the mind (manas) as greater than speech and enjoins meditation thereon as Brahman, Sections IV to XIV similarly speak of will (Sankalpa, creative will) consideration or thought (chittam), reflection or contemplation (Dhyanam), understanding or knowledge (Vigyanam), power (Balam), food (annam), water (Ap), fire (Tejas), Akas (space or ether), memory (Smara) and hope or wish (Asai) as great, every succeeding category being described as greater than the one preceding it, and enjoins meditation on them one by one as Brahman.—The word 'mind' is both a generic term indicating all the Antakaranas or inner faculties and also a specific term applied to a particular aspect thereof. Our readers will remember that the Antakaranas are generally divided into Manas, Chittam, Abhakaranam and Buddhi. Here however it will be noted that finer subdivisions are indicated, the agencies of thinking (Manas), willing, consideration, reflection, understanding, power (mental vigour), memory and hope being all modifications of the mind, and that the Bhutas or elements (akas, &c) are thrown in in their midst. And of these latter, Vayu is not mentioned at all, having evidently to be taken as included either under fire or under Akas, and food takes the place of Prithvi or earth, being its most important representative.
(To be Continued).

TENDER NOTICE
Ceylon Government Railway
The Chairman, Way and Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C. G. R., MacCallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, October 15, 1948, for the construction of a Bungalow for the Station Master and two Bungalows for the Officers-in-charge at the Kalawewa Railway Station.
For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 24th September, 1948.
Sgd. W. A. SHAW.
Chief Engineer.
Way & Works Office, C. G. R., MacCallum Road, Maradana, (C. 82, 28, 1 & 2)

WANTED
Applications are invited for the post of "Clerk-overser" on or before the 15th October 1948. Qualification S. S. C. or equivalent examination with knowledge of book-keeping, typewriting. State previous experience. Age not above 35. Salary scale Rs. 70-150 with dearness allowance.
K. S. PILLAY,
Honorary Secretary,
Co-operative Union Hospital
Moolai, Chulipuram,
(M. 128, 1 & 2)

NOTICE
In the Court of Requests of Jaffna No. B/ 1647
Mootatamby Ratnam and another of Vannarponnai Plaintiffs Vs.
1. Sinnatamby Kuddithambo
2. Kuddithambo Sivasupramaniam
3. Leelawathy daughter of Kuddithambo and
4. Annaledchmy daughter of Kuddithambo all of Kanderamadam Jaffna Defendants
Any person or persons interested in the above action is hereby notified to show cause, if any, on or before the 30th day of September 1948, why a sum of Rupees Two hundred and ninety five (Rs. 295/-) belonging to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th defendants and lying in credit in this case should not be paid to them.
Sgd. D. H. PANDITHA
GUNAWARDENE
Commissioner of Requests
Time to show cause is extended till 29 10-48.
(Initialled) D. H. P. G.
C. R. (O. 82, 1 & 2)

ORDER NISI
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 937
In the matter of the estate of Sathasivam Thambirajah of Navaly North Deceased.
1. Rajaratnam Pathmanathan and wife
2. Parameshvary of Navaly North presently of Colombo Petitioners.
and
Rasamma widow of Thambirajah of Navaly North Respondents.
This matter coming on for disposal before L. W. de SILVA Esqr., District Judge of Jaffna on the 30th day of August, 1948 in the presence of Mr. M. Ehamparanathan Proctor on the part of the Petitioners and the affidavit of the 2nd Petitioner dated 26th August, 1948 having been read, it is declared that the 2nd Petitioner is the sole heir of the deceased intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased issued to her unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 6th day of October, 1948, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
Sgd. L. W. de SILVA,
District Judge.
Jaffna this 30th day of August 1948
Drawn by
Sgd. M. Ehamparanathan,
Proctor for Petitioner.
(O. 83, 1 & 5)

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