Kathopanishad Shibir - 6

Adhyay - 2 Valli 1

Directive to turn within

Pravachan - 1 17-9-2022 Morning Summary

Summary

- * First chapter First valli
 - Story of Nachiketa and Yam
 - Eligibility basic virtues
- * First chapter Second valli
 - Discernment between beneficial pleasurable readiness
 - Eligibility of listener speaker
- * First chapter Third valli
 - What is the nature of the soul
 - What is the method of self-realisation
- * According to the authors of some commentaries
 - Kathopanishad concludes here
 - Concludes with the conclusion of first chapter
- * The arguments supporting this are
 - a) At the end of the third valli
 - Describing the fruits of studying the scripture
 - This is generally at the end of the scripture
 - b) In last shlok / mantra
 - The words are repeated
 - This is generally done at the end of the scripture |*
 - c) Shantipaath is at the conclusion of the first chapter
 - Generally this is at the end of the scripture
 - d) In the second chapter
 - No new subject has been introduced
 - Just supporting the first chapter
- Wisdom useful to seekers
 - It may be useful
 - Therefore we shall study it

Second chapter

- * Comprises of 3 vallis
 - 1 (15) 2 (15) 3 (18) Conclusion in December
- * Second chapter First valli
 - Discusses obstacles in attaining self-realisation
 - Who hinders? What hinders?
- * Senses are turned outwards
 - Energy flows outwards mind attached to senses
 - Mind also focuses outwards
- * Obstacles in self-realisation
 - Senses turned outwards mind focuses outward
 - Senses wander makes mind restless creates disturbance makes it wander outside
 - Eg. Cyclone carries boat in the direction it wishes hits against rocks destroyed
- * Mind becomes impure unsteady
 - Unable to unite with the supreme
 - Cannot attain self-realisation
- Humans are impulsive
 - Lower form of life as animals live
 - Humans have intellect consult and become introvert
 - Due to absence of discernment living an extrovert life
- * Senses turned outwards, uncontrolled
 - Senses not controlled makes the mind impure / unsteady
 - Discussion regarding that in this valli

Self-realisation is direct

How senses are designed

- * Eg. Through telescope what is far not close
 - Can see stars not scientist
 - Designed to grasp distant not close
 - Scientist close yet forgotten
- * Senses of the world, not the self
 - Designed only to see the external
 - Forgotten the self
 - Incapable of knowing self
- Senses focused outward
 - Eg. Spread like the branches of a tree
 - Ears nose protruding outwards
 - Jutting out from the body
- * Eg. Can touch other objects with hands
 - Cannot touch what is within
 - What is hidden within the body
 - Outgoing only external
- * When touch other objects
 - Only hand does not extend outwards
 - Even consciousness hidden in hand
 - So consciousness flows outwards
- * Want to touch so extends
 - Along with hands even consciousness
 - I want to touch (desire)
 - So hands extend outwards
- * Three incidents happen
 - a) Object which is touched what I touch
 - b) Hands by which touched what I touch
 - I is you consciousness

World paroksh – not direct – self – direct

- * Senses designed this way
 - By which they can become familiar with the world
 - Because of which, the one who knows
 - That remains hidden
- * Knower cannot be known by senses
 - That can be known only by turning within
 - Not by senses
 - Knowing which all is known
- * To know self senses not required
 - Eg. Aware of self even in darkness
 - Can't see anything in darkness
 - I am this experience cannot be negated
- * Experience of world indirect of self is direct
 - Because medium of senses necessary
 - To know external objects senses required
 - Eg. Need a middleman
- * Senses can give wrong information also
 - Eg. Jaundice will see all yellow
 - Eg. See snake instead of rope due to darkness
- * Cannot rely on medium
 - Dependent on medium
 - Eg. As asking someone can lie also
 - Therefore knowledge of world is indirect
- * Only self-realisation is direct
 - Because do not need medium of senses
 - No substance in middle to distort it
 - Direct experience this shlok is for that

<u>Shlok - 1</u>

Externally focused senses – turn them within

Senses are externally focused

* About the shlok

- Very famous quoted by speakers
- Explains why this state how to change
- 2 words used for senses Paranchi Khani

* Paranchi (externally focused)

- Par = Moving away from the soul
- Leaving the soul wandering in sensual pleasures hence called parachi
- Wandering in world hence called paranchi
- * Khani having openings
 - What is within can go outside through holes
 - Such doors openings holes
 - Holes opening outgoing

* Design of senses

- Senses are designed / programmed Outside to grasp external objects of world
- Sense organs motor organs = nature is to rush towards own respective subject matter
- Body = a city with 9 doors Each door - opening - sense
- Ears (2) + Nose (2) + Eyes (2) + Tongue (1) Excretory organs (2) (Scriptures – 11 – Crown of head, navel)

* Nature of senses

- Senses designed to be externally focused knows – enjoys worldly objects
- Mind follows the senses so becomes externally focused
- Cannot experience the soul Cannot grasp the soul
- Not impossible consult intellect to withdraw

Seeker turns them within

Kashchit Dheerah

- Some intelligent ones discerning true seekers Turn within – experience the soul
- Those who turn their senses back from sense objects (turn within)
- Cultivate discernment regarding sense objects
 Develop dispassion become free of disturbances
- Calm mind study of the soul
- By contemplating / reflecting / meditating, attain self-realisation

* The task is - challenging

- Very rare wise people can do it
- Due to discernment choose to attain liberation become selective
- Use intellect and withdraw to discover true source of uninterrupted joy
- By withdrawing attention 180° by discernment and dispassion and practice meditation daily to experience soul
- It's challenging Eg. Like kids Mind very restless

* Like reversing course of river

- Eg. Like changing course of river
- Like stopping flow of river towards ocean and making it ascend mountains
- Turning senses within is like changing the course of a river
- Because it is prevents the attainment of self-realisation
 It kills / harms / hurts the soul
 Has been called the cause of spiritual death

Illusion regarding turning within

- * To turn back illusion
 - Trying to look within through eyes?
 - Seer cannot be known through the eyes
- * Senses to turn within means
 - The energy wandering outside through eyes
 - Stop that turn it within
- * Not only eyes all senses
 - Ears nose etc. all senses
 - To know one's self behold without the eyes
- * Turning senses within means
 - Eg. Stream flowing outside
 - Obstacle then turns back
 - Lake is formed (dam)
 - Water collected not wasted
 - Used for irrigation / navigation / electricity production
- * The energy which was going outwards through senses
 - Lake of energy of consciousness created
 - Will know self experience beyond senses
- * Not senses attention
 - Gaze focus within
 - Soul cannot be known through eyes
- * External objects soul opposite
 - Since they are opposite, both together impossible Objects outside soul within
- * Without breaking relation with external objects
 - Will not join with soul
 - Satsang very helpful
- * Like listening preparing to be Dheerah
 - Eg. Looking in the mirror
 - Looking at the mirror? Looking at yourself?

Purpose of meditation techniques

- * To know the soul senses not required
 - Even blind / deaf / paralysed
 - Can know
- * Body senses not required
 - $Body = \frac{Strong}{Weak} \frac{healthy}{unhealthy} \frac{beautiful}{ugly}$
 - Senses = capable / powerful for knowing external objects
- * Need senses to know world
 - Eg. One-sensed beings knowledge limited to touch
 - 2 3 4 5 more knowledge of world
- * Animal blind knowledge of world limited
 - 80% eyes 20% by other senses
 - So more pity for blind than lame / deaf
- * Importance of senses to know the external
 - Not needed to know the substance within
 - If awareness moves away from there then will go within
- * Hence awareness through senses
 - Becomes externally focused, that must be
 - Turned within through discernment and dispassion
- * All meditation techniques / methods for
 - Calming senses turn them within
 - How differences Objective no difference (no dispute)
- * Bridge between world and self
 - If moves away, then energy flows within
 - One who attains is called Dheerah
- That technique
 - Tire senses so much
 - That they become calm go within
- * Eg. Kids sit no make them run
 - Tired rest
 - In restful state go within

Discerning – undiscerning

Undiscerning – like children

* Like children

- Spiritually immature Repeat same pattern again and again
- Immature externally focused undiscerning worthwhile-worthless – transient-permanent – beneficial-pleasurable
- * Inner knots not broken
 - a) Wrong knowledge ignorance
 - b) Wishes desires
 - c) Actions worldly sensual activities
- * Ignorance deep within when on mental level desires in external world when expressed then actions
- * Remains engrossed in external world
 - Externally focused due to ignorance
 - Blinded by worldly pleasures engrossed therein

Eg. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, cigar, Pramukh Swami, well

- Hence does activities incurs karmic bondage
 Has to take birth again to receive fruits of karma
- Because of accumulation of karma born-die Undergoes cycles of birth and death

* Gets caught in jaws of death

- Repeatedly takes birth because of unfulfilled desires – to endure the fruits of karma
- Chases them due to absence of discernment feels disappointed
 Dissatisfaction / restless driven by desires
- Faces death repeatedly
 Eg. Falls in trap of death
- Eg. Yam throws rope and catches us Cannot escape noose of Yam Can't fool him
- Falls in vicious cycle of birth-death
 Before death experience of the bondage of disease, old age

Discerning – Dheera (true seeker)

* Dheerah:

- Wise discerning clever person thinks
 What increased by wealth and power
- Spiritually mature realises the science of desires

What is happiness? How is it attained?

- Discernment has arisen so saves self from spiritually harmful impulses
- Be selective. Eg. Master of one not jack of all
- Desires unchanging state of soul not changing
 Eg. Boat over water

* No attachment – does not desire

- Does not indulge in temporary sense pleasures Does not desire for children / wealth / fame
- Does not seek pleasures outside Not his choice or priority
- Childish fasting then compensates next day because of lack of inclination
- Caters to body not get distracted wants only eternal state

* Desires only immortal state

- Not even celestial abode etc. because when karmic merits ends have to leave from there
- Long lifespan of celestial beings but not eternal Cycle of birth and death continues
- Wants eternal state supreme state liberation Not to come back again – free from cycle
- Experience of the eternal unchanging permanent
- Only desire of liberation effort to end all desires
- How? Methodology shown in next shlok

Two types of foolishness

- * Childish immature spiritually
 - Knowledge of the external desire to indulge in it
 - Desire to renounce the external
 - Attention focused on the external
- * Eg. Ascetic don't touch money
 - If by mistake also
 - Unhappy angry bathes
 - First interested in hoarding now in giving up
- * Eg. Shirshasan (headstand) on worldly path
 - First on legs now on head
 - First friendliness now enmity
 - No difference at all
- * External things
 - Not worth holding on to not worth giving up
 - Attachment for that is worth giving up
 - Holding on to / giving up are both illusions
- * Eg. House is mine gave up the house
 - You were never the owner
 - Belonged to someone else earlier in future will be someone else's
 - Renouncing house. Eg. Renouncing Taj Mahal
- * Enlightened One understands the truth that
 - If I am not the owner then
 - What should I hold on to? What should I give up?
 - Both are foolishness / childishness
- * Become steady in the depth of the unchanging
 - If discernment then lets go of desires
 - Becomes peaceful in external world
 - Is engrossed within

True seeker makes right effort

- * Acts as per manifestation of past karma
 - Does it selflessly
 - No new bondage
 - Becomes free of the unnecessary only necessary remains
- * Attaining self-realisation
 - Values that detached from the external
 - Energy not wasted
 - Abides in feelings of the self
- * Turns within goes within
 - Inwardness increases
 - Connection with the self steadiness
 - Experience of going beyond thought

Prayachan - 2 17-9-2022 Afternoon

Shlok - 3

Through which one knows is the soul

Etad vai tat - soul knows

- * Nachiketa had asked the question
 - What is that which is beyond religion-irreligion cause-effect past-present?
 - That question is being answered here
 - That which regulates / controls all physical mental intellectual activities is the soul
 - Etad vai tat = This is really That (substance)... This is that Supreme entity
- * Close (this) far (that) usage of pronoun
 - That chair this pen = far close
 - That body this mind = far close
 - This is = The very familiar centre within us referred to by the pronoun 'this'
- * They all function only due to the soul's presence
 - Soul stays in human body and gives power - energy to senses-mind-intellect and other parts
 - In the soul's absence they cannot know anything Eg. In soul's presence through which - that is you
 - Soul knows subjects like form taste smell touch sound through the senses
 - Eyes themselves do not have power to see

If they could then they could see

Eg. Eyes kept on table would be able to see
Eg. Eyes of dead body can not see despite being

open yet cannot see

- Thus, it is clear that eyes are just instruments for seeing they are used by the seer who is within
 - Eg. That which is seer of sight
- Eg. Sense (hardware) soul (software)
- Eg. Telescope cannot see constellations the observer observes through the instrument

Focus on universal error - having known the soul all is known

- Thus, the knower behind eyes etc., is the soul you are That
- Soul knows objects through sense organs knower of all experiences is the soul
- Because of which all pleasures are known that soul is within the body
 Touch or taste or smell or form are known because of knowing substance soul
 Eg. Objects known because of knower soul
- * Universal error
 - I am body senses
 I know through them but they are inert
 Eg. They would react when cremate on
 pyre but they are inert
 - Eg. My head is paining knower of head and pain is separate from them

 Different ... is the knower
- * Focus is on experienced not experiencer
 - Aware of object not consciousness Through which it is known
 - Our focus is on known object
 not on knower subject
 Eg. Flower is beautiful consciousness is beautiful
 Neither smell nor flower soul is valuable
 - Experiencer of all sense objects and happiness This soul is itself is the soul
 - Soul is that conscious entity you asked about power of teachings
 - Objects senses are inert
 Do not know others or themselves
 Soul knows all and itself
 Eg. Seer is consciousness seen is inert
 Realise I am that seer
- * What remains besides that soul
 - There is nothing unknown to soul
 Thus, soul is of the nature of omniscience
 - That which is knower of all that is soul
 - It is eternal conscious entity
 Eg. Use this power of consciousness to know soul
 - Who knows soul nothing else to be known Eg. One who knows the soul knows all

<u>Shlok - 4</u>

Beyond all mental states

Unobstructed experience - in all states

- Previous shlok this shlok
 - Shlok 3 beyond body and senses
 Shlok 4 beyond mental states
 - Not body or mind, but a conscious entity beyond them
- * Knower of waking dream states
 - Knower of world as experienced by sense organs during waking state - soul's nature is knowingness
 - Knower of dream world also is the same conscious entity
 - Dream or waking state
 'I am' is common, continuous
 Eg. Unobstructed experience that remains is soul
 - Soul experiences both
 It's experiencer not experienced
 - That which remains separate during all states and just knows
 To know That is turya state - transcendence
 - Dream and waking states are destructible Their knower, witness is indestructible It is separate - unattached

* Dream

- Dreams seen real in dream state Eg. Beggar - dream of emperor
- When awaken feel false
 Eg. See yourself in bed
- Dream stronger than waking Eg. Chuang Tzu - dreamt he is butterfly
- Both contradict each other
 Eg. Dream waking falsifies
 of waking of dream it
- Witness is constant continuous
 Seen is untrue (because destructible)
 Seer is true (because indestructible)

Does not grieve - having known the great

- * Great all-pervading soul
 - How does Self-realised One perceive soul?
 Mahantam very best, great
 Vibhum all-pervading, all pervading such a soul is in all
 - It is present only forgotten
 - Cover of ignorance has to be removed through knowledge
- * Self-realised One goes beyond sorrow
 - Knower remains apart (separate) in all states,
 is only the knower only witness he becomes free of sorrow
 - One who experiences such a soul goes beyond sorrow
 - Remains detached in changing situations
 Eg. Kids die jewels returned
 - Self-realisation is only way to go beyond sorrow There is no other way
 - After knowing the great soul no incompleteness remains so no desire no sorrow
 - Eg. Meal stomach full no hunger no sadness
 - No doership Eg. Kids on steering wheel
 I am driving
 - For whom should I grieve? Eg. Chinese emperor - 1 son - 12 sons!
 - Just know the knower No oneness with what is seen - no sorrow
 - Does not experience any sadness Bliss becomes His effortless state

Shlok - 5 - 9

Shlok - 5 - 9

- * Establishes oneness with Brahma
- * Different name-form different modifications But in fundamentally it is the pure soul only
- * Eg. Different in terms of bubbles, waves
 Undifferentiated as mass of water
- * Establishing oneness with Ishwar
 Ishwar and embodied soul (jeev) = both pure
 consciousness
 Difference only in associations modifications body
 Brahma alone is the reality
 Ishwar jeev are names of modifications only
- * Consciousness associated with illusion
 (maya) Ishwar
 Consciousness associated with ignorance contaminated soul jeev
 Consciousness associated with cosmic mind Hiranyagarbh
- Fundamentally speaking Ishwar Hiranyagarbh universe celestial beings jeev
 Everything is Brahma alone

Consciousness associated with cosmic body - Virat

- * Etad vai tat
 - This is that substance about which you had asked
 - This alone is your nature
 - This is you O Nachiketa One pure eternal consciousness
 - What you had asked that is really this only It is Brahma alone
- * Lot of Vedantic terminology and principles woven in it which may confuse you
- We are here to study spirituality not Vedant
- * So let's go to shlok 10 to understand nature of soul and methodology to attain it

Shlok - 5

- * One who goes near and understands jeev can Perceives the non-duality of Ishwar-jeev Subtract the modification / associations and see You will find only pure soul
- * To know oneness will have to go close are not Self-realised
 One realises one's ignorance,
 Then attains fearlessness
 Does not worry about or desire protection
 Becomes free of fear, anxiety, fright, grief, worry
- Death is perceived as freedom from body like self-created cocoon
 Situations are perceived as shadows of dream body
- * Sight moves away from seen
 Sight turns towards seer
 Pure soul will be perceived
 Everything will be known like this only
- * All same because not seeing modifications seeing self only
- * Then no criticism or disgust because all perceived as the nature of the Supreme Self
- * Eg. Rabia Junaid

 Quran for me this no more
 for me now so cancelled it
- As one experiences in oneself experiences same in all

Yajna - worship of fire

* In this mantra

- Explains to establish feeling of Brahma in fire and to worship it
- Worshippers worship fire make offerings That is worship of Brahma only

Ritualistic - do yajna

- Fire is very important / integral part of their practice / ritual / puja
- In earlier times, no matchstick to light fire
- In Vedic times, pious sacrificial fire was kindled by arni (fire sticks)
- Once lit, it was protected from being extinguished
- It was taken care of till yajna ended
- Eg. Just as pregnant woman takes care, fire was guarded

* Jaatveda - Vedic fire - how?

- 2 types of sticks
 One put other rubbed to light the fire
- It was nurtured and protected like a pregnant woman does
- Fire worshipped as a symbol of pure consciousness
 Like Aum is symbol of Brahma - likewise fire also symbol of Brahma

Spiritual significance

* Spiritual meaning

- Through rubbing, what is hidden within is manifested
- It is not created it is manifested
- Supreme Soul is within us
 We will have to rub spiritual practices / austerities / efforts
- Arni has fire but is not visible it is unmanifest
 It manifests when rubbed
- Similarly soul present in cavity of heart not visible because unmanifested - but manifests through listening / contemplation / meditation
- Supreme Soul is hidden like Fragrance in flower - juice in fruit Fire in wood - Brahma in all manifestations
- Manifests by rubbing not by just keeping in hand
- By hidden fire neither cold / nor darkness goes When it manifests, heat and light are obtained
- Worship fire will remember to manifest hidden Supreme Soul
- Other reason is flame rises upwards if lamp inverted
 Water flows downwards - in association of fire even it leaves its natural attribute and rises up (steam)
- This way against gravity earth cannot pull fire down fire worshipped to remember to become move upwards
- Fire within each one Eg. Like foetus in pregnant woman - but hidden - Brahma hidden in embodied soul (jeev)

Pravachan - 3 18-9-2022 Morning

Shlok - 10

One who sees differences dies at the hands of death

Seeing as one is truth

* About the shlok

- Shankaracharyaji's most favourite
- Different interpretations regarding Oneness of jeev-atma / jeev-Jshwar / jeev-jagat
- Will be explaining according to Jain viewpoint

* . What is here that alone is there

- As the nature of the soul is here = in this world So it is there = in state of liberation
- In this world it is with associations (body, mind)
 In the body as worldly as contaminated soul
- The very same is there liberation, in liberated state without body not worldly Siddh
- Without worldly associations with worldly associations
 Has no body - is embodied
 Nature of soul is one - without any difference
- Both have oneness and differences
 - a) Oneness = when focusing on the nature, only the Supreme Soul
 - b) Difference from the viewpoint of associations (body, modifications)
- Eg. From the viewpoint of waves, they are different but as water they are one
 If you see name - form - shape then seem different
- Eg. In a garland of flowers flowers are different - the thread is one Different tendencies (modifications) Body (name-form)
 - Eg. Film different projections screen one clean oneness
- Why perceived as different?
 - Eg. Due to darkness (ignorance), rope perceived as snake
 Sees body etc. associations feels there are many
- When ignorant differences in associations realisation dawns
 When enlightened - they disappear
 When delusion is shattered - experiences liberation while living

You are of the nature of the Supreme Soul

- * Your nature is same as the Supreme Soul
 - Some say the Supreme in heaven on siddhashila
 Such a one is ignorant - is deluded
 - All nature of pure consciousness either hidden or manifested
 - Not only when liberated here too Eg. Need the eyes to see
 - One who cannot see it here will not be able to see it there either
 - If have vision then both everywhere without vision then nowhere
 - In 5 Supreme Beings or self same nature
 - Try to develop vision to see (nature) (absolute viewpoint)
 - Eg. Zen fakir Rinzai said living in world and liberation are same
 - Eg. Pure equanimity prevails whether in embodied or liberated state
 Both are modifications
 His focus was on the substance
 - Difference because focus is on body / modifications He is blind

Has not attained vision to see the substance

 Enlightened One even when in the world experiences liberation
 Similarly
 Sees one - oneness in all

Soul with the same divine nature is in all

Sees oneness in all

- * Nature of soul is one in all
 - What is there is here What is here - is there
 - Eg. Man here God there no
 Pure soul here also even when liberated
 - Eg. You are of the nature of liberation
 - Appears different because focus on modifications - nature is same
 - Not see same if focus on
 body mind achievements modifications
 If focus on nature then perceive as one
 - Neither Guru nor disciple Both are pure souls
 - Eg. Actor in double role
 Emperor and beggar
 But person is one
 - Need eye of knowledge
 Vision to see the substance
 - One who sees manifold
 One who sees differences fails to see the underlying reality
 - Eg. Clay is real pot is what appears
 - See yourself and others as pure consciousness - constant entity
 - Subtract modifications and see yourself and others
 - He who sees oneness sees the soul sees no dualities - has right vision - has subtle vision attains liberation

Result of seeing manifold

- * What is the result of seeing differences?
 - Instead of seeing same soul in all, whoever sees manifold / differences
 - Attains death again and again at the hands of death
 - Repeatedly wanders in cycles of birth and death alone
 - Eg. Punarapi jananam... time and again in mother's womb amidst excreta imprisoned in a dark cell
 - One who sees self and others by their modifications in the jaws of death - attains birth and death repeatedly
 - Not seeing self / others as being of the nature of the Supreme Self
 Entangled in associations - harbours likes and dislikes - transmigrates - wanders in world
 - Amidst different bodies / states of mind
 Not seeing pure consciousness undergoes transmigration
 - Sees as one (knowledge) sees manifold (ignorance)
 Due to ignorance repeatedly suffers pain of
 birth and death
 - If you see yourself limited to body / mind will go through misery
 - Born die born die from death to death
 - Worse than 'Go to hell!'
 Hell is only once this is cycle of lifetimes
 - He has wasted his life if not realised the truth
 - So one goes from death to death who sees differences is ignorant
 - Undertake the effort to make vision right subtle

With pure mind

One who sees differences - wanders

Apparent contradiction - through mind

* Apparent contradiction

- <u>It is said here</u> mind is medium for self-realisation
- Earlier it was said self-realisation
 Can only be attained by transcending mind intellect
- Hence this statement appears contradictory
- Mind intellect cannot know the soul
- The soul can be known through the mind
- Why the contradiction?

* There is no contradiction

- If mind is pure it is desireless disturbances have quietened - it can turn towards soul
- Free from desires, anger etc. only calm / pure mind capable of self-realisation
- Only a purified mind can go deeper into inner enquiry
- Through auspicious activities devotion -Guru's teachings etc.
 mind purified - desire / egolessness
- Mind should be pure / sharp to merge in the ultimate truth
- Calm mind determination of the fundamentals turn towards self - focus turns within mind - dissolves
- When it identifies with pure consciousness Thoughts reduce... stop - get absorbed
- Mind is only an instrument
- The only tool / medium
- Before mind dissolves it helps in turning towards the soul

Mind pure... mind dissolves...self-realisation

Sees differences - birth-death

* Impure mind - sees differences

- The mind full of desires undiscerning It will always see differences
- Eg. Broken mirror sun's reflection fragmented Disintegrated - not one - many
- Despite all beings having same nature gets stuck in diversities
- Lose sight of underlying reality
 So impure feelings spiritual death
- Cannot grasp ultimate reality not see unity in diversity
- Eg. Level of film sees diversity Level of screen - sees no diversity
- Social behaviour not denied but not real
 Absolute viewpoint is real from viewpoint of nature one undifferentiated
- Eg. Cow dog Brahmin grass flatbread ceremonial gift

There can be difference in behaviour - there should be oneness in his belief

* He journeys from death to death

- He who sees manifold through death gets worldly transmigration
- Trapped in cycles of birth and death Constant impure feelings - spiritual death
- Warning of Yam about consequences will run from death to death
- Yam will be chasing you in every life snatches you away
- So take up spiritual knowledge seriously - sincerely
- Life is futile if going from death to death

Size of the thumb - Purush

Enlightened in all the periods of time - fearless

Thumb-sized - purush

* Controversial principle

- Different beliefs of different philosophies

Jain = size of the body - size of the universe - (ant - elephant)

Upanishad = size of the thumb, centre of body, in cavity of the heart

- Don't take it literally - take it as indication

* Thumb-sized - in centre of body in cavity of the heart

- Size (thumb) place (centre of heart)
 Eg. As government in Delhi
 Eg. Heart of city middle of heart
- Located in heart energises and illumines the whole body
- Question soul said to be thumb-shaped soul is formless then why shape of thumb?
- Answer soul is said to be situated in cave of heart or cavity of heart
- Though formless, the ignorant sees it as being in the shape in which it is associated
- Space is formless in heart cavity of heart Eg. In pot then space of pot
- Each person's heart is of the size of the thumb so said to be thumb-sized
- In reality it is formless due to association with heart said to be thumb-sized
- In reality Eg. Water is formless, yet takes the shape in which filled - pot, pitcher, bucket, well
- Soul though formless, yet being in thumb-sized heart; appears as such
- Eg. Burning lamp tiny flame illumines entire room - fills it with light - light takes the size of room
- Similarly thumb-sized but illumines / energises whole body
- As per the Upanishads all-pervading soul but the contact point within is cavity of the heart - in heart's centre
- It is plugged there

Eternally Enlightened - fearless

* Said to be purush

- In reality soul has no gender neither feminine nor masculine - it stays in any body equanimously
- It is of the nature of consciousness not feminine, masculine

Purush = Paurushatva, who makes efforts

- Thus, if she makes efforts, females can also be called purush (woman, child, youth, elderly)

* One who reigns over past - future

- One who believes himself to be complete of the nature of omniscience - knower of past, future, present
- Believes himself to be death of time beyond time he

* Na vijugupsate

- Does not worry about his own protection
 Does not remain anxious about protecting the body
- Does not become worried about the body
- Does not criticise have contempt for anyone
- Does not even wish to protect the body
- Remains fearless because desireless
- No fear experiences fulfilment, gratitude

* Etad vai tat

- O Nachiketa! The question you had asked regarding the Supreme Entity -It is this very soul
- Certainly this is that Supreme Soul

Smokeless flame of knowledge

Never annihilated

Less eligible - smokeless flame

* Why this shlok?

- Earlier said for the less eligible that it's thumb-sized example for that
- If flame of the soul is formless, how can one meditate? On what?
- Keeping the less eligible in mind, said thumb-sized flame
- By which one can meditate easily
- Eg. As Shivling is symbol of Shankar
 Shaligram stone is symbol of Vishnu

Likewise, for the soul it is the thumb-sized smokeless flame

- It's only a symbol don't take literally so scriptural study should be done under guidance of a living Guru
- This symbol is a support to develop focus in the initial stage

* Smokeless flame

- Soul smokeless flame Such a flame that is without the impurity of smoke
- Whose light is pure, radiant
- Smoke blocks light creates a veil covers the flame
- Soul is flame of knowledge self-illuminating, nothing can cover it
- Light without smoke
 - Eg. Because those days light was from fire along with smoke
- It's a conscious entity without thoughts
 Pure conscious entity
 Size of thumb located in heart
- Why is there smoke? Is it the nature of the flame?
- Because of fuel
 As wet as the fuel more smoke
 The more dry the fuel less smoke
- Flame of the soul pure flame of knowledge self-illuminating
 Not by any fuel so no smoke
 It is the pure flame of knowledge

Eternal existence - that is the soul

* Ishano bhootbhavyasya

- It reigns / governs past future present
- It is the Supreme entity rules over all 3 periods of time
- In all three periods of time it is eternal, constant
 Time incapable of annihilating the flame of the soul

* As it is today, so it shall be tomorrow

- Unchanging, exists in all times
- Present in all 3 times was, is, will be there irrespective of death of body
- Eternally of the nature of knowledge eternally existing body-mind changes - unchanging soul remains
- Will never die because not born Not dependent on any fuel
- As today the same tomorrow Not maligned by impurity - unchanging remains as the same nature
- Free from faults like passions constant entity
- Eg. Today bud tomorrow flower day after dirt No such variations - changes - impurities
- Unchanging free from impurity constant witness to all changes
- Soul is neither born nor dies
 Refutes Buddhist doctrine it is a constant, unchanging entity
- Soul as it is today will remain so tomorrow Soul is never annihilated

Etad vai tat

- This is that soul Regarding which you had questioned
- The soul regarding which you had questioned That is this very soul
- This is that soul regarding which you had asked
- This is what you asked O Nachiketa

<u>Shlok - 14</u>

Who sees differences - wanders

Eg. Water on mountain top

Metaphor

* About the shlok

- One more famous, well-known mantra Widely quoted - by orators
- Another metaphor because a picture is worth 1000 words
- Showing the consequences of seeing duality

* Metaphor

- When it rains on mountain tops,
 water flows, runs down into valleys as many streams
- But it is one mass of water
- Ignorant sees as different wise see as one
- Just as water fallen on mountain top flows into valley below as different streams
- Water as a substance is the same but is known as different names / forms
 Ganga, Yamuna, Kaveri etc.
 Stepwell, lake, well etc.
 Yet water as a substance is the same
- Undiscerning believes they are different due to difference in name-form (direction)
 Discerning sees them as one

Explanation

- Similarly, despite all souls being same from the absolute viewpoint - one seeing from perspective of modifications of name-form of body - sees them as different (form - size - colour - height, etc.)

Result of seeing differences

- Those who see from the viewpoint of the body or modifications, see manifold - see differences bodies are different - humans, animals likewise, modifications are different - but they are destructible, karmic personalities
- From absolute viewpoint, they all are the same

* Result of focusing on differences

- Attraction-aversion, likes-dislikes arise in one who sees differences
- As a result binds karma and wanders in numerous life forms - takes birth again and again
- Sees differences auspicious-inauspicious feelings - meritorious-unmeritorious karma auspicious-inauspicious forms of existence
- Obtains only cycles of birth and death Wanders in different life forms

* Lesson learnt

- One who sees body or mind sees differences
 One who sees from the absolute viewpoint sees as one - pure consciousness
- One who sees differences engaged in likes-dislikes - desires-fear
 Hence takes birth again and again - lost in the world
- Remains deprived of self-realisation Indulging in likes-dislikes wanders in world
- No greater sin than ignorance no greater dharma than knowledge
- No change needed only destroy your seeing differences see oneness in all

Perception of non-duality - oneness

Eg. Water + water

Gautam - metaphor

* About the shlok

- Last mantra of the fourth section Concluding the first valli
- In praise of one seeing no differences seeing the soul, says -

* Gautam

- Whoever is born in Gautam lineage is called Gautam (Indrabhuti Gautam)
- For Nachiketa it was said O descendant of Gautam realise that
- Whoever realises Brahma does not remain separate from Brahma becomes Brahma Himself
- One who has a direct experience of Brahma does not remain separate from Brahma
- O Gautam! This is your nature - this is the method of how to attain it

* Metaphor

- Just as in pure water or in rivers like Ganga pure rainwater
- Having mixed with it, does not remain separate from it - called Gangaji only
- Similarly, Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati, etc. rivers - meet the sea - having dissolved their name / form - are ultimately called sea only
- After meeting the sea, no river remains separate from the sea

Explanation - from absolute viewpoint

* Explanation

- Likewise, O Gautam! If the river-like contaminated soul falls in the sea of consciousness - then entanglement of ignorance is dispelled - realises - I am the sea of consciousness
- Having known oneself as the pure soul, no differences remain
- And the jeevatma itself becomes Brahma Attains divine union with the Supreme entity

* Contemplative monk

- The contemplative seeker who rejects projections arising from ignorance (focusing on the body - modifications)
- Turns towards the nature of the soul and merges in the pure self

* From absolute viewpoint

-'He becomes Brahma', but understand from the absolute viewpoint that a contemplative seeker
- Does not become Brahma, but was Brahma, yet, due to ignorance felt himself to be the body / modifications
- With that ignorance dispelled in the light of knowledge, truth is realised that I was am will always be the pure soul / Brahma

* Summary

- One who does not see differences such a contemplative monk has
 No impure feelings - no impurities
- Experiences himself as one uniform reality unchanging soul the Supreme Being
- Wise who understands pure soul in human form Eg. Pure clay in pot form
- Becomes one with pure consciousness
 Experiences Brahmatva (full of knowledge)
 Backed through and through
 with consciousness