

MUNDKOPANISHAD

(ADVICE OF THEOLOGY)

FIRST PART

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE VS. SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE

ॐ ब्रह्मा देवानां प्रथमः संबभूव विश्वस्य कर्ता भुवनस्य गोप्ता।

स ब्रह्मविद्यां सर्वविद्याप्रतिष्ठामथर्वाय ज्येष्ठपुत्राय प्राह ॥1॥
When was Brahma first named among the lords, he who had organized the society of the world, he had protected the world through the lords. He preached theology to his eldest son Atharva on the basis of these subjects.

अथर्वणे यां प्रवदेत ब्रह्माऽथर्वा तां पुरोवाचांगिरे ब्रह्मविद्याम्।
स भारद्वाजाय सत्यवाहाय प्राह भारद्वाजोऽङ्गिरसे परावराम्॥2॥
Atharva preached the same to a sage called Angeer. Angeer taught it to Satyavah and he in turn preached it to Angeera.

शौनको ह वै महाशालोऽङ्गिरसं विधिवदुपसन्नः पप्रच्छ।
कस्मिन् भगवो विज्ञाते सर्वमिदं विज्ञातं भवतीति ॥3॥

There was a person called Shounak, who was very inquisitive to learn everything. He went to Angeera just to see him and asked him, 'Oh lord! How can we understand all these things, by understanding whom?'

तस्मै स होवाच। द्वे विद्ये वेदितव्ये इति ह स्म
यद् ब्रह्मविदो वदन्ति, परा चैवापरा च॥4॥

Angira told Shounak, theologians say that it is necessary to know these two subjects, scientific and spiritual.

तन्नापरा, ऋग्वेदो यजुर्वेदः सामवेदोऽथर्ववेदः शिक्षा कल्पो
व्याकरणं निरुक्तं छन्दो ज्यौतिषमिति। अथ परा, यया तदक्षरमधि
गम्यते॥5॥

Out of these, Rigved, Yajurved, Atharvaveda, education, grammar, prose, poetry, astrology are scientific knowledge, the knowledge with which one understands the Brahma or theology is spiritual knowledge. According to Ishopanishad, scientific knowledge is known as ignorance and spiritual knowledge is known as knowledge.

यत्तद्रे (दृ) श्यमग्राह्यमगोत्रमवर्णमचक्षुः श्रोत्रं तदपाणिपादम्।
नित्यं विभुं सर्वगतं सुसूक्ष्मं तदव्ययं यद्भूतयोनिं परिपश्यन्ति
धीराः॥6॥

Scientific knowledge that imparts theology cannot be seen, cannot be grasped, it has not hierarchy, no colour, no ears, eyes, hands or legs. It is permanent, it can reach at all places but it is minute, it is the reason for all times. Tolerant people can meet the Brahma with this spiritual knowledge.

यथोर्णनाभिः सृजते गृह्णते च यथा पृथिव्यामोषधयः संभवन्ति।
यथा सतः पुरुषात्केशलोमानि तथाक्षरात्संभवतीह विश्वम् ॥7॥

For example, thousands of spiders produce the web through their body and wrap it along their body, like several medicines are produced on the earth, like countless hair strands growing out of the human body, in the same way world is formed from Brahma of knowledge.
तपसा चीयते ब्रह्म ततोऽन्नमभिजायते।
अन्नात्प्राणो मनः सत्यं लोकाः कर्मसु चामृतम् ॥8॥

How did this world form from the knowledge of Brahma, Brahma did devotion, he led an austere life, he increased with the activity of climax and the world developed. It developed until the grain. The mighty form of Brahma has austerity and end has grain. Grain is one thing that produces prana, mind, truth, world, actions and deeds and the nectar contained in it, in other words an action that contains nectar. Food grain controls everything.

यः सर्वज्ञः सर्वविद्यस्य ज्ञानमयं तपः।

तस्मादेतद् ब्रह्म नाम रूपमन्नं च जायते॥9॥

He is omnipresent and omnipotent. He can reach at all places. What is his austerity? Knowledge is his austerity. How is our austerity expressed? In the form of action. How is his austerity expressed? In the form of knowledge. Therefore, knowledge is austerity for him. This world and food grain is produced due to him.

To be continued....