

MUNDKOPANISHAD

First Part – Second chapter FAILURE OF CONSERVATIVENESS

प्लवा ह्येते अदृढा यज्ञरूपा अष्टादशोक्तमवरं येषु कर्म।
एतच्छ्रेयो येऽभिनन्दन्ति मूढा जरामृत्युं ते पुरेवापि यन्ति ॥7॥

The people who perform sacrificial fires say several things in support of rituals, customs but Angira sage says that such sacrificial fires, rituals are not stable, they are very unstable. This is conservativeness, ignorance and it is not superior. Those who believe in this kind of conservative methods and assume to be happy go closer to death and misery every moment.

(What are the 18 types of actions mentioned under yagna or sacrificial fire? Brahma, the person who chants mantras, the person who performs the yagna and those who give offerings in the sacrificial fire are part of yagna. Each has three supporters each, in this way there are total 16 people performing the yagna with four pairs. Apart from these 16 the owner and his wife added make it 18. This is about the universe. The sage says that the actual yagna is taking place within the vital life energy, in spirituality and the body. Mind replaces the Brahma in this yagna and speech is in place of the mantras. (Chandogya 4-15)

अविद्यायामन्तरे वर्तमानाः स्वयं धीराः पण्डितमन्यमानाः।

जघन्यमानाः परियन्ति मूढा अन्धेनैव नीयमाना यथाश्वाः ॥8॥

Ignorant people think themselves to be great priests and learned men just like a blind person showing way to another blind and falling at every step.

अविद्यायां बहुधा वर्तमाना वयं कृतार्थ इत्यभिमन्यन्ति बालाः।

यत्कर्मिणो न प्रवेदयन्ति रागात्तेनातुराः क्षीणलोकाश्च्यवन्ते ॥9॥

People suffering from different kinds of ignorance, lack intelligence even after growing big and feel proud of accomplishing. They get so involved in their work that they even do not know what they are doing. They become sad due to their curiosity and get detached from the world and degrade in their lives.

इष्टापूर्तं मन्यमाना वरिष्ठं नान्यच्छ्रेयो वेदयन्ते प्रमूढाः।

नाकस्य पृष्ठे ते सुकृतेऽनुभूत्वेमं लोकं हीनतरं वा विशन्ति ॥10॥

Ignorant people consider fulfillment of desires, donations, performing yagnas etc. as more important. They think that they have done all good deeds, they do not know anything superior to this. They have actually not even done a fraction of the good deeds and reach a low level because performing sacrificial fires etc. is not the actual good deed.

तपःश्रद्धे ये ह्युपवसन्त्यरण्ये शान्ता विद्वांसो भैक्षचर्या चरन्तः।

सूर्यद्वारेण ते विरजाः प्रयान्ति यत्रामृतः स पुरुषो ह्यव्ययात्मा ॥11॥

Who does actual good deed? The person who is calm, who takes alms and leads a life in the forest under austere conditions and remains devoted becomes free from all impurities and reaches the door where only people of good qualities live.

Sun represents purity. Any other thing can contain certain amount of impurity but not Sun. Those who become pure physically, mentally and from within walk on the path of supreme purity apart from sun. They reach god with the help of this path. They do not have any attachment for anything in the world. They are far from yagna, donations and other acts of virtues (perceived) remain attached to the world, they never become pure. They are able to lead a worldly life but never obtain nectar. In this context the Sun path can also mean upward path or path of progress.

Chandogya describes about the paths of lords and ancestors. Sun path is divine path. According to the theologian, the heaven is in the north of earth. When the sun moves to the north of the earth that period is considered to be auspicious for leaving this world (death). It is believed that the soul reaches the heaven. Upavasanti Aranye, means the spiritual people do not go and live in forests but focus on the two centers of Sahasrar chakra. As per the Upanishad 8-5-3, the meaning of Aranyay has been explained as two oceans, namely Ara and Nya.

परीक्ष्य लोकान्कर्मचितान्ब्राह्मणो निर्वेदमायान्नास्त्यकृतः कृतेन।

तद्विज्ञानार्थं स गुरुमेवाभिगच्छेत्समित्याणिः श्रोत्रियं ब्रह्मनिष्ठम् ॥12॥

The happiness and comforts obtained from donations, sacrificial fires and other perceived good deeds make the Brahmans develop detachment from worldly affairs in their heart. They understand that actions cannot produce anything. The things, which can be produced and destroyed, can only meet. Brahma is not produced, he cannot be destroyed. It is necessary to take the shelter of gurus, learned men, lead a devoted life in order to understand the non-produced Brahma.

तस्मै स विद्वानुपसन्नाय सम्यक्प्रशान्तचित्ताय शमान्विताय।

येनाक्षरं पुरुषं वेद सत्यं प्रोवाच तां तत्त्वतो ब्रह्मविद्याम् ॥13॥

In this way when a person practices self-control and contributes for the welfare of the society with calm mind and devotion, he reaches god and then that learned person can get the true knowledge and give the right advice to others.

To be continued....