

Session 8 – Stage 6 & 5 of Spiritual Hierarchy

March 9th, 2014

Jai Swaminarayan! Sahajanand Swami Maharajni jai, Bapashreeni jai, Sadguruoshreeni jai, Swaminarayan Bhagwanani jai, tatha anant anadi muktoni jai!

A humble prayer in their lotus-feet and our Guru AMPP NarayanMama-LilaMasi's lotus-feet to augment this assembly with their divinity and grace, and to enhance our knowledge and guide us towards them.

Last couple of weeks, we talked about many polytheist and monotheist religions, and looked at the hierarchy under the trinity of Brahma-Vishnu-Shiva with supporting stories, incidents, theories and observations. We also saw that there are limitations in the levels that we have looked at so far. We will now transition into next level, where there are not very many cross-references from other religions to be taken, except for Hinduism itself. The only cross references are the "Nun" God of Egyptians who rose from the waters of Chaos, the Greek God of Chaos, Chinese God who rose from the oceans of creation. Those are pretty much the references that we find in other religions.

So let's move to Hinduism. But before we do that, let's take a step back and look at the broad picture. For Hindus, primarily the existing belief systems are – belief only in Immanent form of God (or Niraakaarvaadi). In saakaarvaadi there are Vaishnavs – those who worship Lord Vishnu, his incarnations, and Goddess Lakshmi, then there are Shaiva – those who worship Lord Shiv, Shakta – those who worship Goddess Shakti and her different forms, and then there are those who worship Lord Ganesh. There are hardly any worshippers of Lord Brahma, and a few worshippers of Goddess Saraswati. Broadly observing, worshippers of Lord Ganesh do not seem to be in the conversation of "Our God is greater." They readily accept Lord Shiva and Goddess Shakti to be a greater power. Shakta, also mostly worship Lord Shiva as well, since the Goddess is never without Lord Shiva. There is a thought-stream that Goddess Shakti has more power than Lord Shiva, but that is a minority. So mostly the Vaishnavs and Shaiva seem to be getting into the conversation of "Our God is greater." Based on Shreemad Bhagwat, Brahma emerged from the naval lotus of Lord Vishnu, so Vaishnavs say that Lord Vishnu is greater amongst the trinity. Shaiva on the contrary refer to the Purush and Prakruti mentioned in Shreemad Bhagwat, and say that Lord Shiva and Goddess Shakti are the Purush and the Prakruti, and therefore Lord Shiva is greater. Amongst the broad classification of Vaishnavs, are the worshippers of Lord Vishnu, Lord Ram, and Lord Krishna. Some even say that followers of Lord Swaminarayan are also Vaishnavs. It is this constant conversation and multiple thought-streams that confuse many Hindu pundits and scholars, leave alone the common devotee and non-Hindus.

So lets look at what Lord Swaminarayan, Shree Abaji Bapashree and AMPP NarayanMama have taught us. In verse 47 of Shikshapatri, Lord Swaminarayan has mentioned that since both Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva are mentioned as Brahm(the brilliance Brahm, not the deity Brahma), in Ved, consider them to be identified with one another. This verse puts to rest all the debates around who is greater amongst Vaishnavs and Shaivas. The contradiction comes in when we read about Lord Vishnu lying on a huge



serpent, in an ocean, from whose naval lotus Lord Brahma was born. Once Lord Brahma was born, he started walking around, and Lord Brahma could not find the ends of the lotus itself. So he started walking on the stalk of the lotus. He walked inside the stalk for 100 years of his life, but could not find its end. So he prayed for a longer life, returned and indulged into the activity of creating the universe and created 14 Loks inside that lotus, and we talked about those 14 loks in past couple of weeks.

If trinity bears the same/similar powers, and are identified with one another, who is the Lord Vishnu lying on the huge serpent, who inspired the creation of the 14 worlds? That Lord Vishnu has to be greater than Lord Brahma, since Lord Brahma could not find the end of the naval lotus, so the body of that Lord Vishnu must be really really big. So if Brahma-Vishnu-Shiva – the trinity are all equal or similar in their powers, then that Lord Vishnu has to be somebody else.

One of the things that we find a lot in the scriptures is a higher stratum God manifesting under the guise or disguise of lower stratum God or deity. Most of the time, the manifestation happens by way of Lord Vishnu of trinity. The next two obvious questions are why Lord Vishnu and what is the need for the guise or the disguise? When we talked about trinity, we talked about Vishnu being a Saattvik God. Since of the three attributes, Sattva is the most favorable for divinity and spiritual progress, the higher spiritual strata prefer Sattva over Rajas and Tamas for manifestation. So that explains why Lord Vishnu, since he is a Sattavik God and is preferable over Rajasik and Tamasik Gods. Second question is why the guise? In management, the higher levels in management do not generally interfere in skip level management. Skip level management is the upper level skips the level in between and directly interacts with the lower levels in management. For example, a VP does not really interfere in how a manager manages his/her teams on day-to-day basis. So if the VP wants to send a message across to the team, he/she usually passes it on to the manager, who in turn passes it on to the team. The reason it is done this way, is because a good manager is very close to the team and takes care of the team. The team trusts such a manager. So a message coming from the manager is well-received rather than a message coming from a VP, that the team members hardly communicate with. Team members are able to identify more with the manager than with the VP. It is a similar concept – incarnation in guise of a well-worshipped God/deity is much well received to begin with, and the real greatness of the incarnation is later revealed, accepted and worshipped. That explains why the guise?

So the Lord Vishnu sleeping on a giant serpent, is the governing God of the trinity of Brahma-Vishnu-Shiva. This Lord Vishnu is known as Vairat Purush or Vairaj Purush or Vairat Narayan or Narayan or MahaVishnu. We will stay with the name Vairat Purush to avoid confusion with any references to Vishnu or MahaVishnu or Narayan. It is in the naval lotus of Vairat Purush that Lord Brahma was born and created the 14 Loks. This distinction is evident if one learns Sanskrit and reads the actual Shreemad Bhagwat carefully with enough thought. For those who cannot learn Sanskrit, the word-to-word translation by ISKON can be very helpful. One of the things that I like about ISKON group is they first provide a word-to-word translation and then they build sentences from that translation. The word-to-word translation is very helpful, because that frees us from the sentence formation and manipulation by somebody else. I already had a link to it in one of the earlier slides from past weeks. I will include it again and I will also include links to Ved and Puran. This is only for those who want to study deeper. For others, this is already described by Shree Abaji Bapashree in Rahasyaarth Vachanamrutam. As I



mentioned once in the past, one way to is to study and confirm for ourselves and other is to trust someone who seems to have our good at heart. The time spent in studying can be better utilized in spiritual progress if we are able to trust the trustworthy ones.

In Gadhada Madhya Prakran 31st Vachanamrutam, there is a lot of information available on Vairat Purush. The body of Vairat Purush and every strata under it is also made up of 24 elements. Like us humans, Vairat Purush has three types of bodies – Virat, Sutratma and Avyaakrut. Just as we have three states of mind – Awakened, Dreaming and Deep Sleep, Vairat Purush also has three states – generation, operation and destruction. Generation state is governed by Rajas Ahankar, Operation state by Sattva Ahankar and Destruction state by Tamas Ahankar. The life of Vairat Purush is said to be 2 Parardh or 311.04 trillion human years. So trillion is 10 raised to 12, and life of Vairat Purush is 311.04 Trillion years. This is the same as the lifespan of Brahma-Vishnu-Shiva. Abaji Bapashree has mentioned in the Rahasyarth of Gadhada Madhya 31st Vachanamrutam that the end of life of Vairat Purush is end of life of everything under him as well as the 24 elements, Ahankar and Mahattattva, which are the higher up levels. That is when the evening of Pradhan Purush falls – This is a stratum in Stage 5 and we will transition into Stage 5 in just a little bit.

It is not clear whether the earlier avatars of Lord Vishnu – Matsya, Kurma, Varah, Nrusinh, Vaman and Parashuram were those of the Lord Vishnu of the trinity, or of Vairat Purush, since Vairat Purush is mentioned in guise of Lord Vishnu. There is some mention that Vairat Purush created the time-space continuum, and Lord Brahma utilized that for the creation of 14 loks. However, it is not clear what level and what extent does it refer to. There is however a clear reference that speech or sound energy as we know it, was created by Vairat Purush. In Sarangpur 6th Vachanamrutam, Shreeji Maharaj has mentioned with reference to Shreemad Bhagwat, that Vairat Purush became capable of creation only when God inspired him. So initially God entered the Sahsraar chakra of Vairat Purush which resulted in a vibrational energy. This energy then travelled down to Manipur chakra in the naval. The naval-lotus of Vairat Purush was facing down, and started facing up when the energy travelled up to it. The sound of that energy wave is called “Paraavaani” or the divine language or speech. Inside the body of Vairat Purush, the energy then travelled back up to the heart of Vairat Purush – the anahat chakra and became known as the “Pashyanti”. Upon further travel to the throat or Vishuddha chakra, it came to be known as “Madhyama” and when it finally came out from the mouth of Vairat Purush as a speech in form of “A” “U” “M”, forming Aum, it came to be known as “Vaikhari” and Ved were created from this Vaikhari type of speech.

When the body of Vairat Purush was formed, all the 24 elements, their deities, the soul of Vairat Purush made up the body, but Vairat Purush still did not have the energy to create the universe. Then God provided that energy for creation. It was only then that the creation was made possible. Vairat Purush worships three types of Ahankar – Sattva, Rajas and Tamas. During the state of creation he worships Rajas Ahankar also known as Aniruddha. During the state of operation he worships Sattva Ahankar also known as Pradyumna. During the state of destruction he worships Tamas Ahankar also known as Sankarshan. However, due to worship of three types of Ahankar, Vairat only gets the energy and power to create, maintain and operate, he does not progress spiritually to get liberated. For that he has to worship the supreme Lord.



Since the body of Vairat Purush is made up of 24 elements, lets revisit the 24 elements from a larger perspective. This will now take us into our Stage 5 of hierarchy. For those on Webex, I have changed the slide to show stage 5. A lot of what we see here is also mentioned in Shreemad Bhagwat. I have been including a reference picture in last few weeks slides and have included it again this week as well. This picture and other similar pictures are derived by groups like ISKON from Shreemad Bhagwat, and when we compare that with the hierarchy explained in Swaminarayan Philosophy, it matches exactly. This establishes credibility of Swaminarayan philosophy as being aligned with Hindu philosophy.

Looking at Stage 5, Mahattattva is born from unification of Pradhan Purush and Pradhan Prakruti or Pradhan Maya. Word Prakruti and Maya is used interchangeably. Mahattattva is born from Pradhan Prush and Pradhan Prakruti. We have talked earlier in the series that Mahattattva and Chitta are undifferentiated and the universe exists in its subtle form in Mahattattva. Based on that, we mapped Mahattattva to be the subtle store for the entire universe, shared by everyone in the universe, using the example of cloud technology. In Gadhada Pratham 12th Vachanamrutam, Shreeji Maharaj has explained Mahattattva as Unpolluted, brilliant, clean or immaculate, pure Sattva oriented, and peaceful. It is using the machinery of Mahattattva that the fructifications of the deeds come about and get linked to one another. Say for example I pick a fight with my sister, and she fights back. So both of us form a sanskar that will give us the returns of the fight that both of us picked. Since those are associated with each other, the universal Mahattattva makes sure the events that arise for fructification of those deeds, map both of us together.

From Mahattattva emerges Ahankar which is of three types – Rajas, Sattva and Tamas. The Generation, Operation and Destruction states of Vairat Purush and Dreaming, Awakened, and Deep Sleep states of human beings are associated with Rajas, Sattva and Tamas Ahankar respectively. From Tamas Ahankar 5 Quintessence and 5 fundamental elements emerge. The quintessence are the subtle form and cause of associated fundamental element – for example Odor is the cause of Earth, and so on. From Rajas Ahankar we get 10 senses, 5 Prans and Intellect and from Sattva Ahankar we get Mind and the governing deities of the 24 elements. So we have Mahattattva, Ahankar, Mind, Intellect, 10 senses, 5 Quinetessence and 5 basic elements, giving us 24 elements.

As we saw in Stage 6, these 24 elements form the body of Vairat Purush and everything under him. As for Vairat Purush, he worships 3 Ahankars and his body is formed with the 24 elements, but as mentioned in Gadhada Madhya 31st Vachanamrutam, is born out of unification Pradhan Purush and Pradhan Prakruti, and is their son. Pradhan Purush and Prakruti have many such Vairat Purush as their sons. Given that the 24 elements are common across creation under Pradhan Purush and Pradhan Prakruti, it can be safely said that everything under Vairat Purush, including Vairat Purush, will have similar body with 10 senses, 5 elements, 5 quintessence and 4 inner organs. And this is true for all Vairat Purush under one Pradhan Purush and Pradhan Prakruti. Not though we said they would have 10 senses, some of the senses could be different. For example, we know that Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, have been depicted as having 4 hands (Chaturbhuj). So there might be some variations here and there, but at the end of the day, there will be 10 senses.



Another thing is while these 24 elements form the bodies of the souls, they also have their own body and a soul that resides in that body. So the universal Earth element has a body and a soul. Also the element Earth has its effect which is described as a layer that is 4 billion miles in diameter. The same goes with the remaining of the 24 elements – they have a body and a soul, and they have their own effect.

The universal mind that emerges from Sattva Ahankar or Pradyumna, is the connecting link for all the minds in the universe. The effect of that universal mind is the minds that reside in all of us and their communication channels. This can be better understood with an example of a cell phone. How is the connection from cell phone to another established? When a number is dialed, the phone selects the least used frequency in the surrounding area, to connect to the nearest cell phone tower. The cell phone tower then transmits that signal to the satellite. The satellite then determines the cell phone tower closest to the dialed number. This cell phone tower in turn rings the dialed number and a connection is established. So all individual cell phones are able to connect with each other through cell phone towers and a satellite. Universal mind acts like that telecommunication satellite. It is through the universal mind that our minds can connect with one another. We use the term telepathy to explain it. It requires an internally built energy for communication, just like the cell phones utilize electromagnetic energy, microwave and radio wave to communicate. This internal energy is generated through control of senses, and of course control of mind itself. Even if one of the two people who want to communicate telepathically, has developed this internal energy, the communication channel can be established. The speed of mind is very fast. Our mind is already on Moon the moment we think about moon. So when we communicate telepathically, there is usually no latency, unless of course, there is latency in establishing the connection itself. But once the connection is established, there is no latency. So that was a little thought on the Universal mind and how it makes telepathy possible.

The universal intellect that emerges from Rajas Ahankar is many-a-times connected with Lord Buddha since it is called “Buddhi”. Buddhi however, in no way or form says anything about spiritual achievements of Lord Buddha. Lord Buddha was able to go beyond the veil of Maya, and is therefore beyond the Intellect that is one of the 24 elements. In fact, AMPP NarayanMama used to mention in his lectures, that after achieving Nirvan, Lord Buddha went ahead to achieve Mahanirvan, and then said that don’t stop there, there is something beyond Mahanirvan as well. So he must have been able to tune into the immanent form of MulPurush that is first level beyond MulMaya, and may be even the immanent form of NarNarayan or Mahakaal or Vasudev Brahma – difficult to say.

Pradhan Purush which is the next level from Mahattattva, up above is Pradhan Purush and Pradhan Prakruti, is also called Bhuma Purush, Vishnu, MahaVishnu, Narayan and manifested on this Earth as Lord Ram, by way of Lord Vishnu. To avoid confusion, we will use the term Pradhan Purush for the spiritual strata and Lord Ram for his earthly manifestation. It is unclear whether Goddess Sita was a devotee of Pradhan Purush or Pradhan Prakruti herself. The prevalent belief is that she was a devotee. Lakshmanji and Hanumanji were definitely Lord Ram’s devotees. He was the first complete human incarnation or manifestation of a God and taught the humanity how to abide by basic virtues and ethics.



Lord Ram is said to have advented at the very beginning of Tretayug. We will talk about Yugs next-to-next week. The estimated life span in Treta yug is 10,000 years. His exile lasted 14 years of a total life span of 10000 years. So while the time of exile sounds short in the bigger scheme of things, it still was 14 years. During his 14 years of exile, Lord Ram built a bridge to Lanka, where Ravan kept Goddess Sita captive. The satellite imaging technology has revealed that there indeed used to be land mass connecting Rameshawaram in southern India and Munnar in Sri Lanka. When the bridge was to be built, Lord Ram sat on the beaches of the ocean and prayed to God of Sea – SamudraDev, to help him out. The SamudraDev did not show up for 2-3 days. So Lord Ram got angry and was ready to dry the sea out, and the SamudraDev got scared and appeared. When he appeared, he told Lord Ram, that due too much salt and impurities in the sea, Lord Ram’s message was not reaching him. May be Lord Ram was using the communication wave channel of universal mind to communicate with the SamudraDev. So the power of telepathy is dependent on setting up a clean and clear channel of communication. Or if we want to look at it from the scientific perspective, then may be Lord Ram had a communication device to communicate with people living underneath the sea or ocean.

However, after the God of sea and Lord Ram talked, Lord Ram knew where to build the bridge. The army of apes, started building the bridge by writing the word Ram on the stone and throwing the stones in water. The stones would float on their own when the word Ram was written on them. There are 2 speculative theories around this. First is that there was pumus rock lying there from a past volcano. Pumus would naturally float in the waters due to its porous nature. The other theory is that they managed sound levitation with the use of word Ram. There is an experiment done by physicists in Japan that with the right amount of ultrasound waves, not audible to human ear, objects can be made to levitate in the air. I have included a link to this in my slides. Was the army of apes actually a very intelligent army who were able to master sound levitation with the help of Lord Ram, and set one up on the beaches at Rameshawaram? Something to think about. It is believed that the shallow sea between Rameshwaram and Mannar – some places as shallow as only 3 ft, is the remnant of the bridge built by Lord Ram.

Having looked at Lord Ram and his life a little bit, let look at the stratum of Pradhan Purush and Pradhan Prakruti. It is still under MulMaya and therefore has the distinction of body and soul. However, since it is beyond 24 elements. So the matter that forms their bodies must be different than the 24 elements. We do not know what it would be or what it is, but based on what we know – that 24 elements are created from Pradhan Purush and Pradhan Prakruti, we can guess that it would be different. The divine abode of Pradhan Purush is called Vainkunth. It is also mentioned that he has another abode in the physical layer of Earth. So we mentioned that there is a physical layer of Earth which is 4 billion miles in diameter. So somewhere in that layer also Pradhan Purush and Pradhan Prakruti have an abode (May be it is their vacation home 😊).

As for the life span of Pradhan Purush and Pradhan Prakruti, the end of life of Vairat Purush 311.04 trillion years, it is half-a-day for Pradhan Purush and Pradhan Prakruti. There is a day and night and the day is 311.04 trillion years and the night is equally long. So one day is $622.08 * 10^{12}$ (or trillion) human years make one day for Pradhan Purush and Pradhan Prakruti. Such 360 days form one year, and they live 100 such years. So $622.08 * 10^{12} * 36000 = 22.39488 * 10^{18}$, or approximately 22.4 quitillion years.



Now imagine being stuck in a body of Pradhan Purush for so many years! Yes, the powers will be immense, but doing the same thing over and over again, every single day, for quintillions of years!!!! Not only is the lifespan longer as we go higher up in the hierarchy, but so are the powers and pleasures. So yes, more powers and more pleasures, but it also means that the attachment is higher. Higher the attachment, more difficult it is to overcome the bindings of those attachments and resulting vices. More the bindings, more difficult it is to progress to the next level. AMPP NarayanMama used to say that deities have much stronger feelings of jealousy, etc. And they get very jealous when a soul starts progressing on the spiritual path. They do all they can to hinder and block the progress. The stories of deities trying to block the worshippers of trinity is written all over the scriptures. There are similar stories in Roman mythology as well. However, it is not limited to the deities. The trinity blocks from Vairat Purush, Vairat Purush blocks from 24 elements. Vairat Purush and 24 elements together block from Pradhan Purush, and so on. Each subsequent layer tries to block the spiritual progress of the soul to maintain its control over the soul. Which means the level of freedom might increase in terms of powers, resources and ability to execute according to one's will, but the freedom from this entire cycle of creation, etc. the freedom to just be in the bliss all the time and do nothing, diminishes as we go up till we surpass MulMaya. It becomes slower and harder. Aren't we lucky to be humans – stuck in a body for 100 or less years? Aren't we lucky to have met Anadi Mukta like AMPP NarayanMama and AMPP LeelaMasi that we do not have to worry about hindrances caused by any strata? Aren't we lucky to have become eligible for the divine bliss of the Moorti of Lord Swaminarayan in a short lifespan of less than 100 years!!!! Lets pause here today and reminisce and bask in warmth of this knowledge and happiness, and reflect on how fortunate, loved and cared we are.

This week we looked at remainder of Stage 6 and 5 as is mentioned in the Hindu scriptures. Next week, we will map science to these states and talk about some scientific discoveries and theories. During that we will talk about quantum physics, bosons, fermions, forces of nature, etc. The week after that, we will look at the dimensions mentioned in Hinduism, convert them to present day measurement systems and try to map to the universe and world as we know it today. For a reference, I have included a link to those measurements from Wikipedia, for those who are interested. Thank you to the Satsang sabha for patiently listening and please be kind to overlook any shortcomings. May Lord Swaminarayan and His Anadi Mukta bless us all. Jai Swaminarayan! Vishalbhai, over to you.

