

## AVADHOOTA GEETA

**Discourse by Shri Krishna to Uddhava on being asked to teach Him the absolute Truth and also the means to be established in it.**

**- 11<sup>th</sup> Canto of Srimad Bhagavatham**

**Question by Yadu:**

Remaining inactive, from where did you get this penetrating wisdom, obtaining which, though enlightened, you go about the world like an innocent boy?

Generally, people long only for longevity, renown and fortune. How is that you do nothing, covet nothing and behave like a dunce, a maniac or a devil?

In the midst of people burning with the fire of concupiscence and greed, you remain unaffected by that fire

Though living singly and are devoid of sensory pleasures, what is the cause of joy abiding in your mind?

**Answer by Lord Dattatreya (Avadhoota):**

I learnt from my 24 preceptors. Having learnt from them, I roam about the earth free and without worry.

<b><u>S. No.</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Lesson</u></b>	<b><u>For Sadhaka</u></b>
1	Earth	Vow - remaining unperturbed even while being oppressed by beings, following the will of providence Mountain – Steady and unshakable Tree – Full life, only for giving to everyone	Should never deviate from the course of righteousness, being aware of the fact of their being subject to the will of providence Mountain – Steady in righteousness, all movements should be guided by altruism; Tree - Birth is solely intended for the service of others Should learn complete submission to the will of others
2	Air	Life Breath – Sustained by mere subsistence of the person not by gratification or even any other offering Air - Remain absolutely untainted	Ascetic should be gratified by bare sustenance Should manage his senses such that the cognitive abilities are not lost nor do they distract speech and mind Air – Unattached to any object and unaffected by any of their qualities, merits or demerits
3	Space	All pervading The sky is untouched by clouds	Identifying with Brahman, visualize affinity of all pervading soul with the sky in the form of freedom from all kinds of limitation Untouched by material objects including the body
4	Water	Transparent Soft by nature Pure Purifier	Transparent Soft by nature Seat of Purity Purifies people by sight, touch and utterance of His name

5	Fire	<p>Glorious Bright Formidable Does not imbibe impurity though consuming everything Earns everyone's respect who seek it Eats everywhere, only what is offered by others Takes the form of firewood Flame rises and disappears every moment on the wood that it burns</p>	<p>Full of glory and made brighter by the glow of austerity, having no vessel other than his own belly Doesn't imbibe any impurity though consuming everything Remains hidden and appears, earning respect of those who seek blessedness Burns the past and future sins of those who make offerings to Him Lives as Brahman residing in all forms Spirit coming in and going out of the bodies are not perceived – so too the flames come in and go out through the firewood that it burns</p>
6 & 7	Sun & Moon	<p>Absorbs moisture and releases it Sun appears different in different reflections (Moon is not referred to clearly)</p>	<p>Yogi absorbs sense objects and lets go as and when the need arises without ever getting attached to them Self appears different as seen in different bodies</p>
8	Dove	<p>Story - Male dove attached to his wife and fledglings goes and voluntarily falls into the hunter's trap in which they were also caught</p>	<p>Ignorant jeeva, attaching himself with the body, entangles himself in samsara through excessive fondness and attachment</p>
9	Python	<p>Eat what comes without effort whether it be more or less or sweet or bitter. If no food, then starve. Lie still. Do not go in search of food.</p>	<p>Pleasure and pain comes because of fate – do not seek anything at all Go hungry if nothing comes Bear the body actionless, do nothing</p>
10	Sea	<p>Grave and deep and quiet and calm No swelling nor drying with all the water entering or flowing out of it all the time</p>	<p>Quiet and grave like the calm of the deep sea Inscrutable, dominated by none and unaffected and unperturbed by likes and dislikes No elation nor depression</p>
11	Moth	<p>Attracted by fire, the moth falls into it</p>	<p>Allured by the woman called Maya, ascetic loses his discrimination and gets destroyed Having no control over the senses, ascetic falls into the darkness of hell</p>
12	Honey bee	<p>Takes only as much required Does not hurt the flower Bee collects honey from many flowers</p>	<p>Take food in small quantities as much as is required for sustenance without giving any trouble to those giving him alms Ascetic should not keep for the future, what he got by begging. The hands are his only vessel and belly his only receptacle Ascetic should gather the essence of all scriptures, great and small</p>

13	Elephant	Elephant is captured and chained by being attracted to the she-elephant Elephant seeking a she-elephant will be killed by stronger elephants seeking her	A mendicant should not touch even a wooden figure of a youthful woman even with his leg, for he will be ensnared by Maya. A wise man should never seek a woman, for stronger men will kill him
14	Honey gatherer	Honey bee stores all the honey and honey gatherer loots the hoard and it is enjoyed by others The honey gatherer really enjoys the honey	Miser hoards money and he does not enjoy it nor is it gifted away. It is enjoyed by some other person The ascetics really enjoy the wealth of the householders, who gather them and hoard them with the view to enjoying them at a later date
15	Deer	Deer gets snared by the hunter's music	An ascetic should not listen to vulgar music Enjoying the vulgar dance, music and songs of women, Rishyashringa, the son of a deer became the plaything of women
16	Fish	Ensnared by the bait as it cannot control its tongue	Enraptured by the love for taste, through uncontrollable tongue, the ascetic is destroyed Only when the sense of taste is conquered can we say that all senses are subdued Tongue becomes more powerful in the case of a fasting person
17	Pingala, a courtesan	Seeking money through selling her body, Pingala sought fulfillment of lust and desire for wealth. None arrived one night and she lost all hope in desperation. She gave up all hope of sense enjoyment and understanding that Lord alone is the refuge, went to sleep peacefully	Nothing of this world can satisfy a person. Let he not sustain hope of this and lose himself in desperation. It is only attaining the Lord that would give total fulfillment that takes one beyond all cravings and frustrations. Hence, give up hope of enjoyment from the world and seek the Lord eternal alone
18	Osprey	Stronger ospreys, desirous of food attack an osprey that has flesh in its beak or talons. The weaker osprey let go the flesh and all other ospreys went behind the flesh. This osprey attained peace	The source of sorrow is the attainment of that which we love most.
19	Infant	No worries/anxieties and happily roams about in total bliss	An ascetic roams the earth freely, having no honor/dishonor and no care as to who has house or possessions Only two people are free of care and anxieties and are immersed in eternal bliss – a. ignorant and guileless child and b. he who has transcended the three gunas

20	Maiden with one bangle	Maiden had to serve people who came desiring her for a bride. None were at home and she had to do all tasks like pounding rice, which she was ashamed to let others know. The bangles made sound. Hence, she broke all other bangles and retained only one in each hand. Now, there was no more any sound.	When I wandered in this world wanting to know what should be desirable and what should be shunned, I learnt that where many or even two dwell together, there is quarrel or talk. Hence, one should wander alone as the single bangle on the maiden's wrist.
21	Forger of arrows	Focused on his work, he did not even notice the King with his retinue passing by	Steady the mind on the SELF by controlling it, the breath, the steady pose and with vigilance, practicing dispassion and concentration. In the mind steadied on that ONE, Sattva rises and consequently, rajas and tamas dissolve, facilitating absorption in contemplation.
22	Serpent	Serpent happily inhabits the hole built by other animals	An ascetic should wander alone, have no fixed abode, be ever vigilant and living in a cave, unrecognized by obvious marks, should be without support and be sparing of speech. It is only a misery for one of perishable body to build a house.
23	Spider	Spider makes the web with threads from itself	The Lord manifests, sustains and destroys the world from Himself
24	Bhringa (Wasp)	Larva transforms itself into a wasp out of repeated absorption of its mind in the wasps form, out of total fear.	Whatever, the jeeva deliberately centers his mind in its entirety, out of love, hatred or fear, it attains that very form

### **Concluding remarks:**

1. Body, subject to birth death and the source of all affliction, is my preceptor as it promotes renunciation and discrimination. Though it helps me contemplate, it really belongs to others who devour it. Realizing this, I wander renouncing all.
2. Man earning and spending and caught in this cycle, dies leaving behind seeds for his next birth, like the tree, which leaves behind seeds.
3. Man is torn apart by all his senses, pulling him in all different directions, like how the man of the family is torn apart by all his co-wives pulling him in different directions
4. God, though having created all living beings was satisfied only when he created the human being, for it alone was endowed with reason and capable of realizing the supreme. The enjoyment of senses can be had in any birth. A wise man, having attained human birth, should speedily strive to attain liberation.

Having freed himself from all attachments and egotism and developing dispassion, and possessing the light of knowledge, the Avadhoota (Dattatreya) wanders about in the world.

King Yadu, listening to this discourse rid himself of all attachments and gained steady equilibrium of mind.

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