

Sri Isopanisd #4, Mantras 12-14

Worship of the Absolute and Relative

Overview of mantras 12-14

Mantra 12 explains that materialistic religion is **detrimental and** transcendent religion without bhakti is **more dangerous**

Mantra 13 defines the **difference** between the relative and absolute

Mantra 14 directs us to **understand both** relative and absolute to attain perfection

Just as verses 9-11 compared knowledge and nescience, and the respective destinations for the followers of each, verses 12-14 explain the worship of the relative and the Absolute. Just as cultivation of the wrong knowledge can be binding, so too can improper conceptions of the Absolute Truth.

Mantra 12

Summary: While in the Bhagavad-Gita, Krishna explains that the demigods are objects of worship for one whose faith is in goodness, here we learn that to approach demigods as independent of Krishna, wanting material benedictions, forget themselves. But to seek the spiritual and transcendent only in the form of the brahmajyoti is more dangerous because true satisfaction of the soul is not available there.

Materialism is bad. Pseudo religion is worse. A wolf is dangerous and a wolf dressed like a sheep is even more dangerous.

Notes:

1. We find a very interesting parallel between this Mantra and Mantra Nine. Verse: The only difference in the Sanskrit is that the word avidyām (nescience) is used in the 2nd line of Mantra Nine, whereas asambhūtim (demigods) is used in the 2nd line of Twelve, and vidyāyām (in the culture of knowledge) is used in the 4th line of Nine, and sambhūtyām (in the Absolute) in Twelve. The demigod worshippers go to deep mājā, and the impersonalists go to an even worse place.

2. Both Mantras are describing types of people who are opposed to the éçavasyam principle. Mantra Nine has explained how both ignorant and intellectual materialists are doomed, although the so-called intelligentsia is actually worse off. Mantra Twelve says that demigod worshippers are also destined for ruination, but even worse off are the impersonalists.

Contrasts between demigod worship or impersonalism and Krishna bhakti

- *Surrender versus speculation:*
- *Temporary versus permanent:*
- *Material versus spiritual:*

- *Cheating and truth*
- *Real knowledge and detachment:*

Mantra 13

Summary: Mantra 12 explained that both worship of the dependent (the demigods) and the Absolute (impersonal Brahman) can lead to bondage. Mantra 13 explains that one achieves a different result when his understanding of the absolute is guided by a *dhira*.

Note: (Very similar to Verse Ten. The only difference is vidyaya/sambhavad in the first line of 10/13, and avidyaya/asambhavad in the second lines). According to the undisturbed authorities, who are really clear on the subject, there is a distinct difference between the supreme cause, and that which is not supreme.

How to discover the Absolute Truth:

- *Different destinations:*
- *Learn the real truth in parampara:*
- “*The worship of the supreme cause*” is very important.
- *Purification:*

Mantra fourteen

Summary: Mantras 12 and 13 explained that one who conducts worship of the improper object or with the improper conception will not achieve spiritual emancipation. Mantra 14 states that one must know the spiritual and material energies properly, in their respective positions, to achieve liberation.

Material knowledge is not sufficient

- To attain perfection:
- To conquer the problems of life:
- To achieve real freedom:

Knowledge of spirit only is also insufficient:

- Audience:
- What to avoid:
- Using energy:

Summary: For our chanting in bhakti to be effective, we must distinguish between worship of the Absolute and the relative, while honoring all forms and names of the Absolute. Then our chanting of Hare Krishna will quickly bring us to realization of our self and our sweet relationship with the One who is All-Attractive, Lord Sri Krishna.