

SUMMARY OF THE VṚṢASĀRASAMGRAHA

Draft of 27 June 2021, Csaba Kiss

Chapter 1

- 1.1 benedictory stanza to the Extremely Subtle One (*susūkṣma*) in Upajāti

DHARMAŚĀSTRIC LAYER STARTS

- 1.2–8 Janamejaya remains unsatisfied after hearing the *Mahābhārata* and asks Vaiśampāyana about the Secret Dharma. In reply, Vaiśampāyana starts relating a dialogue between Vigatarāga (= Viṣṇu in disguise), and Anarthayajña, an ascetic, Vigatarāga testing Anarthayajña with questions

LAYER OF VAIṢṆAVA INTERLOCUTORS STARTS

- 1.9–10 Vigatarāga's question on *brahmavidyā*
- 1.11–31 *kālapāśa*: his questions on the human body, death (*kāla*) and time (*kāla*), which leads naturally to an enumeration of the divisions of time from *kalā* to years, from *yugas* to *kalpas*
- 1.32–36 *parārdhādi*: numbers, the powers of ten from one to two hundred quadrillion (*para*)
- 1.37–59 *brahmāṇḍa*: Brahmā's Egg and the names of the cosmic rulers
- 1.60–63 *pramāṇa*: dimensions of the universe
- 1.64–77 the descent of the Purāṇas; names of their redactors from Brahmā to Dvaipāyana and Romaharṣa (does this indicate that the VSS considers itself a Purāṇa?)

Chapter 2

- 2.1–3 Vigatarāga's question: the term *śivāṇḍa* has been mentioned, what is that?
- 2.4–40 Anarthayajña replies: Śiva's world is a sort of heaven without desires, anger, disease, rituals, *yugas*, etc.; its dimensions are given; its divisions belong to Īśāna, Tatpuruṣa, Aghora, Sadyojāta and Vāmadeva; it is approachable by *śivayoga* and not by rituals; the last stanza mentions that *kāla* destroys even Dharma

Chapter 3

- 3.1–2 Vigatarāga’s further questions: What is Dharma? How many embodiments does he have? Why is he known as a bull? How many legs does he have? How many are his paths? Whose son is Dharma? How many children does he have?
- 3.3–7 Anarthayajña explains the etymology of *dharmā*; that it is a bull with four legs, the four *āśramas*; there are five paths of Dharma; Dharma’s father is Brahmā; Dharma has thirteen wives
- 3.8–13 Dharma’s wives and children enumerated
- 3.14–15 Dharma’s two embodiments are Śruti and Smṛti; the Smṛta tradition focuses on the conduct (*ācāra*) of the classes (*varṇa*) and life-stages (*āśrama*), which is connected to rules and regulations (*yama-niyama*):

The section on the Yama-Niyama rules starts

Yama-rules

- **yama 1** Non-violence (*ahiṃsā*)
 - 3.16–23 five types of violence to avoid:
 1. frightening people
 2. beating people
 3. tying someone up
 4. killing someone
 5. destroying people’s livelihood
- 3.24–32 praise of Non-violence
- 3.33–42 one should refrain from killing animals and eating meat; praise of Non-violence; some animals live happily without eating meat; monkeys defeated Rākṣasas without eating meat

Chapter 4

- **yama 2** Truthfulness (*satya*)
 - 4.1 definition of Truth
 - 4.2–5 cases in which not telling the truth is right
 - 4.6–17 praise of Truthfulness
- **yama 3** Refraining from stealing (*asteya*)
 - 4.18–24 five kinds of theft
 1. theft
 2. bribery
 3. cheating with weights
 4. cheating with scales
 5. robbery
 - 4.25–30 praise of refraining from stealing and condemnation of stealing and cheating
- **yama 4** Absence of cruelty (*ānṛśaṃsya*)
 - 4.31 five kinds of cruelty, towards
 1. *aṣṭamūrti* Śiva
 2. one's mother
 3. one's father
 4. cows
 5. guests
 - 4.32 eight-formed Śiva is the five elements, the Sun, the Moon and the sacrificer
 - 4.33–34 the father and the mother
 - 4.35–39 praise of the cow and of the five products of the cow
 - 4.40–49 praise of the guest and of those who respect the guest; mention of the mongoose story of the *Mahābhārata*

- **yama 5** Self-restraint (*dama*)
 - 4.50–51 praise of Self-restraint
 - 4.52–55 without Self-restraint, the five sense-faculties lead one to death, as in the case of the elephant (touch), the fish (taste), the moth (seeing), the bee (smelling) and the deer (hearing) [see Aśvaghōṣa's *Buddhacarita* 11.35]
 - 4.56–58 examples of people perishing because of a lack of self-restraint are given: Purūravas, Daṇḍaka, Sagara's sons, Rāvaṇa, Saudāsa, the Yādavas, Māndhātṛ, Nahuṣa, Mahābali, Arjuna, King Nala, Nṛga [cf. Aśvaghōṣa's *Buddhacarita* 11.13–17]
 - 4.59 warning against a lack of self-restraint
- **yama 6** Taboos (*ghṛṇā*)
 - 4.60–67 five taboos
 1. approaching women who are not depending on oneself
 2. taking away others' wealth
 3. taking away others' lives
 4. hurting others
 5. eating others' food
- **yama 7** Virtues (*dhanya*)
 - 4.68 the five methods of virtue
 1. 4.69 four cases of observing silence (*caturmauna*)
 - (a) instead of violent words
 - (b) slanderous words
 - (c) lies
 - (d) idle talk
 2. 4.70 the four enemies (*catuḥśatru*)
 - (a) desire
 - (b) anger
 - (c) greed
 - (d) delusion

3. 4.71 the four sanctuaries (*caturāyatana* = the four Buddhist *brahmavihāras*)
 - (a) compassion
 - (b) sympathy in joy
 - (c) indifference
 - (d) benevolence
4. 4.72–73 the four meditations (*caturdhyāna*)
 - (a) of the Self
 - (b) of *vidyā*
 - (c) of *bhava* [= Śiva?]
 - (d) of the subtle one (*sūkṣma*)
5. 4.74 the four-legged Dharma (*catuṣpāda*)
 - (a) the householder
 - (b) the chaste student
 - (c) the forest-dweller
 - (d) the mendicant

– 4.75–76 he who knows these will prosper

• **yama 8** Absence of Negligence (*apramāda*)

- 4.77–82 five areas of negligence (the *mahāpātakas*, with quotes from Manu)
1. murdering a Brahmin
 2. drinking alcohol
 3. stealing
 4. having sex with the guru's wife
 5. when one is connected with these sins or with people involved in these sinful acts

• **yama 9** Charm (*mādhurya*)

- 4.83–85 five types of Charm
1. bodily
 2. verbal
 3. mental
 4. of the eyes
 5. of one's thoughts

- **yama 10** Sincerity (*ārjava*)
 - 4.86–88 five types of Sincerity
 1. in action
 2. in livelihood
 3. in prosperity
 4. in gratifying others
 5. ... ?
- 4.89 Śaiva closing verse of the Yama section in Mālīnī

Chapter 5

Niyama-rules

- 5.1–3 introduction to the ten Niyama-rules
- **niyama 1** Purity (*śauca*)
 - five types of *śauca*
 1. 5.4–9 bodily (*śarīraśauca*)
 2. 5.10–16 of food (*āhāraśauca*)
 3. of property (? *mātrā*, not detailed)
 4. of conduct (? *bhāva*, not detailed)
 5. ?
 - 5.17 ‘See more in Manu, the Purāṇas, the Śaiva texts, and the *Bhāratasaṃhitā* (= the *Mahābhārata*)’
 - 5.18–21 praise of purity

Chapter 6

- **niyama 2** Sacrifice (*ijyā*)
 - 6.1–2 five types of Sacrifice
 1. 6.3 *arthayajña*
 2. 6.4 *kriyāyajña*
 3. 6.5–6ab *japayajña*
 4. 6.6cd–7 *jñānayajña*
 5. 8.8–19 *dhyānayajña*

- **niyama 3** Penance (*tapas*)

- 6.20 five types of Penance
 1. 6.21 mental (*mānasa*)
 2. 6.22 verbal (*vācika*)
 3. 6.23 bodily (*kāyika*)
 4. 6.24 mental and verbal (*manovākkarman*)
 5. 6.25 bodily and verbal (*kāyika + vācika*)
- 6.26–28 types of *sādhana*
- closing verse in Śārdūlavikrīḍita

Chapter 7

- **niyama 4** Donation (*dāna*)

- 7.1 five types of Donation
 1. 7.2–5 of food (*annadāna*)
 2. 7.6–13 of clothes (*vastradāna*)
 3. 7.14–17 of gold (*suvarṇadāna*)
 4. 7.18–24 of land (*bhūmidāna*)
 5. 7.25 of cows (*godāna*)
- 7.26–28 praise of donation (*dānapraśaṃsā*)

Chapter 8

- 8.1–6 **niyama 5** Study (*svādhyāya*) of

1. *śaiva* texts
2. *sāṃkhya* texts
3. *purāṇas*
4. *smārta* texts
5. the *Bhāratasaṃhitā*

- 8.7–13ab **niyama 6** Sexual restraint (*upasthanigraha*)
 1. *strī*
 2. *garhitotsarga*
 3. *svayaṃmukti*
 4. *svapnopaghāta*
 5. *divāsvapna*
- 8.13cd–18 **niyama 7** Observances (*vrata*)
- 8.19–25 **niyama 8** Fasting (*upavāsa*)
- 8.26–34 **niyama 9** Silence (*mauna*)
- 8.35–44 **niyama 10** Bathing (*snāna*)
- 8.45 closing verse of the Niyama-rules in Mālinī

Chapter 9

- 9.1–39 the three *guṇas sattva, rajas, tamas*
- 9.40–44 the *guṇātīta* state

Chapter 10

- 10.1–2 introduction to *kāyatīrthas*

LAYER OF ŚAIVA INTERLOCUTORS STARTS

- 10.3 Nandikeśvara's narration of the dialogue between Maheśvara and Devī starts
- 10.4–8 external *tīrthas*
- 10.9–26 internal *tīrthas*
- 10.27–29 *om* as a *tīrtha*
- 10.30 *setubandha* (a mantra?)
- 10.31–34 ?

Chapter 11

- the four *āśramas* and the concept of *anarthayajña*

Chapter 12

- *ātithyadharmā*: a narrative of the Brahmin called Vipula

Chapter 13

- embryology

Chapter 14

- ...

Chapter 15

- the *jīva*

Chapter 16

- yoga

Chapter 17

- *dāna*

Chapter 18

- *karman*

END OF LAYER OF ŚAIVA INTERLOCUTORS

BACK TO LAYER OF VAIṢṆAVA INTERLOCUTORS

Chapter 19

- *dānayajña*

Chapter 20

- the 25 *tattvas*

Chapter 21

- Vigatarāga reveals his divine form as Viṣṇu in front of Anarthayaḥjña; Anarthayaḥjña, now fully satisfied, praises him; they depart to Śvetadvīpa

END OF LAYER OF VAIṢṆAVA INTERLOCUTORS

BACK TO DHARMAŚĀSTRIC LAYER

- Vaiśampāyana instructs Janamejaya to follow Anarthayaḥjña in his devotion to Viṣṇu; Janamejaya's further inquiry on æons (*kalpa*)

Chapter 22

- details on Anarthayaḥjña the yogin's life and practice, *daśayaḥjña*, *daśākṣa-ramantra* etc.

Chapter 23

- *dharmādharmā* and *nidrotpatti*

Chapter 24

- *trailokya*, *narakas*, *dvīpas*