

सदैकरूपस्य चिदात्मनो विभो -  
 रानन्दमूर्तेरनवद्यकीर्तेः ।  
 नैवान्यथा क्वाप्यविकारिणस्ते  
 विनाहमध्यासममुष्य संसृतिः ॥ ३०६ ॥

*sadaikarūpasya cidātmano vibho -  
 rānandamūrteranavadyakīrteḥ,  
 naivānyathā kvāpyavikāriṇaste  
 vināhamadhyāsamamuṣya saṁsṛtiḥ. (306)*

306. But for your identification with the ego sense there is no transmigration for you, who are immutable and eternally the same, Knowledge Absolute, omnipresent, Bliss Absolute and of unsullied glory.

For transmigration, repeated births and deaths, there is no other cause than the 'ego sense'. Your essential nature is Consciousness. Bliss (ānanda) is your birthright. Yours is the untarnished glory (anavadyakīrti).<sup>1</sup> You are the one, at all times without any modification. There is no reason why you should stupidly suffer so much and so continuously.

Śaṅkara is advising the disciples here, 'You are That'. You are suffering because of your own agitations. The agitations are caused by the ego in you. In the gross and subtle projections, the idea 'I am this' is the only cause that makes you suffer. Hence, give up this tragic and ruinous ego sense (ahaṅkāra).

What is to be done next is advised in the following verse -

- ... ❀ ... -

तस्मादहङ्कारमिमं स्वशत्रुं  
 भोक्तुर्गले कण्टकवत्प्रतीतम् ।  
 विच्छिद्य विज्ञानमहासिना स्फुटं  
 भुङ्क्ष्वत्मसाम्राज्यसुखं यथेष्टम् ॥ ३०७ ॥

<sup>1</sup> ever-effulgent

*tasmādahaṅkāramimam svaśatruṁ  
bhokturgale kaṇṭhakavatpratītam,  
vicchidya vijñānamahāsīnā sphuṭam  
bhuṅkṣvātmasāmrajyasukhaṁ yatheṣṭam. (307)*

307. Therefore, with the great sword of Realisation, destroying this ego sense, your enemy – which is like a thorn in the throat of a man who is eating – enjoy directly and freely the bliss of your own domain, the majesty of the Ātman.

The Teacher is now suggesting a simple throat operation. If a thorn is sticking in the throat, one cannot appreciate any food, which otherwise one could have enjoyed. The ego is like a thorn in the throat of an eater. Hunger is there, food is also ready. But the hungry one cannot eat, because the painful thorn is in the throat.

Similarly, the bliss of the Infinitude is everywhere present. We fail to enjoy It, simply because of the ego sense in us. To remove this ego, an ‘operation’ has to be done. This surgery can be done with the instrument of the ‘experience of Reality’ alone. Once this sense of ego is removed, we are at liberty to enjoy the empire of the Self<sup>1</sup> as we like. All we have to do is remove this little ego, the misconception that ‘I am this body, a bundle of filth’.

At this moment in all our experience of life this ‘thorn’ sticks in our throat and makes it difficult for us to enjoy the bliss of the Ātman.

Therefore, all our enjoyable experiences reach us as sorrowful ones only.



ततोऽहमादेर्विनिवर्त्य वृत्तिं  
सन्त्यक्तरागः परमार्थलाभात् ।  
तूष्णीं समास्स्वात्मसुखानुभूत्या  
पूर्णात्मना ब्रह्मणि निर्विकल्पः ॥ ३०८ ॥

<sup>1</sup> ātmasāmrajyasukhaṁ – ananyādhīnaṁ nirantarākhaṇḍānanda anubhava.