

Analysis of Yaksha Prasna- Part 2

Commentary by London Swaminathan

Post No.789 dated 14 January 2014.

Continued from Part 1.....

42.What in a word makes Law/Dharma?

Ability leads to Dharma/ Law.

43.What word leads to fame?

Giving in a word that leads to fame.

(Charity or Giving is emphasized in many of the answers)

Tamil Veda Tirukkural has a chapter on giving (donation/charity):

To give to the needy alone is charity;

All the rest is investment for a return (221)

The Holy Koran too emphasises the efficacy of charity in the following lines:

“Prayer carries half way to God, fasting brings us to the door of his place and alms giving procures us admission”.

44.What in a word leads to heaven?

Truth in a word leads to heaven.

What is the sky without sun?

What is a tank without water?

What is a realm without counsel?

What is the speech without truth?

----(Katha Sarit Sagara Story of King Prasenajit)

Satyam vadha (Speak the Truth) is a command in the Vedas.

Satyameva Jayate (Truth alone triumphs) is a saying in the Upanishads

45. What is the word that gives happiness?

Character leads to happiness.

When wealth is lost, nothing is lost

When health is lost, something is lost

When character is lost, everything is lost

46. What is the self of a man?

A son is the self of a man.

Sons are considered the replica of fathers.

Without a son performing the funeral rites, one can't go further after death is the belief in Hinduism. A Sangam Tamil poet who came to join a king's fast unto death was turned back because he had not got a son yet. The king and other poets asked him to come back after a son was born (Puram. Verse 222).

47. Who is the friend made by fate?

A wife is the friend made by fate.

Wives are decided by God is a saying in Tamil.

In ancient Indian literature, Wives pray to god that she should get the same man as husband in her next birth as well.

48.What is the support of one's life?

The rain is the support of one's life.

Rain God Indra is praised throughout the Vedas. Indra Festival was celebrated all over the country. Tamil literature gives details of lively Indra festival in the Tamil epic Silappadikaram. (See my article on Indra Festival In Tamil Literature)

49.What is the highest resort?

Charity is the highest resort.

50. What is the greatest of riches?

Ability is the greatest of riches.

51.What is the greatest of possessions?

Learning is the greatest of possessions.

Acquire learning, and enjoy pleasures on the earth, and after that you shall attain all you desire (Katha Sarit Sagara Story of Pushpadanta)

52.What is the greatest of boons?

Health is the greatest of boons.

53.What is the greatest of comforts?

Contentment is the greatest of comforts.

Here is a A Sanskrit Golden Saying:

सन्तोषः परमो लाभः सत्सङ्गः परमा गतिः ।

विचारः परमं ज्ञानं शमो हि परमं सुखम् ॥

Contentment is the highest gain,
Good Company the highest course,
Enquiry the highest wisdom,
Peace the highest enjoyment.

“Contentment is natural wealth, luxury is artificial poverty.” –Socrates

“He who is not contented with what he has, would not be contented with what he would like to have.” ---- Socrates

Health is the greatest possession. Contentment is the greatest treasure.
Confidence is the greatest friend. Non-being is the greatest joy—Lao Tzu

“Many people lose the small joys in the hope for the big happiness.” –Pearl S.Buck

54.What is the highest Law in the world?

Uncruelty / non-violence is the highest Law in the world.

Ahimsa Paramo dharma: is a well known Sanskrit saying.

Krishna lists 26 Divine qualities and the top of the 26 virtues is Ahimsa=Non Violence.

55.What law always bears fruit?

The law of the Veda always bears fruit.

Veda Akilo Dharma Mulam= Vedas are basis for Dharma is a popular saying.

56.What does not grieve when tamed?

The mind does not grieve when tamed.

In Viveka Chudamani verse 176, Adi Shakara says, “in the forest tract of sense pleasures there prowls a huge tiger called the Mind. Let good people who have a longing for liberation never go there”.

57.What bond never comes loose?

The bond of good never comes loose.

Please read my post ‘satsangatve Nissangatvam’ (Post 754 Dated 21 December 2013)

58.Abandoning what does one become friendly?

Abandoning pride one becomes friendly.

59.Abandoning what does one not grieve?

Abandoning anger one does not grieve.

Akrodha: (No anger) is also listed as one of the 26 virtues in the Gita.

Please read my post -- Krishna’s List of 26 Divine Qualities! (post 721 Dt.24/11/13)

60. Abandoning what does one become rich?

Abandoning desire one becomes rich.

Desire is the root cause of Evil according to the Buddha.

61. Abandoning what does one become happy?

Abandoning greed one becomes happy.

62. How is a man dead?

A poor man is dead (Poverty makes a man walking dead).

Those that have lost their wealth die daily, not so those that behave lost their that have lost their breath (Story Of Sundarasena and Mandaravati in Katha Sarit Sagara)

63. How is a kingdom dead?

A kingless kingdom is dead.

64. How is a Sraddha dead ?

A Sraddha without a learned Brahmin is dead.

65. How is a sacrifice dead?

A sacrifice is dead without due fees (Dakshina).

66.What is the right direction?

The strict is the right direction.

67.What is called water?

Space is called water.

68.What is food?

The cow is food.

69.What is poison?

A request is poison.

70.What is the right time for Sraddha?

A Brahmin is the right time for Sraddha.

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Contact swami_48@yahoo.com