

CHAPTER 26

Śiva's grace on Gautama by appearing
of Tryāmbakeśvara and Gaṅgā

सूत उवाच

एवं कृते तु ऋषिणा सस्त्रीकेन द्विजाः शिवः।
आविर्बभूव स शिवः प्रसन्नः सगणस्तदा॥ १॥

Sūta said— O Brāhmaṇas, at this performance of the sage Gautama, the delighted Śiva, appeared there with his *gaṇas* before Gautama.

अथ प्रसन्नः स शिवो वरं ब्रूहि महामुनेः।

प्रसन्नोऽहं सुभक्त्या त इत्युवाच कृपानिधिः॥ २॥

The compassionate Śiva getting pleased said— O Sage, I am pleased with your adoration. You better ask for some boon.

तदा तत्सुन्दरं रूपं दृष्ट्वा शम्भोर्महात्मनः।

प्रणम्य शङ्करं भक्त्या स्तुतिं चक्रे मुदान्वितः॥ ३॥

Observing the divine form of Śiva, the great *yogī*, the delighted Gautama, offered his salutation to him.

स्तुत्वा बहु प्रणम्येशं बद्धाञ्जलिपुटः स्थितः।

निष्पापं कुरु मां देवाब्रवीदिति स गौतमः॥ ४॥

Gautama offered his salutation to Śiva with folded hands and then said to the lord, “O God, you kindly relieve me of the sins.”

इत्याकर्ण्य वचस्तस्य गौतमस्य महात्मनः।

सुप्रसन्नतरो भूत्वा शिवो वाक्यमुपाददे॥ ५॥

Sūta said— Listening to the words of Gautama in this way, the immensely delighted Śiva, then spoke to the sage Gautama.

शिव उवाच

धन्योऽसि कृतकृत्योऽसि निष्पापोऽसि सदा मुनेः।

एतैर्दुष्टैः किल त्वं च छलितोऽसि खलात्मभिः॥ ६॥

Śiva said, “O Sage, you are quite graceful, successful, unblemished and sinless. The wicked sages have cheated you, they are sinful, wicked and killers.

त्वदीयदर्शनाल्लोका निष्पापाश्च भवन्ति हि।

किं पुनस्त्वं सपापोऽसि मद्भक्तिनिरतः सदा॥ ७॥

Even the sinful people are relieved of the sins by having a look at you. You always remain engaged in my *tapas*. Then how could you be a sinner?

उपद्रवस्त्वयि मुने! यैः कृतस्तु दुरात्मभिः।

ते पापाश्च दुराचारा हत्यावन्तस्त एव हि॥ ८॥

एतेषां दर्शनादन्ये पापिष्ठाः सम्भवन्तु चा

कृतघ्नाश्च तथा जाता नैतेषां निष्कृतिः क्वचित्॥ ९॥

O Sage, the wicked people, who have betrayed you, are degraded and the sinners and the people by a mere look at them become sinful and ungrateful, for which no repentance has been prescribed.”

सूत उवाच

इत्युक्त्वा शङ्करस्तस्मै तेषां दुश्चरितं तदा।

बहूवाच प्रभुर्विप्राः सत्कदोऽस्तसु दण्डदः॥ १०॥

Sūta said, “Thus speaking, Śiva who punishes the wicked and bestows grace on the noble people, O Brāhmaṇas, highlighted the evil ways of those wicked ascetics, severally.

शर्वोक्तमिति स श्रुत्वा सुविस्मितमना ऋषिः।

सुप्रणम्य शिवं भक्त्या साञ्जलिः पुनरब्रवीत्॥ ११॥

Listening to the words of Śiva, the sage Gautama was taken aback. Then he offered his salutation to Śiva with devotion and said to him.

गौतम उवाच

ऋषिभिस्तैर्महेशान! ह्युपकारः कृतो महान्।

यद्येवं न कृतं तैस्तु दर्शनं ते कुतो भवेत्॥ १२॥

Gautama said, “Those *Rṣis* had showered enormous good on me. In fact had they not done so, I could never have an audience with you.

धन्यास्ते ऋषयो यैस्तु मह्यं शुभतरं कृतम्।

तददुराचरणादेव मम स्वार्थो महानभूत्॥ १३॥

Graceful are those ascetics their wickedness and evil ways which have yielded enormous good for me.”

सूत उवाच

इत्येवं तद्वचः श्रुत्वा सुप्रसन्नो महेश्वरः।

गौतमं प्रत्युवाचाशु कृपादृष्ट्या विलोक्य च॥ १४॥

Sūta said, “Thus listening to his words, Śiva was pleased and casting his compassionate look on him the lord said to Gautama.

शिव उवाच

ऋषिर्धन्योऽसि विप्रेन्द्रो! ऋषिः श्रेष्ठतरोऽसि वै।

ज्ञात्वा मां सुप्रसन्नं हि वृणु त्वं वरमुत्तमम्॥ १५॥

Śiva said, “O Dear one, you are the best among the sages. Finding me pleased, you better ask for a boon, you desire.”

सूत उवाच

गौतमोऽपि विचार्यैवं लोके विश्रुतमित्युत।

अन्यथा न भवेदेव तस्मादुक्तं समाचरेत्॥ १६॥

Sūta said, “Gautama also thought over and said, “The news of my sin has been spread the world over, therefore, whatever has been spoken by me in the presence of all should indeed be accomplished.”

निश्चित्यैवं मुनिश्रेष्ठो गौतमः शिवभक्तिमान्।

साञ्जलिर्नतशीर्षो हि शङ्करं वाक्यमब्रवीत्॥ १७॥

Thus thinking, the excellent sage Gautama, spoke to Śiva, with his hands folded and lowering his shoulders.

गौतम उवाच

सत्यं नाथ! ब्रवीषि त्वं तथापि पञ्चभिः कृतम्।

नान्यथा भवतीत्यत्र यज्ञातं जायतां तु तत्॥ १८॥

Gautama said, “O Lord, you have spoken the truth, but the decision of the five leading persons, cannot be otherwise or reversed. Therefore, whatever has to happen, let it happen.

यदि प्रसन्नो देवेश! गङ्गा च दीयतां मम।

कुरु लोकोपकारं हि नमस्तेऽस्तु नमोऽस्तु ते॥ १९॥

O Lord of the gods, in case you are pleased with me then let Gaṅgā be given to me to do good to the universe. I offer my salutation to you again and again.”

सूत उवाच

इत्युक्त्वा वचनं तस्य धृत्वा वै पादपङ्कजम्।

नमश्चकार देवेशं गौतमो लोककाम्यया॥ २०॥

Sūta said, “Thus revealing the feelings of his mind, holding on to the lotus like feet of Śiva, with the intention of doing good to the people, Gautama bowed in reverence to Śiva.

ततस्तु शङ्करो देवः पृथिव्याश्च दिवश्च सः।

सारं चैव समुद्धृत्य रक्षितं पूर्वमेव तत्॥ २१॥

विवाहे ब्रह्मणा दत्तमवशिष्टं च किञ्चन।

तत्तस्मै दत्तवाञ्छाम्भुर्मुनये भक्तवत्सलः॥ २२॥

Then Śiva, took out the essence of the heaven and earth, which had been extracted earlier, and was given by Brahmā to Śiva in the marriage of the latter, besides the remaining water of the Gaṅgā, was given away to Gautama by lord Śiva, who is well disposed towards his devotees.

गङ्गाजलं तदा तत्र स्त्रीरूपमभवत्परम्।

तस्याश्चैव ऋषिश्रेष्ठः स्तुतिं कृत्वा नतिं व्यधात्॥ २३॥

The water of the Gaṅgā, then took to the form of a damsel. The sage Gautama, then eulogising her, bowed in reverence to her.

गौतम उवाच

धन्यासि कृतकृत्यासि पावितं भुवनं त्वया।

मां च पावय गङ्गे त्वं पतन्तं निरये ध्रुवम्॥ २४॥

Gautama said, “You are graceful, blessed and successful. You have purified the earth. O Gaṅgā, you purify me since I am falling in the hell.

सूत उवाच

शम्भुश्चापि तदोवाच सर्वेषां हितकृच्छृणु।

गङ्गे गौतममेनं त्वं पावयस्व मदाज्ञया॥ २५॥

Sūta said— Then Śiva, who benefits all, also said, “O Gaṅgā, you at my command, purify the sage Gautama.”

इति श्रुत्वा वचस्तस्य शम्भोश्च गौतमस्य च।

उवाचैव शिवं गङ्गा शिवशक्तिर्हि पावनी॥ २६॥

Thus listening to the words of Śiva and the sage Gautama, Gaṅgā said, “The devotion of Śiva, purifies all.”

गङ्गेवाच

ऋषिं तु पावयित्वाऽहं परिवारयुतं प्रभो॥

गमिष्यामि निजस्थानं वचः सत्यं ब्रवीमि ह॥ २७॥

Gaṅgā said, “O Lord, I purifying the sage with his family, shall return to my abode. These are my truthful words.”

सूत उवाच

इत्युक्तं गङ्गया तत्र महेशो भक्तवत्सलः।

लोकोपकरणार्थाय पुनर्गङ्गां वचोऽब्रवीत्॥ २८॥

Sūta said— When Gaṅgā so spoke to Śiva, who is well disposed towards his devotees, then Śiva again spoke to her for the welfare of the world.

शिव उवाच

त्वया स्थातव्यमत्रैवाव्रजेद्यावत्कलिर्युगः।

वैवस्वतो मनुर्देवि! ह्यष्टाविंशतमो भवेत्॥ २९॥

Śiva said, “O Goddess, till the advent of Kaliyuga, when the son of Vaivasvata shall be the twenty-eighth Manu, you stay here alone.”

सूत उवाच

इति श्रुत्वा वचस्तस्य स्वामिनः शङ्करस्य तत्।

प्रत्युवाच पुनर्गङ्गा पावनी सा सरिद्वरा॥ ३०॥

Sūta said, “On hearing the words of Śiva, Gaṅgā, the purifying leading river said.”

गङ्गेवाच

माहात्म्यमधिकं चेत्स्यान्मम स्वामिन्महेश्वर!।

सर्वेभ्यश्च तदा स्थास्ये धरायां त्रिपुरान्तक!॥ ३१॥

Gaṅgā said, “O Maheśvara, O Tripurāntaka, O Lord, in case I earn enough of glory and greatness, then I would like to stay on earth.

किञ्चान्यच्च शृणु स्वामिन्वपुषा सुन्दरेण ह।

तिष्ठ त्वं मत्समीपे वै सगणः साम्बिकः प्रभो!॥ ३२॥

O Lord, please abide with me with this beautiful body of yours along with your consort and the gaṇas.

सूत उवाच

एवं तस्य वचः श्रुत्वा शङ्करो भक्तवत्सलः।

लोकोपकरणार्थाय पुनर्गङ्गां वचोऽब्रवीत्॥ ३३॥

Sūta said— Thus listening to the words of Gaṅgā, Śiva who is dear to his devotees, spoke to Gaṅgā, for the welfare of the universe.

शिव उवाच

धन्यासि श्रूयतां गङ्गे ह्यहं भिन्नस्त्वया न हि।

तथापि स्थीयते ह्यत्र स्थीयतां च त्वयापि हि॥ ३४॥

Śiva said, “O Gaṅgā, you are graceful, listen, I am in no way separated from you. Still you stay here and I shall also do so.”

सूत उवाच

इत्येवं वचनं श्रुत्वा स्वामिनः परमेशितुः।

प्रसन्नमानसा भूत्वा गङ्गा च प्रत्यपूजयत्॥ ३५॥

Sūta said, “Thus listening to the words of lord Parmeśvara, Gaṅgā was pleased and she accepted his command.

एतस्मिन्नन्तरे देवा ऋषयश्च पुरातनाः।

सुतीर्थान्यप्यनेकानि क्षेत्राणि विविधानि च॥ ३६॥

आगत्य गौतमं सर्वे गङ्गा च गिरिशं तथा।

जयजयेति भाषन्तः पूजयामासुरादरात्॥ ३७॥

In the meantime all the gods, the ancient

sages, the excellent *tīrthas*, and other auspicious regions arrived there and shouted the slogans of victory in favour of the Gaṅgā, Śīva, besides Gautama- the great sage, adoring them with respect at the same time.

ततस्ते निर्जराः सर्वे तेषां चक्रुः स्तुतिं मुदा।

करान् बद्ध्वा नतस्कन्धा हरिर्ब्रह्मादयस्तदा॥ ३८॥

Thereafter all the gods including Brahmā and Viṣṇu, feeling delighted eulogised them with hands folded lowering their heads.

गङ्गा प्रसन्ना तेभ्यश्च गिरिशश्चोचतुस्तदा।

वरं ब्रूत सुरश्रेष्ठ! दद्वो वः प्रियकाम्यया॥ ३९॥

Both Gaṅgā and Śīva were pleased with them and they said to them, “O Excellent gods, you ask for the boon, which shall be granted by us for the welfare of all.

देवा ऊचुः

यदि प्रसन्नो देवेश! प्रसन्ना त्वं सरिद्वरे!।

स्थातव्यमत्र कृपया नः प्रियार्थं तथा नृणाम्॥ ४०॥

The gods said, “O Śīva and Gaṅgā, the best of the rivers, in case both of you are pleased, then you stay here for the benefit of the people.

गङ्गोवाच

यूयं सर्वप्रियार्थं च तिष्ठथात्र न किं पुनः।

गौतमं क्षालयित्वाहं गमिष्यामि यथागतम्॥ ४१॥

Gaṅgā said, “Why don’t all of you stay here for the benefit of all. I shall return after purifying the sage Gautama.

भवत्सु मे विशेषोऽत्र ज्ञेयश्चैव कथं सुराः।

तत्प्रमाणं कृतं चेत्स्यात्तदा तिष्ठाम्यसंशयम्॥ ४२॥

O Gods, I can stay here, in case you give me special honour and extend me a special treatment. In case you accept my words only then I shall stay here and not otherwise.”

सर्वे ऊचुः

सिंहराशौ यदा स्याद्वै गुरुः सर्वसुहृत्तमः।

तदा वयं च सर्वे त्वागमिष्यामो न संशयः॥ ४३॥

All the gods said, “When the Jupiter, the most friendly to all, comes to the zodiac of Leo, then all of us will arrive here. There is no doubt about it.

एकादश च वर्षाणि लोकानां पातकं त्विह।

क्षालितं यद्भवेदेवं मलिनाः स्मः सरिद्वरे॥ ४४॥

तस्यैव क्षालनाय त्वायास्यामः सर्वथा प्रिये!।

त्वत्सकाशं महादेवि! प्रोच्यते सत्यमादरात्॥ ४५॥

O Leading river, we will ourselves become unclean, by washing out the sins of the people for eleven years. O Beloved, O Great goddess, we shall come to you for cleaning ourselves in every respect. We speak out this truth with great respect.

अनुग्रहाय लोकानामस्माकं प्रियकाम्यया।

स्थातव्यं शङ्करेणापि त्वया चैव सरिद्वरे!॥ ४६॥

In order to shower your grace over the people, O auspicious river, and to do something which pleases us, Śīva shall also stay here with you.

यावत्सिंहे गुम्ध्रैव स्थास्यामस्तावदेव हि।

त्वयि स्नानं त्रिकालं च शङ्करस्य च दर्शनम्॥ ४७॥

कृत्वा स्वपापं निखिलं विमोक्ष्यामो न संशयः।

स्वदेशांश्च गमिष्यामो भवच्छासनतो वयम्॥ ४८॥

We shall stay here as long as the Jupiter is in Leo. We shall bathe here thrice daily and also visit Śīva. Then we shall get sins washed out and seeking permission from you shall return to our respective abodes.”

सूत उवाच

इत्येवं प्रार्थितस्तैस्तु गौतमेन महर्षिणा।

स्थितोऽसौ शङ्करः प्रीत्या स्थिता सा च सरिद्वरा॥ ४९

Sūta said, “Thus at the request of the gods as well as the sage Gautama, Gaṅgā and Śīva established themselves there.

सा गङ्गा गौतमी नाम्ना लिङ्गं त्र्यम्बकमीरितम्।
ख्याताख्यातं बभूवाथ महापातकनाशनम्॥ ५० ॥

Then Gaṅgā came to be known by the name of Gautamī, while the *Śivaliṅga* was known by the name of Tryambakeśvara. Both of them wash out the grave sins.

तद्दिनं हि समारभ्य सिंहस्थे च बृहस्पतौ।
आयान्ति सर्वतीर्थानि क्षेत्राणि दैवतानि च॥ ५१ ॥

Since that date, at the time of Jupiter's entry into the zodiac Leo, all the *tīrthas*, *kṣetras*, and the gods visit the place.

सरांसि पुष्करादीनि गङ्गाद्याः सरितस्तथा।
वासुदेवादयो देवाः सन्ति वै गौतमीतटे॥ ५२ ॥
यावत्तत्र स्थितानीह तावत्तेषां फलं नहि।
स्वप्रदेशे समायातास्तर्हेतिषां फलं भवेत्॥ ५३ ॥

The places of pilgrimage like Puṣkara and the rivers like Gaṅgā and others besides the gods like Viṣṇu and others arrive at the bank of the river Gautamī. While they stay there, they are deprived of the sanctity of their original places, which they get back on their return to their respective abodes.

ज्योतिर्लिङ्गमिदं प्रोक्तं त्र्यम्बकं नाम विश्रुतम्।
स्थितं तटे हि गौतम्या महापातकनाशनम्॥ ५४ ॥

The *Jyotirlinga* there is known by the name of Tryambakeśvara, which is stationed at the bank of the river Gautamī and destroys the grave sins.

यः पश्येद्भक्तितो ज्योतिर्लिङ्गं त्र्यम्बकनामकम्।
पूजयेत्प्रणमेत्स्तुत्वा सर्वपापैः प्रमुच्यते॥ ५५ ॥

One who has a look at the Tryambakeśvara *Jyotirlinga* with devotion, and adores it with great reverence, after worshipping it, is freed from all the sins.

ज्योतिर्लिङ्गं त्र्यम्बकं हि पूजितं गौतमेन ह।
सर्वकामप्रदं चात्र परत्र परमुक्तिदम्॥ ५६ ॥

The same Tryambakeśvara *Jyotirlinga* was

adored by Gautama. By adoring it yields all the desires in this world while bestowing salvation after death.

इति वक्ष्ये समाख्यातं यत्पृष्टोऽहं मुनीश्वराः।
किमन्यदिच्छथ श्रोतुं तद्ब्रूयां वो न संशयः॥ ५७ ॥

O Great sages, in this way, I have narrated, whatever had been asked to me. What else do you want to listen further? I shall speak out the same to you. You should have no doubt in your mind in this regard.

इति श्रीशिवमहापुराणे चतुर्थ्यां कोटिरुद्रसंहितायां
त्र्यम्बकेश्वरमाहात्म्यवर्णनं नाम षड्विंशोऽध्यायः॥ २६ ॥
