

Yoga Bible

SRI KRISHNA GOVINDA HARAY MURARAY
HAY NATH NARAYAN VASUDEVA

GOVINDA GARUDA DHWAJ PRAN PYARAY
HAY NATH NARAYAN VASUDEVA

SRI KRISHNA CHAITANYA KAILASHANANDA
HAY RAM HAY KRISHNA RADHEY GOVINDA

Understand That In The Hereafter There Is Provision For The Sinner's Punishment

Vishnu's Devotee asks, 'What types of punishments are there for sinners in the City of Death?'

Vishnu replied, after Bahubhītpur is the City of Death. It occupies an area of 44 yoganas (4400 kilometers). When the sinful people enter that city they get scared, cry and weep. The guards or doormen (Dharmadhwaaja or धर्मध्वज in Sanscrit) are called Upholders of Righteousness. They inform the Secret Service (Chitragupta or चित्रगुप्त, 'gupta' means 'secret'), who in turn tells his boss, the Lord of Justice, Dharma Raj. Dharma Raj asks Chitragupta to tell the credit and debits of the soul. Chitragupta in turn asks the Sravana. The Sravana move freely through the three worlds, hearing and seeing everything, just like policemen with their walkie-talkies. So nothing can be done in secret. The Sravana are sons of Brahma, Sravani are their wives and they do the same job as their husbands. The wives know what is cooking in a person's mind before he does it. No matter what a person does, the Sravana and Sravani record it and report it to their boss, the Chitragupta. Yet no one should consider himself a hopeless case. There is hope for everybody who warns to improve. People in the Mundane world who live a righteous life are helped by the Sravana to attain their good place in the Hereafter. After

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Surrounded by the Punishments of Purgatory, Lord Yama meets the sinful souls, **Chitragupta** seated at His right

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telling the secrets to their boss, they feel bad, but they are only doing their duty. The Sun and the Moon and the Sandhyas, Dawn and Dusk, also know the deeds of a person. The Chitragupta tells the details to his boss, the Dharma Raj. Chitragupta tells Dharma Raj the credits and debits of the soul.

After determination of the deeds of the people, Lord Yama calls them. The souls are scared by His appearance. If they have done wrong, Lord Yama takes a serious look at them. They see Lord Yama riding on a buffalo, holding a noose (pāśa or पाश in Sanscrit) and a lightning bolt. The Chitragupta is also a terrifying figure, joined by his assistants, one of whom is Death Fever, which never gets cured and takes the person away. The sinful person weeps and cries because he has not done anything good. Then by command of the Lord of Death, Chitragupta addresses the sinful person,

‘Sinful person, full of ego, you have nothing but your sins. You are among the most ignorant. You always associated with sinners, you always followed sense pleasure, anger and hatred. When you performed sinful actions you enjoyed them, but now you have to go through this punishment. Why don’t you want to go through with it? You have done wrong, so the pain and suffering cannot be taken away from you.’

On hearing Chitragupta’s words, the sinful person is sorry, laments and shamefully hangs his head down, speechless. The sinful are quiet, then the Dharma Raj pronounces the punishment. The punishers push the sinner to the purgatories, as they tell the soul, ‘We are taking you to very painful purgatories, very difficult even to look at.’ The guards who lead the soul to Hell all have names, Prachaṇḍa (Fearful), Chaṇḍaka (Powerful). They tie him in a noose and lead him to the purgatories.

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Now the first thing to face in Purgatory is a gigantic tree with flames of fire. The tree is made of fire and is one yogana in height and 5 yoganas wide (100 kilometers high and 500 kilometers wide). It can punish millions of thumb-sized persons at a time. The sinful persons are tied upside-down in the tree to be roasted. They feel burnt in the fire. They cry and weep but no one helps. Salmal Braksha (Silk-Cotton Tree) is the name of this, the only tree in Purgatory. They ask the guards for forgiveness for their sins, but the guards pay them no attention. The guards terrorize and punish the souls with various weapons of punishment. Punished and beaten by those guards, the sinful souls become unconscious. Then the guards address them,



Silk Tree

‘Oh sinful person, you have done pretty bad deeds, you never did any charity, not even a little to the birds. You never hosted the people, you never offered cakes to your ancestors, you never thought of the Lord of Death or His Secret Service, who was watching you. You never repeated mantra or went on pilgrimage. You never drank Ganges Water or sprinkled it on yourself, or did Puja in the Temple. When you were a householder, you did not perform the duties of the householder, such as giving food to someone, like the renunciant or the holy man. Neither have you served the holy man. Therefore you must be punished because you have not earned righteousness. The Lord is the only one who can forgive you, do not complain to us, we are only doing our jobs.’

Then they start again to punish the soul.